

DISPLAY OF THE TEN  
COMMANDMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 1997*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 31, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the display of the Ten Commandments in Government offices and court-houses.

While supporters of this resolution would have the American public be fooled about the nature of this resolution, I stand to tell the American people the truth.

This resolution is in clear violation of the Constitution of the United States. It is a violation of the establishment clause of the Constitution. I am not in favor of violating the Constitution. Nor am I in favor of trying to fool the American people.

Some in this Chamber would have the American people believe that a vote against this resolution is a vote against the Ten Commandments. This is certainly not the case.

The Supreme Court has been quite clear on this subject. In *Stone versus Graham*, the Court struck down a Kentucky law which required the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools. In *Harvey and Cunningham versus Cobb County*, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals held that a display of the Ten Commandments was unconstitutional.

I am a strong supporter of the freedom of expression and religion which is inherent in the first amendment to the Constitution.

The Ten Commandments are the basic precepts upon which many society's laws are based. They have not changed. They are still taught by families and countless religious denominations in the United States and around the world.

The Ten Commandments have, and will continue to be the foundation for religious instruction.

We should continue to uphold the Constitution of the United States and reject this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO PHILANTHROPIST  
ALICE PETERS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alice Peters. Mrs. Peters has demonstrated the ability to raise the spirits of people all over the Fresno community. I want to honor her today for her service to Fresno.

As noted in a recent edition of the Armenian General Benevolent Union [AGBU] magazine, Alice Peters' family moved to Lynn, MA from Bitlis in 1907. After hearing that more Bitlistsies were residing in the Fresno area, the family moved to a small farming town outside of Fresno called Del Rey. In 1943, she met and married Leon Peters, who was a farmer by day and sold pumps for water at night. The pump business grew and became

one of the Nation's premier wine-making machinery plants. Eventually, the business grew to be as large as 300 employees before the couple sold it and began pursuing other interests.

Perhaps even more important than the wine-making machinery business was the formation of the Leon S. Peters Foundation in 1959. The foundation, with Mrs. Peters as the board chairman, supports many different educational causes today. Locally, the foundation aids humanitarian endeavors and university scholarships. Foundation guidelines require the money be kept in Fresno to help students locally. Specifically, the foundation also sends funding to various organizations throughout Armenia, including supporting scholarships for students studying at the American University of Armenia and funding to assist children at the Nork Children's Center.

Education is not where the work of Alice Peters ends. As one of the leading philanthropists in Fresno, Mrs. Peters was instrumental in starting the Fresno Metropolitan Museum of Art and also is a fundraiser for the Fresno Zoo and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Peters have led Fresno from a small farming town to one of the largest and most thriving cities in California.

Mr. Speaker, as an active member of the Fresno community, Alice Peters has contributed to the growth and cultivation of new ideas and accomplishments in the Fresno community. She and her husband faced the challenges and the successes of the business world together. In turn, they gave back to the community that was the foundation for their successes. I ask my colleagues to join me and pay tribute to a woman who strives each day to make the Fresno community as fulfilling for other lives as it has been for her life.

## SALUTE TO KERMIT HOLLY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. Kermit Wells Holly, Sr., who was born February 9, 1908, in Hinds County, MS, to the late Harvey and Abi Ellen Wells Holly.

Mr. Holly departed this life on September 28, 1995, but he left a proud legacy as a husband, father, musician, educator, and mentor. He attended the Jackson Public Schools and received a bachelor's degree from Clark College, Atlanta and the master of music degree from Chicago Musical College.

Mr. Holly began his teaching career at Clark College and later returned to Jackson College in 1930 where he made numerous contributions to the college orchestra, band, and the overall financial well-being of the college.

In 1937, Mr. Holly joined the faculty at Alcorn College in Lorman, MS, where he organized the Alcorn Marching Band, orchestra, dance band, and the Purple and Gold Sereaders. In 1941, he returned to Jackson and resumed teaching in the Jackson Public School System serving as band director and choir director at Lanier High School.

Mr. Holly retired in 1973 after 46 years in the field of music education, he is considered

the father of African-American musicians in Jackson and throughout the State of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in saluting the family of Mr. Kermit Holly for the outstanding contributions he made to the world of music.

ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION  
TAX CREDIT AND TAX-EXEMPT  
FINANCING

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well today with colleagues from both sides of the aisle, and particularly from the Illinois delegation to introduce bipartisan legislation to address the problem of brownfields that plague many of our districts. I have worked closely with my colleagues and with Mayor Daley of Chicago to develop incentives to encourage the clean up and redevelopment of these abandoned industrial sites which blight our communities. State and local governments will also receive greater flexibility to assist in the financing of such efforts. Fostering private sector remediation will attract business activity, leading to economic growth and stability and will ultimately place these sites back on the tax rolls.

Current law provides disincentives for investors to buy brownfield sites for redevelopment. Today, if you own a parcel of land and contaminate it, you can take a current year deduction for the full cost of cleaning up the site. However, if you buy a contaminated site to redevelop it you must recover your clean up cost over a number of years. The number of years you must capitalize the expense depends upon the use of the property. Depending on the intended use of the property, the recovery period can be as long as 28 years.

To turn this around, our bill would allow developers to deduct up to \$500,000 of the costs in year that they are incurred and capitalize the remaining costs over a much shorter period of 5 years. According to the date we have collected, close to 50 percent of the brownfield sites in America could be restored for under \$500,000.

For more extensive remediation, developers often look to the local community to assist in attracting additional investment. Our second bill creates a new category of private activity bonds, namely remediation bonds. State and local jurisdictions can use this new type of bond under their existing issuance authority limit to solicit private investment to assist in the financing of redeveloping abandoned sites.

Both bills as a package have been endorsed by Mayor Daley and the majority of the Illinois delegation from both sides of the aisle. I am very proud of the work that has gone into developing an approach that has garnered broad bipartisan support and I look forward to working with my colleagues to secure enactment of this important and historic legislation.