

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF THELMA NEWMAN FRAZIER

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, today I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life Thelma Newman Frazier on the occasion of her 90th birthday. The daughter of farm workers Eugene Newman and Kate Robinson, Thelma was born on July 26, 1917 in Richland County, AR.

Thelma is truly a child of God having accepted Christ as her Lord and savior at an early age. She is a past member of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and currently attends Shalom Church City of Peace.

Thelma was united in holy matrimony to Nathaniel Frazier, Sr. on April 17, 1941. To this union were born two children, Katie M. McKinney and Nathaniel Jr. Sadly, Nathaniel Jr. preceded her in death. In 1952, Thelma and her family migrated to St. Louis, MO. There she became active in the community. A devout member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Thelma worked tirelessly to carry out their mission.

Mrs. Frazier has been rewarded in life by her hard work and dedication to family. She has a devoted daughter, Katie M. McKinney, son-in-law, Lewis L. McKinney Sr., 13 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren. Her hard work has influenced her family tremendously. She is proud of all their accomplishments.

The matriarch of her family, Mrs. Frazier continues to live independently in St. Louis and is a constant support to her family through her unconditional love and encouragement. If only every child was blessed to have had a mother, grandmother or aunt like Thelma Newman Frazier, the world would be a better place. Happy birthday Mrs. Frazier, and may you be blessed with many, many more.

RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2956, the so-called “Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act.” This legislation is short-sighted, dangerous, and will not bring our Nation closer to success or Iraq closer to security. The only likely result would be to appease the anti-war activists and damage the national security of the United States.

Throughout this country, Americans are growing weary with this war. No one likes war, and every loss pains us. Unfortunately the arguments from the anti-war activists are becoming persuasive. These activists have been able to shape the debate on the war by focusing on the number of U.S. military casualties and the level of violence in Iraq. I do not trivialize these issues. Every soldier’s death is a horrendous tragedy for our Nation and a family. In the 4th District of Kansas we have

lost 11 young men in the Global War on Terror, and we must never forget their sacrifice.

However, focusing solely on these grave issues does not address the most basic question facing our Nation in Iraq. The fundamental question of Iraq is, “what are the consequences of success and failure?” Unfortunately, the consequences of losing this war are rarely discussed, and I fear this legislation will likely be passed by this House. The Democrats are fond of saying that we have “lost” in Iraq. While I do not agree with this assessment, I think they need to answer who we lost to. If we lost, who won? Can the Democrats answer this question, and if they do, can the American people live with the answer? The reality is that this ill-advised approach will have dire consequences on Iraq and the United States.

With the premature withdrawal of American Forces from Iraq this legislation accomplishes the first step in al Qaeda’s four-prong plan in Iraq. Starting with forcing the U.S. military out of Iraq and ending with the use of Iraq and the wider Middle East to launch additional attacks on Western governments and the U.S. homeland, al Qaeda has a clear plan for global terrorism. Unfortunately, the Democrats only provide the American people with a clear plan for defeat.

Throughout the Iraq War, the President and his military commanders have continually altered both strategy and tactics to meet the changing threats posed by our enemy. The latest strategy, called a “New Way Forward,” was outlined by the President at the beginning of this year. This strategy included an additional 21,500 American troops in order to achieve a six-part strategy, which involves letting the Iraqis lead, isolating extremists, and create space for political progress.

This new strategy acknowledges that the Iraqis must ultimately take responsibility for the security and stability of Iraq while understanding that the Coalition Forces have an integral role in helping to provide security for the country in order to allow the Iraqi government and military to succeed. Since January, steps have been taken to fully implement the New Way Forward plan, and only in the last month have all additional forces finally been put into place.

There is still much work to do, but coalition forces are seeing some early signs of progress from this approach. Sectarian murders in Baghdad are now down from January, and because U.S. and Iraqi forces are living among the people they secure, many Iraqis are now coming forward with information on where the terrorists are hiding. Progress is being made at the local level, including more tribal sheiks joining the fight against al Qaeda, citizens forming neighborhood watch groups, young Sunnis signing up for the army and police, and more Shia rejecting militias.

Although progress is being made, it is certainly not moving at the speed I, nor the American people, want. However, the reality is that the “New Way Forward” strategy has only recently entered full implementation. It has not had a chance for success or failure. To change course at this time will only resolve us to defeat, while not providing us an opportunity to succeed. We must give the “New Way Forward” a chance, and not just resign America and its military to failure and Iraq to civil war and a potential genocide.

The Democrats may not understand the dangers of a withdrawal approach, but the

Iraqis do. Hoshyar Zebari, the Iraqi foreign minister, recently said of the dangers of a premature U.S. military withdrawal, “The dangers vary from civil war to dividing the country or maybe to regional wars. In our estimation the danger is huge. Until the Iraqi forces and institutions complete their readiness, there is a responsibility on the U.S. and other countries to stand by the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people to help build up their capabilities.”

Madam Speaker, this is a delicate and dangerous issue. It is essential that we have all the available facts before making decisions on how to move forward towards success. This is why I am looking forward to the September report from General David Petraeus, the U.S. Commander in Iraq, and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker. The progress report will provide essential information on the current situation so Congress and the President can make an informed decision on the next steps in Iraq.

The Democrat plan has real consequences: the likely collapse of the Iraqi state and the creation of terrorist havens. It will embolden the terrorists and endanger the security of our homeland. Now is not the time for knee-jerk reactions. Now is the time for thoughtful consideration, examination of the options and consequences, and creating solutions that will make America more secure, not less. Although patience is not the word Americans want to hear, the consequences are too high to make uninformed decisions prior to reviewing the September progress report. For if we bring the troops home prematurely, we also risk bringing the war home.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in opposition to this legislation.

REV. DR. LARRY WAYNE ELLIS AND FIRST LADY VANDERLER ELLIS HONORING THEIR 20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AT PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Doctor Larry Wayne Ellis and his wife, First Lady Vanderler Ellis, on their two decades of leadership at Pilgrim Baptist Church, located in San Mateo, California, within my Congressional District.

Pastor Larry Wayne Ellis, a native of Clarksville, Tennessee, graduated in 1975 from Austin Peay State University located in Tennessee. In 1981, Dr. Ellis earned a Master of Divinity from Golden Gate Theological Seminary. In 1988, he was awarded a master’s degree in counseling psychology with an emphasis in marriage and family counseling from the College of Notre Dame in Belmont. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1995 from the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. Currently, he is vice president and professor at Southern Marin Bible Institute and teaches at Golden Gate Seminary.

In August 1986, the Bay Area Baptist Congress of Christian Education named Dr. Ellis president of their organization. He was selected as Pastor of the Year in 1988, president of the Ministers’ Council and moderator for the Bay Area Baptist District Association.

Dr. Ellis served at Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Redwood City for nearly 10 years, serving as full-time minister during the last 4 years of his tenure there. Dr. Ellis' leadership has been instrumental in the revitalization of this Church. Dr. Ellis was called as the pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church on September 4, 1987.

In addition to his teaching and preaching at Pilgrim, he consistently remains involved in the community. In 1988, he founded C.H.O.I.C.E.S., a drug information and referral non-profit agency. He also serves on several civic and corporate boards. In 1996, Dr. Ellis achieved one of his most recent accomplishments when he became an Adjunct Professor at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, California. Among his many other accomplishments is the fact that, in 1998, he taught in Russia. Additionally, in 1999, he was selected as President of Congress Christian Education. He currently serves as Vice President of the State Congress of Christian Education. In 1999 Pastor Ellis also founded "Teach The Word" radio ministry. In 2002, he became President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pilgrim Organization, Inc., a youth through senior non-profit organization.

He is married to the former Vanderler Hines and proud father of three children, Tawana, Justin, and Austin.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in offering sincere congratulations and respect for the 20 years of dedication and service that Pastor Larry Wayne Ellis and his wife, Vanderler Ellis, have given to the Pilgrim Baptist Church community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ERNEST R. SUTTON

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen, Mr. Ernest R. Sutton. Mr. Sutton, a native of Elizabeth City, NC, is retiring after 36 years of loyal, dedicated service to the North Carolina Department of Correction. He has served this department in many capacities and now completes his career as the Superintendent for the Pasquotank Correctional Institution. Mr. Sutton is a graduate of Elizabeth City State University in 1977 with a bachelor's of science degree in political science.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Sutton for many years as a friend, supporter, and community leader in the Albemarle Region of our state. I first met Mr. Sutton when he was intricately involved in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Sutton currently serves as the Chairman of the Leadership Development and Governance Committees for the American Hospital Association. He is also a member of the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Community Relations Committee.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Sutton is an activist for change. In 1997, he introduced the first Hospital/Prison "Health Fair" in North Carolina, and played a key role in the transition of Albemarle Hospital from county owned to a free standing Regional Hospital Authority. In

2000, Mr. Sutton led the development of a unique process to search for and secure a new hospital president and CEO for Albemarle Hospital, Elizabeth City, NC.

Mr. Sutton served as past Vice-Chair of the International Association of the Friends of Africa; past Chairman of the Albemarle Hospital Authority Board of Commissioners; past Chairman of the Albemarle Hospital Executive Committee; past Chairman of the Personnel and Grievance Committee of the Albemarle Hospital Board of Trustees; and past Co-Chair of the Community Relations Committee of Elizabeth City, NC. He also served as Treasurer of the North Carolina 12th District NAACP, past member of the North Carolina Cultural Alliance, and past member of the North Carolina Council on Alcoholism.

Mr. Sutton's work reaches far beyond Elizabeth City. His article "Ernest R. Sutton: Growing Potential," which emphasizes his passion for leadership and human resources development, was featured in the September 2002 issue of Trustee Magazine. He was also interviewed on diversity in health care in the Bridges Magazine—Institute for Diversity in Health Management in the Fall of 2002. As President of Faith Consultants, LLC, Mr. Sutton has conducted several health care lectures and seminars at local universities and for many religious organizations.

Mr. Sutton has received many awards for his work. In 1984, he was the recipient of NAACP Outstanding Humanitarian Award, and went on to receive the silver, gold, and platinum Gavel Awards from the Governance Institute of Physicians, Trustees and Healthcare Executives in La Jolla, CA. In 2002, he received the North Carolina Hospital Association Trustee Service Award: Trustee of the Year, and received the Harvard School of Conflict Resolution and Healthcare Negotiations: Graduate with Distinction Award.

Over this extensive career, Mr. Sutton has made a tremendous impact on his community. Through his commitment and devotion to service, he has helped to lay the ground work for continued change in both Elizabeth City and beyond. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in paying tribute to an exemplary citizen, Mr. Ernest Sutton.

PASSPORT BACKLOG REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the passage of S. 966, a bill that will help ease the lengthy delays that citizens are experiencing obtaining a passport.

The House will have the opportunity to pass amendments to S. 966, the Passport Backlog Reduction Act. The Senate passed the bill, originally introduced by Senator SCHUMER, by unanimous consent on June 29.

After hearing from many constituents about problems they were having, I introduced my own bill, H.R. 2960, the Department of State Crisis Response Act of 2007. Along with my colleagues Representatives LOUISE SLAUGHTER, RUBEN HINOJOSA, TED POE, AL GREEN,

MAC THORNBERRY, CHARLES GONZALEZ, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, SHELLEY BERKLEY, HENRY CUELLAR, CAROL SHEA-PORTER, JERRY MCNERNEY, PETER WELCH and JASON ALTMIRE, I introduced this legislation to enable the Department of State to respond to a critical shortage of passport processing personnel by re-employing vital former employees. I am pleased that the House Foreign Affairs Committee decided to send the Senate bill, similar in purpose to my bill, to the floor in an effort expedite the process. With passage of S. 966, the State Department can begin working to reduce the passport backlog.

I am hopeful that this legislative action will go far to ease the difficulty and delay many of our constituents have experienced in getting or renewing their passports.

RECOGNIZING ANTONIO MANIBUSAN PALOMO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Antonio Manibusan Palomo for a lifetime of service to our community, and for his efforts to preserve Guam's history and culture. Mr. Palomo, a prolific writer and long-time reporter for Guam media, and a former Guam lawmaker, recently retired as the administrator of the Guam Museum on June 13, 2007.

Tony was born in 1931 in Hagatna, the eldest of the nine children of the late Vicente Gogo Palomo and Dolores Lydia Mendiola Manibusan. He attended Guam's prewar Padre Palomo and Agana Elementary Schools and graduated from George Washington High School. He also attended Belmont Abby Preparatory School in Belmont, North Carolina, and Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, graduating from Marquette's College of Journalism in 1954. He worked full-time as a copy boy for the Milwaukee Sentinel while in school. Upon his return to Guam, Tony applied his skills as a proofreader, a general assignment reporter, a sports editor, and an assistant managing editor for the Guam Daily News, forerunner of the Pacific Daily News. He also served as a correspondent for the Associated Press and as a stringer for the Pacific Stars and Stripes.

During his long career as a journalist, Tony served as editor of the Pacific Journal, a daily newspaper; as publisher-editor of Pacific Profile, a monthly magazine; and editor of the Pacifican, a weekly newspaper.

He then served as a special assistant to Guam's first elected Governor, Carlos G. Camacho, and as administrative director and records manager for the Eighth Guam Legislature before being elected to the legislature himself. Tony served in the 12th, 14th, and 15th Guam Legislatures. As a lawmaker, Tony chaired the legislature's Committee on Rules and the Committee on Territorial and Federal Affairs, which spearheaded the movement for a change in Guam's political status. He served as president of Guam's first Constitutional Convention in 1969 and was a member of Guam's first Commission on Self-Determination. He served briefly as general manager of the Guam Tourist Commission, predecessor of