

PERMITTING LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS TO HIRE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS POLICE EMPLOYEES

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution that will restore the Librarian's authority to hire Library of Congress police employees. And I would like to thank my distinguished colleague for bringing this important resolution to the floor.

Madam Speaker, for the past ten months, the Librarian has been without the authority to hire police officers. The result of which has been a significant deficit in the Library's ability to meet its security mission to protect the Library's vast collection and ensure the safety of Members, staff, and visitors in the Library. His authority was repealed in a provision inserted in the last year's conference report by the other body, which also mandated our own United States Capitol Police to detail their officers to the Library, even though the Capitol Police currently lack the jurisdictional authority to police the Library's buildings. This was done in an effort to circumvent the jurisdiction of the appropriate oversight committees who have been engaged in evaluating the merits of merging the two agencies and force the beginnings of a merger of the Library's police force and the U.S. Capitol Police.

The Chairman's committee has been performing his appropriate oversight by reviewing several draft memorandums between the Capitol Police and the Library outlining the detail of officers to the Library. During this process, a multitude of questions have risen to the surface regarding not only how to merge the agencies, but really whether the security of the Capitol complex would be improved if they did merge. I do not believe that there will be any measurable improvement in the overall security. I believe that it is merely a way for the Capitol Police to expand their jurisdiction. I do not support Capitol Police officers being detailed to the Library in what can only be interpreted as a pilot program for a merger. And I certainly do not support the current effort of the other body to merge the Library of Congress police with the Capitol Police.

Additionally, the time and attention being paid to fix the current situation that the Library and the Capitol Police have been put in is putting unnecessary strain on the agencies and distracting them from their primary missions during a crucial time.

Madam Speaker I agree with the Chairman Ney's comments that this growing need for officers at the Library is the Congress' own creation and we need to fix it. Madam Speaker it is vitally important to the security of the Capitol complex that we restore the Librarian's authority to hire police officers. And I will work to ensure that they have the necessary funds to train and pay the officers that will be hired to fill the current manpower gap. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD R. ENGLAND

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of Donald R. England. "Don," as his friends called him, had a distinguished career with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, serving our nation's disabled veterans and their families. Don died from cancer July 2, 2004, in Carbon Cliff, Illinois, at the age of 57. He was buried July 6 in East Moline, Illinois.

Don was born August 18, 1946, in Moline, the son of Robert and Margaret "Jane" (Simpson) England. He was a graduate of United Township High School, Class of 1964, and Northern Illinois University, Class of 1968, where he earned his Degree in Music. He served in the U.S. Army from 1968–1971, where he was stationed in Washington D.C., and played in the U.S. Army Band.

In 1974, while living in Bogota, Colombia, Don played in the Bogota Symphony. In 1976, Don began his career with the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Chicago Regional Office. He held several positions of increasing authority in the Chicago office before coming to VA Central Office as a consultant for Compensation and Pension Service in 1988.

In 1990, Don was promoted to Chief of the Regulations Staff of the Compensation and Pension Service, a position he held until he retired earlier this year due to illness. In that position, he supervised the writing and maintenance of all the VA rules providing compensation and pension benefits for disabled veterans and their families. Don was considered one of the most knowledgeable people in VA regarding those benefit programs. In addition, he was loved and respected by his colleagues for his hard work and compassion to others.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Donald R. England and in offering our condolences to his family for their loss.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the emergency supplemental appropriation that will provide financial relief to the residents of Florida that have suffered from the devastation of Hurricanes Charley and Frances. Tragically, this disaster has cost several lives. It also has cost the State of Florida billions of dollars and threatened the livelihood of countless Floridians. I am pleased to voice my support for this legislation.

I am particularly pleased to support this bill because of my perspective as a South Dakotan. We have never suffered a hurricane in my home State—it is one of the many blessings of living in South Dakota. We do, however, suffer from our own brand of weather-related disaster that can be just as economically devastating as a hurricane and be spread over an

even wider geographic area. This weather phenomenon is known as a drought.

Over the past several years, many counties in my home State have suffered from severe drought. In fact, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has declared 30 counties as drought disaster areas this year alone. Right now, USDA estimates that more than 53 percent of my State is either short—or critically short—of topsoil moisture.

Droughts have ramifications across the entire economic spectrum and social fabric of the State. South Dakota is extremely reliant on the ability of our farmers and ranchers to harvest the bounty of the land and turn that into a profit. Without rain, grass does not grow and watering holes go dry. This forces ranchers to liquidate assets—their cattle herds. Without rain, corn, wheat, and other grains do not grow and farmers have no crop to market at the end of the year.

A successful harvest turns into new clothes, college tuition, home improvements, and farm equipment. The profit that farmers and ranchers receive from the land circulates up and down the main streets of South Dakota's small towns. It pays the mortgages and salaries of thousands of small merchants and service providers. A drought can devastate an economy in exactly the same way that a hurricane can.

I urge my colleagues to support the well-deserved relief that this bill will provide for the victims of these hurricanes. It is the right thing to do. In doing so however, I also request that, if you hear about those suffering quietly from the effects of a drought, you are aware of how devastating this can be and will support relief for this type of weather disaster as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2004, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 422 and 423.

PILOT POINT SELECTED AS A PRESERVE AMERICA COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize the Town of Pilot Point, Texas as a Preserve America Community. Pilot Point, located in my North Texas District, was one of 26 Texas cities to receive this prestigious designation.

The Preserve America Community program recognizes communities for their dedication to protecting and celebrating America's cultural heritage; for using their historic assets for increased economic growth and community revitalization; and for promoting history education and historical tourism.

The Preserve America Community program is part of the White House's Preserve America

Initiative. This initiative is dedicated to preserving our country's heritage, increasing awareness of what as well as who we are as a nation, and keeping our legacy enhanced, and intact, for future generations. Since the formation of the program, First Lady Laura Bush has recognized more than 100 communities with the Preserve America honor.

Other components of the program include a History Teacher of the Year Award, educational outreach, and grants to assist communities in preserving their cultural and natural resources.

I would like to commend Mayor Jerry Alford and the City Council, as well as all those who participated in the Main Street project, for this distinction.

JAMES J. STUKEL

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 2005, James J. Stukel, will be retiring after 10 years of service as President of the University of Illinois. From his days as a teaching assistant in 1961 to his appointment as President in 1995, in his 43 years of service James Stukel has strived to make the University better. Without question, he has succeeded.

As University President, James Stukel has remained steadfast in his commitment to enrich undergraduate education. Under his guidance, the University expanded access to thousands of students through the creation of the University of Illinois—Online system. In addition, the creation of the University of Illinois at Springfield has provided access for an additional 4,500 students.

President Stukel was also tremendously successful in securing increased funding for academic purposes for the University. Under his leadership, the University of Illinois has established itself as one of the world's leading research institutions, meriting a national ranking as high as 5th and no lower than 7th in terms of federal research and development dollars received by any institution. On his watch, federal support for the University of Illinois has doubled.

President Stukel has strengthened the bonds between the University and the citizens of Illinois by logging over 200,000 miles and conducting 50 daylong community visits throughout the State. This unprecedented effort exemplifies why President Stukel is known as "the people's president".

Thus, it is truly impossible to quantify the number of people who have benefited under President James J. Stukel's guidance of the University of Illinois. However, as one of those positively affected and as an alumnus of the University, I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to President James J. Stukel. He will be truly missed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REVEREND P. H. LEWIS, SR., ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MINISTRY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Reverend P. H. Lewis, Sr., on the celebration of his 50th anniversary in active ministry.

A native of Wilcox County, Alabama, Reverend Lewis has for the past 34 years served as pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Mobile, Alabama. Reverend Lewis graduated from Camden Academy in Camden, Alabama, and later from the Daniel Payne College and Payne Theological Seminary of Birmingham, Alabama. Following his graduation, he shared his gifts and skill as a pastor with several churches and congregations throughout Alabama: Miles Memorial A.M.E. Church in Birmingham, Gaines Chapel in Birmingham, Black Buff Circuit in Wilcox County, St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Tuscaloosa, and Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma.

Reverend Lewis is also recognized as one of the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. As the pastor of Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, he was the only minister in the City of Selma to act against a prohibition on gatherings focused on the discussion of race issues and open his church for such meetings. Many of the early civil rights rallies of the 1960s were held at his church, and he and members of his congregation hosted the now-famous march from Selma to Montgomery that was led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reverend Lewis marched side-by-side with Dr. King on this difficult march and endured the same arrests, harassment, and abuse that so many of the hundreds of men, women, and children did on that day in March 1965.

He has throughout his life been a strong supporter of public education in Alabama and was the first African-American to serve on the Selma Public School Board. Reverend Lewis has also been extremely active in the life of the Mobile community. He is a member of the City of Mobile's Board of Adjustment, the Interdenominational Alliance of Mobile, the A.M.E. Ministerial Alliance of Mobile, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, the Mobile Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Board of Directors of Drug Free Mobile. During his life he has received numerous awards and citations for his religious, civic, and community involvement. In addition, he has during his career authored three well-respected books: *Illustrations*, *Life is a Symbol of a Baseball Game*, and *Selma: The Other Side of 1965*.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Reverend P. H. Lewis, Sr., for his many significant contributions to his friends, his congregation, his community, and to the citizens of Alabama. He has indeed been a genuine asset and friend to everyone with whom he has come into contact and shared his gifts, and I wish him and his family—his wife, Alice Grady Lewis, his three sons, and his four grandchildren—much happiness and success in the time ahead.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE YOUTHNETWORK CRISIS SHELTER

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize the YouthNetwork Crisis Shelter. On October 21st, 2004 the YouthNetwork Crisis Shelter will be celebrating their thirtieth birthday. I have known Dave Hoppe, Executive Director of YouthNetwork, and Kyle Boyles, Senior Development Officer and the staff for many years. They have been and will continue to be an integral part of the Charlotte, NC community.

The YouthNetwork Crisis Shelter was founded in 1974 by members of Dilworth United Methodist Church in Charlotte. Originally known as The Relatives, the shelter was established due to the rising concern about the growing number of homeless youths in the center city. Since its founding, it has served thousands of teens and their families over the past 30 years. The shelter continues to be one of Charlotte's most successful charitable causes.

Located on East Boulevard in Charlotte, the Crisis Shelter serves the community as a coed, 9-bed emergency shelter for runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis. The Shelter is one of the Alexander Youth Network's numerous programs for positive growth and improvement of youth. Staff provides 24-hour supervision, individual and family conferences, recreational activities, and community referrals.

I greatly appreciate all their efforts and dedication to the Charlotte community.

RECOGNIZING ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE CHIEF EDWARD PLAUGHNER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Edward Plaughner who has recently been named Career Fire Chief of the Year for 2004 by Fire Chief magazine. Chief Plaughner retired as Chief of the Arlington County Fire Department in June and was instrumental in the response at the Pentagon on September 11th.

In recognition of his service in Virginia Fire Departments over the last three decades, the Virginia State Fire Chiefs Association nominated Chief Plaughner for this prestigious award. For 24 years he served with the Fairfax County Fire Department, and in 1993 was named Chief of the Arlington County Fire Department. Throughout his tenure he has been known as a leader throughout the firefighting community. Because of his leadership his fire department was aware and prepared for the threat that terrorism could pose to Arlington County, Virginia, and the United States.

This awareness first began in 1995 after the sarin gas attacks in the Tokyo subway system. Chief Plaughner recognized that something similar could happen in Arlington County and the metropolitan area and began preparing his department and the region for this possibility. One of his top accomplishments was the creation of the first locally staffed terrorism response team in the United States.