

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 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
BERTRAND
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

the age of 12, as the president of the Junior CSO, Jessica led other child farm workers in a successful petition campaign for a neighborhood park.

After graduating valedictorian from Bakersfield High School, Jessica completed one year of college. She made the sacrifice of foregoing college to begin working closely with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, UFW. It was there as a caseworker that Jessica first called attention to the adverse effects of pesticide exposure on farm workers. While most believed that the rashes, headaches and dizziness were from heat exposure, Jessica having suffered the same symptoms herself, believed it to be pesticide poisoning. Her persistence gave fuel to union boycotts and eventually gained national attention when it became the focus of the 1969 Senate hearing on migrant workers.

When she was 21, she was sent to Canada to enlist supporters in the union's fight against grape growers. Her passion and eloquent speaking ability won broad support from students, laborers, and church groups and drew millions of Canadians into the boycott. The success of the boycott gave the UFW the critical leverage it needed to win contracts with the entire California grape industry. Because of her warnings, these contracts contained clauses banning the use of dangerous pesticides. Later, Jessica served as the National Director of Organizing for the UFW and was elected to the national executive board.

Jessica spent countless hours registering voters and turning out the vote for numerous elected officials, including Jerry Brown in his successful bid for governor of California in 1974, and Robert Kennedy in his bid for the California Democratic 1968 presidential primary.

As Chair of the California Democratic Party, I worked closely with Jessica in 1982. She demonstrated extraordinary leadership, energy, and commitment as the head of a crucial state-wide voter registration and get-out-the-vote drive. In 1992, she worked with Fred Ross Jr., at Neighbor to Neighbor, training leaders of SICAFFE, the coffee workers' union of El Salvador, and with workers targeted by Salvadoran death squads.

For the last two decades, she continued her work as labor educator at Rutgers and Cornell Universities. At Cornell she directed the Labor In-House Programs in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. There she trained and inspired many organizers including Chinese-speaking health care workers, who with her assistance became activists and leaders in Local 1199 of the Service Employees International Union.

Despite her poor health from her battle with cancer, which she believed was caused by exposure to pesticides in the fields, she continued to be an invaluable colleague in the labor movement fighting for economic and social justice.

We thank Jessica for her leadership, her courage, and her dedication to the labor movement and to our nation. Her work will continue in the laborers she empowered and the students she inspired.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jessica's husband, Kenneth Thorbourne Jr., her mother, Margaret Govea, and her siblings. I hope it is a comfort to them that so many people share their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO PROVIDE PERMANENT FUNDING FOR THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) PROGRAM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, together with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I am introducing legislation to provide permanent funding for two programs that are very important to counties and other local units of government in Colorado and many other States.

Our bill is identical to one introduced in the 108th Congress by Scott McInnis when he represented Colorado's 3rd Congressional District. He was a leader on this issue, and we are joining to work to complete this job that he began.

Under the bill, the full amounts authorized under both the payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) program and the refuge revenue sharing program would be made available to the Secretary of the Interior annually, for distribution to eligible local governments in accordance with those programs.

This would eliminate the requirement for annual appropriations for PILT and refuge revenue sharing purposes and would shield them against the kind of political shortsightedness demonstrated in the budget recently submitted by President Bush, which proposes to inflict a severe cut in the funding available for PILT.

While both programs are significant, PILT is particularly important for counties in Colorado and other states that include large expanses of federal lands. In 2004, for example, counties in Colorado received more than \$17.6 million out of a total of \$244.3 million distributed nationwide.

Congress created the PILT program in response to a recommendation of the Public Land Law Review Commission, chaired by Representative Wayne N. Aspinall, who represented what was then Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. It reflected a recognition that a system of payments based on acreage was more equitable and reliable than one tied to management decisions such as timber harvests or other uses.

Counties use their PILT payments for a wide variety of purposes, including some—such as law enforcement, fire fighting, and search and rescue—that are directly related to the federal lands within their boundaries and the people who use those lands.

For nearly two decades after the program was established, PILT funding remained level but the value of PILT payments was eroded by inflation. In 1995, Congress amended the law to raise the authorization level. However, since 1995, no budget request—from either President Clinton or President Bush—has requested more than two-thirds of the amount authorized by the PILT Act. As a result, the burden on county taxpayers has not been reduced to the extent that Congress intended when it passed the 1995 legislation.

Our bill would ensure full implementation of that legislation.

HONORING THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF WRIGHT COUNTY

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 honor the 150th birthday of Wright County, located in East Central Minnesota. Bordered on the north by the Mississippi River and the east by the Crow River, Wright County was founded on February 20, 1855, 3 years before Minnesota became the 32nd state. The Big Woods, as Wright County was called then, was inhabited by 504 pioneers from across Europe, as well as Native Americans from the Dakota and Winnebago Nations.

Wright County was a part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The Homestead Act of 1862 accelerated settlement of the area, and people arrived from across America and Europe. When the pioneers arrived in Wright County, they found the "Big Woods" moniker to be an apt description of the territory—a place covered with elm, basswood, sugar maple, ash and red oak. The county grew steadily, but travel was difficult because people could only clear a few acres of trees a year. The construction of the railroad had the biggest impact on the county, as farmers could get their goods to market faster and people could move with greater ease. Today, the county has a population of over 100,000 and is one of the fastest growing areas in the state of Minnesota.

Eventually, the Big Woods region came to be called Wright County in honor of Silas Wright, a former Congressman, Senator and Governor from New York State. Buffalo was established as the county seat in 1873. Most of Wright County's early residents were involved in agriculture, and appreciation for the county's vast natural resources carries on today. There are nearly 2800 acres of land devoted to the nearly 30 county parks. Residents also make use of the 298 lakes within the borders of Wright County, swimming and boating in the summer and ice fishing in the winter.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud resident of Wright County, I am pleased to honor a place so rich in Minnesota history and culture on the occasion of its 150th birthday.

TO COMMEMORATE THE ISSUANCE OF THE MARIAN ANDERSON STAMP

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's most shining and influential artists, Ms. Marian Anderson. The recent issuance of a commemorative stamp in her honor provides an opportunity to recognize her impressive achievements.

Few musicians in history can claim the number of achievements Ms. Anderson can. As an opera singer, she proved to be among the world's best. Her range and ability to communicate a song's emotion were envied. Ms. Anderson often sang in the original language of