

Members of Congress to join me in honoring this Troop for its dedication to scouting and for helping boys become upstanding young men.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 7, 2005, I was unavoidably absent due to a previously scheduled engagement.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 464. On H. Res. 427, relating to the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, "yes."

(2) Rollcall No. 463. On H. Res. 428, expressing the sincere gratitude of the House of Representatives to the foreign individuals, organizations, and governments that have offered material assistance and other forms of support to those who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina, "yes."

(3) Rollcall No. 462. On H.R. 3668, the Student Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act, "yes."

(4) Rollcall No. 461. On H.R. 3669, to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program, "yes."

(5) Rollcall No. 460. On H.R. 3673, further Emergency Supplemental Appropriations, Hurricane Katrina, 2005, "yes."

(6) Rollcall No. 459. On H. RES. 426, providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, "no."

(7) Rollcall No. 458. On H. RES. 426, providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, "no."

RECOGNIZING REVEREND C. DALE EDWARDS OF THE O'FALLON ASSEMBLY OF GOD, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASTORAL SERVICE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend C. Dale Edwards, of the O'Fallon Assembly of God, in O'Fallon, Illinois, on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary of pastoral service.

C. Dale Edwards was born in New City, Illinois, a community just southeast of the State Capitol of Springfield. During his early years on the farm and later, when the family moved to the nearby town of Edinburg, his mother always made sure the family faithfully attended the Gospel Tabernacle in Edinburg. During those early days at the Gospel Tabernacle, Reverend Edwards first realized his calling when, as a teenager, he was invited by Pastor Best to preach on occasion.

An accident in an elevator shaft left Reverend Edwards with a badly damaged foot that looked as if it was going to require amputa-

tion. Through the intervention of a family friend, Reverend Edwards attended a revival meeting where his foot was healed. This experience, coupled with his preaching at the Gospel Tabernacle, spurred Reverend Edwards to apply to North Central Bible College in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

While at NCBC, Reverend Edwards became youth pastor in Hopkins, Minnesota in 1955, thus beginning the 50 years of pastoral ministry that we commemorate today.

After building congregations in Minnesota, South Dakota and Rock Island, Illinois, Reverend Edwards became the Senior Pastor of First Assembly of God in Granite City, Illinois where he served from 1974 through 1991. For the next six years, Reverend Edwards served as the Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Illinois District Assemblies of God, where he oversaw the credentialing of all Assembly of God ministers in Illinois. In this capacity, he also served as chairman of the Illinois District 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Reverend Edwards and his wife, Dottie, currently reside in O'Fallon, Illinois where they serve as Senior Pastors at O'Fallon Assembly of God. Reverend Edwards and Dottie have four children, all serving the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Reverend Edwards for his 50 years of dedicated ministry and to wish him the very best in the future.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERVENTIONAL PAIN PHYSICIANS (ASIPP)

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting (NASPER) Act of 2005 was approved by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President Bush. I rise today to recognize the important contributions of Dr. Laxmaiah Manchikanti and the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP) in accomplishing this important achievement.

Dr. Manchikanti is a physician of Indian origin who has practiced medicine in Paducah, Kentucky for the last 25 years. He is a well-known and well-respected physician with interests in many aspects of medicine, both in patient care, as well as academics.

Dr. Manchikanti is a recognized leader in the circles of interventional pain management. Apart from his interest in the clinical practice of anesthesiology and interventional pain management, he is also proficient in administrative medicine, patient advocacy, the economics of healthcare, medical ethics and various other aspects of the profession. He is an avid clinical researcher with numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals with original contributions.

Dr. Manchikanti currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians. With over 3,400 members, ASIPP is the largest organization in the country that represents physicians involved in trying to alleviate the intractable pain experienced by millions of Americans. Because of their professional involve-

ment with pain medicine many ASIPP members have a vested interest in solving the problem of prescription drug abuse and diversion.

Mr. Speaker, one of the fastest growing areas of drug abuse in our nation today is the diversion of prescription drugs. According to the National Institute of Health—National Institute on Drug Abuse, approximately 9 million Americans are misusers of prescription drugs. Furthermore, in 2001 the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, found statistically significant increases between 2000 and 2001 in the use of multiple drugs including non-medical use of pain relievers and tranquilizers.

Prescription drug abuse is an issue that transcends societal boundaries, and affects all areas of our nation and all income levels. In an effort to prevent prescription drug abuse the NASPER Act establishes a federal system for electronic prescription databanks, which a doctor could access to determine what, if any, medication their patient should be given.

From the very beginning, Dr. Manchikanti and his colleagues at ASIPP have played a crucial role in the development of the NASPER Act. Thanks to their active involvement and insightful guidance, we were able to craft a thoughtful policy that will give physicians, pharmacists, and law enforcement agents the tools necessary to curb prescription drug abuse.

Mr. Speaker, next week ASIPP will hold its 7th annual legislative session in Washington. I would like to welcome ASIPP to our nation's capital, and offer my gratitude for all of their efforts over the past several years. Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Manchikanti and all of his colleagues the NASPER Act has finally become law and we can begin to address this very serious public health concern.

I must emphasize that this is only the beginning. There is still a lot of important work left to be done in terms of implementing and enforcing this new law. I am looking forward carrying my partnership with Dr. Manchikanti and ASIPP forward, as we continue to work together to help eliminate prescription drug abuse.

REGARDING H.R. 3673, MAKING FURTHER EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill because of the grave and immediate need that exists. As a representative of Houston, Texas, where over 150,000 Katrina evacuees were received, I can say from first hand knowledge that this is truly only a first step toward what is necessary and emergent. This measure is an initial investment—a down payment—for a long-term relief package—that unfortunately has not yet been codified.

Here we are, nine days after Hurricane Katrina devastated parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. I want to thank Congressmen JEFFERSON and THOMPSON, who

have displayed great courage and resolve to help their constituents through the aftermath of this natural disaster. In my Congressional District in Houston tens of thousands of evacuees are being sheltered and fed. In fact, Americans throughout this country are stepping up to help those affected by this disaster. It demonstrates that once again in our darkest hour that we have united as a Nation to help our brothers and sisters who now seek to rebuild their lives.

Dollars spent through the Department of Defense must be re-channeled directly to the affected regions and people in order to provide relief in a timely manner.

Furthermore, we must find steps to move forward immediately to help those affected by this disaster and to try to prevent such an ineffective response from taking place again. I plan to introduce a number of legislative measures that will seek to alleviate the suffering of the survivors of the most devastating natural disaster in modern American history.

Hurricane Katrina has traumatized children on a frightening scale. According to the United Nations, as many as 400,000 children have been left homeless. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimated that the greatest impact of the tragedy would be upon the young and that children make up between a third and a quarter of those affected by the catastrophe.

Of an estimated 1.32 million people made homeless, there are around 300,000 to 400,000 children—most of whom will remain so for weeks or months! This is the impetus behind legislation I plan to introduce that would provide a one-time grant for relief programs that would serve these children.

I along with my Judiciary colleagues led by Ranking Member CONYERS will introduce legislation to protect the hundreds of thousands of families and small businesses financially devastated by Hurricane Katrina from being penalized by debtor provisions contained in the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, scheduled to take effect on October 17, 2005. This legislation is based in part on an amendment I offered at the markup of the Bankruptcy bill. We expect a Senate counterpart to be introduced this week as well.

We are concerned that just as survivors of Hurricane Katrina are beginning to rebuild their lives, the new bankruptcy law will result in a further and unintended financial whammy. Unfortunately, the new law is likely to have the consequence of preventing devastated families from being able to obtain relief from massive and unexpected new financial obligations they are incurring by forcing them to repay their debt with income they no longer have, but which is counted by the law.

Our bill makes several important adjustments. First, it would specify that individuals who are victims of natural disasters, and who incurred a substantial portion of their debt as a result of that disaster, are not subject to the "means test" and therefore cannot be forced into burdensome repayment plans. Although the current law includes an exception to the means test if the debtor can demonstrate "special circumstances," qualifying for such an exemption will be quite costly and burdensome, and require numerous detailed filings and legal certifications. This is the last thing a hurricane victim should need to worry about. Since the current bankruptcy law counts all in-

come earned in the six months prior to the bankruptcy as part of future income, this means that hurricane victims who have lost their jobs will be considered high income debtors who are presumed to be abusing the bankruptcy system. This is obviously absurd; so our bill gives the hurricane victims an automatic carve out, as we already do for certain categories of veterans.

The legislation we plan to introduce will prevent new bankruptcy provisions from having adverse and unintended consequences for the hundreds of thousands of individuals now facing financial ruin by providing needed flexibility for victims of natural disasters in bankruptcy proceedings.

I also plan to introduce a bill that will provide tax breaks for individuals who take in evacuees into their home. These people are stepping up to provide shelter and relief to their fellow Americans, and I believe it is certainly proper to encourage this behavior through the implementation of tax breaks.

In addition, I propose legislation that will grant a minimum of 20,000 two-year tenant-based housing assistance vouchers for Katrina's victims, together with transportation and relocation assistance to be used where necessary. These vouchers should be administered by local housing agencies presently administering HUD-funded Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher assistance, which are located in or near the areas hardest hit by Katrina. These agencies are already positioned to provide housing assistance and can play an extremely helpful role meeting the immediate housing needs of Katrina's victims. This legislation would also allow the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to issue a wide range of statutory and regulatory waivers in order to most effectively and flexibly utilize HUD resources to meet the needs of victims.

Finally, I am calling for the establishment of a Commission to study the genesis of the devastation caused by the hurricane. We need a 9/11 style commission to know everything that took place. In addition, I am calling for the establishment of a position of an ombudsman for FEMA in order to provide proper oversight. Without a proper investigation, we cannot get all the answers and without the answers we can not provide the necessary legislation and oversight needed to try to prevent this kind of human suffering from happening again in the future.

Mr. Chairman, the harm that has been incurred by the people of the many regions affected by the disaster—most of which could have been mitigated, will require many phases of rehabilitation. I support this legislation as an initial step.

ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE
PRESS TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS
MOVEMENT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as the nation celebrates the 40th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the conflict on the Edmund Pettus bridge, the 40th anniversary of the signing of Voting Rights Act, and the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott

this year, I think it is fitting and appropriate that we take a moment to acknowledge the vital role that the press played in the success of the Civil Rights Movement.

I have often said that without the media the Civil Rights Movement would have been a bird without wings. I am not certain where we would be today as a nation, if the American public had not been made to acknowledge the struggles we faced in the American South. The non-violent protests of the sixties used peaceful means to demonstrate the senseless injustice of *de facto* and *de jure* segregation, the inhumanity and indignity of the Jim Crow South, and the extraordinary persecution American citizens suffered trying to exercise their constitutional rights. Without the media's willingness to stand in harm's way and starkly portray events of the Movement as they saw them unfold, Americans may never have understood or even believed the horrors that African Americans faced in the Deep South.

That commitment to publish the truth took courage. It was incredibly dangerous to be seen with a pad, a pen, or a camera in Mississippi, Alabama or Georgia where the heart of the struggle took place. There was a violent desperation among local and State officials and the citizens to maintain the traditional order. People wanted to keep their injustice a secret. They wanted to hide from the critical eye of a disapproving world. They wanted to flee from the convictions of their own conscience. And they wanted to destroy the ugly reflection that nonviolent protestors and camera images so graphically displayed. So when the Freedom Riders climbed off the bus in Alabama in 1961, for example, there were reporters who were beaten and bloodied before any of us were.

And as they were attacked, I saw in them a resolve grow within them that was similar to what those of us in the Movement experienced. I have often said that the first time I was jailed, I felt so free. This Nation had dealt me its worst blow, and I had survived. I knew then that I was committed to the struggle for the long-haul. There were many reporters who felt that same curious strengthening when they too were attacked and beaten. Instead of scaring them away, those injustices created the opposite effect. It bonded them to the Movement, and it steeled their commitment to publish all that they saw.

There are so many moments poignantly depicted for posterity by television and newspaper camera men. It is easy to recall many of these now legendary images—Rosa Parks sitting on a bus in Montgomery in 1955; the bombing of the Greyhound bus outside Anniston, Alabama during the Freedom Rides in 1961; Gov. Ross Barnett of Mississippi and Gov. George Wallace in Alabama denying the entrance of black students to state universities in 1963 and 1964; the speeches on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington in 1964; and the seminal speech President Lyndon Johnson made before a joint session of Congress encouraging the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

There are so many historic moments that were covered by the press, but there are two, which I count as turning points for me. The first is often heralded as the official beginning of the modern-day Civil Rights Movement, that is the photograph of a mutilated 14-year-old boy named Emmett Till who was killed in Money, Mississippi during a summer vacation.