

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES CAMERON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our Nation's true civil rights pioneers, a constituent of mine who has graced Milwaukee with his work for justice and equality for over 50 years. Sadly, that man, Dr. James Cameron, died June 11, 2006.

When Dr. Cameron was only 16 years old, he was subject to a horrific, and horrifically common, episode of racial violence when a crowd lynched him and two friends. Though his friends perished in the ordeal, Dr. Cameron was miraculously released—an outcome that he attributed to divine intervention—making him the only known survivor of a lynching. Out of that experience, he built a life and a legacy dedicated to the eradication of racism, the preservation of African American history, and the advancement of civil rights for all.

Following his deliverance, Dr. Cameron focused his life on advancing the cause of equality and civil rights. He founded three chapters of the NAACP in Indiana in the 1940s, and served as first president in the Anderson, IN, chapter. He served as Indiana State Director of Civil Liberties until 1950, in which capacity he investigated and reported to the Governor of Indiana on violations of equal accommodation law. Despite receiving many threats and facing numerous acts of violence, he continued to work toward racial equality. He marched twice with Dr. Cameron and with many others then and later.

Inspired by efforts of members of the Jewish community to document their history of persecution, Dr. Cameron opened America's Black Holocaust Museum in 1988. The museum continues to document the devastating effects of slavery, lynching and racial violence. As a result of his life-long efforts, Dr. Cameron received a public apology from the U.S. Senate for its failure to take decisive action to end the epidemic of lynchings in the south.

Dr. Cameron acted as a courageous visionary. He endeavored to use the lessons of an ugly violent past to build a foundation for real unity. He worked to realize a world in which racism and violence are relegated to history. Dr. Cameron exemplifies the imperative of the civil rights struggle—the call to listen to our humanity over and above our fear. Despite his experiences, Dr. Cameron did not seek safety by trying to carry on a quiet, private life. He embraced the call to work publicly, despite the risks to his own safety, to secure full equality for all. He taught us to be better, not bitter—even though it would have been very easy for him to succumb to a life of anger after surviving such a violent and hateful experience. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to his singular courage, visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT TO PROVIDE LAND RIGHTS FOR THE 13TH REGIONAL CORPORATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, there have been many items of unfinished business which flowed from the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, ANCSA, which was originally enacted on December 18, 1971. A number of these issues have been resolved over the years. Few of those unfinished items, however, stand out in my mind as much as the need to provide land selection rights to the members of the 13th Regional Corporation, which was formed by ANCSA primarily to represent Alaska Natives residing outside of Alaska at that time. Today, with the 13th Regional Corporation Land Entitlement Act, I address that objective. I am pleased to be joined in this sponsorship by my friend and colleague from Washington State, Congressman NORM DICKS. For me, both of us, this completes a significant goal of the original act. Let me give you the background of this issue and the story of the 13th Region.

In 1971, after years of debate, Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, 43 U.S.C.S. 1601 et seq.—“the Settlement Act”—extinguishing claims by Native Alaskans based on aboriginal land rights. The act divided the State into 12 geographical “regions” which were to be composed as far as practicable of Natives having a common heritage and sharing common interests. In addition, nonresident Natives were given the option either to enroll in one of the 12 Regional Corporations established for each region or to elect, by majority vote, to form a separate 13th Regional Corporation to represent the interests of nonresident Alaskan Natives.

Provision for the 13th was focused upon serving the interests of nonresident Alaska Natives while affording them their fair share of the settlement. Some nonresident Natives had been dislocated during and after World War II, others left their homes to serve in the Armed Forces, many left to attend high schools and colleges in other States, and still others, for economic reasons, migrated south in the hope of attaining employment. Information about the Settlement Act and its implications for nonresident Natives was difficult to obtain, spotty and inconsistent in character, and generally insufficient to enable individual nonresident Natives to make reasoned decisions. In this situation, a majority of nonresident Alaska Natives felt that their interests could best be protected by forming the nonresident 13th to better control and direct their own affairs. Ultimately approximately 4,500 Alaska Natives chose to enroll in the new 13th. Wherever they resided then, or now, however, they were and are Alaska Natives, and we honor them.

In opting to join the 13th however, these nonresident Natives were deprived of the ability to fully participate in the settlement of their claims as that settlement was generally provided by the act. Let me be specific. Monetary payments under the Settlement Act were made through the Alaska Native Fund and distributed among all 13 Regional Corporations

on a per capita basis, but land was distributed only among the 12 resident Regional Corporations and the Village Corporations within those regions. No additional money, however, was provided to the 13th to compensate for the absence of land. The Settlement Act also provided that the 12 Regional Corporations would share among themselves some of the revenues from all natural resource development occurring on the lands conveyed to them. The 13th did not receive this right.

In sum, Alaska Natives enrolled in the 13th did not receive any land, and did not receive additional money in lieu of land, and did not get any right to participate in distributions from the pool of natural resource revenue funds in which the other Regional Corporations shared. The 13th, being comprised of nonresident Alaska Natives, was thus denied full participation in the settlement provided by the Settlement Act. While some will claim that this was their choice, it seems clear that it was an inadequately informed choice and resulted in depriving over 4,500 members of the 13th of two of the three major benefits of this act. This bill seeks to resolve at least the absence of an entitlement to land.

Over the years, the effect of this inequity in the act has been to substantially disadvantage the shareholders of the 13th as they tried to build an economically successful corporation and to deny them the benefits of land ownership in Alaska. As an example, the 13th received its pro rata share of the monetary payments under the Act but was obligated to distribute 50 percent of those proceeds immediately to shareholders as they were received over a number of years. The remaining 50 percent provides the only capitalization for the small corporation with many scattered shareholders. Without a land base or resources to develop, the 13th did not have the economic base, nor the crucial development alternatives afforded other Regional Corporations. The corporation did not receive revenues from the development of resources, such as timber harvest which was accomplished in several regions, or a share of sec. 7(i) revenues, including petroleum revenues, which was a source of income for the 12 Regional Corporations. The 13th has survived but with some difficulty, and it is time to provide a fairer share of the settlement to them for their future.

To correct the inequity caused by the Settlements Act's failure to equally compensate nonresident Natives for the extinguishment of their aboriginal land claims, the 13th Regional Corporation Land Entitlement Act will place the shareholders of the 13th on a better footing with shareholders of the other Alaska Native Regional Corporations at least as far as land is concerned.

The proposal authorizes the 13th to select land from the excess lands previously withdrawn by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior on behalf of other Regional Corporations. The proposed legislation gives absolute priority to land selections by the State of Alaska and other Native Corporations—regional and village—and prohibits the selection of lands from within conservation system units—as defined in the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act. The 13th may not select from the National Petroleum Reserve, the Tongass or Chugach National Forests and other sensitive areas. In other words, the 13th is at the very end of the line for its land selections. This is nonetheless far more

equitable for the 13th than the present situation.

In proposing this legislation, the shareholders of the 13th are seeking equity by being placed on a stronger and more equal footing with respect to the Native shareholders of the other 12 Native Regional Corporations. This is supported by the Alaska Native community. This proposal has been endorsed by the Alaska Federation of Natives, and by the Association of Regional Corporation Presidents, and it has been thoroughly considered by the Alaska delegation.

My first term in Congress was the one immediately following the enactment of ANSCA in late 1971. I can tell you that neither the act nor its implementation focused much attention on the 13th. They were not fully represented, so Members of the Washington State delegation like the late Congressman Lloyd Meeds and Senator Henry Jackson took their side but were not able to accomplish land rights for the 13th, or a monetary settlement in its stead. Congressman Meeds believed throughout his life that this was a matter that required resolution.

What the 13th will receive under the new bill is, with one major exception, the same per capita land right that all other regional corporations received, no more and no less. The number of acres is arrived at by taking the total number of acres conveyed to the other Regional Corporations pursuant to section 12(c) of ANSCA—15,769,600 acres—and after subtracting Sealaska's shareholders—Sealaska received a separate entitlement—and the shareholders of the 13th—which received no land—dividing this 15,769,600 acres by 60,026, the number of original Native shareholders enrolled to the other 11 Native Regional Corporations. On a per capita basis, the shareholders of the other 11 Regional Corporations received approximately 262.7 acres per original shareholder. This per capita number multiplied by the 4,426 original shareholders of the 13th results in the 1,162,710 acres.

The bill gives absolute priority to land selections of other Native Corporations and the State of Alaska. Additionally, the bill prohibits the 13th from making selections within conservation system units, the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska, and other potentially sensitive public lands.

The major exception is that all other interests, from the State, to other Native corporations and the conservation community, were able to make their land selections, and win congressional approval, when the land eligible for selection was prime, high on the list of priorities. The 13th comes behind all other priorities, including State and Native selections, national conservation lands, and others. The intent is that the land of the 13th is likely to be selected in a cooperative process with other land owners and can be complimentary to those selections, by other regions or villages, the State or other public purposes. I believe this is not only fair but good policy as Alaska moves forward. It is simply time to resolve this long-standing inequity and to provide the 13th with the right to do what all other Native regions have done. I urge my colleagues to join with me in achieving this goal this year.

HONORING GERRY B. SHREIBER

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gerry B. Shreiber for his long-standing dedication to animal welfare and animal rights. On April 6, 2006, Gerry's family, friends, and colleagues gathered at the Mansion on Main Street in Voorhees, NJ, for the Animal Adoption Center Dinner where he was awarded the Southern New Jersey Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Mr. Shreiber is the President and CEO of J and J Snack Foods Corp., which has received numerous awards in the worlds of both business and philanthropy. Gerry is an avid animal lover and contributes significant time and resources to the betterment of animals. He is currently the Director of the North American Wildlife Park Foundation and is a member of many animal welfare organizations including the World Wildlife Fund, National Wildlife Federation, American Anti-Vivisection Society, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Animal Welfare Institute, Greenpeace, and PETA. Gerry has personally saved many animals' lives and currently lives on his New Jersey farm with over twenty animals. He is also active in our community at large including the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Jewish Community Center of Atlantic County, and serves on the Advisory Board at the Rutgers School of Business.

Gerry Shreiber's dedication and selfless service to animals and to our greater community is an inspiration to humanitarians everywhere. I thank Gerry, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 273, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO THE ARMY'S 231ST BIRTHDAY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself and Representative JOHN MCHUGH. As the co-chairs the House Army Caucus, we would like to salute the United States Army on its 231st birthday.

On June 14, 1775, more than a year before the ratification of the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress created Continental Army, which later became the U.S. Army. That day, as the Americans prepared for war against the British, Congress undertook an effort to raise ten companies of riflemen and accepted responsibility for thousands

of men who were already assembled in New England and New York.

From that brave beginning was born the Army that defeated the British and gave us our Nation. From that brave beginning came more than 200 years of accomplishment and tradition and has brought us the unparalleled force we have today.

Through the last 231 years, the United States Army has fought to bring freedom to the American people and then to protect it. It has fought for liberty and against tyranny across the globe, and free people everywhere owe a debt to the sacrifices of individual soldiers, many of whom gave their lives for people they never knew.

Today's Army faces new challenges and new threats, but is still the right arm of freedom in this world. New democracies in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosovo owe a debt of gratitude to U.S. Army soldiers that have sacrificed on their behalf.

We are representatives today of the House Army Caucus, but each of us have represented thousands of soldiers who have served our Nation in harm's way. Each of us has met with the men and women who are part of this outstanding institution and have devoted their lives to their Nation. These men and women are models of courage and dedication; their selfless service to the Nation will serve as inspiration to citizens in the 21st century and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, on this day, of all days, we recognize that without our Army, we truly would not have a nation in the first place. As we recognize this monumental day, we ask our colleagues to join us in celebrating the contributions, traditions, and service of the Army and its dedication to the past, present, and future of this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE LAWRENCE BIELAWSKI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Judge Lawrence Bielawski as he retires from his seat on the Michigan 18th Judicial Circuit Court in Bay County. His retirement will be celebrated at a dinner on June 23 in Bay City, Michigan.

Lawrence Bielawski is a lifelong resident of Bay City. After graduating from St. Stanislaus High School in 1964, he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Central Michigan University and a Juris Doctor Degree from Detroit College of Law. His first position in the legal field was an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Bay County. He went on to private practice until Judge Bielawski became an Administrative Law Judge in the Bureau of Workers' Disability Compensation starting in 1984.

He went on to become a member of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board and a Workers' Compensation Magistrate before being appointed to the 18th Judicial Circuit Court by Governor James J. Blanchard in 1988. Ten years later he became the Chief Judge of the Court and has served in that capacity since that time.