

INTRODUCTION OF THE "AFGHAN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2006"

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the "Afghan Women Empowerment Act of 2006" which would authorize \$45 million each year from FY2007 through FY2009 for programs in Afghanistan that benefit "women and girls as well as the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs. The funding would be directed toward important needs including medical care, education, vocational training, protection from violence, legal assistance, and civil participation. This legislation was introduced earlier this year in the Senate by Senator BARBARA BOXER (D-CA).

Women's rights in Afghanistan have fluctuated greatly over the years. Women have bravely fought the forces of extremism at various points in the country's turbulent history. At one time, women were scientists and university professors. They led corporations and nonprofit organizations in local communities.

While the Afghan constitution guarantees equality for Afghan women, throughout Afghanistan, women continue to face intimidation, discrimination, and violence. The United States has an obligation to ensure that women and girls have the opportunities that they were denied under the Taliban and that the gains that have been made are not lost in the coming months and years. It is imperative that we provide the support needed to ensure that the rights of women are protected in the new Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY GADEN

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Gaden, a resident of Chautauqua County and the City of Jamestown for the honor of the Team Spirit Award.

Ms. Gaden is a very active member of the Chautauqua County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). She was selected for this award because of her outstanding volunteer work and amazing spirit.

Nancy is best known for her musical abilities. She can always be found brightening the lives of people by way of her innovative approach to music. Wherever Nancy goes to perform she brings rhythmic instruments and passes them out to everyone in the crowd. Regardless of a person's mental or physical state they receive an instrument and can always find a way to express themselves through it. Ms. Gaden is always an upbeat, motivated and cheerful person. She is an inspiration to everyone she meets. The outlet that she provides by way of music is so important because it allows everyone to participate and be part of the entertainment. She touches people's lives wherever she goes and her presence and music brighten everyone's day.

For all of her volunteer work and her willingness to touch the lives of others I commend

her, and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor her today.

CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE FAR FROM OVER: NAACP REMAINS IN FOREFRONT, ALMOST A CENTURY AFTER ITS CREATION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an editorial from the April 11, 2006 New York CaribNews entitled "Civil Rights Struggle Far From Over: NAACP Remains In Forefront, Almost A Century After Its Creation"; that praises the longevity and extreme effectiveness of the most influential civil rights organization in the United States known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People or the NAACP.

Since its inception the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was poised for a long, tumultuous and rewarding history. Although it may be possible to chronicle the challenging and harrowing legacy of the NAACP, the real story of the Nation's most significant civil rights organization lies in the hearts and minds of the people who would not stand still while the rights of America's people of color were denied.

The history of the NAACP is one of blood, sweat and tears. From bold investigations of mob brutality, protests of mass murders, segregation and discrimination, to testimony before congressional committees on the vicious tactics used to bar African Americans from the ballot box, it was the talent and tenacity of the NAACP members that saved lives and changed many negative aspects of American society. While much of its history is chronicled in books, articles, pamphlets and magazines, the true movement lies in the faces—black, white, yellow, red, and brown—united to awaken the conscientiousness of a people, and a nation. This is the legacy of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, This article that I enter today reiterates the facts that the civil rights struggle is far from over as it proudly details from history a few of the organization's past successes. I am confident that such leaders as Bruce Gordon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the NAACP and Karen Boykin-Towns, President of the Brooklyn Chapter of the NAACP will continue to keep the legacy alive and also keep the NAACP in the forefront, as progress and accomplishments continue, for years to come.

[From the New York CaribNews Editorial, April 11, 2006]

CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE FAR FROM OVER: NAACP REMAINS IN FOREFRONT, ALMOST A CENTURY AFTER ITS CREATION

It was a succinct and forceful reminder. And it came from a person who knows the issues and from an organization that has led the fight for respect for Black people's civil rights and political liberties. "There is still a lot of civil rights work to be done," was the way Bruce Gordon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, put it in an interview with this newspaper. "Many people believe the passing of Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott-King and other

icons of the movement signals that the task is over," he added. "Nothing could be further from the truth." Well said!

Anyone looking at the state of Black America, the lack of jobs in Black communities, limited access to adequate health care, a dire shortage of affordable housing, the intolerance of tens of millions of whites, the virulent strains of racism, the glaring attempts to cast young Black men as villains, the policy of cutting off much needed federal, state and local government assistance to families that need it the most and the poor schools that saturate our communities would readily endorse Gordon's marching orders, if you will.

The NAACP is in an excellent position to assess the needs and to address them. And they have earned our support.

Founded on February 12, 1909 by a multi-racial group of activists, who answered the "Call" to action, the NAACP has been at the helm of the long struggle from that historic occasion. We expect it to continue its important work for at least another century.

Turn back some of the pages of history and the record of America's largest and oldest civil rights organization would become clear. A handful of examples, in:

1913 when President Woodrow Wilson officially sanctioned segregation in the federal government, a horrified NAACP launched a nationwide protest.

1915 the NAACP took to the streets and the barricades to condemn D.W. Griffith, the movie producer, for his "inflammatory and bigoted silent film, "Birth of a Nation," which today draws rave reviews from white critics for what they call his "creativity" while ignoring the bigoted nature of the film's content.

1922 In an unprecedented step, the NAACP placed large advertisements in many of the nation's major newspapers to focus national attention on the despicable and inhuman practice of lynching.

1935, NAACP lawyers Charles Houston and Thurgood Marshall battled successfully in the courts to have Black students admitted to the University of Maryland.

1939 When the Daughters of the American Revolution prevented world famous soprano, Marian Anderson, from performing at their Constitution Hall, the NAACP sprung into action. It moved the concert to the Lincoln Memorial and 75,000 persons attended.

1948, the organization led the fight that forced President Harry Truman to ban racial discrimination by the federal government, especially in the military.

1954, the NAACP won the landmark case before the Supreme Court that forced an end to segregation in public schools. Brown vs. Board of Education stands today as a battering ram against official segregation.

1965, Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act, which gave Blacks the unfettered right to participate in the electoral process as voters and candidates. The NAACP was a driving force behind its enactment.

1985, it led a massive anti-apartheid rally in New York that dramatized the plight of millions of Blacks in South Africa.

1997, the organization launched its "Economic Reciprocity Program to fight against conservative efforts in Congress and the courts to end affirmative action.

2000, at the helm of a march by 50,000 persons to protest the flying of the confederate flag over state buildings. It was the largest civil rights demonstration ever held in the South. On and on we can cite chapter and verse about the successes and indeed the relevance of this noble institution whose effectiveness was demonstrated in almost every section of the country and in many nations in different parts of the world.