

dangerous weapons over 60 years ago, for example, the Michigan Supreme Court stated as follows: "Some weapons are adapted and recognized by the common opinion of good citizens as proper for the private defense of person and property. Other are the peculiar tools of the criminal. The police power of the state to preserve public safety and peace and to regulate the bearing of arms may take account of the character and ordinary use of weapons and interdict those whose customary employment of individuals is to violate the law." *People v. Brown*, 253 Mich. 537, 539, 235 N.W. 245, 246 (1931).

Moreover, since constitutional rights are not absolute, any regulation of a right—even a fundamental one, such as a woman's right to abortion—is not subject to constitutional challenge unless it imposes an undue burden on the exercise of that right. *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992). Thus, a 24 hour waiting period before a woman can have an abortion was held in *Casey* to be constitutional because it does not prevent the women from having an abortion. By the same token, a three day waiting period for the sale of a gun at a gun show so that a background check can be run on the purchaser does not impose an undue burden on the right to bear arms, since it does not prevent a qualified purchaser from obtaining the gun. Nor does a requirement that guns be equipped with safety locks impose any burden at all on a person's ability to obtain and use guns. Nor could it possibly be suggested that the Constitution stands as an obstacle to denying a gun to a convicted felon or a mentally unstable person. Likewise, a ban on carrying a concealed weapon would be constitutionally permissible because of the clear danger to public safety that can result from people pulling out guns and engaging in a shootout in the public streets.

A constitutionally protected right to bear arms would include the right to have a rifle for hunting and for defense of the home. It might also include the right to have a handgun for defense of the home, although this is debatable. A ban on private ownership of handguns would serve the public interest in crime prevention, since so many crimes are committed by the use of handguns. This aside, most assuredly, the right to bear arms would not include the right to have a sub-machine gun or a sawed-off shotgun or an assault weapon, or to carry concealed weapons, or to brandish a gun in the public streets. And again, any right to gun ownership would be subject to reasonable regulation in the public interest.

In summary, under the current state of the law, the Second Amendment does not establish an individual right to bear arms. But even if the Supreme Court were to subsequently hold that it did, all the present and proposed federal gun control laws would be upheld as constitutional, because they are reasonable and do not impose an undue burden on the right to bear arms.

TRIBUTE TO LINNEAUS C. DORMAN

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Linneaus C. Dorman of Midland, Michigan, who recently received the 1999 Percy L. Julian Award, the highest award presented by the National Organization for the Professional

Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers. Dr. Dorman earned this award for his pure and applied research in engineering and science.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Dorman and draw attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives and my constituents in the 4th Congressional District to Dr. Dorman's distinguished career.

Dr. Dorman's fascination with science began in his childhood, with a friend and a chemistry set. Since then he has made remarkable contributions to his field. He earned his bachelor of science in chemistry from Bradley University and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Indiana University in 1961.

After receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Dorman went to Midland to work for The Dow Chemical Company, where he worked in research and development with a primary focus on the chemistry of carbon compounds, found in living things. His work in agricultural chemical synthesis, automated protein synthesis, ceramics, and polymers have earned him high praise from his peers.

Today he continues to be involved with science and shares his love of it with young people in the community, while remaining a member of the National Organization for the Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers.

Dr. Dorman's contribution to science and the community make him an outstanding role model and a respected professional in his field. I am honored today to recognize Dr. Dorman, his professional accomplishments, and his willingness to share his knowledge.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC CONVERSION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, long after the end of the Cold War and the breakup of the Soviet Union, the threat of nuclear weapons remains. Today, the United States continues to possess around 7,300 operational nuclear warheads, and the other declared nuclear powers—Russia, Great Britain, France, and China—are estimated to possess over 10,000 operational warheads. Furthermore, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, especially in countries in unstable regions, is now one of the leading military threats to the national security of the United States and its allies.

The United States, as the sole remaining superpower and the leading power in the world, has an obligation to take bold steps toward encouraging other nuclear powers to eliminate their arsenals and to prevent the proliferation of these weapons. That is why I have chosen today, on the 54th anniversary of the first test of a nuclear explosive in Alamogordo, New Mexico, to introduce the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act of 1999. The bill would require the United States to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons and to refrain from replacing them with weapons of mass destruction once foreign countries possessing nuclear weapons enact and execute similar requirements.

My bill also provides that the resources used to sustain our nuclear weapons program

be used to address human and infrastructure needs such as housing, health care, education, agriculture, and the environment. By eliminating our nuclear weapons arsenal, the United States can realize an additional, "peace dividend" from which to fund critical domestic initiatives, including new programs proposed in the Administration's FY 2000 budget.

Many courageous leaders from the United States and from around the world have spoken out on the obsolescence of nuclear weapons and the need for their elimination. Those leaders include retired Air Force General Lee Butler and more than 60 other retired generals and admirals from 17 nations, who, on December 5, 1996, issued a statement that "the continuing existence of nuclear weapons in the armories of nuclear powers, and the ever-present threat of acquisition of these weapons by others, constitute a peril to global peace and security and to the safety and survival of the people we are dedicated to protect" and that the "creation of a nuclear-weapons-free world [is] necessary [and] possible."

Recent events on the Indian subcontinent demonstrate the urgent need for passage of my bill. Last year, in defiance of the non-proliferation efforts of the United States and the world community, India detonated several underground nuclear test devices, after it had refrained from doing so since its first nuclear test in 1973. Pakistan, a neighboring country with which India has fought three wars since the British colonial period ended in 1947, soon followed suit with its own nuclear tests. The trading of nuclear tests last year between India and Pakistan were a source of heightened concern as armed skirmishes persisted last month in the disputed Kashmir region adjoining those two nations.

The United States and the world community clearly must redouble their efforts to obtain commitments from India and Pakistan to refrain from actual deployment of nuclear weapons, as well as to contain other countries that aspire to become nuclear powers, such as Iran, Iraq, and North Korea, from moving forward with their programs. However, the United States will be far more credible and persuasive in these efforts if we are willing to take the initiative in dismantling our own nuclear weapons program and helping arms industries to convert plants and employees to providing products and services that enhance the wealth and quality of life of ordinary citizens. I ask my colleagues to cosponsor the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act of 1999 and for the committees with jurisdiction over the bill to mark it up quickly so that it can be considered and passed by the full House.

TRIBUTE TO LAVONNE LITTLE BISHOP

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in respect and remembrance of a gracious and remarkable lady in my district, Mrs. LaVonne Bishop, affectionately known as "Miss LaVonne" who passed away on July 10, 1999, at her home in St. Catherine's Village in Madison, MS. She was 95 years of age, and the

widow of the late Herbert Bishop, a former mayor of Forest, and a banking official, who served for many years as the President of the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Forest, Mississippi, now known as Community Bank.

Miss LaVonne was born in Magee, MS and moved to Forest, MS at an early age. She graduated from Forest High School in 1920, and earned her music degree from Belhaven College in the mid-twenties. Upon graduation from Belhaven, she returned to Forest and taught music in the Forest school system until her marriage to Mr. Bishop.

For the greater part of her life, Miss LaVonne focused her efforts on building a strong church and community relations in Forest and Scott County. Very seldom was there a civic or community project developed within the city of Forest, or the county of Scott, that she did not have some input. Because of her efforts in community development, Forest was named a winner in the National Community Achievement Contest in 1960, and in 1962, Miss LaVonne was named Mississippi Club Woman of the Year. She also served as chairwoman for many Merit Programs sponsored by the State Chamber of Commerce. Further, for many years, she served as chairperson for the Forest Miss Hospitality committee, and actively participated in drives that benefited the Hospital Auxiliary, the Cancer Fund, the Heart Fund, and the March of Dimes Fund.

At Forest Baptist Church, she was the church organist for more than 50 years. On a number of occasions, she served as President of the Women's Missionary Union, and was a teacher and pianist in the junior department. At St. Catherine Village, she was pianist for the choir and the residents of Siena, the nursing division of the Village. Up until her death, she and her piano partner, Grant Smith, performed periodic concerts in the area surrounding Jackson.

Miss LaVonne was very devoted to her family. If you wanted to see pride and job at its apex, then start a conversation about her children, Neill (Mrs. Wade Barton) and Gene and their families, her late husband Herbert and his family, her parents the late Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Little and her brother Woodrow. Also, very dear to Miss LaVonne as her friend, Mrs. Alice Burke and her family, who worked at the Bishop household for many years.

Miss LaVonne's life and legacy can be summed up with one word LOVE; Love for God, Love for Family, Love for Friends, Love for Country, Love for State, and by all means, Love for Forest and Scott County. She was truly a great Christian, and an American, and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to her family, while at the same time, expressing my appreciation, and that of all citizens of the 3rd district for her life of service.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE BALTIERREZ

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and colleague, Joanne Baltierrez, who retired earlier this year from a seat on the City Council of the City of San Fernando. Joanne had a distinguished five-year tenure on the council, including a

one-year term as Mayor. While in office, she was a courageous, visionary and independent-minded public servant, who worked very hard to represent her constituents well and to make a real difference in the quality of life for the citizens of San Fernando.

During her time on the City Council, Joanne compiled an impressive list of accomplishments for her constituents. She is especially and rightfully proud of her successful efforts to keep a Los Angeles county health clinic from moving outside of its San Fernando location. She did this in a particularly creative manner by arranging a land swap with the county that enabled the much-needed facility to remain within her city. Joanne also helped assemble a coalition with San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, the San Fernando Police Department and the courts to provide counseling and shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Another of Joanne's innovations was a series of town hall meetings to allow members of the Council to better gauge the needs and concerns of their constituents.

Joanne has always given unstintingly of her time and talents to public service. Over the past decade, in addition to her work on the City Council, she has served as a recruitment coordinator for Los Angeles Mission College, Director of Community Services for the Volunteer Center of San Fernando Valley, Resource Coordinator for the Latin American Civic Association and Community Liaison for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

Now that she has retired from the Council, Joanne has entered a new phase of her career in politics, serving as the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles. Joanne now puts her considerable abilities to work in representing the League throughout the community and promoting the growth of this highly respected organization through public relations and marketing strategies.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Joanne Baltierrez, whose commitment to her community and strong sense of justice are an inspiration to us all. I am proud to be her friend.

ST. LOUIS A SCHOOL DESEGREGATION SUCCESS STORY

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, May 17, 1999, marked the 45th anniversary of the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* holding racial segregation laws and practices unconstitutional and ushering in the civil rights era. Last month the Harvard Civil Rights Project published a report showing that the nation is now moving backwards toward re-segregation of public schools.

I want to call the attention of my colleagues to the remarkable story of desegregation in St. Louis. St. Louis illustrates the gains that can be made for children even in these times. In St. Louis, a 1983 settlement of a desegregation case brought by the NAACP resulted in the largest voluntary metropolitan school desegregation program in the nation, with 13,000 black students from St. Louis attending school

in 16 suburban districts. The program was very successful in increasing the graduation and college-going rates of participating youngsters as was a magnet program in city schools.

When the State sought to end its financing of the remedy in the early 1990's many feared that the opportunities that had been afforded children would end as had happened elsewhere. But an extraordinary thing happened. The Missouri State legislature voted funds sufficient to continue the programs—including as well as major program for school improvements in St. Louis—for at least ten more years. The legislature insisted that the city of St. Louis contribute financially by raising its sales and property taxes. Many feared that this would not occur. But in February of this year the voters approved a sales tax increased by an almost 2-1 margin—and every Ward in the City—Black and White—voted for the tax increase.

Many people in Missouri worked hard to achieve this remarkable result. Special thanks are due to William H. Danforth, the Court-appointed settlement coordinator, who recognized that continuing a valuable remedy was not inconsistent with ending court supervision. James De Clue, the NAACP leader and Minnie Liddell, the community leader, toiled over twenty five years to advance the interests of children, they are the true heroes of this story. Legislative leadership was exercised by then-Representative Steve Stoll along with Senators Ted House, Lacy Clay and Harold Caskey. My colleague Congressman RICHARD GEPHARDT also helped assure that St. Louisans understood the importance of passing the referendum while business and religious leaders pitched in and lent their support.

Mr. Speaker, we must not give up on the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The St. Louis story provides a model for other communities. I would like to share with my colleagues some articles that detail the success of St. Louis' school desegregation program.

[From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Jan. 7, 1999]

SETTLEMENT IS REACHED IN DESEGREGATION CASE

(By Rick Pierce and Carolyn Bower)

The clock on the library wall at Yeatman Middle School in St. Louis said 15 minutes after 2 p.m.

Dozens of lawyers, school superintendents, school board members and settlement coordinator Dr. William H. Danforth were waiting to announce an agreement to settle the area's school desegregation case.

A lawyer turned to another lawyer and asked, "Everyone important seems to be here. Who are we waiting for?"

Moments later, Minnie Liddell, regal in a flowing red blouse and slacks and moving slowly with the aid of a four-pronged metal cane, entered the library.

Knots of people parted to let her through. Some hugged her.

Twenty-seven years ago, when school officials tried to transfer her son, Craton, and other students, out of Yeatman School—a school the Liddell family had fallen in love with—she and other parents sued the St. Louis School Board.

Now Liddell, 59, who has three grandchildren in St. Louis schools, watched as Danforth announced the settlement, something many had predicted was impossible.

"There has been an agreement to settle the case," said Danforth, adding that the agreement would be presented to U.S. District