

Brazil where they have concentrated in part on anti-gang messages.

Indeed, as the Congresswoman representing Georgetown University and as a tenured member of the University's Law Center faculty, I am proud to represent and to be associated with the accomplishments of the Georgetown Hoyas over the last century. I look forward to continuing successes under the leadership of their current coach, John Thompson III.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS EQUITY ACT," H.R. 1073

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, with my colleague JOHN MCHUGH, to introduce The Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act (H.R. 1073). The purpose of this bill is simply to give law enforcement status to all Federal law enforcement officers!

Many Federal officials—for example, the Border Patrol—are classified as "law enforcement officers," for the purposes of determining salary and retirement benefits. But many other officers—such as Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Inspectors, Veterans' Affairs Police Officers, U.S. Mint Police Officers, Internal Revenue Officers, and police officers in about two dozen other agencies—do not have equal pay and benefits status.

The tragic irony, Mr. Speaker, is that the only time these officers are classified as law enforcement officers is when they are killed in the line of duty. Then their names are inscribed on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial right here in Washington.

Let me say that again. It is only when they are killed that they are called law enforcement officers, and that is a tragic irony.

My district encompasses the entire California-Mexico border and is home to two of the busiest border crossings in the entire world, so I am very familiar with the work of our Nation's border inspectors. They wear bulletproof vests, they carry firearms, and, unfortunately, have to use them. Most importantly, these inspectors are subject to the same risks as other officers with whom they serve side-by-side. However, they are not eligible for early retirement and other benefits, which are designed to maintain a young and vigorous law enforcement workforce that we need to combat those who pose life-threatening risks to our society.

The Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act will provide well-deserved pay and retirement benefits to the officers protecting our borders, our ports of entry, our military and veterans' installations and other sensitive government buildings. The costs of these benefits would likely be off-set by savings in training costs and increased revenue collection. The bill will also reduce turnover, increase yield, decrease recruitment and development costs and enhance the retention of a well-trained and experienced workforce.

Madam Speaker, the simple fact is that these officers have dangerous jobs and de-

serve to be recognized as law enforcement officers, just like others with whom they serve, side by side, and who share the same level of risk. I encourage my colleagues to join me and Mr. MCHUGH in cosponsoring, the Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act. The valiant officers who protect us deserve no less!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN DONNIE R. BELSER, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I request the House's attention today to recognize a heroic American, Captain Donnie R. Belser, Jr., 28, of Anniston, Alabama, who died in Iraq on February 10, 2007. Captain Belser was assigned to the 425th Military Transition Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, and according to initial reports was killed during an exchange of small arms fire.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and the gratitude our country feels for his service. Captain Belser died serving the United States and the entire cause of liberty, on a mission to bring stability to a troubled region and liberty to a formerly oppressed people. Captain Belser was a true patriot indeed.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY KAY BARTON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend Larry Kay Barton who passed away January 30, 2007.

Larry Kay Barton was instrumental to the development of the Las Vegas community. Having served as the deputy city manager of Las Vegas in 1985 and in 1993 and as the city manager between 1993 and 1997, he helped facilitate the exponential growth of the region. Larry was involved in many projects that revitalized the historic districts during his time as city manager such as the Lewis and Fifth Streets Corridors and he played a major part in making the Fremont Street Experience come together. Other significant achievements he made during his time as city manager of Las Vegas were leading negotiations and facilitating the land assemblages for the Lloyd George U.S. Courthouse and the Regional Justice Center as well as the Las Vegas Technology Park and Enterprise Park developments. One of his biggest focuses was to make the city more efficient, so he created the Development Services Center and Express Plans check process for building projects in order to streamline permit approvals. I had the great pleasure of working with Larry in my capacity as Boulder city councilman, Boulder city mayor and later during my tenure in the Nevada State Senate.

In addition to Larry's long time commitment to serving the Las Vegas community, he also served as an Airman in the United States Air Force for over 30 years. He started as a fighter pilot in 1956 and subsequently became a command pilot and logged over 3,500 flying hours and flew more than 200 combat missions. Later, Larry served as a director of operations, a wing commander of the 354th Tactical Fighter Wing and ultimately became vice commander.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Larry Kay Barton. As the city manager of Las Vegas, he led with integrity and greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. Larry was a true patriot, having devoted his life to his community and country. His dedication to service should serve as an example to us all.

HONORING SOJOURNER TRUTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, greetings to Senator CLINTON, Dorothy Height, Dr. E. Faye Williams, Eleanor Smeal and Cicely Tyson.

In this country's majestic Capitol rotunda sits a monument honoring three pioneers of the women's suffrage movement, which led to the women of our great Nation being granted the right to vote in 1920. The monument features the busts of Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony. As the Architect of the Capitol has noted, the monument was presented to the Capitol as a gift from the Women of the United States by the National Women's Party and was accepted on behalf of Congress by the Joint Committee on the Library on February 10, 1921. The unveiling ceremony was held in the rotunda on February 15, 1921, the 101st anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony, and was attended by representatives of over 70 women's organizations. The committee authorized the installation of the monument in the crypt, where it remained until, by act of Congress in 1996, it was relocated to the Capitol rotunda in May 1997.

In addition to the wonderful busts of Stanton, Mott, and Anthony, one of the interesting features of the monument is the existence of a large slab of stone that was never sculpted. Looking at the monument, it is clear that it was intended for a fourth person—another pioneer of the women's suffrage movement—to be sculpted. The legislation that myself and Senator CLINTON along with Senator SPECTER crafted calls for Sojourner Truth to be that person.

Born into slavery as one of the youngest of 13 children of James and Elizabeth in Hurley, which is in Ulster County, New York, in approximately 1797, Sojourner Truth's given name was Isabella Baumfree. Almost all of her brothers and sisters had been sold to other slave owners. Some of her earliest memories were of her parents' stories of the cruel loss of their other children.

Isabella was sold several times to various slave owners and suffered many hardships under slavery, but throughout her life she maintained a deep and unwavering faith that carried her through many difficult times.

In 1817, the New York State Legislature passed the New York State Emancipation Act, which granted freedom to those enslaved who were born before July 4, 1799. Unfortunately, however, this law declared that many men, women, and children could not be freed until July 4, 1827, 10 years later. While still enslaved and at the demand of her then owner, John Dumont, Isabella married an older slave named Thomas, with whom she had at least five children—Diane, Peter, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Sophia.

As the date of her release came near—July 4, 1827—she learned that Dumont was plotting to keep her enslaved, even after the Emancipation Act went into effect. For this reason, in 1826, she ran away from the Dumont plantation with her infant child, leaving behind her husband and other children.

She took refuge with a Quaker family—the family of Isaac Van Wagenen—and performed domestic work for them as well as missionary work among the poor of New York City. While working for the Van Wagenens, she discovered that a member of the Dumont family had sold her youngest son Peter to a plantation owner in Alabama. At the time, New York law prohibited the sale of slaves outside New York State and so the sale of Peter was illegal. Isabella sued in court and won his return. In doing so, she became the first black woman in the United States to take a white man to court and win.

Isabella had always been very spiritual, and soon after being emancipated, she had a vision that affected her profoundly, leading her—as she later described it—to develop a “perfect trust in God and prayer.” In 1843, deciding her mission was to preach the word of God, Isabella changed her name to Sojourner Truth—her name for a traveling preacher, one who speaks the truth—and left New York. That summer she traveled throughout New England, calling her own prayer meetings and attending those of others. She preached “God’s truth and plan for salvation.”

After months of travel, she arrived in Northampton, Massachusetts, and joined the Northampton Association for Education and Industry, where she met and worked with abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, and Olive Gilbert.

As we know, during the 1850s, slavery became an especially heated issue in the United States. In 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law, which allowed runaway slaves to be arrested and jailed without a jury trial, and in 1857, the Supreme Court ruled in the Dred Scott case that those enslaved had no rights as citizens and that the government could not outlaw slavery in the new territories.

Nevertheless, these extraordinarily difficult times did not stop Sojourner Truth from continuing her mission. Her life story—“The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave”—written with the help of friend Olive Gilbert, was published in 1850.

While traveling and speaking in States across the country, Sojourner Truth met many women abolitionists and noticed that although women could be part of the leadership in the abolitionist movement, they could neither vote nor hold public office. It was this realization that led Sojourner to become an outspoken supporter of women’s rights.

In 1851, she addressed the Women’s Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, delivering her famous speech “Ain’t I a Woman?” The ap-

plause she received that day has been described as “deafening.” From that time on, she became known as a leading advocate for the rights of women. Indeed, she was one of the nineteenth century’s most eloquent voices for the cause of anti-slavery and women’s rights.

By the mid-1850s, Truth had earned enough money from sales of her popular autobiography to buy land and a house in Battle Creek, Michigan. She continued her lectures, traveling to Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin. When the Civil War erupted in 1861, she visited black troops stationed near Detroit, Michigan, and offered encouragement. After the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, she worked in Washington as a counselor and educator for those who had been previously enslaved through the Freedman’s Relief Association and the Freedmen’s Hospital. It was during this time—in October 1864—that she met with President Abraham Lincoln.

Throughout the 1870s, Sojourner Truth continued to speak on behalf of women and African Americans. Failing health, however, soon forced Sojourner to return to her Battle Creek, Michigan, home, where she died on November 26, 1883.

Friends, this brief recounting of Sojourner Truth’s life story only begins to speak of her faith, courage, intelligence, and steadfastness in the face of extraordinary circumstances and volatile times in our Nation’s history. Though she could neither read nor write, her eloquence commanded the attention of thousands of Americans, both black and white. It therefore comes as no surprise to learn that among her many friends, admirers and staunch supporters were Frederick Douglass, Amy Post, Olive Gilbert, Parker Pillsbury, Mrs. Francis Gage, Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison, Laura Haviland, Lucretia Mott, and Susan B. Anthony.

The legislation we introduced pays tribute to Sojourner Truth.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
MR. CHARLES LANGFORD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the House’s attention this morning to reflect on the life and legacy of a great Alabamian, Mr. Charles Langford. Mr. Langford passed this week on February 11 at his home in Montgomery, Alabama.

Mr. Langford was an activist, lawyer, and statesman of the highest caliber. During the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955–56, Mr. Langford represented the woman who started that protest which helped change our Nation, the late Mrs. Rosa Louise Parks, as well as the organization formed to carry out the boycott, the Montgomery Improvement Association. In 1956, the class action suit filed by Mr. Langford and his partner, Fred Gray, known as *Browder v. Gayle*, ended segregated seating on buses in Montgomery, and also became the precedent used to end all racial segregation ordinances in the United States. Later in life, Langford served two terms in the Alabama House of Representatives and five terms in the Alabama Senate.

Mr. Langford’s passing is a great loss to the State of Alabama. He helped make history in the Civil Rights movement, and played an important role in Alabama politics. I know all of us in the House today share in the loss of this great and loved man, and send our condolences to his family and our prayers that his legacy will live on long after this mournful time has passed.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SANDY
PELTYN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Sandy Peltyn, for her work and involvement in the Las Vegas community.

Since Sandy’s move to Las Vegas in 1981, she has become very active in both fund-raising and organizing major events in the community. She is very involved in a number of organizations including: the Jewish Asthma Hospital, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Kids for Homeless Kids, Nevada Dance Theater Guild, Women’s Center at UNLV, Latin Chamber of Commerce Miss Nevada-USA Pageant, Mrs. United States Pageant for the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation, Golden Rainbow, Nevada Opera Theater, Opera Las Vegas, Oasis, Veterans in Politics, UNLV School of Medicine, Dean’s Council, Clark County Pro Bono Projects, The Arthritis Foundation, Community College of Southern Nevada Fund Raising Committee, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, The UNLV Sierra Wind Quintet, Safe House, American Heart Association, Kidney Foundation, Nevada Association of the Handicapped and Children’s Charities.org. She has raised over four million dollars for these charities.

Sandy has also been recognized for her achievements with the International Friendship Awards by the Nevada Opera Theatre, the Volunteer of the Year Awards from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the Politician of the Year Award by the Filipino Community of Nevada and the Woman of the Year by Fit for Tomorrow. In addition to all of her other community achievements, she was recently appointed as one of the five members of Medical Liability Association of Nevada and President George W. Bush appointed her to a member of the President’s Advisory Committee on the Arts at the Kennedy Center.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Sandy Peltyn for her community activism which has enriched the lives of many in the community. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

SOCIAL SECURITY GUARANTEE
PLUS ACT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues about legislation I have introduced today to preserve Social Security and pay full promised benefits to future