

IN RECOGNIZING OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MALCOLM X

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SPEECH OF
HON. DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009

- Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment to recognize that February 21, 2009, as the 44th anniversary of the assassination of EL-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, better known as Malcolm X. I find it only fitting that we take this time to reflect and celebrate the life of this courageous advocate for the civil rights of African Americans.

- Born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 19, 1925, the early portion of young Malcolm's life was filled turmoil and change. By the age of 13, his father had passed away and his mother had been committed to a mental hospital. He spent a great portion of his formative years in foster homes. He then became involved in the criminal underworld in both Boston and New York. Little was arrested and sentenced to eight to ten years in prison. It was during his incarceration that Little become a member of the Nation of Islam, changing his name to Malcolm X. Following his parole, he quickly became the Nation's chief spokesman and served as its public face for almost 12 years. After his departure from the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X went on to found Muslim Mosque, Inc. and continued championing the cause of Black America. Tragically, the life of Malcolm X was cut short by gunfire on February 21, 1965 in Manhattan's Audubon Ballroom. The most poignant description of Malcolm was during his eulogy by Actor Ossie Davis who called him, ``our shining black prince".

- Malcolm X once said, ``The future belongs to those who prepare for it today". We must heed these words and be evermore dutiful in our commitment to ensure that our children and their children are able to enjoy those three noble principals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Malcolm X remains an inspiration to millions of people around the world, inspiring others to build on his vision of a nation that recognizes the strengths of all peoples.