

Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me in extending heartfelt thanks to Larry McCarthy for his tremendous contributions to our State and wish him strength during this difficult time.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my dear friend, Mr. DANNY DAVIS of Illinois, for organizing this special order on the very important subject addressing the prison warehousing crisis in this country. H.R. 1593, The Second Chance Act, a bill of which I am an original co-sponsor, addresses the very serious concerns about the compromised state of warehousing prisoners.

Earlier this year the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, of which I am a member, held hearings to address the state of certain conditions within the United States prison system. In one of those hearings, my colleagues and I considered the merits of The Second Chance Act, and my amendment which I offered in the last Congress was included in the base bill this year.

The Second Chance Act is designed to reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and help state and local governments better address the growing population of ex-offenders returning their communities. The bill focuses on four areas: development and support of programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, expansion of the availability of substance abuse treatment, strengthening families and the expansion of comprehensive re-entry services. The Subcommittee has held a series of hearings on issues relating to re-entry of prisoners and this legislation dating back to the 108th Congress. Our most recent hearing, on March 20, 2007, focused on re-entry best practices and the continuing need for Federal support of re-entry program development.

Nearly two-thirds of released state prisoners are expected to be re-arrested for a felony or serious misdemeanor within 3 years of their release. Such high recidivism rates translate into thousands of new crimes each year and wasted taxpayer dollars, which can be averted through improved prisoner reentry efforts.

The "Second Chance Act of 2007" allocates \$360 million towards a variety of reentry programs. One of the main components of the bill is the funding of demonstration projects that would provide ex-offenders with a coordinated continuum of housing, education, health, employment, and mentoring services. This broad array of services would provide stability and make the transition for ex-offenders easier, in turn reducing recidivism.

Another reason why I strongly support this legislation is because it includes a provision contained in an amendment I offered during the Judiciary Committee markup of this bill in the 109th Congress. That amendment, incorporated in H.R. 1593 as Section 243 of the bill, requires that the:

Attorney General shall collect data and develop best practices of State corrections departments and child protection agencies relating to the communication and coordination between such State departments and

agencies to ensure the safety and support of children of incarcerated parents (including those in foster care and kinship care), and the support of parent-child relationships between incarcerated (and formerly incarcerated) parents and their children, as appropriate to the health and well-being of the children.

I also sponsored H.R. 261, the Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act of 2007 which I introduced earlier this year. H.R. 261 directs the Bureau of Prisons, pursuant to a good time policy, to release a prisoner who has served one half or more of his or her term of imprisonment if that prisoner: (1) Has attained age 45; (2) has never been convicted of a crime of violence; and (3) has not engaged in any violation, involving violent conduct, of institutional disciplinary regulations.

H.R. 261, would address the problem of warehousing in the Nation's Federal correction facilities non-violent offenders over the age of 45 who have served more than half of their sentences and pose no future danger to society. As I stated during the markup of H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007, I strongly believe that in affording older offenders a second chance to turn around their lives and contribute to society, that ex-offenders not be too old to take full advantage of a second chance to redeem themselves in the eyes of their families, friends, and communities. I believe setting an eligibility age of 45 rather than 60 will better achieve the goal we all share.

I am also concerned about the rehabilitation and treatment of juvenile offenders in my home state of Texas as it appears that the administrators of TYC have neglected their duties. The April 10, 2007 "Dallas Morning News", reported that "two former Texas Youth Commission administrators were indicted on charges that they sexually abused teenage inmates at the state juvenile prison in Pyote". The same article also cited the 2005 investigative report by Texas Rangers' Sgt. Burzynski which found that the two indicted TYC administrators, Brookins and Hernandez, had repeatedly molested inmates in the Pyote prison. The report is cited as saying that Mr. Brookins, who during some periods was the top official, had shown sex toys and pornography in his office, while Mr. Hernandez molested inmates in classrooms and closets.

I hope that all of my colleagues would join me in supporting the Second Chance Act as well as my bill H.R. 261, the Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act of 2007. It is time to make a change.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed rollcall votes Nos. 1034, 1035, and 1036 on November 5, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 1034: "yes"; rollcall No. 1035: "yes"; rollcall No. 1036: "yes".

RECOGNIZING CAROL GORDY ON THE COMPLETION OF A SUCCESSFUL YEAR AS 2007 BCA CHAIRMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mrs. Carol Gordy as she completes a highly successful term as the 2007 chairman of the Business Council of Alabama (BCA).

Carol has been a distinguished member of the Brewton, Alabama, business community for almost three decades. In 1990, she purchased Natural Decorations Inc., known as NDI, from its original founders. Since that time, Carol and her husband, Joe, have grown the company from 10 to 100 employees and increased sales from less than \$1 million to more than \$16 million a year.

NDI is located in a small town in Alabama; nevertheless, it is a world-class leading manufacturer of high-end floral and botanical reproductions. Counted among its customers are Neiman-Marcus, Horchow, and interior designers worldwide, with ads appearing regularly in magazines such as Architectural Digest, Veranda, and Traditional Home. NDI also has exclusive licensing agreements with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the Versailles Foundation for Monet's Giverny Gardens.

Under Carol Gordy's leadership as both chairman and chief executive officer, NDI has been nominated for 10 ARTS Awards, the premier awards program for the home decorative accessories industry, and received six. In 2001, NDI was inducted into the ARTS Hall of Fame. Additionally, NDI has been recognized for outstanding achievements in workplace safety.

It is this commitment to excellence in her own business that has made Carol such a valuable asset to BCA. In 2005, BCA leaders recognized her dedication to the association and asked her to join other volunteer leaders to serve as the group's first vice-chairman, a position that put Carol in line to be the first woman in BCA's history to serve as chairman.

A native of Dublin, Texas, Carol was raised in New Mexico. She started her first of three retail flower shops in Albuquerque and was the first person from New Mexico ever to be inducted into the American Institute of Floral Design in Washington, DC in 1980.

Carol's commitment to her community is second to none. She currently serves on the boards of A+ Education Foundation, BankTrust, Alabama Technology Network, Rotary International, the Quality of Life Chair for Alabama Communities of Excellence, and the Accessory Division of International Home Furnishings Center, High Point, NC.

Carol is a member of the Governor's Commission on Quality Teaching and has served on the Governor's Commission on Efficiency, Consolidation and Funding. She was a member of Leadership Alabama Class XXIII and served as a judge for the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. She is also a member of Voices for Alabama's Children.

Madam Speaker, there are few individuals more dedicated or more committed to helping their communities than Carol Gordy, and I

would like to offer my congratulations for her service as the first woman chairman of BCA and for her many personal and professional achievements.

I know her husband, Joe, her family and many friends join me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts on behalf of Brewton and the state of Alabama.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, due to a flight delay on my return trip from Iowa to Washington on November 5, 2007, I unavoidably missed rollcall votes Nos. 1034, 1035, and 1036.

Had I been present, on rollcall vote No. 1034, I would have voted "yea."

As a co-sponsor of H.R. 513, the National Heroes Credit Protection Act, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 1035. I am pleased that this important bill, which would protect the credit ratings of military servicemembers and alleviate financial stress for troops serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, passed the House unanimously.

On rollcall vote No. 1036, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
ON SEA LEVEL RISE

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, over 160 National Wildlife Refuges exist along the 95,000 miles of United States coastline and are in danger of being seriously affected by global warming. Scientists all around the world expect sea levels to rise as polar ice and glaciers melt, and oceans physically expand.

As we proactively begin to engage to protect our natural resources most susceptible to global warming, it is crucial to consider our coastal national wildlife refuges under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Though uncertainty exists regarding the projected increases in sea level rise and global warming, we know for certain that global warming is occurring and coastal communities and refuges are already being affected.

Studies currently show that the continuation of historical trends of greenhouse gas emissions will result in additional global warming with current projections that the earth will warm between 2.5°F to 10.4°F by the year 2100. Sea level rise induced by global warming will inundate coastal areas, change precipitation patterns, increase the risk of droughts and floods, threaten biodiversity and offer a host of potential challenges and setbacks to public health. Additionally, sea level rise will force recreational beaches inland, exacerbate coastal flooding, and quite possibly even contribute to the severity of natural disasters such as hurricanes.

Refuges in the Virgin Islands and Hawaii face massive coral bleaching as sea tempera-

tures continue to rise. Scientists predict a rise in sea level over the next century significant enough to drown refuges such as Chincoteague on the Virginia coast, Alligator River in North Carolina, Merritt Island in Florida and the Texas home of the whooping crane, Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge. Anticipated changes in climate and rainfall could alter forest makeup and alpine habitats in Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge in the Northeast; interrupt seabird-nesting success in the Oregon Islands refuge; and dry the prairie potholes in Devils Lake Wetland Management District, a crucial migratory stopover and nesting ground for waterfowl.

A conservation concept unparalleled, the National Wildlife Refuge System started by President Theodore Roosevelt offers a network of places where the needs of wildlife must come first. Without them, many species simply would not survive. Yet, these important areas are increasingly threatened by forces outside refuge boundaries—global warming and sea level rise being among the most threatening.

It is vitally important that we proactively address the effects of global warming and sea-level rise as they continue to confront our Nation's coastal refuges. In this regard, the resolution I introduce today, expresses the sense of the Congress that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should incorporate consideration of the effects of global warming and sea-level rise into the comprehensive conservation plan for each coastal national wildlife refuge as required by the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1997.

By requiring Fish and Wildlife refuge managers to incorporate consideration of the effects of global warming and sea-level rise, we will not only broaden our overall understanding of how our coastal and marine resources may be affected but also draw more conclusive data which may point to a specific timeframe in which these events are expected to occur.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, due to airline delays, on November 5, 2007, I missed the vote on rollcall No. 1034 (the Motion to Close Portions of the Conference—H.R. 3222); rollcall No. 1035 (H.R. 513, to enhance the protection of credit ratings of active duty military personnel); and rollcall No. 1036 (H.R. 744, recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans). Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yea" on all three.

TRADE AND GLOBALIZATION
ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3920, The Trade and

Globalization Assistance Act of 2007. H.R. 3920 would expand the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which assists workers who lose their jobs because of foreign trade. Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, was first established in 1962, in recognition of the fact that some workers would lose their jobs as a direct result of our national trade policies. The program is designed to assist these trade-dislocated workers by providing them with the opportunity to train for new careers. Although the program currently includes about 80,000 certified workers enrolled in training, there are thousands of other trade-displaced workers who deserve but have been unable to obtain training through the TAA program.

H.R. 3920 makes many long-sought improvements to TAA. The bill allows for industry-wide certification in certain instances, a change that will eliminate the delays and inconsistent results in the current firm-by-firm process. The bill also includes a number of changes that will simplify and improve the process by which eligible workers obtain training.

We must continue to provide our strong support to workers who are faced with the unfortunate event of losing their employment. H.R. 3920 is an excellent bill that will provide much needed and overdue help to displaced and unemployed workers. These programs are essential to the viability and livelihood of thousands of hard-working Americans. As a proud supporter of America's workers, I understand the vital importance of ensuring the social welfare of our labor force. I will continue to work with my colleagues to preserve their social and economic care. America's workers deserve America's support.

IN TRIBUTE TO THOMAS P.
FRIERY AND HIS 29 YEARS OF
SERVICE AS SACRAMENTO CITY
TREASURER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Thomas P. Friery and his 29 years of service as the city of Sacramento's treasurer. Under Mr. Friery's nearly three decades of leadership and dedication, Sacramento has experienced great growth and prosperity. As his friends, family and coworkers gather to celebrate his farewell, I ask all my colleagues to join in honoring his leadership and many remarkable accomplishments.

Since becoming treasurer in 1978, Mr. Friery has worked under 10 mayors, and 72 councilmembers. Upon taking over as treasurer, Mr. Friery inherited the responsibility of managing the Sacramento City Employee's Retirement System and its unfunded liability of \$60 million. The pension fund was expected to grow to a \$170 million deficit, but under Treasurer Friery's superior financial management the deficit was eliminated in 1991, and the system now has \$450 million invested in it. In doing so, Thomas Friery helped re-establish Sacramento's AA credit rating, allowing the city to borrow money at a lower cost.

Mr. Friery's innovative financial strategies have been vital to the prosperity of the city of Sacramento. City leaders and I have always