

bridges, schools, etc.—to include more abstract benefits like tax revenue. If a local bureaucrat decides that your house, local church, or business would be more productive if it were torn down to make room for a shopping center, the Court now says this is ok.

The 5th Amendment guarantees that private property shall not be taken by the government for public use without just compensation. These safeguards have been under assault for decades and until this decision, the typical victims were family farmers and ranchers in the West. Now we know no one is safe. In the past year, more than 5,700 properties have been threatened or taken by eminent domain, not to build roads or schools, but for private development. This is unconscionable and goes against everything our Nation stands for.

This terrible ruling did have a silver lining—it brought great public attention and outrage to an issue some of us in Congress have been fighting for our entire careers. In the wake of the decision, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4128, the Private Property Rights Protection Act. Using Congress' power of the purse, we made a strong, bipartisan statement to State and local governments that the abuse of eminent domain for private purposes would not be tolerated. Any use of eminent domain for private benefit would result in a two-year loss of federal economic development funds. Similar restrictions were placed on funds in the FY06 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The fight has also been taken up at the local level, with 25 states passing legislation aimed at curbing eminent domain abuse. This was a heartening response, but there is much more to be done. The Senate must act on similar legislation. And, we can further what we have started by introducing more legislation to protect private property. While the initial public outcry over this decision has died down, these abuses are still occurring every day, and we must keep up the fight.

Mr. Speaker, property rights are the heart of individual freedom and the foundation for all other civil rights guaranteed to Americans by the Constitution. Without the freedom to acquire, possess and defend property, all other guaranteed rights are merely words on a page. As we look back on one year of life under Kelo, we must never forget the simple truth. We must be steadfast in our defense of the rights of property owners.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5631) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, on Tuesday night, the House passed H.R. 5631, the Defense Appropriations Act for FY2007. I commend Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member MURTHA for crafting an important piece of leg-

islation that will provide our men and women in uniform with the resources they need to continue their excellent record of service to the Nation. I was proud to vote for that measure, which passed by an overwhelming vote of 407–19.

However, I am disappointed that the House did not pass a very important amendment offered by Congressman SCHIFF to block funding for any surveillance program that does not comply with the safeguards in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. I have been deeply disturbed by the President's decision to expand domestic surveillance of U.S. citizens beyond what is permitted under existing law. As a member of the House Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees, I am fully aware of the dangers posed by those who wish to harm Americans, and I have strongly supported efforts to make our Nation safer. However, President Bush has not yet explained to my satisfaction why powers available to him under existing law cannot meet the needs of the war on terrorism. For example, the Foreign Intelligence Service Act (FISA) already permits the warrantless surveillance of communications by U.S. citizens under certain limited circumstances. Nevertheless, the Bush Administration did not use those emergency powers and instead chose to expand the authority of the National Security Agency (NSA).

As I have said before, if President Bush believes that FISA needs to be altered or updated to address new threats, he should make his case to Congress and propose legislative changes. The President's decision to expand domestic surveillance while notifying only a handful of legislators does not constitute Congressional consent and is a danger to our established Constitutional system of checks and balances. While Americans may disagree about the merits of broadening the government's authority to combat terrorism, it is in all of our interests that such important decisions should be made publicly, as they affect the very values of freedom and liberty on which the Nation was founded.

Opponents of the Schiff amendment argued that we shouldn't be considering such a significant change in a spending bill. Under normal circumstances, I would agree with that assessment. However, because the House has neglected to consider any legislation to address the serious issue of domestic surveillance, we are left with no other choice.

We cannot continue to shirk our Constitutional responsibility to conduct oversight of the executive branch and its activities. We must hold hearings and consider legislation to ensure that our efforts to protect our nation are done consistent with the civil liberties that we hold dear and comply with the Constitution—the supreme law of the land.

LOWER THE THRESHOLD FOR
BILINGUAL ELECTION ASSISTANCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House on the Voting Rights Reauthorization and Amendment Act of 2006, proposed by the esteemed gentleman from

Wisconsin. The bill calls for renewal of certain expiring provisions from the Voting Rights Act of 1965, including Section 203—the bilingual election assistance.

As a representative of one of the many multi-ethnic districts in New York, I fully realize the necessity of providing bilingual assistance to increase voting among language minorities and allow these Americans the chance to participate in the democratic process. According to the existing provisions of Section 203, the bilingual assistance is made available when the population of a language minority group in an electoral district is 10,000. This has facilitated voting for over 200,000 Asian Americans nationwide, and caused a 50 percent increase in the Hispanic electorate in the first decade of the adoption of this provision.

Mr. Speaker, the House has agreed to a bipartisan support of this vitally important reauthorization bill to ensure a clean passage. Had the opportunity allowed, I would have liked to propose an amendment to Section 203, lowering the current threshold to 7,500. The effect of lowering the numerical trigger to 7,500 would remove language barriers for at least 77,955 limited English proficient Asian American citizens to vote, including a significant increase in the electorate of New York City. In the last election, New York only offered bilingual election assistance in Spanish, Chinese and Korean. Keeping in mind the diversity and multiethnic communities in New York, it is vital that we ensure all our constituents have an easier access to the electoral process. I have been a firm supporter of integration and accepting immigrants into American society. What better way to make them comfortable in their American identity and assist in seamless assimilation?

On another note, under the current law, U.S. Census Bureau determines the Section 203 coverage every 10 years. Considering the rapid growth of immigrant communities, particularly in cities like New York, San Francisco (CA), Los Angeles (CA), Philadelphia (PA), Essex County (NJ), Cook County (IL), King County (WA), I believe we should make census determinations every 5 years to decide Section 203 coverage.

According to the 1990 census, the Korean American population in New York was short of 250 persons to gain coverage under Section 203. Although the community reached the numeric trigger by early 1990s, it did not gain coverage until after the 2000 census. More recently, the Vietnamese community in San Diego fell 85 persons short of the numeric trigger following the 2000 census. Surely, by now the community has already surpassed the trigger but will not receive bilingual election assistance until after the 2010 census report is completed.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 with all its subsequent amendment has been immensely successful in expanding access and assistance to racial and ethnic minorities during election. It remains one of the most important civil rights laws in our country. Mr. Speaker, while coming to debate the reauthorization of the expiring provisions in this 109th Congress, we must keep in mind the limitations of the Voting Rights Reauthorization and Amendment Act of 2006, and how to make it more effective and allow our citizens access to one of their fundamental rights as guaranteed by the ideals of our nation.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I must commend the bipartisan effort to renew this legislation and

congrats my colleagues on their success in allowing for the expansion of the provision of until 2032, for 25 years—the longest extension in its history. I must also praise the various civil rights groups who have been extensively campaigning for the renewal of the Voting Rights Reauthorization and Amendment Act.

RECOGNIZING ST. JOHN INSTITUTIONAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MIAMI ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the St. John Institutional Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of its 100th anniversary on Sunday, June 25, 2006.

Its pastor, the Reverend Henry Nevin, will lead his congregation to celebrate this milestone in the history of this beloved church that has become the Citadel of Faith in Miami's Overtown community. Indeed, St. John's longevity of service is directly related to its essential role in the community and its service to its members and to all those who now seek comfort and solace in its sanctuary.

On June 17, 1906, a group of dedicated Christians decided to build the Second Baptist Church, which came to be known as the New St. John Institutional Missionary Baptist Church. In 1939, the late Sis. Cora Lee Thomas Brown, the only surviving founder at that time, and Sis. Victoria Darry, the first secretary of the Sunday School, provided information to validate the revered history of the Church. It was legally known as the St. John Baptist Church of Miami, Florida, and the Reverend John Bynom was called as the first pastor, while brothers Grant Faulkner and Willis Williams were consecrated as the first Deacons.

In the succeeding years, the membership grew. Their second pastor, the Rev. N.B. Williams, known as a Master Builder, called upon his congregation to consider plans for a permanent location. In January, 1912, the Rev. Jarius Wilkerson Drake arrived in Miami from Jacksonville and assumed the leadership of the church. This pastor succeeded in expanding the congregation to 1,000-members in 1939. The current location of this church was purchased with a \$10,000 deposit at a local bank, and thereafter a building was erected to house the burgeoning membership in the year 1940.

Rev. Drake was God's shepherd par excellence, as he guided and served the congregation well until his death in February, 1951. This Man of God was revered as a fearless leader and community builder whose life was filled with Christian charity on one hand and civic pride on the other. He was soon followed by Rev. Thedford Johnson during the latter part of 1951, who proficiently guided the church into a veritable sanctuary of worship and learning, as he created a good mixture of religion and civic responsibility that would strengthen church members not only to become spiritual and moral leaders, but also as responsible and conscientious guardians of good government and civic pride.

On April 17, 1982, the Rev. Charles Uptgrew succeeded Rev. Johnson, and on

March 28, 1985 the Rev. Henry Nevin was appointed pastor and continues in this capacity until the present. He has emphasized Bible Study classes for the members of his congregation, and this focus gave way to the continuing enhancement of church membership amidst constant worship and praise to Almighty God. Through the genuine efforts of the current pastor, the faith-action service that now defines the St. John Institutional Missionary Baptist Church has truly persevered in showing its congregation the way and expounding for its membership the Truth that emanates from the study of Holy Scriptures.

Rev. Nevin's inspiring leadership is genuinely admirable. As a servant of God and as a deeply spiritual leader immersed in Scriptural commitment, he has earned the deepest respect and superlative commendation of our community. We therefore congratulate the members on their Centennial Celebration of their venerable Church and wish them continued success as they begin a new century of service.

SUPPORT FOR H. RES. 323, H. RES. 863 AND H.R. 1245

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the House overwhelmingly approved House Resolution 323—a resolution I am proud to be a co-sponsor of—offered by my good friend Congresswoman DEBORAH PRYCE of Ohio. H. Res. 323 is a straightforward bill which expresses the House of Representatives' support for increasing childhood cancer awareness, treatment, and research.

The word "cancer" evokes powerful emotions. Along with many of my colleagues, I know first-hand how devastating cancer can be to the individual who has been diagnosed, as well as their family. It is thankfully true that more and more people are continuing to lead full and productive lives both during and after cancer, but the sad fact is that lives once touched by this insidious disease are never truly the same again. The tragedy perhaps becomes even worse when cancer invades the life of a child.

I pray for the day when a cure is found and cancer is finally and forever eradicated from the face of the earth. In the meantime, as my colleague Mr. DEAL of Georgia said in his remarks, through research, public awareness, education and wise public policy, we can make powerful strides towards winning the fight against childhood cancer. I hope that the resolution we passed today will help call attention to the problem of childhood cancer and the importance of bringing improved diagnosis and treatment techniques to bear in this life and death struggle. I commend Ms. PRYCE for her leadership on this issue, and I applaud all of my colleagues for their support of this critically important resolution.

But I believe we can do more and that we should do more to address the scourge of cancer before this Congress adjourns for the year.

For example, prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in the United States. It is also the second leading cause of cancer re-

lated deaths in men, claiming around 27,000 lives in 2005 alone according to the National Prostate Cancer Coalition. According to the National Cancer Institute, in 2005 our Nation likely saw more than 230,000 new cases of prostate cancer, meaning that some 2 million American men are living with prostate cancer at this time. Statistics also tell us that prostate cancer will strike one in six men. Yet tragically, the state of prostate cancer care is decades behind what it should be.

The current screening methods of digital rectal exams and PSA blood tests are good tools—but they are not enough. A study funded by the National Cancer Institute showed that PSA blood screening tests, the most common form of testing for prostate cancer, result in both false positives and false negatives. In fact, as evidence suggests that as high as 15 percent of men with normal PSA levels actually have prostate cancer. We need to start getting serious about our diagnostic and treatment options. I firmly believe that men need to continue to get tested, even with the chance that the results may be misleading at times but I also firmly believe that we should not be satisfied with the current state of care. Our fathers, our brothers and our sons deserve more accurate technology, more reliable weapons in the fight against prostate cancer—tools like digital imaging.

That is why I am proud to co-sponsor—along with my colleague from Maryland, Mr. CUMMINGS—House Resolution 863, to bring attention to the urgent need to develop better tools in the fight against prostate cancer. Our Resolution simply expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress and the Executive Branch should recognize the successful use of advanced imaging technologies in the fight against breast cancer and provide additional support for the research and development of technologies for prostate cancer detection and treatment comparable to state-of-the-art mammograms.

Likewise, I am a proud co-sponsor and passionate supporter of Johanna's Law: "The Gynecologic Cancer Education Act (H.R. 1245)". Ovarian Cancer is the deadliest of the gynecologic cancers, and it is the fourth leading cause of cancer death among women living in the United States. In 2004, it is estimated that over 25,000 women were diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and an estimated 16,000 or so American women died as a result of this devastating disease. This is a national tragedy, and what makes it even more tragic is the fact that many of those deaths could have been prevented if more women and their doctors knew the risk factors and recognized the early warning signs of ovarian cancer and other gynecological cancers.

When it is detected early, ovarian cancer is very treatable, unfortunately, ovarian cancer is one of the most difficult cancers to diagnose because symptoms are sometimes subtle and may be easily confused with those of other diseases. As a result, only 29 percent of ovarian cancer cases in the U.S. are diagnosed in the early stages. When the disease is detected before it has spread beyond the ovaries, more than 95 percent of women will survive longer than five years. But, in cases where the disease is not detected until it reaches the advanced stage, the five-year survival rate plummets to a devastating 25 percent.

As there is still no reliable and easy-to-administer screening test for ovarian cancer, like