

country as opposed to listening to a very elite special interest group that is giving him very bad information.

Mr. RIGGS. If the gentleman will yield, I think the gentleman makes an excellent point, and I would simply add that again the hard-core professional environmental element, which again has become, giving, I guess, the devil its due, a well-organized and well-funded movement in this country in recent years, having lost this debate through a fair and open process at the full Committee on Appropriations level when the bill was marked up, in fact, when the gentleman's amendment was voted on on an up-or-down basis, having lost the debate out here on this House floor when we debated at some length the merits of the gentleman's emergency timber salvage amendment, then employs a back-door mechanism, goes to the White House and convinces the certain figures in the President's administration that he really ought to veto this bill, which, as the gentleman pointed out, passed the House with strong bipartisan support, and I want to say that the President, frankly, is not, in my just intuitive sense here, he is not heeding his instinct. He is not doing what I think, frankly, he knows is the right thing.

I mean, after all, this is a President who campaigned on a promise of putting people first. Well, I want to point out to the President that the independent timber mills of this country have launched a new campaign called Putting Family Businesses First, so if the President met his campaign rhetoric, if he really does believe in putting people and families first, he can begin by reconsidering his threat to veto the gentleman's outstanding emergency timber salvage amendment.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. That falls in line with the President's declaration that these are large companies. These are not large companies. These are small, family-size businesses.

THE REAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMISTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] is recognized for 30 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BROWN], my friend and colleague.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I just sat here listening for the last hour as the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] did, and my friend, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mr. CLAYTON] talking about environmental extremists and environmental extremism.

The fact is that 70 percent of the American public wants to see not weaker but stronger environmental laws, and the real extremists and the real radicals in this environmental debate are not people that support the

clean water laws and not people that support the clean air laws and not people that support public health laws, but the real extremists are a good many Republicans in this body who literally want to privatize some of the national parks, sell the national parks to large corporations, want to roll back a lot of the environmental laws, clean air laws, safe drinking water laws, laws that affect, that we have built a consensus in this country around that have given us the best public health in our history, that have given us the best, strongest laws in the world to protect our citizens against everything from breast cancer to tuberculosis. We have done that well in this country in the last 3 or 4 decades, something I am proud of.

I live in Lorain, Ohio. My back door looks out over Lake Erie. Twenty years ago, Lake Erie was declared dead in many parts. Part of the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland caught on fire.

Because of the efforts of the U.S. EPA, because of the commitment of a lot of people in Lorain, Cleveland, Medina, and all of northeast Ohio and other areas, we as a Nation were able to clean up that lake, so my daughters, Emily and Elizabeth, can now swim in Lake Erie, and other people, we drink the water, we can enjoy that lake recreationally, and it helps create jobs. It helps attract people to the Great Lakes to build their businesses and build their industries and employ people.

The extremists and the environmental issue are not those 70 or 80 percent of the American people that want clean air, pure food, safe drinking water for their children and their families and their grandchildren, but the people that want to sell off the national parks and allow the chemical companies and other polluters to write the laws that dismantle the best environmental laws in our history and the best environmental laws in the whole world, and that is what concerns me when I hear this kind of debate on the House floor.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I say to my friend, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BROWN] I must agree with you. There is nothing radical about wanting to know what is in the air we breathe, what is in the water we drink or what is in the food we eat. I thank the gentleman very much for his comments.

I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON].

CELEBRATING THE MOTOR-VOTER LAW

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I also want to applaud my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] for organizing this special order and his dedication and commitment to the cause of voting and the rights of civil rights. He has an impeccable reputation, and those people who know of his record know that, indeed, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] is a long-distance runner in the struggle for civil rights and the opportunity for basic rights that the Constitution af-

fords all Americans, the right to vote for all our citizens.

He has faced all manner of discouragement, and yet he has never been discouraged. I just want to thank you, I say to the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS], for not only this special order but for the life that you have lived and showing that America should be there for everyone and living the life that is exemplary, what you are. And so I am delighted to participate with you.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I thank the gentlewoman for those comments.

Mrs. CLAYTON. The right to vote is a precious right because all rights derive from the voting right. Freedom of speech, which we know as the First Amendment, has far less meaning without the right to vote and to elect those persons who will uphold that fundamental freedom.

Freedom from illegal search and seizure, which we know as the fourth amendment, has little meaning if those who hold elective office do not stand up and protect those basic freedoms.

The term due process, the fifth amendment, providing important procedural safeguards, guaranteed by the Constitution, become mere words if those who we elect fail to protect them.

And the equality of treatment under the law, the 14th amendment, is a platitude we talk about that becomes a living reality only when, now only when, those we vote into office become champions of those rights.

The Constitution is a living and breathing document that gets its life from people we elect.

It is, therefore, clearly the best way to safeguard all of our rights is to exercise our most fundamental right, and that is the right to vote. And the first step in exercising that right obviously is to register. We in Congress have made registering to vote easy. The National Voter Registration Act of 1993, the so-called motor voter bill, was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton May 20, 1993.

The motor voter act took effect January 1 of this year. It requires basically that we get our drivers license, we can register by mail, any time we get public services, those three areas allow us to register very easily. With this simplified registration, we expect citizens will register to vote.

Indeed, in North Carolina, since implementation of the motor voter law, some 88,000 new voters have registered, 88,000. The reason for the simplified registration procedure is actually to encourage more people to participate, and we know there has been a declining participation of citizens in elections, so we need to do that.

One author has said the deadliest enemy is not really those who live in foreign lands but really it is within ourselves. I want to say to you, JOHN, that the same thing could be applied to us in our own community or in our own private life: The deadliest enemy is not

without, it is within, and that deadly enemy that is within is those who would discourage the participation, and this would be apathy, idleness, inattention and indifference. And because of these enemies, only about one-fourth of those voting last November actually voted, and so, therefore, we had, what, the Contract With America as a result of that, apathy and indifference, although we have the right to register.

The majority of Americans did not vote for those who pressed for the Contract With America. The proponents offered it, nevertheless, but one-half of them accepted that, only one-half of that 25 percent who voted, but nevertheless if people had voted, it would have been a different study.

Compare the record with those who voted in Africa. When people voted in Africa, they stood in long lines to vote; they stood, and the weather was inclement. Some of the people were disabled themselves, but they wanted to vote so well that they would suffer personal indignities just to have the opportunity to vote, the threat of violence, even death, for those who were in South Africa. They wanted the opportunity to participate.

And I think, I would say to the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] that we, too, need to have that same sort of spirit that the right to vote guarantees all other rights, and unless we understand that very fundamentally, that the Constitution is indeed a living and breathing instrument and each of those elements are important, but unless we exercise our right to vote, we will not have people who will implement properly the Constitution.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman for the efforts you had in making the motor voter a reality and thank you for allowing us to participate with you on this anniversary.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Let me just thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for those comments, those words, and for participating really in this special order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BROWN]

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. It is my pleasure to join with the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] and the gentleman from Georgia [Ms. MCKINNEY], and also the gentleman from Georgia, [Mr. LEWIS], celebrating the second-year anniversary of one of the things that I think was very positive, one of those most positive accomplishments of this dead in Congress, and that is the National Voter Registration Act, which is the final jewel in opening up our political system to everyone in this country.

Unfortunately, there are some people that in this body want to repeal the National Voter Registration Act, and some Republican Governors around the country that do not want to implement it even though it is the most efficient, most cost-effective way to achieve universal voter registration in this society.

I was Ohio secretary of state for 8 years. One of my jobs was to encourage people and do all I could to get them to register to vote. We registered literally 1 million people over those 8 years. We were able to do it by using a lot of the motor voter registration at unemployment offices, registration at restaurants, reaching out all over to people in all walks of life, and it works.

Nationally, that is what is happening right now. We are reaching into all segments of the community, rich and poor, black and white, men and women, all across the board. We are seeing hundreds of thousands of people in State after State after State register to vote.

□ 2000

If we are going to be the kind of democracy that we need in this country that we have all striven for, it means we need to expand the number of people voting so everyone has a choice in selecting the next Congress, selecting the next President.

I say to the gentleman, "I am proud to join with you, Mr. LEWIS, in your efforts to get more people registered to vote, whether it is—regardless of where those people are registered, whether it is a government office, whether it is a license bureau, whatever kind of place it might be, so that people more efficiently can find opportunities to register to vote all over our land. It has made a difference in registering millions of voters and expanding the electorate so we do, in fact, like most countries in the world, have universal suffrage so more and more people vote and choose our leaders."

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman again for his efforts in bringing us the National Voter Registration Act.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BROWN], for participating in this special order, for all of his good work to increase voter participation, long before I came to this body, as the Secretary of State of the great State of Ohio. I say to the gentleman, "Thank you very much." On January 1 of this year, the National Voter Registration Act, known as motor-voter, went into effect. This month marks the two year anniversary of Motor Voter becoming law. Tonight I want to recognize the important role Motor Voter has played in registering voters and promoting democracy.

The motor-voter law allows citizens to register at motor vehicle bureaus, welfare offices and other agencies. The goal of the law is to simplify voter registration and encourage people to participate in the political process. After only 3 months, the results are in. Motor Voter is working.

In only 3 months, over 2 million citizens have registered or updated their registration. Motor Voter will add an estimated 20 million voters to the rolls by the 1996 election. Motor Voter would be an even greater success if all states complied with the law.

Unfortunately, some States have not complied with the Motor Voter law.

They refuse to follow the law of the land. Even some Members of Congress oppose Motor Voter. They want to repeal this successful law.

Mr. Speaker, during an earlier period of my life, I put my body, my heart and my soul on the line to increase participation of all people in the political process. From the sit-ins to the Freedom Rides to the March on Washington, to the March from Selma to Montgomery, I and thousands of others worked for the civil rights of all Americans. We wanted to make one man, one vote—one woman, one vote—a reality. This was our cause.

In the history of our nation, we were not alone. Time and again, ordinary American citizens have risen in defense of one person, one vote. From the Minutemen at Lexington and Concord to Abraham Lincoln—from Susan B. Anthony to Viola Liuzzo—from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to James Chaney, Andy Goodman and Mickey Schwerner . . . people have given their heart, their soul—and often their lives—so that all Americans could vote.

We have all come a long way. The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution first stated that all people are created equal, and that they are endowed with certain inalienable rights. The Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to our Constitution, the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act have ensured that all Americans can exercise their right to vote. Motor Voter guarantees that they will.

Too many people, especially the young and the poor, are sitting on the sidelines. They have not registered to vote. They are not going to the ballot box. We must encourage all Americans to vote. We all must be involved. For people not to register—for people to refuse to participate in the political process—is dangerous to the health of our country.

Despite our proud democratic history—despite the obvious success of Motor Voter, certain Members of this body want to repeal Motor Voter. They want us to take a step back in history—a step away from having a truly democratic society. We must not let this happen.

Why do so many of my colleagues want to repeal Motor Voter? Why do they want to make it harder for people to vote? What do they fear? That people will vote? That people will get involved? That we will expand democracy?

This is what Motor Voter does. It makes it easier for all Americans to participate in our democratic process. Motor Voter opens up the process—it makes it easier for people to come in, to participate. Registering to vote is as simple as renewing your driver's license.

The more people vote—the more people become involved—the more government becomes responsive to the people. Each and every citizen has the power to hold their elected officials accountable.

When people do not vote, they forfeit their power—they silence their own voices. They say “I do not care.”

How can so many Members of Congress continue to oppose Motor Voter? They say it is an unfunded mandate—an unfunded mandate. My Colleagues, if telling states to register voters is an unfunded mandate, it's a mandate as old as the Constitution.

Read article I, section 4 of the Constitution. “The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations.”

My Colleagues, our Constitution is not just another unfunded mandate. We cannot put a price tag on political participation. We cannot put a price on democracy.

Despite the opposition, despite the attempts to make it harder for Americans to vote, I am heartened by all that Motor Voter has accomplished in three short months. We must encourage people to become involved—to stand up and speak out—to vote. We must continue to support Motor Voter.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentlewoman from the State of Georgia, the gentlewoman from the great State of Georgia [Ms. MCKINNEY].

Ms. MCKINNEY. Congressman LEWIS, I just want to commend you for remembering the importance of motor voter to our democracy, and I cannot help but think about I have a 9-year-old son, and I buy books. The most recent book that I purchased for him was a pictorial of the civil rights movement. It has got all of these wonderful, glorious, and infamous pictures about the dogs, and the water hoses, and Bull Connor, and this is a legacy of this country.

This is also a legacy of our quest for real and true democracy. You were there. You saw it. I can only rewalk your footsteps. I can only go back and see where you were 30 years ago at Edmund Pettis Bridge and recall in my own new way the contributions of Goodwin, Chaney and Schwerner, and Viola Liuzzo, and, when I go to Montgomery, I never go there without passing by the civil rights memorial at Morris Deze's Southern Poverty Law Center.

We have some of our colleagues here who participated in that struggle for American democracy. BOB FILNER is one who serves in Congress with us now who was there with the Freedom Riders fighting for a more perfect democracy.

I have a question for you. You have a story that you tell about the man with a cattle prod in his hand, and for our viewers tonight I just would like for you to retell that story because this is a part of our history, and this is a history that we cannot forget; lest we forget, we will surely allow those enemies of democracy who want to restrict the American people's right to vote to wane. So please tell the story.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Well, let me just say to my friend and colleague from Georgia, I will never forget some 30 years ago in the little town of Selma, AL, in the heart of the black belt in Dallas County in 1965. Only 2.1 percent of blacks of voting age were registered to vote. They had to take a so-called literacy test. People were afraid. There were black men and women teaching in the local college, black doctors and lawyers, but they flunked the so-called literacy test. They could only go down to attempt to register on the first and third Mondays of each month.

On the third Monday in January 1965, it was my day to lead a group of people down to the Dallas County Courthouse. To be exact, it was January 18, and we walked up to the steps of the courthouse, and there was a sheriff named Jim Clark. He wore a gun on one side, a night stick on the other, and he carried an electric cattle prod in his hand, and he did not use it on cows, he used it on people, and he said to me, “John Lewis, you're not some agitator. You're the lowest form of humanity.”

At that time I was almost 25, and I had all of my hair. I was a few pounds lighter, but I looked him straight in the eye, and I said, “Sheriff, I may be an agitator, but I'm not an outsider. I grew up 90 miles from here, and we're going to stay here until these people are allowed to register and vote.”

And he said, “John, you're under arrest,” and he arrested me along with many other people.

A few days later in a little town near Selma a young black man by the name of Jimmy Lee Jackson was leading the march for the right to vote. He was shot in the stomach by a state trooper, and a few days later he died. In the course of what happened to him we said that we were marching from Selma to Montgomery to dramatize to the Nation and to the world that people wanted the right to participate in the democratic process. And on March 7 we decided to march in twos, leaving downtown Selma, walking through the streets of Selma, about 525 of us, elderly men and women and a few young children.

We came to the apex of the bridge. We saw a sea of blue. It was the Alabama State troopers. We continued to walk until we came within hearing distance of the State troopers, and a man identified himself and said, “I'm Major John Cloud of the Alabama State troopers. I give you 3 minutes to disperse and go back to your church.”

In less than 1½ minutes he said, “Troopers, advance,” and they came toward us, beating us with night sticks and bull whips, trampling us with horses and using tear gas.

This became known as bloody Sunday, and because of what happened in Selma, President Johnson came to this hall, and spoke to a joint session of Congress, and introduced the Voting Rights Act, and it was passed, and since then I must say, my colleague,

we have seen hundreds and thousands and millions of new registered voters because this Congress had the courage to pass the Voting Rights Act in 1965, and Motor Voter is another step down that long road toward opening up the political process and letting all of the people come in.

Ms. MCKINNEY. You know you said something about accountability, and the fact that we enlarge the voting pool also indicates that we would enlarge the attentive public; that is, the public that is paying attention to what we do with the laws that we pass and the impact that what we do here has on those peoples' lives. I cannot help but believe that there is a group of people, and I am sure they are a small group of people, who want to escape accountability for the things that they do, and therefore they introduced legislation to repeal Motor Voter, or they try to call it an unfunded mandate in an effort to escape the accountability that the American people would bring on them for the kinds of policies that we are seeing put into play now.

□ 2015

Also, I have to say that it has never been so easy, particularly in the South, in Georgia, to register people, as it is today, and that is because of motor voter. We have a simple little form.

I remember in 1992, we had Jesse Jackson come down to the 11th district to do some voter registration for us because we knew we needed that. We found all kinds of voting registration barriers. And in one little small town, Milledgeville, I know you know Milledgeville, GA, we had to stage a protest march, because for some reason it was inconvenient for the folks down at the courthouse to register a lot of people in the town, who happened to be African-American and who happened to be students in the town.

So we have got these impediments that have been removed. And now it is so easy, all people have to do is want to be registered and they can register. And it sure makes it a whole lot easier for those of us who want them to be registered.

I think this new move on the part of this small group of people is perhaps, well, we know it is wrong-headed and ill-founded, but it takes us in the wrong direction. It takes us backwards, and we do not need to be going back. We need to be going forward. Our democracy is stronger when the American people feel that they have an investment in their Government. Right now the American people do not feel that they have an investment, and a lot of people sit on the sidelines at election time because it is so darn hard to go out there and register to vote. We, of course, as you know, have the purges that go on.

Motor voter cures all of that. You can register to vote at midnight in your home if you want to, and that is the beautiful thing about motor voter.

So I just think this move that is afoot is wrong-headed and ill-founded,

but there are 170 cosponsors on the repeal bill, so it is a threat that is imminent. And that is why I am so happy that the gentleman is alerting the rest of us here to the importance of motor voter, and at the same time the American viewing public that is interested and is looking at C-SPAN right now, to let them know that motor voter is good and motor voter is not safe.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Let me agree with you that motor voter is good, and it is necessary to open up the political process. As you well know, in our own State hundreds and thousands of people have been registered during the past 3 months. I think in Georgia more than 3,000 people every single day are being registered because of motor voter.

Ms. MCKINNEY. And we do not even have all of the counties on line yet. Just imagine what it would be like if we had all of the counties, 159 counties in Georgia, on line for motor voter. When that happens, Georgia will not be last anymore. I am so sick and tired of Georgia being last in most things. Georgia can become first, and it will also be first in democracy.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Let me just thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from the State of Georgia, CYNTHIA MCKINNEY, for participating in this special order tonight. I appreciate your help and all of your support. I think we have a moral obligation, a mandate, and a mission as Members of this body to do what we can to increase the political participation of all of our citizens. Open the process up, let everybody come in.

Ms. MCKINNEY. The gentleman knows that I have long admired his work and his advocacy on behalf of the American people and the American democracy.

Just a word about the nature of this discourse tonight: This is not about Democrat or Republican. This is about the American people and enhancing and fine-tuning our democracy. We do have, we are blessed in this country to have the most perfect democracy on the face of the Earth. Yet it can still be a whole lot better. Motor voter is but one tool to get us there, and I appreciate the gentleman and his strong leadership and advocacy. You know you have my support every step of the way.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Thank you very much for those kind words and for participating in this special order tonight.

Miss COLLINS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the absolute need for the motor-voter law is clear. Without it, millions of American voters will continue to be denied equal access to the franchise by a bureaucratic opposition that simply does not make sense. Without it, millions of Americans will remain voteless, and voteless people are powerless people.

Like the Voting Rights Act, a thirty-year old success story itself, this new law has clearly begun to eclipse the barriers and the lingering legacy of voting booth exclusion that have had a "chilling" effect on the political participation

of African-Americans and other ethnic minorities in this country.

The motor-voter law is already a striking success in some states where discriminatory and unfair registration laws and procedures once prevailed. In states like Texas, Florida, and Georgia—where the history of voting discrimination has been most egregious—more than 200,000 previously unregistered voters have gained new opportunities to register to vote, at motor vehicle departments, public assistance offices, mental health and disability agencies, and by mail.

Instead of mouthing platitudes about democracy, we in this body ought to feel more compelled to make democracy a reality. But the truth is, until every American citizen has one-hundred percent, undeniable access to the ballot box, Democracy will be little more than an illusion. Democracy, it is said, is a "collectivity" of individuals. But there can be no democracy when millions of Americans remain shut out of the Democratic process.

Mr. Speaker, making voting more accessible to the public is not a partisan issue. In fact, Mr. GINGRICH himself has said that "it is simply good public policy."

Voting is the linchpin of American Democracy. Registering to vote should be as convenient as applying for a library card, or filling out a tax return. The costs of the motor-voter law are minimal, especially when considering the payoff in increased citizen participation.

Even my own home state of Michigan is now resisting this great effort to eliminate the final barriers to full enfranchisement, and of this I am ashamed. Mr. Speaker, it is a national disgrace if America is permitted to return to its darkest period, when millions of citizens were systematically denied equal access to the franchise, and ultimately their power to govern. It is a disgrace that this country simply cannot afford.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS], for reserving this Special Order. I am pleased to join him for a discussion of the motor-voter law. The National Voter Registration Act was signed into law by President Clinton on May 20, 1993. The law requires motor vehicle bureaus, welfare offices and other public agencies to offer voter registration services. Today, we gather to mark the two year anniversary of this successful legislative initiative.

The motor-voter law took effect on January 1, 1995. It is noted that during the months of January and February alone, more than 630,000 citizens across the country registered to vote. Analysts predict that next year, as many as 20 million Americans will be added to the ranks of the voting population. Not since the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which removed obstacles that had kept many African-Americans from the voting booth, have so many new voters registered to vote.

Mr. Speaker, the road to passage of national voter registration laws has not been an easy one. Many in this Chamber will recall that efforts to establish a national voter registration system followed closely on the heels of the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. During the 1970's, a substantial effort was made to implement a national voter "post-card" or mail registration system. Efforts also focused on the passage of a national voter registration standard that would have allowed

citizens to register to vote on election day. Both measures failed to be enacted by both the House and Senate.

During the 1980's, we celebrated the enactment of several voter registration measures. In 1984, Congress passed the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act. The Act established national requirements for making polling places more accessible to the elderly and the handicapped, and provided greater access to absentee ballots for these individuals. The Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act required States to permit absentee uniformed service personnel and overseas voters to use absentee registration procedures, and to vote by absentee ballot in federal elections.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of the National Voter Registration Act is to simplify voter registration, thereby encouraging citizens to participate in the election process. In addition to making it easier for individuals to register to vote, the Act also provides more than adequate measures to prevent voter fraud by making violations of the Act a federal offense. Further, the cost that states bear to implement the motor-voter law has proven to be minimal.

As we celebrate the success of the motor-voter law, we must ensure that this important Act is not repealed. We must also ensure that all states are in compliance with the motor-voter law. In the United States, 80 percent of our nation's youth, those 18 or 19 years of age, apply for driver's licenses. Yet, fewer than 40 percent of this age population is registered to vote. We have a responsibility to make certain that all Americans are participants in the electoral process. The motor-voter law represents an important step in achieving this objective.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join Congressman LEWIS for this special order. He has played a major role in securing and protecting the voting rights of minority citizens and others. I applaud his leadership, and I offer my full support of his efforts.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF APHIS EMPLOYEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DE LA GARZA] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, we stand here today in memory of the seven employees of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, those that were tragically murdered in the bomb blast at the A.P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995. The explosion murdered scores of innocent children and adults, injured hundreds, shattered innumerable lives, and shook the soul of the Nation. We remember them all.

But today we mention the 15 employees stationed in the building at the time of the explosion. By stroke of providence, five of the employees were not in the building at the time. Three of the employees left the building