

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
JASON MONTEFERING

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report the passing of Staff Sergeant Jason Montefering of Parkston, South Dakota. He was killed, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Jason's goodwill and service. He inspired all those who knew him. Our Nation is a far better place because of his life. All Americans owe Jason, and the other soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom, a tremendous debt of gratitude for their service.

Every member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, Staff Sergeant Jason Montefering lived that commitment to our country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sympathies to the family and friends of Staff Sergeant Jason Montefering. I believe the best way to honor him is to emulate his commitment to our country. I know he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER
DEVON BROWN—2005 BEST IN
THE BUSINESS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor an extraordinary public servant, Commissioner Devon Brown, as he receives the "2005 Best in the Business" from the American Correctional Association. Mr. Brown has held the position of Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Corrections since January 2002. His accomplishments in the field have not only shown his dedication but also have proven revolutionary.

He once stated that, ". . . criminal justice is in my blood." Hailing from a family replete of judges, lawyers and police and correctional officers, Commissioner Brown was, to some extent, destined to follow in his family's legacy. After obtaining a bachelor's degree from Morgan State University, he went on to earn two master's degrees in psychology and public administration. As another testament to his commitment, Mr. Brown earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Maryland.

Sometimes considered a maverick in the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Commissioner Brown has led in the implementation of programming that focused on educational enrichment and social responsibility. For example, he instituted the "Stock Market Game", which introduces inmates to the world of Wall Street and its role in the U.S. economy. By

learning about financial markets and the management of one's investments, prisoners discover new methods of analysis and decision-making. In addition, inmates have had the opportunity to further their deductive reasoning by becoming champion chess players. In fact, many prisoners have competed and won against top collegiate teams. He has also introduced "Shakespeare Behind Bars" to the New Jersey Department of Corrections. This program, also used throughout the Nation's prison systems, allows the inmates to delve into relevant personal and social issues through art.

Richard Stalder, President of the Association of State Correctional Administrators stated that, "Despite highly formidable and oftentimes less than ideal circumstances, Commissioner Brown has remained focused, showing integrity, resourceful ingenuity and uncompromising commitment to excellence no matter how daunting the presenting challenge. Though his inspiration and unwavering resolve, he has advanced the profession and earned the New Jersey Department of Corrections a place among the most improved, progressively oriented, penal systems in the land." Therefore it is no surprise that Mr. Brown has also garnered many other awards besides the "2005 Best in the Business. In 2004, the College of New Jersey honored him with the "Gene Carte Memorial Award" for his exemplary correctional leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Commissioner Devon Brown, for being the recipient of the "2005 Best in the Business" as well as for his overall excellence and dedication to the field of corrections. A man who is not afraid to make the hard decisions or to stand up for the truth, Commissioner Brown exemplifies vision, professionalism and integrity. I am proud to have him as a dear friend and wish him never-ending success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDMARK EL MONTE GARMENT SLAVERY CASE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th Anniversary of the landmark El Monte garment worker slavery case.

In 1995, I was shocked to learn one of the worst sweatshops in recent U.S. history was operating in the city of El Monte, California—in my congressional district. Seventy-two Thai workers lived and worked in substandard conditions. Sixty-seven of them were women. Most of these workers had been held in slavery for up to 17 years at an apartment complex and were made to sew clothes for some of the Nation's top manufacturers and retailers. The workers labored over 18 hours a day in a compound enclosed by barbed wire and armed guards. They had left their homes in Thailand in search of a better life and wound up enslaved just outside Los Angeles.

While the El Monte sweatshop is a terrible example of substandard working conditions and human trafficking, it is not uncommon. Ap-

proximately 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year for forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation. When including the number of victims who are trafficked within borders, the total number rises to between 2 and 4 million.

Approximately 50,000 people are trafficked to the United States each year. Los Angeles is one of three major ports of entry for human trafficking. Most come from Southeast Asia and the former Soviet Union. About half of those are forced into sweatshop labor and domestic servitude similar to the El Monte sweatshop. The rest are forced into prostitution and the sex industry, or in the case of young children, kidnapped and sold for adoption. While many victims come willingly, they are not aware of the untenable terms and inhumane conditions they will face.

I have worked very hard—in the California state legislature and now in Congress—to support efforts to eliminate this inhumane and criminal activity. Beginning with the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act passed in 2000, the United States began a concerted effort to combat human trafficking into the United States and around the world.

Established under this law, the "T" visa has been critical to combating trafficking in the U.S. These visas allow victims of trafficking, who would face retribution if they were sent back to their home country, to remain in the U.S. for 3 years, and then apply for permanent residency. The "T" visa has allowed many victims of trafficking realize their dream of living in the U.S.

In 2003, Congress renewed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and increased funding for anti-trafficking programs by more than \$100 million for each fiscal year. The act also refined and expanded on the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking that governments must meet. The legislation created a yearly "special watch list" of countries that the Secretary of State determined were not taking action to combat human trafficking.

In 2005, Congress will again renew the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important legislation, which will close loopholes and increase assistance to victims of trafficking. The bill also addresses the needs of child victims of trafficking and directs relevant government agencies to develop anti-trafficking strategies for post-conflict situations and humanitarian emergencies abroad.

We have made progress since 1995 when the El Monte slavery case thrust the issue of human trafficking into the national spotlight. We must continue our work to eliminate trafficking within the United States. We must also work with foreign governments and non-governmental organizations abroad to end human trafficking and eliminate the conditions that foster trafficking, such as widespread poverty, crisis and warfare.

I am proud to join the Thai Community Development Center to recognize the 10th Anniversary of the Landmark El Monte Garment Slavery Case. This organization has been an amazing force working to raise awareness and efforts in eliminating slavery and trafficking. It is my privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Thai community and to honor the Thai workers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on July 28, 2005, I was present and did vote "aye" on rollcall vote No. 448, but was recorded as "not voting". I respectfully ask that the record show I did vote "aye" on final passage of H.R. 5, the HEALTH Act of 2005, but was not recorded.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965**HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago, on August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed a landmark piece of legislation, a turning point in our Nation's continuing struggle for equality, the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I rise today in honor of that momentous occasion.

Aristotle once wrote that "if liberty and equality . . . are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost." More than 2,000 years after Aristotle's death, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that "all men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality." In 1965, this Congress passed the Voting Rights Act to ensure that all Americans, regardless of race or ethnicity, would be able to share in our government, to mutually enjoy the blessings of liberty and democracy.

Nevertheless, despite a constitutional guarantee of the right to vote, before the Voting Rights Act of 1965 became the law of the land, African Americans and other minority citizens were often forced to take a literacy test, pay a poll tax or overcome other often insurmountable barriers before they could vote. Those who could not pass the tests—which were, for the most part, absurdly unfair—or were too poor to pay the poll tax were denied the most basic right of all Americans: the right to take part in the selection of their Nation's leaders. President John F. Kennedy once said, "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

It was the hope of the Johnson administration and this body that the Voting Rights Act would be a solution and bring to an end these and other measures that compromised the legitimacy of our democracy. President Johnson told his Vice President, Hubert Humphrey, that he wanted for all citizens "the right to vote with no ifs, ands, or buts—that's the key." It was his dream—and that of American men and women from every walk of life—to unquestionably ensure the benefits and responsibilities of citizenship to all Americans.

For the most part, the bill has been successful. Under Section 2 of the Act, for example, Congress prohibited the use of literacy tests throughout the country. They also identified those parts of the Nation with the greatest

potential for discriminatory activity and mandated Federal oversight of these locations. With these measures and others, the Voting Rights Act became perhaps the most effective piece of civil rights legislation in history.

In my home state of Louisiana, 31.6 percent of African Americans were registered to vote in 1965, compared to 80.5 percent of whites. A little more than 30 years later, registration rates among African Americans climbed to 77.1 percent in the State, a jump of almost 50 percent and fully 2 percent higher than the rate of registration for whites. Such change in a comparatively short period is remarkable by a number of measures, not only making our democracy more inclusive, but also changing the face of our government.

The legislation also brought to fruition a government that more closely resembles the makeup of our population. The Civil Rights Coalition reports that "in 1964, there were only approximately 300 African Americans in public office nationwide, including just three in Congress. There are now more than 9,100 black elected officials, including 43 members of Congress, the largest number ever."

Despite these encouraging numbers, the VRA remains necessary to the continuing struggle to truly open our great experiment in Democracy to all. The results of the 2000 election proved to our country that we have yet to achieve the equality and democracy necessary, as Dr. King put it, to "live out the true meaning of our creed." Every American citizen who wishes to do so is entitled to have their voice heard and their vote counted—when that right is so blatantly ignored, we appear to regress to a time when the decision making process was reserved for the few and the powerful.

The passage of the Voting Rights Act 40 years ago today was a milestone in legislative history. This Congress defended the civil liberties of every American citizen, regardless of race or ethnicity. However, we cannot let our progress overshadow the very hard work that remains. Forty years on, every election still brings stories of voter intimidation, suppression and discrimination. It is incumbent upon us to secure the franchise, the most fundamental right of every American, and its exercise. Accordingly, we must continue to build on the sacrifices of ordinary men and women who became the heroes of equality and to uphold our promise to guarantee voting rights to every American citizen and ensure that it is carried out to the fullest.

Mr. Speaker, on this anniversary, I urge my colleagues to renew our collective commitment to the fundamental American principles that underlie the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

WISHING A HAPPY 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY TO BENJAMIN
AND MARSHA EMANUEL**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone in the lives of my parents, Benjamin and Marsha Emanuel. On August 21, 2005, they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. On behalf of their four children and eleven grandchildren, I'd like to

take this opportunity to wish them a very happy golden anniversary.

My father, Dr. Benjamin Emanuel, was born in Israel and moved to Chicago. While he was completing his medical residency he met my mother Marsha Smulevitz, a nurse in the same hospital. They were married on August 21, 1955, and settled in Chicago's North Andersonville neighborhood where they went on to raise four children in a loving home where we learned the values of public service and compassion which continue to guide me to this day.

My mother is a loving and caring person with a remarkable history of serving the greater good. In the early 1960's, she served 4 years on the Congress of Racial Equality, founded by students at the University of Chicago, and participated in Freedom Marches in the South. She went on to earn an advanced degree in social work from Northeastern Illinois University. For over 20 years, my mother has maintained her commitment to public service by working as a social worker and counselor to local children and adults.

My father was a practicing pediatrician on Chicago's North Side for over 40 years and continues to volunteer at Children's Memorial Hospital. My constituents in the Illinois Fifth District include many former patients of my father, and people often tell me of how much his life's work has meant to them.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be the son of Benjamin and Marsha Emanuel, and I want to thank them for all of their love and support through the years. I ask that my colleagues please join me in wishing these two extraordinary people a very happy 50th wedding anniversary.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement, DR-CAFTA, as it will level the playing field for American manufacturers and farmers. The six DR-CAFTA countries, which include the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras, have had preferential access to U.S. markets for approximately 20 years as a result of the Caribbean Basin Initiative, CBI, and the Generalized System of Preferences, GSP, program. Consequently, DR-CAFTA countries have enjoyed a "one-way street" of market access where by 80 percent of goods and almost 99 percent of agricultural products enter duty free. Conversely, American exporters have faced tariffs on almost all of the goods exported to the region.

It is vital to my home State of Missouri that we continue to expand and open new markets for American farm products. In 2003, 25 percent of Missouri's \$5 billion farm cash receipts were attributable to foreign trade. Half of all soybeans and 1 in 5 rows of corn grown in Missouri are destined for foreign markets. Absent DR-CAFTA, American farm exports will