

HONORING MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE ON HIS 250TH BIRTHDAY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on September 6, 1757, 250 years ago today, a Frenchman named Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert Du Motier was born. This young man, who would later be known as Marquis de Lafayette, had a profound influence on the formation of our country and on Western democratic fundamentals of freedom and human rights.

As a lifelong resident of Lafayette County, Missouri, I was pleased to draft legislation earlier this year to mark the 250th anniversary of Marquis de Lafayette's birth. The House of Representatives approved my bill on May 22, 2007, honoring, as Americans have done time and again, Lafayette's role in our nation's history.

On July 7, 2007, the French Embassy's Military Attaché, Major General Jean-Luc Delon, traveled to my hometown of Lexington, Lafayette County, Missouri, and participated in a public ceremony honoring Marquis de Lafayette. It was a distinct honor and privilege to have a representative of the French government in Missouri to discuss Lafayette's life and the important bilateral friendship he helped establish between the United States and France.

More than any one person, Marquis de Lafayette symbolizes the assistance American colonists received from Europe in the struggle for independence from Great Britain. As we celebrate his 250th birthday, I am hopeful that all Americans will take a moment to remember his legacy on the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, September 5, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 850: yes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Rollcall No. 851: yes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Rollcall No. 852: yes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Rollcall No. 853: yes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HAROLD HIRSCH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold "Harry" Hirsch, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

Harry served as a Seaman in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. On June 6, 1944, he landed on Omaha Beach as part of the Normandy invasion and spent 4 hours attending to the wounded by bringing them on board the U.S.S. Bayfield which was serving as an acting hospital ship. For his heroism and valor, Harry was awarded the American Campaign Medal, Freedom Medal, European African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, and the American Combat Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Harold Hirsch for his heroic service in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud Harold Hirsch for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 847: Yes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Rollcall No. 848: Yes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Rollcall No. 849: No. On motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2669.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS' DAY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Grandparents Day on September 9. In particular, I want to recognize those grandparents that have taken on the extraordinary task of raising their grandchildren. There is no more valuable contribution that any individual can make to our country than raising children in a loving home. The fact that grandparents all over the country do this despite financial and other hardships is worthy of the highest praise.

Nationwide, approximately 2.5 million children are being raised by their grandparents because their parents are unable to care for them. In Alameda County, the area of California that I represent, over 11,000 grandparents are responsible for meeting the basic

needs of their grandchildren. Without their grandparents, many of these children would end up in foster care placements usually without contact with their siblings or the support of their extended family.

Grandparents can provide the stable homes that allow children to grow and thrive. Unfortunately, many grandparents are not financially able to take on care of their grandchildren, despite their willingness to do so. The Federal Government has a responsibility to provide the resources willing grandparents need to care for their grandchildren. Our failure to do so will mean that more children enter the foster care system, are moved from place to place, and lose their family and community connections.

In the interest of full disclosure, I must state that I am the proud grandfather of eight.

President Carter created a National Grandparents Day in 1978. Nearly 30 years later grandparents still deserve our highest recognition, but they also deserve our support and assistance.

TAIWAN'S APPLICATION FOR ENTRY INTO THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I support Taiwan's application for United Nations membership. Since 1971, Taiwan has had no representation in the United Nations. Its 23 million people have been deprived of their fundamental human rights. It is now time to remedy this situation.

The United Nations has persistently rejected Taiwan's application on the basis of U.N. Resolution 2758 passed in October 1971. The resolution claims that Taiwan is part of the PRC and, therefore, Taiwan's representation in the United Nations would serve no purpose. This argument is flawed since it fails to recognize the fact that Taiwan is a sovereign government with its own national flag, constitution, armed forces and is recognized by more than 20 independent nations. Even more importantly the people of Taiwan have authorized their leader, President Chen Shui-bian to express to the world the desire of Taiwan to belong to this important world body.

Madam Speaker, the people on the island of Taiwan are able and willing to contribute to the United Nations and to world peace, justice, and prosperity. Let us give Taiwan our support in its bid to be a member of the United Nations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 817, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 818, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 819, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 820, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 821, I would have voted

"yea"; on rollcall No. 822, I would have voted
 "yea"; on rollcall No. 823, I would have voted
 "yea"; on rollcall No. 824, I would have voted
 "nay"; on rollcall No. 825, I would have voted
 "yea"; on rollcall No. 826, I would have voted
 "yea"; on rollcall No. 827, I would have voted
 "yea"; on rollcall No. 828, I would have voted
 "nay"; on rollcall No. 829, I would have voted
 "yea"; on rollcall No. 830, I would have voted
 "yea"; on rollcall No. 831, I would have voted
 "nay"; on rollcall No. 832, I would have voted
 "yea"; on rollcall No. 833, I would have voted
 "yea"; on rollcall No. 834, I would have voted
 "nay."

On rollcall No. 835, I would have voted
 "yea"; on rollcall No. 836, I would have voted
 "nay"; on rollcall No. 837, I would have voted
 "yea"; on rollcall No. 838, I would have voted
 "nay"; on rollcall No. 839, I would have voted
 "nay"; on rollcall No. 840, I would have voted
 "nay"; on rollcall No. 841, I would have voted
 "nay"; on rollcall No. 842, I would have voted
 "nay"; on rollcall No. 843, I would have voted
 "nay"; on rollcall No. 844, I would have voted
 "nay"; on rollcall No. 845, I would have voted
 "nay"; on rollcall No. 846, I would have voted
 "yea."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. DIXIE
 SUE ALLSBROOK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Dixie Sue Allsbrook who has voluntarily served the National Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESRG) for twenty years, and serving the past five years as the Chair of the Nevada ESGR.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESRG) is a grass roots volunteer organization working with the Department of Defense. ESGR provides free education, consultation, and mediation as necessary for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR's goal is to support America's employers who share their employees with the nation to ensure our national security.

In her twenty years volunteering with the ESGR, Dr. Dixie Sue Allsbrook has served in many different areas of the organization. She began in California as an Area Chair, Ombudsman, and ultimately she served as Executive Director there. When she moved to Nevada she continued to serve ESGR as an ombudsman until she was appointed as Chair in 2002. Her amazing work in the community extends beyond that of the ESGR and includes the Equal Opportunity Board of Clark County, the Susan B. Komen Foundation, and the Wardley Charity Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Dixie Sue Allsbrook. Her commitment to supporting Nevada's Guard and Reserve through her work with the ESGR is outstanding, and I thank her for continuing efforts.

SHIFTING TOWARDS A REGIONAL
 PRIMARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Regional Presidential Primary and Caucus Act of 2007. This companion legislation to the work of my friends Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator LIEBERMAN, and Senator ALEXANDER reflects an effective, equitable alternative to the current system used to determine presidential primary election dates.

As we have seen with the current disputed primary date in Florida and its partisan implications, our political parties have shown that they may not be the most appropriate administrators of this vital part of the presidential election process. Other states face similar disputes as each vie to enact earlier primaries to increase their influence in the selection of presidential candidates. It is apparent that with this trend, money is gaining even more influence in politics. When candidates have less time for citizens to evaluate their merit and less time to raise necessary campaign funds, the voices of many continue to be marginalized.

We need a more equitable system. Every person in every state deserves an equal opportunity to engage the selection of presidential candidates. Unless we enact legislation to restructure this system in a non-partisan manner, we will never have a system that takes into account the true principles of democracy upon which this nation was founded. The Regional Presidential Primary and Caucus Act of 2007 is a necessary step towards more equitable elections. This legislation reflects components of a plan previously advanced by the National Association of Secretaries of State and the suggestions of chief election administrators throughout the nation.

The Regional Presidential Primary and Caucus Act of 2007 establishes four geographic regions and four regional primary/caucus dates in each presidential election year. Under the bill, beginning in 2012 and on a rotating basis during each presidential election year, states in one region will hold their presidential primary elections on the first Tuesday in March. States in the next region will hold their primary elections on the first Tuesday in April, states in the next region on the first Tuesday in May, and states in the final region on the first Tuesday of June. The order of regions will rotate in each of the four years, ensuring that all states have the opportunity to hold their primary election first in the cycle once every four presidential elections.

I call upon my colleagues of the House of Representatives to support this commonsense approach to improving the administration of presidential primary election dates.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
 JEANINE M. ARMSTRONG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I ask my colleagues to join

me today in honoring the memory of my good friend, Jeanine Armstrong of Clovis, California.

Jeanine was a loving wife, mother, and a dedicated member of the community who approached her work with an upbeat attitude and spirit that was an inspiration to us all. Her passing is a sad loss for the community of Clovis and Fresno.

Jeanine is remembered by all who knew her as an active participant in the political process, the Democratic Party, and a passionate supporter of the community of Clovis, California. She is well-known for her commendable service to the public and as a champion of the arts and public television.

Jeanine worked closely with her friend, the late Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles, to secure the 1984 summer Olympic Games in California. She also organized the Youth Olympics and numerous public television projects. Jeanine served on the board of the Fresno Junior Museum, where she stressed the importance of the arts for poverty stricken populations.

Jeanine is survived by her husband for life of 52 years Harry Armstrong, their three children, Thomas, Jim and Megan; her 6 grandchildren, Kelsey Joan-Marie Armstrong, Brittney Armstrong, David Armstrong, Kathleen Armstrong, James Armstrong and Audrey Armstrong; her five stepgrandchildren, Arthur Wille, Maya Wille, Ashley Hatter, Jon Hatter and Randy Hatter; and one great-grandchild, Lynn Ann Armstrong.

My heart goes out to Jeanine's husband Harry, her family and friends. We take comfort in knowing that future generations will benefit from her vision and leadership and that her spirit continues through the lives of the people she so graciously touched.

TRIBUTE TO ERVIN JAMES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a phenomenal figure in African American history, Ervin James, the founder of Jamestown in Florence County, South Carolina. The extraordinary legacy of Ervin James's life powerfully changed the course of African American history in the South during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Ervin James's legacy richly contributed to the story of black history after the Civil War, the story of southern agriculture, and the story of community development in a time when many groups of African Americans struggled to survive.

In 1870, Ervin James bought a sizable tract of land on his own from Eli McKissick and Mary Poston near Florence, South Carolina. The transaction was formally documented in a deed recorded on January 23, 1871. James's purchase developed into more than just a family farm. During the last two decades of the nineteenth century, his tract of land grew into a small rural African American community. The community thrived for 70 years, from its establishment in 1870 until its decline in the 1940s.

The development of Jamestown is a remarkable one. Beginning with Ervin James's