

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR.
AND MRS. BUCHSIEB

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Richard and Beatrice Buchsieb were united in marriage January 15, 1955, and are celebrating 50 years of marriage; and

Whereas, Richard and Beatrice Buchsieb were married January 15, 1955, at 3rd Ave. United Methodist Church in Columbus, OH; and

Whereas, Richard and Beatrice Buchsieb are the loving parents of four children and four grandchildren;

Therefore, I join with the residents of Cambridge, and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Richard and Beatrice Buchsieb as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY
OF VALLE DEL SOL, INC.

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Valle del Sol, Inc., a nonprofit, community-based organization in Phoenix, Arizona which has helped thousands of individuals each year through its extensive behavioral health and social services.

Valle del Sol was created in 1970, at a time when behavioral health services in Phoenix were nearly non-existent for Latino families. The organization was originally established to address opiate addiction in the community, and although it has expanded its services over the years, Valle del Sol has always maintained its commitment to providing bilingual and culturally relevant services for the Latino community.

As one of the largest Hispanic behavioral health and social service organizations in Maricopa County, Valle del Sol's culturally diverse, bilingual staff provides a wide range of programs and services for the entire family. These programs are designed to address the increasing social and community needs related to family and behavioral health problems, and include counseling, substance abuse treatment, adult education, advocacy, services for seniors, and an adolescent therapeutic group home. Valle del Sol's commitment to excellence in customer service, financial viability, planned growth, and community development in Arizona has positively contributed not only to Latino families, but to the entire Arizona community. I am particularly proud of Valle del Sol's achievements in becoming an \$11 million agency with nearly 200 employees.

Valle del Sol has been instrumental in providing a base of leadership for the Latino community. Many Latino leaders in Arizona, including myself, have served on Valle del Sol's Board of Directors, or have attended Valle del Sol's Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI). HLI has provided leadership training for over 18 years and is offered to community members

who are dedicated to addressing Latino issues. Under HLI training, participants gain a comprehensive understanding of issues affecting the Latino community, as well as practical leadership skills. The goal of HLI is to arm leaders with the valuable tools to effectively advocate for issues important to the Latino community.

I would like especially to acknowledge Valle del Sol's current leadership, headed by President and CEO Luz Sarmina-Gutierrez. Ms. Sarmina-Gutierrez's efforts to maintain Valle del Sol's high quality of service was duly recognized, and Valle del Sol was awarded accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for four of its programs that specialize in substance abuse and mental health. This accreditation is the highest achievement an organization can receive from CARF and is the second time a three-year accreditation was awarded to Valle del Sol. The CARF accreditation demonstrates to the public that Valle del Sol's services meet stringent standards in following with its policies, procedures and practices, including health and safety standards.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring and congratulating Valle del Sol, its leadership, and its employees upon the celebration of its 35th Anniversary. It is with great pride that I celebrate Valle del Sol's outstanding contributions to the Arizona community and its unwavering commitment to public service, and I wish them many more years of success.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I cannot in good conscience vote for the REAL ID Act, H.R. 418 because, despite the intention of the bill's sponsors to strengthen our borders, it has the opposite effect, by making homeland security and an effective war against terrorism more difficult with unnecessary provisions aimed at legitimate asylum seekers. Moreover, I am guided in my judgment about this bill by the opposition of the National Governors Association and the National Council of State Legislatures.

This bill tightens asylum laws in a way that inhibits, rather than enhances our national security. Currently individuals who participate in terrorist activity are not allowed to gain asylum status in this country. Terrorists have not been able to use the current asylum system to gain entry into the country, thus the tightening of these laws only make gaining asylum status more difficult for those legitimately seeking asylum. Provisions such as requiring applicants to prove the "central reason" for their

persecution or allowing judges to require applicants to produce corroborating evidence are unnecessary.

While national security must be our top priority, immigration policy should not create unnecessary requirements for legitimate asylum seekers who are arguably our best allies in the fight against international terrorism. The asylum provisions of this bill will not enhance our security or our standing in the world.

I also have concerns that the bill allows and directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive all laws which he or she deems necessary to complete the construction of barriers along any and all U.S. borders. Some have argued that this provision is needed to ensure the construction of a fence along three and half miles of the U.S.-Mexico border near San Diego. However, the language of the bill is not limited to the construction of a fence in this location. Instead, it instructs the Secretary to waive all laws for all U.S. borders; this includes the U.S.-Mexico border, the U.S.-Canada border, and maybe even the border between Alaska and Russia. The bill also removes any judicial review of the waiving of these laws.

This would give far too much unchecked authority to the Secretary of Homeland Security and does not provide the protection of judicial review of this authority.

There are two amendments, one offered by my colleagues Mr. NADLER and Mr. MEEKS, and the other offered by Mr. FARR, which would strike portions of the bill that do not address our national security regard the asylum system and our borders. However, in light of their failure, I am left no option but to vote against this bill.

I find the driver's license standards established in this bill to be unnecessary as well as they already exist in current law. Last fall's Intelligence bill, which I supported, included a provision which already implements the 9/11 Commission Report's recommendations to create national minimum standards for driver's licenses. This provision allowed for states to participate with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Homeland Security in a rulemaking process.

H.R. 418 repeals these provisions and replaces them with standards established without state input. The issuance of driver's licenses has always been within state jurisdiction. Even with the measures passed in the Intelligence bill, states will largely be organizing and conducting the implementation of these standards. Their participation in establishing and implementing driver's license standards is essential for these provisions to be successful. This bill simply ignores state involvement all together in these standards.

Though the bill does provide grants for the costs of implementing these standards, with the current fiscal climate, many states fear they will be left with the burden of paying a portion of these costs. Most states are faced with the same fiscal crisis that the federal government is currently experiencing. Creating an unfunded mandate for states is unfair, especially when they are excluded from the rulemaking process.

There are portions in this bill which I believe are beneficial to our national security. For instance, I am pleased the amendment offered by Mr. SESSIONS passed by a voice vote, as it will strengthen our ability to ensure the deportation of individuals who are illegally present in the United States.

Unfortunately, the egregious measures in the bill far out weigh the beneficial provisions. Thus, I must vote against this bill and hope that the Senate will remove the portions of this bill which are unnecessary and attack the balance of power in our country.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
80TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF
CLARENCE AND MAYME VAIL OF
HUGO, MN

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 80th wedding anniversary of Clarence and Mayme Vail of Hugo, Minnesota.

Eighty-two years ago, Clarence and Mayme met when Clarence's family moved to Hugo and he joined Mayme's eighth grade class. Clarence and Mayme were the only two from this class to continue into high school, though they both left school early a few years later. They left for a good reason: to get married. Although the couple heard people say that they were too young to be married—he was eighteen and she was just sixteen—they began their wedded lives together on February 17, 1925.

For the first few years they were married, Clarence and Mayme lived in the telephone office where Mayme's mother worked. Their first children were born in that office. Since then, Clarence and Mayme have lived in two homes, both in Hugo, and they now have six children, 39 grandchildren, 98 great-grandchildren, and 32 great-great grandchildren.

Before retiring, Clarence worked as a machine and tools salesman, and after their children were older Mayme worked at the local grocery store. Now, in their retirement, Clarence and Mayme spend their time reading, playing cards, and attending church every morning. Mayme also enjoys making quilts for local charities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Clarence and Mayme Vail on their 80th wedding anniversary as an example which we should all try to follow. Clarence and Mayme have been married for a near-record number of years, and it is likely that they hold the record for being the longest-married couple in Minnesota history. I admire the love and dedication which this couple has shared for so many years, and I wish them many more years of happiness together.

REMARKS ON THE SITUATION IN
IRAQ

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we may soon know the official count from the elections in Iraq but it is already very clear we will not know the real long term impact and results for some time.

Will the election unite the Iraqi people or further divide them? Will the new government

represent the interests of all sectors of Iraqi society? Will the rights of minorities be protected? Will the new laws of the land be promulgated on a secular or religious basis?

The elections do nothing to increase the legitimacy of our so-called "preventive war." The official end for the search for weapons of mass destruction confirms what a majority of the American people have known for some time: we were misled as to the need for military action in Iraq.

There was no link between Saddam Hussein and 9/11. U.N. sanctions and inspections were, in fact, highly effective in disarming Iraq after the 1991 war.

There is no doubt that those Iraqis who did vote, and already the controversy is growing over what share of the population participated, were expressing their profound hope for an end to the violence, for an improvement in the quality of their lives, for a say in their own futures and an end to the occupation of their country.

And why not? Estimates by reputable experts such as the British medical journal, *The Lancet* are that more than 100,000 Iraqis have died as a result of the war and the on-going violence under the occupation.

The Iraqi government has reported that malnutrition among young children has doubled since the war began and that they are experiencing soaring rates of disease exacerbated by a decimated health system.

Iraq is no closer to a stable democracy today than it was two years ago. The Iraqi insurgency appears to be growing significantly faster than the security forces we have attempted to train. It is questionable if Iraqi security forces can ever achieve authority as long as our troops have the real responsibility for maintaining order.

The presence of more than 130,000 U.S. troops has, in fact, become a rallying point and an endless source of fodder for propaganda by terrorists.

At a time when American prestige and leadership is more necessary than ever, when the light of hope for a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people once again flickers to life, U.S. ability to serve as a broker for peace has been crippled by the perception of many of our actions in Iraq.

We face the massive and difficult task of rebuilding international alliances and renewing the mechanisms of international diplomacy and security. And what has been the cost to America? As of yesterday, 1,449 American troops killed, 10,740 wounded as of the end of January. Extended time of service for tens of thousands of service men and women and reservists at immense cost to families.

The diversion of tens of billions of dollars from homeland security, health, education, housing, and a host of other needs have left some of our most urgent needs here at home untended and unaddressed. The long term impact on our military has not yet been examined, but based on our experience after Vietnam there is good reason to expect that there will be a negative impact.

Mr. Speaker, in the interests of stabilizing the situation in Iraq, in the interests of peace and security in the region, in the interests of our homeland security, and in support of our troops, it is time to bring our troops home.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM
BERTRAND TURNER ON HIS
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man, Mr. William Bertrand Turner on this, his 100th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, William Bertrand Turner was born on February 28, 1905 in Elizabeth City, North Carolina and grew up a stone's throw away from the famous Pasquotank River. Mr. Turner grew up there, was educated in the public school system, and eventually graduated from Elizabeth City State University.

Mr. Turner's love for science lured him to Shaw University in the Capital city of North Carolina. He pursued his interest in Organic Chemistry during the height of the "Roaring 20's" and graduated in 1929, during the beginning stages of the Great Depression.

Mr. Speaker, after his graduation from Shaw University, William Turner set his sights North, and began a quest for his Master's Degree at the renowned Cornell University in New York. Mr. Turner received his Masters Degree in his passion, Organic Chemistry in 1936.

In 2001, Mr. Turner was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the American Chemical Society, the highest honor bestowed by that Society.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Turner has been married to Ms. Margaret Turner for 75 years. I am told that their love and admiration for one another is just as strong as the day they were married.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner currently reside in Browns Mills, New Jersey; and while all North Carolinians long for their return, we wish them a wonderful life in New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my constituent, Mr. William Bertrand Turner on his 100th birthday. I pray for many more to come.

IN HONOR OF JESSICA GOVEA
THORBOURNE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a true heroine, Jessica Govea Thorbourne, who passed away on January 23 after a 12-year battle with breast cancer. Throughout her 58 years, Jessica worked tirelessly to improve the lives of immigrant farm workers and to strengthen the labor movement in California, nationally, and in Central America. She was a courageous, effective, and visionary leader, and a wonderful person. She will be sorely missed.

Born in Porterville, California, Jessica began working in the cotton fields at the age of 4. By the age of 9 she was distributing leaflets alongside her father, Juan Govea, a respected leader of the Mexican American community of Bakersfield. He had been recruited by Fred Ross Sr. and Cesar Chavez to help organize local workers for the Community Service Organization, CSO. Her mother Margaret also became a very effective advocate of CSO. At