

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FAIR AND EQUAL HOUSE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am re-introducing with my colleague Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON the District of Columbia Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act. This legislation has now been considered through several Congresses. It is no longer a novel idea. Nevertheless, the need for this legislation is stronger than ever and I call on the Congress to pass it without delay. We can't credibly struggle to make other parts of the world safe for democracy if we continue to deny it to residents of our Nation's Capital.

This bill pairs two injustices in such a way as to create a politically neutral solution for both. The first injustice—that the citizens of the District of Columbia have no direct representation in the House of the United States Congress—has existed since Congress took away representation in 1800. The second injustice—the failure to count all of the residents of Utah in the last Census—is more recent. Historically, it takes just this kind of marriage to create a viable solution.

We had a great deal of success in moving this bipartisan legislation last Congress. In our committee, a strong majority of both parties voted to pass this legislation. Over the last 3 years, it has been gratifying to watch members of my own party consider the problem and accept this solution. We now have the support of conservatives, moderates, and liberals. Unfortunately, we were unable to get the bill to the floor in the rush that ensued last December.

Ironically, it was a rush to pass legislation that created this problem in 1800. In the lame duck session following the election of Thomas Jefferson of Virginia as president and the Whigs to the majority in 1800, Federalists rushed to pass legislation to set up some structure for the District of Columbia. Congress was silent on District voting rights in spite of having granted voting rights to District residents 10 years earlier in the Residence Act that created a Federal district.

Now, over 200 years later, Congress has before it a principled and workable compromise solution. This bill does two simple things. It treats the District of Columbia as a congressional district for the purposes of representation in the House of Representatives, and permanently increases Congress to 437 members.

After 3 years of research, it is clear that Congress does have the authority to grant the District a seat in the House of Representatives. This House, which we refer to as the "People's House," represents the people of the several states. Some scholars have tried to parse the phrase to mean that state residents only are represented.

But when this phrase was drafted there was no Federal District. The "People of the Several States" means all Americans.

Congress has recognized this by allowing Americans living overseas to vote in House elections despite the fact they are no longer residents of any state. Overseas Americans are allowed to vote in their last state of residence even if they never intend to return to that state.

There always seems to be some reason to keep from doing a good thing. In our personal lives we all put off the easy act of common graciousness because we're busy or because we're tired or because someone treated us unfairly. This makes sense at the time, but in the end we are all poorer for missing the opportunity.

The same is true with this legislation. Maybe you don't like the permanent increase in the size of Congress. Maybe you want to protect "states rights" in redistricting. Maybe you wish this addressed the Senate as well. Maybe you just don't know for sure what the Sixth Congress intended when they created this problem.

I would ask every member of this body to look up for a minute and look at the people we live with here in the District. Is there anything really gained by refusing them direct representation in the Federal Government? I say no.

It is time to make a change in the way this District is governed. It is time to tell the 550,000 District citizens that we recognize their inalienable right to participate in the decisions that affect their lives every day.

Let's not—once again—miss the chance to do the good thing. Justice should no longer have to wait.

### HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. PETRO JAMES ROUSSOS

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Mr. Petro James Roussos, known as "Pete" to his many friends and family, was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

Although he was originally from Seminole, OK, Pete spent the majority of his life in Mobile. He attended Murphy High School, where he played football and was elected to the All-City Squad. He received about a dozen scholarship offers before choosing to attend Auburn University, where he went on to play football on the 1954 and 1955 teams. He also was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity at Auburn. He finished school in 1958 graduating from Troy State University.

Not long after graduation, Pete began what was eventually to become a long and storied

career in the restaurant business. In 1963, he opened Pete Roussos' Bonanza Lounge on U.S. 90 near the Skyline Shopping Center. In 1965, he moved from Mobile to Alexandria, LA, where he opened McDonald's Restaurant franchises in Pineville and Lafayette, LA. After returning to Mobile in 1982, he owned and operated, with his uncle, the popular Pier 4 restaurant on the causeway for a period of time. His other businesses included Crabby Pete's in Gulf Shores and Pete Roussos' Restaurant on Azalea Road.

Pete Roussos was the kind of man who would give you the shirt right off his own back. He spent his lifetime working hard and making a name for himself and his family. It is a name not soon to be forgotten in the First District, much less any other place he ever lived. He had the type of personality that would make any restaurant successful. His aura permeated throughout the room and left customers feeling at home and comfortable whenever he was near.

Besides his love for the restaurant business, Pete was also an avid sportsman. He was affiliated with the Coastal Conservation Association of Alabama and was a big supporter of the Alabama Wildlife Foundation. He was an original member of the Mobile Big Game Fishing Club, a supporter of Ducks Unlimited in Mobile, and a major supporter of the Ducks Unlimited Organization in Alexandria during the late 1970s and early 1980s. He was also a member of the American Kennel Club-Mobile Retriever Club from 1962 to 1980.

Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Pete Roussos loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife, Sandra Mitchell Roussos; his two sons, Petro James Roussos, Jr., and Nicholas James Roussos; his daughter, Alexa Kyriaki Roussos; as well as countless friends and loyal employees that he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

LET'S REMEMBER OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE ON THREE KINGS DAY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Three Kings Day holiday, which is traditionally celebrated on January 6.

For millions around the world, especially Latinos, the final curtain on the holiday season doesn't begin to fall until January 6, Three Kings Day. From El Barrio through Mexico and the Caribbean all the way down to the tip of South America, communities find their own

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unique way to celebrate the Biblical journey of Balthasar, Melchior, Caspar.

Like Christmas, it is a day for kids and family, a time to exchange gifts and celebrate life. Surely, it is also a time to remember that acts of kindness and generosity should extend well into the year. Yet, perhaps more than any other day of the season, it is day to remember the potential that we all have for greatness, especially our children.

Balthasar, Melchior, Caspar traveled on the wings of hope, believing that a better future lay in the hands of this humble child in the manger. They did not write him off because he was a carpenter's son or because he was poor. They crossed desserts and overcame hurdles because they believed that despite his present conditions, his future was as bright and limitless as the stars that adorned the sky.

Unfortunately, not enough of today's children are at the center of that kind of investment of time and energy. Despite the tireless work of many parents and educators, far too many are falling through the cracks in schools that are ill-equipped to teach them the skills that they need for work and life.

So on this last weekend of the holiday season, let all of us resolve to renew our commitment to our next generation. The private and public sector must work together to arm our children with the necessary tools that they will need to realize their goals and dreams. The future of this great land rests on their shoulders and how many of them have the opportunity to fully shine and reach their full potential.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS BROWNING ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO CHIEF INVESTIGATOR FOR THE ALABAMA ATTORNEY GENERAL

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Chris Browning for his dedicated service as the Fairhope chief of police and to offer congratulations on the occasion of his appointment to chief investigator for the Alabama Attorney General.

Chris has served the city of Fairhope since he was 16 years old when he worked as a pay booth attendant at the city beach. His first position with the Fairhope Police Department was as a dispatcher; upon graduation from the police academy, Chris was promoted to patrol officer and later patrol shift supervisor. In 1999, he was promoted to investigator and quickly rose to chief investigator, earning the rank of sergeant. In 2001, Chris was promoted to lieutenant and became chief of police in 2002.

In the midst of his demanding professional schedule, Chris also finds time to serve on a number of regional, state, and local boards: the Baldwin County Drug Task Force, the Baldwin County Gang Task Force, the United States Custom Service Blue Lightning Strike Force, the Alabama Coalition against Domestic Violence, the Fairhope Rotary Boys and Girls Club "Make a Difference" Committee, the Fairhope "Strengthening Our Communities" Committee, the Beverly Healthcare

Community Council, the Baldwin County Court Referral Program Steering Committee, J. Larry Newton School Executive Patron, the Light-house Domestic Violence Program Board of Directors, the Alabama Attorney General's Law Enforcement Advisory Committee, and the Baldwin County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board.

Chris Browning is an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their lives to the field of law enforcement. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Chris on his new appointment. I know Chris's colleagues; his wife Renee; his three sons, Scott, Nick and Baxter; his family and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the citizens of Fairhope and the state of Alabama.

A NEW PATH FOR AMERICA'S IRAQ POLICY

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, President Bush's misadventure in Iraq may be the worst foreign policy disaster the United States has ever been involved in. It is good that Saddam Hussein is out of power, but it has come at an incredibly high price. More than 3,000 of America's soldiers have been killed and thousands more have been wounded, many very seriously. And hundreds of billions of tax dollars have been spent, and in some cases wasted, in Iraq. This has occurred because of the errors in judgment, tactical mistakes, and other major missteps by the Bush administration that have plagued this endeavor since the brave men and women in our military ended the tyrannical reign of Saddam Hussein.

In addition to the high cost in lives and dollars that we have suffered, the reasons for going to war in Iraq in the first place have proven faulty. Furthermore, as the recent report from the Iraq Study Group, ISG, states, the situation in Iraq is "grave and deteriorating," with violence among sectarian groups increasing. Threats to security come from many sources, including the Sunni Arab insurgency, Shiite militias, and al Qaeda, not to mention widespread organized crime. Millions of Iraqis have either fled Iraq or are displaced within their country. Given all of this discouraging information, we need to ask—Why are our soldiers still in Iraq and why should they not come home immediately?

Unfortunately, it is not possible to turn back the clock 4 years and start again. The United States and the rest of the world, not to mention the Iraqi people, have to construct a policy that deals with the current conditions that have created new threats. If Iraq did not occupy such a critical place in the world, it might be the best policy for America to simply pull our troops out as soon as safely possible and leave the Iraqi people to work out a solution. But, Iraq is in one of the most important locations in the world, and although the situation in Iraq is dire, it could get much worse.

First, Iraq sits on the world's second largest oil reserves. While I have been working hard to bring about an energy policy that will wean

America and the world off our dependence on this fossil fuel, it will continue to be an extremely valuable commodity for whoever controls it. That is why we must ensure that Iraq's oil does not fall into the hands of radical groups. Oil revenue could be used to fund the spread of radical Islamist revolution to other countries as well as threaten the rest of the world with terrorist attacks. The United States abandoned Afghanistan after the Cold War ended and that country became a haven for terrorists who planned the 9-11 attacks. Iraq would likely become an even worse terrorist training ground.

Second, Iraq is wedged between two countries that have shown themselves to be belligerent, Syria and Iran. Iran is working on building a nuclear weapons capability and has threatened to destroy the state of Israel. Syria has continuously meddled in the affairs of Lebanon and provides ongoing support to terrorists in Palestine. Both of these countries have been active in supporting groups in Iraq who are wreaking havoc and both seek to increase their power by exploiting the situation in Iraq. Leaving Iraq immediately would only embolden these regimes and allow them greater influence throughout the Middle East. Consequently, a stable Iraq is necessary to limit the power of these two dangerous countries.

Third, an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops would create regional instability that could result in a large-scale war. If Iraq falls into complete chaos, Iran and Syria will likely get more directly involved in the fighting. In addition, Saudi Arabia has said that they may intervene militarily in Iraq if they believe it is necessary to stop a widespread slaughter of Iraqi Sunnis. If chaos in Iraq propels Iraqi Kurds to attempt to break away and form their own country in the north of Iraq, Turkey may feel the need to intervene so as to quell any nationalist uprising of Kurds within their own borders. And these are only a few of the likely scenarios for a larger conflict. Clearly, the prospect of a multi-nation war is even less appealing than the current situation, and the United States must act to try to head-off conditions that may lead to such a catastrophe.

As long as there is still hope that we can serve a positive role in Iraq, the U.S. must not abandon Iraq and leave the situation to deteriorate. However, a new strategy in Iraq is needed now. This new Iraq policy must be based on the understanding that the keys to a solution in Iraq are political and social. Although it is important to recognize that an enforcement capability is necessary for security at any given place and time, peace and stability in Iraq cannot be won and maintained simply through military force. Therefore, the United States should implement a new Iraq policy based on three important components:

(1) Bring the world community together to seek solutions in Iraq, including calling an international conference that will work on putting together a peacekeeping force and setting up an international reconstruction program.

(2) Encourage achievement of important goals in national reconciliation, security, and governance by arranging a peace conference for Iraq's ethnic and religious factions, similar to the conference that led to the Dayton Accords.

(3) Require the administration to give Congress detailed reports on the situation in Iraq