

THOMASINA E. JORDAN INDIAN
TRIBES OF VIRGINIA FEDERAL
RECOGNITION ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my fellow Virginians Reps. Jo Ann Davis, Tom Davis, Bobby Scott, and Edward Schrock and Rep. Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii in introducing the "Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act."

This legislation will grant federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia: the Chickahominy Tribe, Chickahominy Indian Tribe Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi, the Rappahannock Tribe, the Monacan Tribe, and the Nansemond Tribe.

As we approach the 400th anniversary of the first permanent European settlement in North America, we are long overdue in recognizing the direct descendants of the native Americans, who met these settlers. We must acknowledge these historic tribes and the significance of their heritage. Together, the men and women of these tribes represent a long neglected part of our nation's history.

Like much of our early history as a nation, the Virginia tribes were subdued, pushed off their land, and, up through much of the 20th Century, denied full rights as U.S. citizens. Despite their devastating loss of land and population, the Virginia Indians successfully overcame years of racial discrimination that denied them equal opportunities to pursue their education and preserve their cultural identity. That story of survival doesn't encompass decades, it spans centuries of racial hostility and coercive state and state-sanctioned actions. Unlike most tribes that resisted encroachment and obtained federal recognition when they signed peace treaties with the federal government, Virginia's six tribes signed their peace treaties with the Kings of England. Most notable among these was the Treaty of 1677 between these tribes and Charles the II.

In more recent times, this racial hostility culminated with the enactment and brutal enforcement of Virginia's Racial Integrity Act of 1924. This act empowered zealots, like Walter Plecker, a state official, to destroy records and reclassify in Orwellian fashion all non-whites as "colored." To call yourself a "Native American" in Virginia was to risk a jail sentence of up to one year. Married couples were denied marriage certificates or even unable to obtain the release of their newborn child from a hospital until they changed their ethnicity on the state record to read "colored," not "Native American." For much of the 20th Century admission to public schools education was denied. These and other indignities are part of a shameful legacy experienced in our lifetime.

More to the point, this legacy has also complicated these tribes' quest for federal recognition, making it difficult to furnish corroborating state and official documents. It wasn't until 1997 when then Governor George Allen signed legislation directing state agencies to correct state records that had deliberately been altered to list Virginia Indians on official state documents as "colored."

Federal recognition would provide what the government has long denied, legal protections

and financial obligations, including certain social services and benefits the federal government provides the 562-recognized tribes.

I know that the gambling issue may be at the forefront of some people's concerns. In response to this concern, I have worked to close any potential legal loopholes in this legislation to ensure that the state could prevent casino-type gaming by the tribes. Having maintained a close relationship with many of the members of these tribes, I believe they are sincere in their claims that gambling is inconsistent with their values. This position is already borne out by the fact that none of the tribes today engage in bingo gambling despite the fact that they have all established non-profit organizations that are permitted under Virginia law to operate bingo games despite compelling financial needs that revenues from bingo could address.

The real issue for the tribes is one of recognition and the long overdue need for the federal government to affirm their identity as Native Americans. Coupled with this affirmation is an opportunity for the tribes to establish a more equitable relationship with the state and secure federal financial assistance for the tribes' social services, health care and housing needs. Many of their older members face the prospect of retiring without pensions and health benefits that most Americans take for granted.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 9th and 10th of this year, the Latino Youth Leadership Institute (LYLI) will hold its 2nd Annual Latino Youth Leadership Conference and Awards Dinner.

The initial inspiration to establish LYLI came out of the participation of students, young professionals and community leaders in the annual United States Hispanic Leadership Conference (USHLC). In the spring of 1999, after receiving information about the USHLC, a small group of community leaders made a commitment to send a delegation from Orange County to the conference in Chicago. The group succeeded in raising enough money to send the largest delegation from the furthest location to the USHLC. More importantly, they have continued to send a delegation of students each year.

Early in 2001, a group of USHLC Alumni began a series of meetings to explore the possibility of organizing a youth leadership conference in 2002 and to discuss the feasibility of establishing a nonprofit organization. LYLI was created to pursue its mission of increasing civic participation, promoting higher education, and cultivating a new generation of leaders to meet today's challenges and tomorrow's expectations. LYLI was formally incorporated as a 501 (C) 3 organization in December of 2001. The establishment of LYLI evolved gradually over a three-year period of time and would not have occurred without the perseverance of numerous volunteers and the

support of elected officials, corporations, government entities, labor unions, and other community organizations.

The year 2002 was a historic one for LYLI. After years of thinking, planning, and meeting, LYLI organized its very first Latino Youth Leadership Conference and Awards Dinner. Over 1,000 high school and college students attended the Latino Youth Rally and Job Fair. As a result of this conference, some of the students volunteered and registered over 700 new voters. This year over 2,000 high school and college students from throughout Southern California are expected to participate in the Latino Youth Leadership Conference.

Although LYLI's success can be attributed to many contributors, supporters, and volunteers, two individuals deserve special recognition for their willingness to involve themselves completely in the creation, growth, and development of the Latino Youth Leadership Institute. As CoFounders of LYLI, President Ignacio "Nash" Orozco and Vice-President Bob Martinez have worked passionately and tirelessly to build an organization that would be able to motivate, inspire and train a new generation of Latino youth to realize their full potential as leaders.

Because of the commitment and dedication demonstrated by Mr. Orozco and Mr. Martinez, thousands of Latino Youth have already benefited from the work of LYLI, and thousands more are likely to be part of LYLI's most promising future. I salute the determination of both Mr. Orozco and Mr. Martinez to stay the course and oversee the transformation of their vision of what could be to having a real, living, functioning organization capable of shaping the dreams and aspirations of our nation's youth.

THE MEDICARE TELEHEALTH
VALIDATION ACT OF 2003

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, health care costs increase annually. 40 million Americans currently go uninsured. 38 million Americans depend on Medicare for their health care. With these challenges before us, Congress must act to provide the most comprehensive and cost effective health care services available. For this reason, I am reintroducing the Medicare Telehealth Validation Act of 2003.

I firmly believe that telemedicine is the best preventative medicine. The techniques and consultative efficiency provided by telehealth services reduce costs by diagnosing diseases and disorders before they progress. By expanding Medicare reimbursement for telehealth technology, we will be cutting illnesses off at the pass, and reducing overall costs.

Furthermore, telemedicine can meet the needs of underserved populations. According to researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 80 physicians per 100,000 persons in most rural areas in 1998, compared with 308.5 physicians per 100,000 in urban areas and 223.5 physicians per 100,000 persons in the suburbs. The youth death rate from all causes was 58.5 per 100,000 persons in most rural areas from 1996 to 1998, compared with 44.5 per

100,000 persons in urban areas and 35.4 per 100,000 in suburban areas. With such a disparity in quality of care between those with access to medical care and those without, Congress must act to expand the use of telehealth technology before preventable illnesses become life-threatening diseases.

The Medicare Telehealth Validation Act provides \$40 million for development of telehealth networks for rural communities. These networks enable underserved populations access to the same diagnostic and consultative care that urban residents have come to expect. These networks link health care professionals in their offices to patients and colleagues from across the street or from across the globe.

In addition to providing critical medical consultation to underserved and rural constituents, this legislation provides telehealth technology to inpatient services, increases the categories of eligible participants to increase access to telehealth technologies, and it seeks to reduce the barriers for access to telehealth technologies by increasing multi-state licensing. Moreover, this legislation will expand Store and Forward technology and revolutionize radiology. X-rays and slides can be shared with specialists quickly and confidentially. Diagnosis and treatment will be better, faster, and less expensive.

I am a firm believer that preventative medicine is the best medicine. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

DEDICATED TO PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE—A TRIBUTE TO BETTY JEAN KERR

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Betty Jean Kerr, as 2003 marks her 25th year of service as C.E.O. of People's Health Centers (PHC) in St. Louis. Kerr has been passionately devoted to providing quality health care to the medically underserved and uninsured. Strongly believing that everyone deserves quality health care, Kerr has dedicated her tenure with PHC to ensuring that primary care and prevention services are efficiently provided at these community health centers, regardless of a patient's socioeconomic status.

Kerr's extraordinary leadership is exemplified by the strong foundation she has laid and the recognized growth within PHC. PHC was a three-year-old free clinic with only one location when Kerr became CEO. Under her guidance, she has been essentially instrumental in making PHC a sprawling community of apartments for the elderly, housing for persons with disabilities, social security services, primary health care, dental services, a pharmacy, affordable homes, and small businesses.

Kerr has been remarkably persistent in reaching beyond traditional methods of making quality health care services accessible to everyone. In an effort to provide increased access to health in conjunction with health center locations, she has created school-based sites. Her staff is in all St. Louis Public middle schools, three high schools, private schools, and soon to be in the large school districts in North County.

In addition to developing sustained partnerships with patients to manage improving their health, Kerr has maintained and required a high level of expectations for health care practitioners serving minority populations in low-income neighborhoods throughout St. Louis. Setting high standards and goals for PHC, she continues to work with the board on strategic planning decisions that will reduce health disparities within St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I recognize Betty Jean Kerr today before Congress. This dynamic woman strongly believes that every citizen has the right to a long and healthy life. In addition to her steadfast commitment to guaranteeing accessible primary care and preventative health care services, Kerr has a vision of expanding the number of health care center locations throughout the St. Louis community. It is with great honor that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Betty Jean Kerr.

MAY 1ST ANNUAL DAY OF OBSERVANCE FOR COMMEMORATING OUR VICTORY IN THE COLD WAR

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the Governors of Kansas and Wisconsin have proclaimed May 1 as their annual day of observance for commemorating our victory in the Cold War.

In a very real sense, the victory of the western allies was also a victory for the oppressed peoples of the Soviet bloc, and liberation for the Russian people, who are now friends and allies of the United States. May 1 was the traditional day of celebration for Communists worldwide, and displays of military might. It is fitting that May 1 now become a day of celebration of liberty for free peoples everywhere, and for remembrance of the sacrifices that made the downfall of Communism a reality.

These state proclamations were in response to efforts by the Cold War Veterans Association, which has its headquarters in the State of Kansas, and of which I am proud to be a member.

The Cold War was a long struggle, less dramatic than traditional wars, which ended with battles for cities, dropping of bombs, and formal surrenders. The Cold War ended over a period of several years, but as both President George W. Bush and Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said, "It was a war, and we won." The resolute opposition to the Communist Empire took many forms, and cost many lives of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. It will be years before the casualty count is complete, but it is real, whether the losses were at sea, over Soviet or east European airspace, in shoot-downs over international waters, or along the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ).

May 1 is the anniversary of the shoot-down of Francis Gary Powers' U-2 in 1960, and the beginning of his captivity in the U.S.S.R. The month of May saw other losses, and some small but shining victories.

May was the month in 1949 that the Soviets ended their blockade of West Berlin, after the U.S. Air Force and the British Royal Air Force

supplied the besieged city with food and fuel for almost a year, costing the lives of 68 Allied servicemen and 9 Germans. Attacks on U.S. aircraft in the month of May included one in 1955, in which 2 Chinese Communist soldiers were shot down over international waters, an attack on U.S. reconnaissance aircraft over the U.S.S.R. (1954), and over international waters near the Kamchatka Peninsula (1953), shoot-downs over East Germany (1953, 1960, 1964), and by North Koreans (1963, 1974). U.S. military officers assassinated in May included 2 in Iran (1975) and one in El Salvador (1983). An attack in May 1967 by North Koreans on a U.S. Army barracks left 2 Americans dead and 17 wounded. Two separate terrorist attacks in May 1972 by the Red Army Faction in West Germany left 4 U.S. soldiers dead and 18 wounded. A terrorist attack in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in May 1982 killed one crewman and wounded 3 others from the U.S.S. Pensacola (LSD-38). Casualties at sea in May included the entire crew of 99 aboard the U.S. nuclear submarine Scorpion, which was lost at sea in 1968. May 1954 saw the U.S.S. Bennington (CV-20) damaged by an explosion and fire in the Atlantic, killing 103 and injuring 201. In May of 1981, an EA6B Prowler crashed during landing aboard the carrier U.S.S. Nimitz (CVA-68) in the Atlantic, with 14 killed and 48 injured. In May 1987, 37 sailors aboard the U.S.S. Stark were killed and 21 wounded by an Iraqi Exocet missile. In May 1975, after our involvement in Vietnam and Cambodia had ended, our troops had to rescue the U.S.S. Mayaguez and its crew from the Khmer Rouge, again at a cost of lives of our sailors and marines. And the list goes on.

During the Cold War, over 40 U.S. aircraft were shot down, and others were lost during operational missions. Shooting incidents on the ground, along the Iron Curtain in Europe and the Bamboo Curtain in Asia often made the morning reports, but seldom the morning papers. Our atomic veterans participated in a large number of nuclear weapons tests; many of them exposed to ionizing radiation, with tragic consequences in later life.

There were many successful missions. Many long nights of faithful and vigilant service, on the frontiers of freedom, on polar ice, submerged, flying airborne alerts and reconnaissance. Staying combat-ready in the Fulda Gap of Germany. Keeping watch on the Korean DMZ. Standing watch in stormy seas. Maintaining the defenses of the continental United States. Constantly improving the combat capability of the United States through research and development.

So on May 1, I salute the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who served in the Cold War, and especially those who paid the ultimate price. We refuse to allow their bravery to go unheralded in the name of "political correctness." We also salute the freedom fighters who stood up to tyranny on the streets of Poland (1956, 1981), East Germany (1953), Czechoslovakia (1968), Hungary (1956), Romania (1989), and Afghanistan (1979-88). Their victory and ours are commemorated on each May 1 from this year forward.

I now ask our National Government and other state governors to proclaim this day of observance, with appropriate ceremonies and recognition. I also ask President Bush to create the Cold War Victory Medal by executive order, for award to all who served in the