

many leadership posts have included Chairwoman of the Democrat-Farmer-Labor (DFL) party, founder of the DFL Feminist Caucus, Democratic National Committee (DNC) Member representing Minnesota where she started the DNC's Women's Caucus. She also served as the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. She served in the U.N. ambassadorial role for 4 years during the Carter Administration. During that time, she and Gloria Steinem became good friends and have since worked together on many projects.

Ms. Horbal has worked tirelessly on many issues, from women's rights to pay equity, from higher education to health care. She says there was one female Minnesota legislator when she began in politics and 17 when she stepped down as State Chairwoman. She led a study called Present but Powerless that examined the role of women in the DFL party and found women heavily involved but rarely in positions of power. While at the U.N., she was also partly responsible for the only treaty about women, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. The U.S. is the only industrialized country to have not signed it, she adds.

Ms. Horbal, now a consultant at the Women's Resource Center at Augsburg College, says she first got involved advancing women's rights when she realized how much women were left out of the process.

"I became a feminist one year when the party was deciding about which potential candidates would run for election," Horbal says. "Women weren't included in this discussion. That's what woke me up."

Dee Long charted new territory when she assumed leadership positions historically held by men. To date, not only was Ms. Long the first female Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, she remains its only. She was also the first woman to chair a tax committee in the Minnesota Legislature, and was the first woman to chair a joint Senate/House committee.

Over the years, Ms. Long has taken the lead on many issues. But the ones that remain closest to her heart include environmental and tax issues. She helped lead the development of Minnesota's version of the Superfund legislation, where the polluter pays for hazardous waste cleanup. She also played a leading role in developing the Minnesota Livable Communities Act, which focuses on smart growth development. Today, Ms. Long works as the Director of the Environmental Tax and Incentive Program at Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy.

As new women politicians entered the Legislature, she advised them to not simply go to committee meetings. Know the issue backwards and forwards, and be a leader, she'd tell them. Being knowledgeable about the issues before you creates respect. She also encouraged women to get involved in issues that weren't historically women's issues, such as taxes, justice, and others.

"If you know the issues, you'll have the respect," she says.

Vivian Jenkins Nelsen also has a long list of firsts among her accomplishments. She is the co-founder of INTER-RACE, a diversity think tank located at Augsburg College. She was a Bush Leadership Fellow at Harvard University, and is a nationally recognized diversity practitioner, trainer and researcher. She was the

first black woman graduate of Dana College in Nebraska. Further, she was the first black woman professor at Augsburg College, and first such administrator at the University of Minnesota. At the University of Minnesota, she served as Director of Human Relations Training as well as Director of Administration at the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Ms. Nelsen was always exposed to human and civil rights work growing up, and sees her work as an extension of her parents' efforts. "Then, they were trying to bring black people up. I am trying to help make corporate America and American policy ready and accepting of all people." Her father, a pastor in the Lutheran Church, worked for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and helped to organize the protest march to Selma. Ms. Nelsen recalls meeting with King as one of the critical moments that defined her path in life. She said when she met with a group of people with King, he focused his time and attention on her, because "a kid came before everything else." This is a sentiment to she has taken to heart herself.

Ms. Nelsen has consulted on race and gender issues for the Lutheran Church. She has also served as president of the Minnesota Women Equity Action League, which acted as the legal arm of the gender equality movement. Today at INTER-RACE, she works with Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits, and policy makers at all levels.

"My job is about helping people find their voice about justice," Nelsen says. "It's about being able to look at other people's behavior, but also their own."

Mr. Speaker, these 3 women have impacted their communities and the larger world community with a lot of hard work, determination and grit. They have fought for greater gender equity and provided leadership to make it happen. I commend each of these women for the difference they have made, and continue to make every day.

CELEBRATING 185 YEARS OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great nation of Greece and celebrate with its citizens 185 years of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Any first-year university student knows Greece to be one of the ancient cradles of Western Civilization. In art and literature, history and philosophy, science and mathematics, the contributions of the Greek people to the world as we know it are immeasurable.

And of course, one of Greece's most significant contributions to modern civilization is that of democratic governance. The influences of Socrates, Plato, Pericles, Solon, and many others provided the basis for our founding fathers' essays and treaties on life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

These ancient thinkers planted the seeds of modern democracy, but the people of modern Greece did not reap the benefits until over two thousand years later. In 1821, the Greek people declared independence from the Ottoman Empire, marking the beginning of an eleven-

year struggle for freedom. It is this courageous action that we honor today.

The Greek revolutionaries' valiant efforts inspired the support of a fledgling democracy known as the United States of America. Many Americans left home and volunteered to fight alongside the Greeks, and this Congress also sent money and supplies to assist in Greece's struggle for autonomy. Since that time, the U.S. and Greece have worked side-by-side to oppose tyranny and oppression and advance the cause of democracy worldwide.

But our ties with Greece do not end with this shared commitment to the principles of democracy. Indeed, today more than 1 million people of Greek descent live in the United States. These men and women have made innumerable contributions to our society and way of life, and for this we thank them.

Colleagues, please join me in saluting the people of Greece for their tremendous commitment to democracy and the principles that helped to found our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALBERT E.
SMITH: AN EDUCATOR WITH
TRUE VISION

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the retirement of Dr. Albert Emanuel Smith, President of Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens, Florida, a remarkable educator, administrator and leader who has left an indelible mark on our entire South Florida community.

According to Dr. Smith, "The primary mission of any worthy institution of higher education is to produce graduates who understand that education is a lifelong endeavor." Throughout his career, Dr. Smith truly lived that creed. He dedicated his life's work to opening the doors of educational enlightenment and opportunity to thousands.

A native of Sioux Falls, South Dakota Dr. Smith earned a Bachelors of Science degree from North Carolina A&T State University, a Masters of Science degree from George Williams College and his Ph.D., from the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh in 1971.

Dr. Smith's early professional career included a brief stint as a minor league baseball player for the Saint Louis Cardinals; two years in the United States Army Medical Service Corps where he was a commissioned officer and company commander; and five years as the director of athletics at North Carolina A&T State University.

In 1971, Dr. Smith was appointed executive assistant director of athletics at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1974, he was named director of athletics and associate professor of education at Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Smith served as Vice Chancellor for Development and University Relations, professor of education, and Executive Director of the North Carolina A&T University Foundation in 1976. He served in this capacity until he became the sixth president of South Carolina State University in 1976.

In 1993, Dr. Smith moved on to become the 10th President of Florida Memorial University (then Florida Memorial College). Under his

leadership, FMU has truly experienced a renaissance and metamorphosis. Dr. Smith implemented a major capital improvement program, including the dedication of the Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts, and he achieved an important educational milestone in expanding its offering of academic programs and guiding the college to University status.

I know that everyone in our community thanks Dr. Smith for a job well done. We wish him and his wife, Sadie, our very best for continued success and much happiness in the future.

A SALUTE TO THE WILSON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM, TENNESSEE'S 2005—2006 CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary group of young women from Wilson Central High School in Lebanon, Tennessee—the 2005–2006 Class AAA Girl's Basketball State Champions.

Of the 5 years Wilson Central High School has been in existence, the Lady Wildcats have been to three State championship tournaments. On March 11, 2006, they brought home the State title after defeating Shelbyville Central High School 44–38. The State championship is the school's first State title in any sport. The team finished a remarkable season with a 32–7 overall record. I am extremely proud of these outstanding young athletes for this great accomplishment.

These student-athletes should be honored not only for the feat of winning the Tennessee State Girl's Basketball Championship, but they should also be recognized for excelling in the classroom and maintaining a team grade point average of 3.61. This is certainly no easy task and I am proud of the way they have represented their school and hometown both on and off the basketball court.

On behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the following members of the Wilson Central High School girl's basketball team: freshmen Kelsey McGee, Lauren Wasson, Jasmine Hassell, sophomores Heather Simonis, Kristyn Clark, Sydney Ketcher, Rebecca Stewart, Cameryn Calhoun, Shelley Stewart and Rachel Stewart, juniors Tierney Jenkins, Lauren Farmer, Sara Williams and especially to the graduating seniors Elizabeth Martin, Breonna Brown, and Jenny Hall. I commend Nikki Eversole, Brittany Farmer, Courtney Chapman, Kayla White, Melanie Jones and Audriana Saddler for their hard work and contributions to the team.

I also salute their coaches—Head Coach Bud Brandon, his father and Assistant Coach Campbell Brandon, and Assistant Coaches Jay Holladay and Scott Moore for their commitment, expertise and leadership. Campbell Brandon coached the Lebanon High School Blue Devils to their State championship victory 35 years ago, in 1971. Today, he shares his son's pride for another team of amazing young women—the 2006 Wilson Central Lady Wildcats.

I applaud the tremendous achievements of these exceptional young players and wish them well in their endeavors on the basketball court and beyond.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, during the vote on amendments and final passage for H.R. 2829, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act, I was away from the Capitol on business in my home State of Georgia.

On the Chabot amendment to H.R. 2829 (Vote #34), I would have voted "yes."

On the Hooley amendment to H.R. 2829 (Vote #35), I would have voted "yes."

On the Paul amendment to H.R. 2829 (Vote #36), I would have voted "yes."

On the Rehberg amendment to H.R. 2829 (Vote #37), I would have voted "yes."

On final passage, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2829, to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy Act (Vote #38).

MARCH 30, 2006 INAUGURATION OF PORTIA SIMPSON MILLER PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce in to the RECORD my sincerest congratulations and best wishes for Portia Simpson Miller, Jamaica's newly-installed President of the People's National Party and newly-elected Prime Minister, on her imminent Inauguration on March 30, 2006.

Celebrants of Women's History Month in Jamaica and elsewhere had much to rejoice about as Simpson Miller made history on February 25th, when she was elected the first woman president of the 68-year old People's National Party (PNP). With this, the stage was set for more history: she will become the first woman Prime Minister of the great nation of Jamaica.

Simpson Miller knows full well the numerous challenges in store as she embarks on this political journey as Prime Minister. She is no stranger to the political arena—where partisan and national expectations are high—and realizes that there is much to be done to address the many problems of the Jamaican society. The much anticipated question about the direction in which Simpson Miller intends to take the country will begin to unfold in a couple of days when she is sworn in as Prime Minister and appoints her Cabinet to implement her priorities.

Yesterday, in Ocho Rios, St. Ann Jamaica, Simpson Miller shed a single tear as she accepted the People's National Party's symbolic baton of leadership from P.J. Patterson, the outgoing Prime Minister. Simpson Miller stressed the need for unity, and urged the party to have its election machinery oiled and ready by June this year. Simpson Miller

praised Patterson, who has led the party for 14 years, for helping her political career, and she paid tribute to their friendship even when they competed against each other for the presidency fourteen years ago.

In her acceptance speech yesterday before ruling party's National Executive Council (NEC) she calmly stated "I come to you today with no malice, no malice whatsoever, because I come today as your party leader. I am determined to lead a united party. I am determined to build bridges that will lead to unity of purpose and accomplishment of our mission. I am determined to devote my energy and time to the healing process because it is only in unity that we can have strength, and it is only in strength that we can be assured of the success of our programs and victory for the fifth term".

Mr. Speaker, with change come challenges. There are always skeptics and detractors lurking on the horizon waiting to pounce at the first signs of failure. I am confident that Portia Simpson Miller will rise to lead the great Jamaican nation into the future with optimism and hope.

SIKH ORGANIZATIONS UNITE FOR KHALISTAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Indian newspaper The Telegraph ran a story on March 21 reporting that two Sikh organizations in Punjab, Dal Khalsa, under the leadership of Satnam Singh, and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal under the leadership of Daljit Singh Bittu, are uniting to promote a sovereign, independent Khalistan. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Sikhs declared Khalistan independent on October 7, 1987. Ever since then, Sikhs have been struggling against a massive Indian force of over 500,000 troops sent to suppress their drive for freedom.

The announcement from Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal was met by shouts of "Khalistan Zindabad," meaning "Long live Khalistan." Now the Chief Minister of Punjab has ordered the police to place the leaders of both organizations under watch. Let me make this clear, Mr. Speaker. They are under police watch in "the world's largest democracy" for peaceful political activities designed to achieve freedom for their people.

These arrests come in short order after the recent arrests of Sikh activists Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan and Kanwarpal Singh Dhani for speeches they made supporting Khalistan. Dr. Chohan committed the additional crime of flying the Khalistani flag from his residence. Groups of Sikhs were arrested last year in January and June for hoisting the Khalistani flag and making speeches in support of sovereignty for Khalistan. Dal Khalsa organized those events. It has organized numerous events in support of a sovereign Khalistan in Punjab, and the support has been shown to be large. I guess this scares the Indian government.

Mr. Speaker, these actions are unacceptable in any country. We use our influence to put pressure on totalitarian regimes for just these kinds of tactics. They are even more unacceptable when the country using them