

home State of West Virginia, would be impeded by a great difficulty in getting goods to help make products to serve our ever day needs. Were it not for our cargo tank truck industry, it would not be possible to move fertilizers, baking products, plastics, and many other household products we take for granted.

All of these different products, transported in so many different kinds of uniquely designed trailers to ensure safe transportation, are vital to our national interests. Likewise, the ease with which they are transported guarantees Americans more affordable gasoline and other products, and protects our way of life. In addition, the cargo tank truck industry itself employs hundreds of thousands of Americans with good paying jobs.

As the cargo tank truck industry has evolved over the last four decades to play an increasingly integral role in our national economy, one constant has been Cliff Harvison's dedicated service to the industry, and to our Nation.

For these reasons, and many more, I am pleased to be able to honor Cliff for his service.

INTRODUCING THE VOTER OUTREACH AND TURNOUT EXPANSION ACT OF 2005

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that will significantly alter the ways in which we conduct elections. The Voter Outreach and Turnout Expansion Act of 2005, expands upon the Help America Vote Act, HAVA, of 2002 to incorporate several necessary measures.

In the aftermath of the 2000 election, Members of Congress united in an unparalleled bipartisan effort to pass election reform legislation. HAVA was one of the most far-reaching electoral measures since the Voter's Rights Act of 1965. This one accomplishment does not, however, signify the dissolution of political disenfranchisement within our current system.

In the 2004 Presidential election, we saw numerous problems resurface. Again, voters waited for hours to cast their ballots. Across the country, newly registered voters were denied access to polls and thousands of names were wrongfully removed from voter rolls. These egregious acts of disenfranchisement affected those most vulnerable, young students, minority communities and the elderly.

Such problems will continue to persist until further action is taken to implement election reform. We must not be afraid to be innovative in our solutions. Our greatest political legacies have often been born in times of unrest and implemented under the acquiescence of skeptics.

The VOTE Act takes aim at combating voter apathy through same day voter registration, early voting, no excuse absentee voting, improved registration by mail procedures, the establishment of an Election Day holiday, and guaranteed leave on election day to allow employees to vote. Specifically, the legislation does the following:

The VOTE Act requires states to establish same-day voter registration procedures. Under

the legislation, voters who have not previously registered to vote will be permitted to register on Election Day at the appropriate polling location and vote in that election. To address concerns over voter fraud that in the past so many of my colleagues have suggested occurs, voters are required to present proof of residence and written confirmation pursuant to the Help America Vote Act. Title I of the bill is linked to the enforcement provisions of the Help America Vote Act to ensure states' compliance.

Further, the VOTE Act requires local elections supervisors to establish early voting polling locations within the jurisdiction where registered voters will be able to vote prior to election day. Early voting must commence no less than 22 days, or three weeks, prior to election day and shall be made available to voters during normal business hours each weekday. Additionally, elections supervisors must make early voting available to voters on no less than two weekend days during the three weeks.

The bill also prohibits states and local supervisors from requiring voters to provide a reason for voting absentee. All too often, voters become discouraged from voting absentee, or just voting at all, because they are required to provide a reason. Voting should not be a test where excuses are not permitted. On the contrary, absentee voting should be an option—and an easy one to take advantage of at that.

The VOTE Act also amends the Help America Vote Act to require that election supervisors provide voters with adequate time and opportunity to complete their mail-in voter registration form. In instances where the state registration deadline has already passed, supervisors are required to inform the voter of same-day voter registration opportunities that exist.

Further, my legislation requires that federal employees be given the day off on Election Day and encourages states to make Election Day a legal holiday and provide paid leave for state government employees.

Finally, the VOTE Act requires private companies with 25 or more employees to allow their staff to take up to 2 hours of paid or unpaid leave time to vote. Employees who live more than 25 miles away from their workplace are allowed to take up to three hours of leave. Enforcement of these provisions is tied into the Family Medical Leave Act. By and large, Americans who do not vote cite employment as the top reason for not voting. The VOTE Act allows them to work and vote without the fear of losing their jobs in the process.

Throughout these halls, Mr. Speaker, there have been numerous discussions of elections, yet the focus has been on who is spending what and how. We have become immersed in a discourse that is out of touch with the true needs of those we represent. As Members of Congress, it is our duty to pro actively address any and all institutional restrictions on political participation and civic engagement.

Mr. Speaker, how can we condemn the prevailing apathy among our youth if we ourselves personify that same approach? The VOTE Act will both engage new generations of voters and empower Americans in every city and State, nationwide. Our electoral concerns will not be abated unless such far-reaching legislative action is pursued. I urge my colleagues to not stand idly and watch our systems continue to weaken, lend your sup-

port to the Voter Outreach and Turnout Expansion Act.

INTRODUCTION OF SEPTEMBER 11TH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND PATRIOTISM ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the September 11th Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act with Representatives PETER KING, WEINER, NADLER, HIGGINS, FARR, SERRANO, ENGEL, OWENS, McDERMOTT, LANTOS, SCHAKOWSKY, BENNIE THOMPSON, SOLIS, SCHIFF, BERMAN, PALLONE, PATRICK KENNEDY and GRIJALVA.

We are introducing this legislation because the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, left many surviving spouses and children of legal employment-based visa holders and undocumented workers in jeopardy of being deported, because their immigration status was linked to a family member who was employed at the World Trade Center. While the USA PATRIOT Act allowed these individuals to stay in the United States until September 10, 2002, that reprieve has expired. These individuals should not be forced to leave the country because of the actions of the terrorists.

The "September 11th Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act," which would provide for the adjustment of status (application for permanent residence, commonly known as "green card" status) or the cancellation of removal (and adjustment of status) for the spouse, child, dependent son, or dependent daughter of victims who were killed on September 11. While the Administration continues to act with care by not moving forward with deportation procedures for these individuals, their legal status remains in limbo unless they are given legal status in the United States. They should not continue to be victimized by the 9/11 terrorists by living in fear that they will have to leave their homes, jobs, and communities. Additionally, New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, supports this legislation and is calling on Congress to act.

Finally, I would like to thank Moshe and Debra Steinberg for their assistance in preparing this legislation for introduction and for all of the work they have done on behalf of the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and urge its swift passage into law.

TRIBUTE TO EIGHT SEWICKLEY WWII TUSKEGEE AIRMEN OF THE ALL AFRICAN-AMERICAN 99TH PURSUIT SQUADRON

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and join the Daniel B. Matthews Historical Society in honoring the extraordinary patriotism and valor of eight Sewickley WWII Tuskegee Airmen of the all African-American 99th Pursuit Squadron.

Often referred to as the "Sewickley Eight" by local historians, the three surviving honorees include brothers Mitchell Higginbotham and Robert Higginbotham, of California, and William Johnston of Ohio. Jim Addison, Curtis Branch, William Curtis Jr., William Gilliam and Frank Hailstock will be honored posthumously for their unprecedented service by the society as well.

These distinguished men continued their successes after the war. In a period of extreme racism, these men overcame immense professional challenges. Mitchell Higginbotham, commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and pilot, now serves as an itinerant Ambassador of Goodwill for the Tuskegee Airmen. After serving as an expert in multi-engine aircrafts, Robert Higginbotham went on to become the first African-American intern and resident at the Sewickley Valley Hospital. William Johnston, commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, serving as a Tuskegee pilot, went on to become a corporate pilot.

The "Sewickley Eight" and their families will be honored on Thursday August 4th by the Daniel B. Matthew Society's first annual Founders Luncheon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Sewickley, Pennsylvania. This event will take place on the opening day of the 39th annual Come-On-Home Weekend in Sewickley.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the brave Sewickley natives of the WWII Tuskegee Airmen of the all African-American. 99th Pursuit Squadron. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such citizens as the Tuskegee Airmen who embody the spirit of patriotism.

TRIBUTE TO KENYA AJANAKU, A
MULTIFACETED CULTURAL
LEADER

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an article that appeared in the July 15th edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, which pays tribute to a man of abundant and diverse talents, Mr. Kenya Ajanaku. Not only has Mr. Ajanaku played an important part in my personal life as an admired relative, he has been a huge asset to the city of St. Louis. As the executive director of the Harambee Institute, and a professional jewelry maker, drummer, singer, dancer, storyteller and educator, Mr. Ajanaku has proven that pursuing one's passions can be personally rewarding as well as beneficial to one's community. The article, aptly entitled "Multifaceted", delivers Mr. Ajanaku the proper recognition he deserves.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire text of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch article be placed in the RECORD.

[From the St. Louis Dispatch, July 15, 2005]

MULTIFACETED

(By Kathie Sutin)

Some of the best things in life happen by serendipity, that accidental, happy discovery that comes when you're looking for something else.

Take Kenya Ajanaku, a multi-talented man—a professional jewelry-maker, drummer, singer, dancer, storyteller and educator.

Ajanaku, 57, is executive director of the Harambee Institute, a nonprofit organization he created in 1994 to pass on to others what he has learned about making jewelry and the performing arts. He also performs a 45-minute interactive program incorporating drum-playing and the storytelling of African folk tales to groups around St. Louis and the country.

Except for singing, which he has done most of his life, he came upon each of his other professions by chance.

"I became a jeweler at 25, I became a dancer and drummer at 31, and I became a professional storyteller at 41," says Ajanaku (pronounced ah JAHN ah koo).

"It has enabled me to have heaven right here on Earth: he says. "I do this for a living, and it's really a blessing. I can't call it a job because a job is something you hate to do. I have to call this a profession because it's something I love to do."

Not that the path was easy. In the '70s, when Ajanaku started, it was almost unheard-of for an African-American to make a living selling jewelry.

"Most people said, 'He has gone crazy talking about he gon' make a living making jewelry,'" he said with a laugh.

Ajanaku understands the skepticism of those days.

"Our people hadn't seen anyone making a living doing this," he says. "And then I got involved with the drumming, and my mother—bless her soul—says, 'Bi-State is hiring. You're 31 years old. What are you going to do with a drum?'"

He credits his wife of 38 years, Weyni, who learned jewelry-making with him and who does the paperwork and teaches at the institute, for believing in him. The couple sell necklaces, bracelets and rings they handcraft from copper, brass, silver and 14-karat gold. They also set semiprecious stones from around the world such as obsidian, turquoise, malachite, black onyx and tiger's eye. Ajanaku also fashions antique sterling silverware he finds at auctions into bracelets and rings.

After graduating from Vashon High School in 1966, Ajanaku headed to Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C., on a swimming scholarship. Shortly thereafter, he married Weyni. Then, three years into college, he moved back to St. Louis to become a barber.

A few years later, he and his wife decided to sell their possessions and the barbershop to move to Panama with friends to open a business.

But there, their plans were stymied when they learned that to open a business, they needed a Panamanian partner. They decided to go back to Charlotte, where they opened a small variety store across from the university Ajanaku had attended.

After going to a movie one day, the couple encountered two African-American men near the theater. They had big boards shaped like Africa, and they had black velvet on them, and they had their jewelry pinned on the front, Ajanaku says. One of them said, "Hey, would you be interested in some handcrafted jewelry?"

Ajanaku was amazed.

"It was the first time I had seen handcrafted jewelry, especially made by someone who looks like me," he said. "Up to then, I had never conceived that I could become a jeweler. You see, when I was growing up in my community, you didn't see any professional jewelers."

He was also impressed by the jewelry.

"I was just flabbergasted at the beauty and the time and effort that went into these pieces that they made," he said.

The couple learned that the men, part of a communal group called the Ajanakus, made their living traveling from city to city and selling jewelry. They bought some jewelry and invited the men to dinner. Later they would change their last name to Ajanaku, a Nigerian term meaning "strong-willed person."

After dinner, the men brought out their tools and materials and showed the couple how they made jewelry. That night, Kenya Ajanaku made his first piece of jewelry—a pair of earrings.

Ajanaku and his wife were captivated by the lifestyle, as well as the jewelry.

So they sold their business and eventually headed for Washington, where he met a man who taught him how to solder and set stones in silver.

"I remember our first piece of sterling silver we bought in Philadelphia," he says. "It was 1 foot of 16-gauge round sterling silver wire. Man, you would have thought that was gold to us because we had never worked with sterling before."

The family returned to St. Louis in 1979 and began to sell jewelry at craft shows.

Here, Someone told him about renowned dancer Katherine Dunham and a Senegalese man she brought to East St. Louis to teach African drumming. Ajanaku signed up for the class.

"I became a pretty good drummer, and fortunately Miss Dunham hired me as one of the drummers for the Katherine Dunham Dancers. That was really a help because when I first moved back to St. Louis, the only way I had to make money was through the jewelry. When I got involved in the performing arts, it helped me to diversify."

Ajanaku later played percussion behind St. Louisan Bobby Norfolk, one of the first African-American professional storytellers, who was on the roster of Young Audiences. When Norfolk went on to national and international gigs, the group asked Ajanaku to come up with a storytelling presentation.

Though the Ajanakus spend a lot of time teaching children and adults at the Harambee Institute and at classes they teach through the St. Louis Parks and Recreation Department, the Ferguson-Florissant School District and at Mark Twain Elementary School in St. Louis, they still sell their jewelry at festivals. That includes such events as the Festival of Nations, which will be held July 23-24 in Tower Grove Park, and the Best of Missouri Market at the Missouri Botanical Garden and Ottobertfest at the St. Louis Zoo, both in October.

Ajanaku sees the institute as a way to enlighten the African-American community about professions in the arts and others about African culture.

"Nowadays, I tell people, 'The cotton has been picked; automation is here, so the need for unskilled laborers nowadays is zero,'" he says. "Nowadays you need some type of skill or some type of service you can provide."

The Harambee Institute is at 5223 Raymond Avenue. To learn more about it or to make an appointment to visit the gift shop, which features items from Africa and the Ajanakus' jewelry, call 314-454-6584.

ON THE OCCASION OF GLADYS
BAISA'S 65TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of my most distinguished constituents on the occasion of her 65th birthday.