

Art Stamper is the father of two sons and one daughter and husband of Kay Kawaguchi Stamper. Mr. Speaker, Art Stamper passed away on Sunday, January 23, 2005, but will always be remembered for his endless contributions to society and especially that of Bluegrass music.

COMMENDING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR HOLDING FREE AND FAIR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 56, "commending the Palestinian people for holding recent elections." This resolution is a reflection of our support for the Palestinian people and their determination to build a viable Palestinian State based on freedom and empowered democratic institutions.

I strongly support our President when he stated, "The United States stands ready to help the Palestinian people realize their aspirations." The election of President Mahmoud Abbas is an encouraging step in that direction.

The election of new Palestinian leadership and Labor's entry into the Israeli Government have changed the circumstances and expectations surrounding the Middle East peace process. The newly elected Palestinian leadership and Israel should take advantage of this opportunity and implement concrete steps to support the emergence of a viable, credible Palestinian state.

The United States has a vital national security interest in a Middle East in which two states, Israel and Palestine, will live side by side in peace and security, based on the terms of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. A stable and peaceful Palestinian state is necessary to achieve the security that Israel longs for.

The Palestinian elections represent a vital part in that process. Over 800 international observers monitored the recent elections. Among them were 80 observers led by former President Jimmy Carter, who stated that,

There is no doubt that the will of the Palestinians was adequately expressed, that Abu Mazen has the support and respect of his people, and that he is dedicated to the peaceful pursuit of a peace agreement. . . .

Palestinians from all walks of life participated in the Presidential elections, representing approximately 70 percent of eligible voters. Young and old, women and men, even those with serious physical disabilities, were determined to play their role in building a better future.

The Palestinian Central Election Commission should also be commended for its commitment to ensure free and fair elections and for facilitating a process whereby Palestinians could vote in a positive voting atmosphere. Commission representatives trained more than 16,000 electoral officials to staff the 2,800 polling sites throughout the West Bank and Gaza and conducted their operations in a professional way. Every election is a learning experience, and I support the Palestinian Central Election Commission in its request to apply

lessons learned from the recent presidential election to the parliamentary elections scheduled later this year.

The Palestinian Presidential elections of January 9, 2005, and the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled this July represent an historic opportunity for Palestinians to affirm their various political expressions and forge a government that can respond to their needs.

It is clear the Palestinians want institutions that are transparent and accountable. The United States, Israel, and the rest of the international community should do all they can to eradicate the sources of extremism that undermine moderate Palestinian leadership. Such actions will foster democratic development among the Palestinians and enable their elected institutions to produce constructive results for its people.

I am encouraged by Abbas' recent decision to ban the use of unregistered weapons by civilians. Such steps, matched by cooperation on the part of Israel, will assist President Abbas' determination to restore rule of law in the Occupied Territories.

I congratulate President Abbas and look forward to his success in achieving the national aspirations of the Palestinian people and his role in bringing peace to the Holy Land.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution and its passage.

HONORING SANDRA BATES, COMMISSIONER OF THE FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandra Bates for over 36 years of dedicated service to the Federal Government.

Sandra Bates has finished off an illustrious career in the Federal Government. She started out in 1969 as intern with the General Services Administration. She worked her way up as an agency liaison for telecommunications and automatic data processing acquisitions on the original governmentwide long distance services program, FTS, before moving on to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1979. While at NASA, she served in various telecommunications positions until 1993 when she was named chief of communications with responsibility for all NASA operational, command, and control networks worldwide.

She returned to GSA in 1996 and assumed the positions of assistant commissioner for service and delivery and deputy commissioner in the Federal Technology Service before taking over the role of commissioner of the Federal Technology Service in April 2000. As commissioner, she has, among other things, successfully guided the Federal Technology Service through the most recent edition of the governmentwide telecommunications program, FTS 2001.

Throughout her career as a civil servant, Sandra Bates has been active in the federal technology community, serving in leadership roles with a number of government and industry councils and associations. She has received numerous awards, including NASA's

Exceptional Service Medal, the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Service, the Government Information Technology Award, the Fed 100 Award, 3 separate years, the Industry Advisory Council's Outstanding Individual Government Communicator Award, and the American Council for Technology's John J. Franke Award for Extraordinary Contributions to Long Term Federal Service. She leaves behind a long list of accomplishments in her distinguished career of service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Ms. Bates on her retirement as commissioner of the Federal Technology Service. While I know that she will be greatly missed, her retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Bates and in wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

WE NEED TELECOM REFORM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the anniversary of one of the hardest fought legislative battles of the last decade and to discuss the need for improving it this year.

It was 9 years ago this week that Congress last passed comprehensive telecom reform. The biggest issues then were how best to provide competition in both local and long distance telephone service and to ensure that everyone, including those in rural areas, has access to phone service.

In the last 9 years we have seen advancements in communication technology that could not have been envisioned. Near universal access to the Internet, development and deployment of broadband technology, more wireless phones in service than wireline accounts, e-mail on the go and cable, phone, and satellite companies all vying to deliver an entire suite of video and communications services to a growing marketplace. New technologies and industries unfettered by the constraints of old rules have competed vigorously for consumers' business, transforming forever the way business and consumers get information and communicate with one another.

Unfortunately, our telecom laws have not kept pace with growing demand for choice and competition in the marketplace. Some industries continue to operate under arcane regulations that stifle ingenuity, hinder job creation, and bottle up needed economic investment. These same regulations also place the burden of meeting our shared national priorities of universal phone service and 911 emergency services squarely on the shoulders of a single industry—the local phone companies.

Our Nation's telecom laws are due for some badly needed, free-market reforms, changes that will build upon the successes of the last 9 years in terms of innovation and product delivery while also addressing the issues of social responsibility and competition. Unlike what we did in 1996, these new telecom laws must do more to anticipate advancements and create a mechanism where the playing field is level for every company that wishes to compete.

Specifically, we face some daunting challenges. The United States—despite being the

country that invented the Internet—ranks 13th in the world in broadband deployment, there are millions of jobs and billions of dollars in potential investment waiting to be unleashed by a telecom marketplace free of excessive regulations and Universal Service and 911 access must, again, be the responsibility of all the companies in the telecom marketplace.

In much the same way healthy, abundant competition for mobile phone service has enabled nearly every community in the United States to have access to a wireless phone signal, so too can vigorous competition deliver on President Bush's commitment of universal broadband service. A study by the New Millennium Research Council shows that 1.2 million jobs can be created and over \$50 billion in new investment in broadband technologies can be brought about by ubiquitous broadband deployment.

In the past, we have made it incumbent upon local phone companies to ensure that basic phone service and 911 emergency needs were met. These services are important to our rural and local safety communities and must be protected. Now, however, it is unfair to ask only a handful of companies to bear the burden of ensuring the success of the Universal Service Fund and it is dangerous to allow some companies offering phone services to opt out of providing 911 services.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility this year to revisit our Nation's outdated and arcane telecom laws. A responsibility to our constituents to ensure that telecommunications competition provides choices. A responsibility to our economy to institute a telecom policy that spurs job creation and investment. A responsibility to our communities that their broadband and 911 safety needs will be met. And, finally, a responsibility to future telecom advancements that we will allow them to flourish and compete so that the United States is, once again, the global telecommunications leader.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES FORMAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of Mr. James Forman, former executive secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. In tribute to Mr. Forman, I would like to submit the following excerpt from the Washington Post Article, *Civil Rights Activist James Forman Dies at 76; Key Organizer of SNCC*, written by Joe Holley on Wednesday, January 12, 2005.

James Forman, 76, who as executive secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in the early 1960s dispatched cadres of organizers, demonstrators and Freedom Riders into the most dangerous redoubts of the Deep South, died January 10 of colon cancer at Washington House, a local hospice.

At the height of the civil rights movement, Mr. Forman hammered out a role for SNCC among the so-called Big Five, the established civil rights organizations that included the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Con-

gress of Racial Equality and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. SNCC in those years was the edgier, more aggressive organization, pushing the South specifically and the nation generally toward change.

On numerous occasions, Mr. Forman himself was harassed, beaten and jailed during forays to register voters and organize protests in communities willing to use any means necessary, including terror, intimidation and murder, to resist the dismantling of the region's rigid system of segregation.

"Accumulating experiences with Southern 'law and order' were turning me into a full-fledged revolutionary," Mr. Forman wrote, recalling his experiences of 1962 and 1963. Although he moved increasingly leftward during his years at SNCC, he was edged out of the organization in the late 1960s when Stokely Carmichael, H. Rap Brown and other, younger members considered him insufficiently militant.

When Mr. Forman joined SNCC in 1961, it was a loose federation of student organizations housed in a grubby, windowless room in Atlanta, across the street from the offices of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on Auburn Avenue. As an Air Force veteran who was about a decade older than most of those involved with SNCC, he had the drive and experience, as well as the administrative abilities, to give focus to the organization, universally pronounced "Snick." Appointed executive secretary within a week of his arrival, he set about paying old bills, radically expanding the staff and planning logistics for direct action efforts and voter-registration drives in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and elsewhere.

"He imbued the organization with a camaraderie and collegiality that I've never seen in any organization before or since," said Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP and SNCC's communications director during Mr. Forman's tenure.

"Jim performed an organizational miracle in holding together a loose band of non-violent revolutionaries who simply wanted to act together to eliminate racial discrimination and terror," said Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), who was a member of SNCC. "As a result, SNCC had an equal place at the table with all the major civil rights organizations of the 1960s."

James Forman was born in Chicago on Oct. 4, 1928, and spent his early years living with his grandmother on a farm in Marshall County, Miss. When he was 6, his parents took him back to Chicago, although he often spent summers in Mississippi. Until he was a teenager, he used the surname of his stepfather, John Rufus, a gas station manager, unaware that his real father was a Chicago cabdriver named Jackson Forman.

He graduated with honors from Chicago's Englewood High School in 1947 and served with the Air Force in Okinawa during the Korean War. After his discharge in 1952, he enrolled at the University of Southern California.

Early in his second semester, in 1953, he was falsely arrested, beaten and held for three days by Los Angeles police. The experience prompted a breakdown that briefly put him in a psychiatric hospital. Afterward, he returned to Chicago and enrolled at Roosevelt University.

He graduated in three years, planning to be a writer or journalist. While doing graduate work at Boston University, he wrangled press credentials from the Chicago Defender and took the train to Little Rock, where, in the fall of 1957, court-ordered school integration was being resisted. From there, he filed a few stories and looked for opportunities to organize mass protests in the South.

After working briefly as a substitute elementary school teacher in Chicago, he found

that opportunity in Fayette County, Tenn., a few miles from his childhood home. Seven hundred families of sharecroppers had been evicted from their homes for registering to vote. Joining a program sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality, he helped publicize the farmers' plight, distributed food and registered voters.

In the summer of 1961, he was jailed with SNCC-organized Freedom Riders who were protesting segregated facilities in Monroe, N.C. After his sentence was suspended, he went to work full time for SNCC.

One of Mr. Forman's early challenges was to referee an internal dispute between SNCC activists who believed in direct action—sit-ins, demonstrations and other forms of confrontation—and those who believed voter registration was the most effective path to political empowerment. Mr. Forman maintained there really was no distinction.

"The brutal Southern sheriffs," he wrote a few years later, "didn't care what kind of 'outside agitator' you were: you were black and making trouble and that was enough for them."

He also wrestled, as did most SNCC members, with the meaning and utility of non-violence. Unlike his friend and SNCC cohort John Lewis, who considered nonviolence a way of life, Mr. Forman considered it a tactic, nothing more. There were times, he believed, when self-defense—fighting back—was absolutely necessary.

Mr. Forman also was often at odds with Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. In 1961, for example, Mr. Forman objected to King's involvement in the Albany Movement, a boycott, sit-in and voter registration drive SNCC initiated in Georgia.

"A strong people's movement was in progress, the people were feeling their own strength grow," he wrote some years later. "I knew how much harm could be done by interjecting the Messiah complex—people would feel that only a particular individual could save them and would not move on their own to fight racism and exploitation."

King came to Albany, spoke and left. SNCC's work in the area continued for the next couple of years.

In the summer of 1964, Mr. Forman's SNCC brought almost a thousand young volunteers, black and white, to register voters, set up "freedom schools," establish community centers and build the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Among those volunteers were Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner, the three young men murdered along a muddy road near Philadelphia, Miss., in June 1964. (According to Julian Bond, Mr. Forman was probably not aware in the last days of his life that Edgar Ray Killen, a preacher and sawmill operator, had been recently charged with the murders.)

Later that summer, Mr. Forman journeyed to Atlantic City, where he worked to persuade Democratic Party officials to recognize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party at the Democratic National Convention. Despite his efforts and despite the powerful testimony of Fannie Lou Hamer, who told of being fired by her boss and beaten unconscious by the police for her work in support of MFDP, the upstart party failed to supplant the state's party regulars.

"Atlantic City was a powerful lesson, not only for the black people from Mississippi but for all of SNCC and many other people as well," Mr. Forman wrote. "No longer was there any hope, among those who still had it, that the federal government would change the situation in the Deep South."

Despite Mr. Forman's growing militancy, SNCC dumped him and Lewis in 1966, replacing them with Carmichael and Ruby Doris Smith Robinson.