

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WOMEN'S DIVISION OF THE FORT WORTH METROPOLITAN BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the Women's Division of the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce in its support for the development and recognition of women as business leaders in Fort Worth.

I am proud to represent an organization so dedicated in its efforts to empower African American women and to create an expanded atmosphere for inclusive business development. The Women's Division annually recognizes the success of businesses and organizations that support its mission, and it has awarded over a dozen scholarships to women to enable them to attend area colleges.

The Women's Division of the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce has been recognized over one hundred individuals for their business, civic, and social accomplishments and has itself been lauded by the Texas State House of Representatives for steadfast work in behalf and support of the City of Fort Worth.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the Fort Worth Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Women's Division and I am honored to now represent them as part of the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

HONORING THE 45TH ANNUAL YMCA YOUTH GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MELANCON and I rise today to honor the 45th Annual YMCA Youth Governor's Conference that begins in Washington, DC this weekend. We are pleased to have the distinct honor of being the Congressional sponsors for the Youth Governor's breakfast with our fellow colleagues in the House.

The YMCA Youth Governor's Conference brings together some of the most outstanding youth leaders in America. YMCA Youth and Government is a nation-wide program that allows thousands of teenagers to simulate state and national government.

Mr. Speaker, we would like to personally recognize each of this year's YMCA Youth Governors for their dedication and service to America's youth.

Michael Dan Admire of Texas, Julia Catherine Love of Louisiana, Neil Karamchandani of South Carolina, Brian Daniel Tinsman of Delaware, Robert Charles Adler of Minnesota, Charles Edward Strickland of Alabama, Michael Elliot Hughes of Arizona, Ian David Bruce of California, Matthew Paul Cavedon of Connecticut, Rebekah Lydia Hammond of Florida, Jerald Jake Landress of Georgia, Jordyn Suet Ha Toba of Hawaii, Thomas Naaliolani Toyozaki, Jr. also of Hawaii, Capri

H. Savage of Idaho, David Williams Simnick of Illinois, Martin Iran Turman, Jr. of Indiana, Preston Scott Bates of Kentucky, Seth D. Dixon also of Kentucky, Benjamin David Goodman of Maine, Jonathan M. Brookstone of Maryland, Zachary Ryan Davis of Massachusetts, Lauren Brenda Gabriell Hollier of Michigan, Marvin Anthony Liddell also of Michigan, Christine C. DiLisio of Missouri, Vernon Telford Smith IV of Montana, Victoria Elizabeth Gilbert of the Model United Nations program, Eoghan Emmet Kelley of New Hampshire, Danielle C. Desaulniers of New Jersey, Juan Carlo Sanchez of New Mexico, Michael J. Couzens of New York, Edgar Turner Vaughn of North Carolina, Kenneth Robert Hines of Oklahoma, Jerrod Engelberg of Oregon, Emily Claire Pramik of Pennsylvania, Allison M. Dove of Tennessee, Joshua Ray Lambert of Virginia, Morrie S. Low of Washington, Rochelle Mincey-Thompson of the District of Columbia, Max Joseph Balhorn of Wisconsin.

We wish all of the 2006 YMCA Youth Governors a very successful conference here in Washington, and we encourage them to continue their sincere devotion to leadership and public service in this and their future endeavors.

MOVING THE WORLD KATHERINE DUNHAM CHOREOGRAPHED A LIFE THAT STRETCHED BEYOND THE STAGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable woman, Ms. Katherine Dunham. A woman of astounding grace and character, Ms. Dunham has altered for the better both our country and world. We recently lost Ms. Dunham on May 21, 2006, at the age of 96 at an assisted living facility in New York.

Born Katherine Mary Dunham in Chicago, Ill on June 22, 1909, and raised in Glen Ellyn, Ill, Dunham was fascinating from the very beginning. The author of a published short story in a magazine edited by W.E.B. DuBois at the young age of 12 she had the gift for the written word. She was class poet in high school, and later wrote a memoir entitled, "A Touch of Innocence".

Ms. Dunham was an enchanting beauty who often danced with a sound sense of rhythm and eroticism. Dunham was always combining and changing methods of dance, the sign of the true innovator within. Katherine Dunham was a pioneer in the first in many areas for blacks. She was among the first black artists to form a ballet troupe and achieve renown as a modern dancer and choreographer on Broadway and in Hollywood. She was responsible for exposing to mass audiences the other side of black artistic expression, a side rarely seen. She made people in the 1930's and 1940's see and understand black dance as "more than tap and minstrelsy".

She was also one of the first black choreographers to work for the Metropolitan Opera. Many admired Dunham because she amassed so much in a country and time where few opportunities for blacks existed.

She will forever remain an inspiration to many who seek guidance in her wisdom and words. She was noted for her no nonsense approach to the way of life as stated here, "Don't be nervous, don't be tired and above all, don't be bored. Those are the three destroyers of freedom". Her insight goes far beyond dance and choreography, but into the real human dilemma. It was stated that, "she was speaking less about dance and more about an area of equal concern: human rights". All those who knew her dignified heart of compassion could not help but follow her lead.

As a human rights activist, she spoke out publicly about the United States' position on deporting Haitian refugees. Dunham was so passionate about the matter that in 1992 she went on a 47 day hunger strike to prove her point. One notable activist, Harry Belafonte stressed the notion that, "She didn't perform miracles; she performed acts of human kindness, which should be viewed as a miracle in itself".

With age Ms. Dunham sought to spread her knowledge to especially young people. She wanted them to grow up with the adequate capabilities and skills necessary to live in today's ever-changing world. She kept a small museum of artifacts about her career with her in East St. Louis, Ill., where she educated local children including Jackie JoynerKersey, the Olympic long jumper, and filmmakers Reginald and Warrington Hudlin.

When asked about her work with the youth she felt she was "trying to steer them into something more constructive than genocide". In a way, maintaining relations with the youth of today kept Dunham youthful, a quality she never lost. In a New York Times report done on her a few years back, she mentioned, "Did you ever see photographs of elderly divas trying to look sexy?"

I enter into the RECORD with pleasure the article published in the Washington Post and New York Times for their in-depth look at Katherine Dunham for both her artistic and humanitarian efforts. She has truly left her mark on our society and I will always remember her for that. We must keep her memory alive in our hearts and minds so that generations after us will know who she was and what she did. One cannot speak of dance and innovation without mentioning Katherine Dunham, for she has without a doubt moved our world.

[The Washington Post, May 23, 2006]

MOVING THE WORLD

(By Sarah Kaufman)

It was a bitterly cold winter day three years ago when I last saw the pioneering choreographer Katherine Dunham teach. She was rolled into the Howard University dance studio in her wheelchair, bundled up like a prized antique. First a thick fur blanket was peeled off, then a woolen wrap, and then Dunham herself was revealed, somewhat hunched, wearing lots of gold jewelry. Peering through her oversized glasses at the more than 100 students sitting on the floor in front of her, she got right to work.

"Think of everything you learn from me today as part of a way of life," she announced in a low, raspy voice. "Now—breathe."

This was not as simple as it sounds. For Dunham, a tireless activist who died Sunday at the age of 96, invested every aspect of her life—indeed, you could say, every breath—with meticulous attention and an unflinching eye.