

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 Speaker, we have a responsibility this year to revisit our Nation's outdated and arcane telecom laws.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.

Mr. Forman, who always had been interested in African liberation movements, went to Africa in 1967. In 1969, he helped organize the Black Economic Development Conference in Detroit, where a "Black Manifesto" was adopted. He also founded a nonprofit organization called the Unemployment and Poverty Action Committee.

On a Sunday morning in May 1969, Mr. Forman interrupted services at New York City's Riverside Church to demand \$500 million in reparations from white churches to make up for injustices African Americans had suffered over the centuries. Although Riverside's preaching minister, the Rev. Ernest T. Campbell, termed the demands "exorbitant and fanciful," he was in sympathy with the impulse, if not the tactic. Later, the church agreed to donate a fixed percentage of its annual income to anti-poverty efforts.

In the 1970s, Mr. Forman was in graduate school at Cornell University and received a master's degree in African and African American studies in 1980. In 1982, he received a PhD from the Union of Experimental Colleges and Universities.

A writer and pamphleteer, Mr. Forman moved to Washington in 1981 and started a newspaper called the Washington Times, which lasted a short while. He also founded the Black American News Service. He was the author of "Sammy Younge Jr.: The First Black College Student to Die in the Black Liberation Movement" (1969), "The Making of Black Revolutionaries" (1972 and 1997) and "Self Determination: An Examination of the Question and Its Application to the African American People" (1984).

His marriages to Mary Forman, Mildred Thompson and Constanca Ramilly ended in divorce.

Survivors include two sons, Chaka Esmond Fanon Forman of Venice Beach, Calif, and James Robert Lumumba Forman Jr. of the District; and one granddaughter.

In July, despite being weak from his long struggle with cancer, Mr. Forman took a train from Washington to Boston during the Democratic National Convention. He took part in a "Boston Tea Party," in which members of the D.C. delegation tossed bags of tea into Boston Harbor to protest lack of statehood and no vote in Congress.

"It was said that on his deathbed, Frederick Douglass's last words were, 'Organize! Organize!' That's what Forman did every day of his life," Bond said. "That's what today's civil rights movement has forgotten how to do."

I take great pride in commending Mr. James Forman for his work to curb racial segregation and win social justice in this country.

#### INTRODUCING A BILL TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF COMMERCIAL SPACE FLIGHT

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to enhance the safety of commercial space flight by ensuring that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has the authority it needs to protect the safety of passengers of the emerging commercial space industry.

Mr. Speaker, I support commercial space exploration and the commercial space industry, but not at the expense of totally ignoring

safety. The Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004, P.L. 108-492, prohibits the Secretary of Transportation from issuing safety design and operating regulations or even minimal safety requirements for individual licenses for the next eight years unless there is a potentially catastrophic incident.

The current statutory language amounts to, in essence, the codification of what has come to be known in aviation safety parlance as the "Tombstone Mentality." For years, both I and many of my colleagues on the Aviation Subcommittee have criticized the FAA for waiting until after a disaster to take safety actions, and have urged more proactive safety oversight.

Supporters of the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act argued that safety regulation would discourage experimentation and innovation. However, the Act went well beyond these objectives and essentially tied FAA's hands by totally banning any safety requirements, except in post-accident circumstances where lives have already been lost. Under the Act, the FAA would be prevented from requiring even the simplest, least expensive enhancements to protect safety of passengers on these space flights.

Mr. Speaker, my bill would amend the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act to give the FAA the authority and flexibility to establish minimum safety regulations. My bill would not preclude innovation and, contrary to the claims of supporters of the Act, my bill would not require FAA to impose the same degree of regulation on the developing space travel industry that is imposed on the mature air transportation industry. Specifically, although my bill would require that FAA include, in each license it issues, minimum standards to protect the health and safety of crews and space flight participants, it would further require that, in imposing these standards, FAA must take into account the "inherently risky nature of human space flight." My bill would give the FAA the flexibility to create a regulatory structure governing the design or operation of a launch vehicle to protect the health and safety of crews and space flight participants as is necessary, without having to wait for a catastrophic failure to occur.

Mr. Speaker, safety regulation need not be incompatible with developing new technology. For example, although FAA has closely regulated aircraft manufacturing since the 1920's, this regulation has not prevented major technological progress, including the development of jet aircraft in the 1950's and all-composite general aviation aircraft in recent years.

We can and should protect the safety of passengers on space flights in this new and emerging industry, without placing unreasonable limitations on industry development. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to pass this important legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, last week I missed two important votes relating to elections in the troubled Middle East. H. Res. 56 commends the Palestinian people for the free

election held on January 9, 2005, and H. Res. 60 relates to the election held in Iraq on January 30, 2005. I rise today to say that I would have voted "yes" on both H. Res. 56 and H. Res. 60.

On Sunday, January 30, millions of Iraqis voted in a free election for the first time in their lives. Many walked great distances and nearly all risked their lives to exercise this new right. Though I opposed the war, the election that took place in Iraq is something to be celebrated. In addition to commending the people of Iraq, I would like to commend our men and women in the armed services. Without their hard work and bravery in developing and executing a complex security plan, this most successful election would not have been possible.

Now that the people of Iraq have had a free election, we need to put our efforts into helping them find ways to defeat the insurgency, involve all religious and ethnic persuasions in the political process and ensure that the rights of minorities are protected as they continue to draft a Constitution.

In addition, it is important that the United States look toward developing an exit strategy. In reality, this should have been done before we initiated military operations. We need to continue to train and equip Iraqi security forces. In order to properly do this, we need to have an accurate assessment of the capabilities of those forces now.

The free election in Iraq was an achievement that cannot be understated. That said, we have a vested interest in a secure and democratic Iraq and while the election was an important milestone, we need to look ahead to a time when our work over there is done and our troops can come home.

Now, turning to the recent elections in the Palestinian Territories. I would like to commend Dr. Mahmoud Abbas on his election as the second President of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people for making their voices heard. The elections on January 9 were conducted under difficult circumstances, including ongoing violence and a limited ability for candidates to campaign. Despite these challenges, an amazing 70 percent of registered voters turned out, according to Dr. Hana Nasir, head of the Palestinian Central Election Commission. The Palestinian people, political organizations, and presidential candidates all deserve praise for this significant step forward. Moreover, although voters in East Jerusalem experienced difficulties, elsewhere in the West Bank and Gaza Israel facilitated the election process. For this Israel also deserves commendation.

International observers—including some of our colleagues here—state that the elections were free and fair. Allow me to share a few key observations of the International Observer Delegation organized by the National Democratic Institute and the Carter Center.

The election was contested vigorously and administered fairly. Election day was orderly and generally peaceful.

The process, organized in just 60 days in accordance with the Palestinian Basic Law and under difficult circumstances of the ongoing conflict and occupation, represents a step forward for Palestinian democracy.

Seven presidential candidates competed in the election, presenting Palestinians with a choice among distinct points of view. . . . This is a tribute to the seriousness of the political competitors and to the Palestinian people's desire to respect political pluralism.