

But many more names will never be widely known. Although they labored in obscurity, their contributions stand today as monuments to their tenacity. Among them were skilled and unskilled laborers who helped build the U.S. Capitol building in 1793. Both free and enslaved people labored side by side to create this architectural gem. They were carpenters, sawyers, blacksmiths, bricklayers, and brickmakers. Ironically, it was an enslaved person who helped cast our magnificent Statue of Freedom. Another slave—Philip Reid—used his mechanical expertise to lift that statue to the top of the Capitol Dome in 1863.

Eventually, African-Americans moved into domestic service roles. They served as messengers, groundskeepers, cafeteria workers, and in similar service capacities. Yet black people were excluded from professional jobs until the 20th century.

The first African American known to be hired as a professional clerk was Jesse Nichols, a government documents clerk for the Senate Finance Committee from 1937 to 1971.

Later Christine McCreary, who worked for Senators Stuart Symington and John Glenn, was one of the first staffers to challenge the de facto segregation that existed on Capitol Hill. Sadly, this second class status for blacks persisted well into the 1960s. And to some degree it stubbornly persists.

In 1985, Trudi Morrison became the first woman and the first African American to serve as Deputy Sergeant at Arms of the Senate. Three years ago we saw another first for African Americans when the Senate appointed Dr. Barry C. Black as Chaplain. He continues to hold this position today.

And this year, Madam Speaker, you have expanded the train of firsts into the House of Representatives. The appointment of Lorraine C. Miller as Clerk of the House makes her the first African American to serve as an official of this chamber.

These are the unsung heroes that made possible all of the successes African Americans in civil service positions enjoy today. Whether elected or appointed, it is on their shoulders that we stand. In this month when we heighten awareness of African-American history, it is critical that we acknowledge them and pay down our debt of gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN RIVERA

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Jonathan Rivera of Bronx, NY. I wish to recognize Mr. Rivera for being named a semi-finalist in The New York Times College Scholarship Program. Currently a senior at Monsignor Scanlan High School, Jonathan has demonstrated both a commitment to academic excellence and to serving the community through his involvement in the Campus Ministry, making him a deserving recipient of this honor.

The New York Times awards 4-year scholarships and mentoring opportunities to only 20 students each year attending New York City public schools. Recipients are selected for at-

taining high levels of scholastic achievement in the face of adversity.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Mr. Rivera best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.

GEORGE MCGOVERN SPEAKS ON IRAQ AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, last month, on January 12th, Senator George McGovern spoke at the National Press Club about what he would advise President Bush to do on the Iraq War.

At 84 years of age, and as a veteran of World War II, Senator McGovern has the experience and knowledge that leads him to focus on the important questions surrounding this critical policy question. I hope all my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, will review Senator McGovern's remarks and ask the same questions of our president.

REMARKS BY SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN TO
THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

[Jan. 12, 2007]

I'm glad to be back at the National Press Club. Indeed, at the age of 84, I'm glad to be anywhere. In my younger years when the subject of aging came up, trying to sound worldly wise, I would say, "It doesn't matter so much the number of years you have, but what you do with those years." I don't say that anymore. I now want to reach a hundred. Why? Because I thoroughly enjoy life and there are so many things I must still do before entering the mystery beyond. The most urgent of these is to get American soldiers out of the Iraqi hellhole Bush-Cheney and their neo-conservative theorists have created in what was once called the cradle of civilization. It is believed to be the location of the Garden of Eden. I mention the neo-conservative theorists to recall Walter Lippman's observance, "There is nothing so dangerous as a belligerent professor."

One of the things I miss about my 18 years in the U.S. Senate are the stories of the old Southern Democrats. I didn't always vote with them, but I loved their technique of responding to an opponent's questions with a humorous story. Once when Senator Sam Ervin of North Carolina had to handle a tough question from Mike Mansfield, he said, "You know, Mr. Leader, that question reminds me of the old Baptist preacher who was telling a class of Sunday school boys the creation story. 'God created Adam and Eve and from this union came two sons, Cain and Abel and thus the human race developed.' A boy in the class then asked, 'Reverend, where did Cain and Abel get their wives?' After frowning for a moment, the preacher replied, 'Young man—it's impertinent questions like that that's hurtin' religion.'"

Well, Mr. Bush, Jr. I have some pertinent questions for you.

Mr. President, Sir, when reporter Bob Woodward asked you if you had consulted with your father before ordering our army into Iraq you said, "No, he's not the father you call on a decision like this. I talked to my heavenly Father above." My question, Mr. President: If God asked you to bombard, invade and occupy Iraq for four years, why did he send an opposite message to the Pope? Did you not know that your father, George

Bush, Sr., his Secretary of State James Baker and his National Security Advisor General Skowcroft were all opposed to your invasion? Wouldn't you, our troops, the American people and the Iraqis all be much better off if you had listened to your more experienced elders including your earthly father? Instead of blaming God for the awful catastrophe you have unleashed in Iraq, wouldn't it have been less self-righteous if you had fallen back on the oft-quoted explanation of wrongdoing, "The devil made me do it?"

And Mr. President, after the 9-11 hit against the Twin Towers in New York, which gained us the sympathy and support of the entire world, why did you then order the invasion of Iraq, which had nothing to do with 9-11? Are you aware that your actions destroyed the international reservoir of good will towards the United States? What is the cost to America of shattering the standing and influence of our country in the eyes of the world?

Why, Mr. President did you pressure the CIA to report falsely that Iraq was building weapons of mass destruction including nuclear weapons? And when you ordered your Secretary of State, Colin Powell, to go to New York and present to the U.N. the Administration's "evidence" that Iraq was an imminent nuclear threat to the United States, were you aware that after reading this deceitful statement to the U.N., Mr. Powell told an aid that the so-called evidence was "bullshit"?

Is it reasonable to you, President Bush, that Colin Powell told you near the end of your first term that he would not be in your administration if you were to receive a second term? What decent person could survive two full terms of forced lying and deceit?

And Mr. President, how do you enjoy your leisure time, and how can you sleep at night knowing that 3014 young Americans have died in a war you mistakenly ordered? What do you say to the 48,000 young Americans who have been crippled for life in mind or body? What is your reaction to the conclusion of the leading British medical journal (Lancet) that since you ordered the bombardment and occupation of Iraq four years ago, 600 thousand Iraqi men, women and children have been killed? What do you think of the destruction of the Iraqi's homes, their electrical and water systems, their public buildings?

And Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney, while neither of you has ever been in combat (Mr. Cheney asking and receiving five deferments from the Vietnam War), have you not at least read or been briefed on the terrible costs of that ill-advised and seemingly endless American war in tiny Vietnam? Do you realize that another Texas President, Lyndon Baines Johnson, declined to seek a second term in part because he had lost his credibility over the disastrous war in Vietnam? Are you aware that one of the chief architects of that war, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, resigned his office and years later published a book declaring that the war was all a tragic mistake? Do you know this recent history in which 58,000 young Americans died in the process of killing 2 million Vietnamese men, women and children? If you do not know about this terrible blunder in Vietnam, are you not ignoring the conclusion of one of our great philosophers: "Those who are ignorant of history are condemned to repeat it." And, Mr. President, in your ignorance of the lessons of Vietnam, are you not condemning our troops and our people to repeat the same tragedy in Iraq?

During the long years between 1964 and 1975 when I fought to end the American war in Vietnam, first as a U.S. Senator from