

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL
THAT WILL ADDRESS THE NEED
FOR A FOURTH PERMANENT
JUDGESHIP FOR THE DISTRICT
OF HAWAII

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce with Congressman ABERCROMBIE a companion measure to legislation that will soon be introduced by Senators INOUE and AKAKA that would convert the fourth temporary judgeship for the District of Hawaii to permanent judgeship status.

The fourth temporary judgeship for the District of Hawaii was created in 1990 by Public Law 101-650. Although, the judges appointed to temporary judgeships have lifetime appointments, legislation creating temporary judgeships usually specifies that the first vacancy in the district cannot be filled after a certain date. In the 1990 bill, this time frame was determined to be ten years after each temporary judgeship was filled. That meant that Hawaii could not fill a temporary vacancy occurring after October 2004.

Currently, the District of Hawaii has four active judges. However, if any of these judges become inactive, by taking senior status or otherwise, the district will not be able to replace that judge because of the ten-year limitation, which has long passed. This would place a great burden on not only the three remaining active judges, but also on the litigants themselves, especially civil litigants. Due to the right to speedy trial, felony cases regularly bump civil trials off the calendar, leading to long delays to get to court. Civil cases include disputes involving personal injury, civil rights, the environment, business, and other non-criminal matters.

The Judicial Conference of the United States has recommended that Hawaii's fourth temporary judgeship be converted to permanent status. The conversion is included in the 2007 Judicial Conference Judgeship Biennial Recommendation. In its 2003 recommendation, the Judicial Conference stated that the District of Hawaii weighted caseloads per judgeship will be over 600 should that district lose a judgeship. As the caseload for the district has since increased, it is imperative that Congress act on this matter as quickly as possible.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this and other initiatives that will address our need for additional federal judgeships across the country.

TRIBUNE TO VERA DeANGELIS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vera DeAngelis on the occasion of her 100th birthday. I have had the honor of knowing Vera for many years and am proud to call her a friend.

Together with her husband Albert, Vera raised seven children in Somerville. During her many years in the community, she worked to improve it in so many ways. Most notably, Vera volunteered in elementary school classrooms for more than twenty years, first at the Winter Hill School and later at the Little Flower School. She devoted countless hours after her own children were grown to making a difference in the lives of the young students she helped. Many of those young people have stories of their own about how Vera took the time to help them whenever they were in need.

Vera has always been concerned about the quality of life in her community and was very involved in Somerville Citizens for Adequate Transportation. In this capacity, she worked to lessen the impact of the highway on local streets and fought against its expansion into Somerville's Inner Belt.

Vera is also very active in local politics, closely following all of the local contests. Vera always makes the time to do more than just cast a ballot. She volunteers for her candidates of choice, holding signs, stuffing envelopes and spreading the word about her candidate's positions.

Vera possesses extraordinary organizational skills, and made the challenges of raising seven children seem effortless, regardless of the circumstances. She kept seven needles threaded with different colors in her pin cushion at all times, ready to fix a loose button or a torn sleeve at a moment's notice—an anecdote that her friends and family say best illustrates her superior ability to multi-task.

It is my privilege to have known Vera for many years and I wish her a very happy 100th birthday.

IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to begin with a quote from Coretta Scott King: "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation."

I rise today to talk about one of America's priorities in the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. And that is to fulfill the promise to help rebuild Louisiana and Mississippi from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In August of 2005, the American people saw something that was hard to believe. They saw a U.S. Government that was incompetent, a government that was inept and a government that didn't care about its own people. Unfortunately, 2 days ago, President Bush vetoed the emergency supplemental bill and showed the American people that things haven't changed.

After the President vetoed the bill, he had the audacity to make the following statement: "... the bill is loaded with billions of dollars in non-emergency spending that has nothing to do with fighting the war on terror. Congress should debate these spending measures on their own merits—and not as part of an emergency funding bill for our troops."

Only two people in the country believe that we are winning the war in Iraq—they are

President Bush and Vice-President DICK CHENEY. The cheese stands alone.

The \$1.3 billion for east and west bank levee protection and coastal protections isn't pork.

The \$30 million for K-12 education assistance has been debated and has been deemed essential. The \$25 million for Small Business Administration disaster loans will help rebuild. The \$80 million for HUD rental assistance will bring people home. The \$4.3 billion for FEMA disaster recovery grants is an emergency for our fellow Americans in Louisiana and Mississippi who have been waiting 18 months for you to keep your promise to rebuild Louisiana and Mississippi.

Mr. President, you were wrong to veto this bill. I have been to New Orleans seven times and I am going back in June. Sadly, every time I have been back it looks the same—like a war zone.

It's unbelievable that 18 months have passed and the most basic human needs are not yet met; 18 months later and residents are not able to move back, there is still debris everywhere and people go without electricity; 18 months later and there are impassable roads, no clean running water, and not enough schools and teachers; 18 months later and no street signs, toxic fumes in the air and not enough police officers; 18 months later this is unacceptable.

The President has been wrong about every major claim he has made, why should we believe anything he has to say now? The President said Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, and he was wrong. The President said al Qaeda was tied to Iraq, and he was wrong. The President said a liberated Iraq would bring stability to the region, and he was wrong. The President said we would be treated as liberators, and he was wrong. The President said oil revenues would pay for the war, and he was wrong. The President said "Mission Accomplished," and he was wrong. The President was wrong to veto this bill.

My colleagues on the other side made statements over and over again about how we should pass a "clean" supplemental bill. I would like to ask them what is wrong with giving the residents of Louisiana and Mississippi the money they deserve? I've been an elected official for 25 years and I've never seen a clean bill. It is clear to me from watching the Republicans that he who holds the gold holds the power.

If the President or my Republican colleagues would have done their job 18 months ago, we wouldn't need to have these extra funds in the supplemental bill. It is shameful that the very people who write the checks and pay taxes in our cities are not getting the money they deserve. I remember the President's press conference in Jefferson Square in New Orleans and his promise to rebuild. His veto showed the America people, once again, that he has no intention of living up to that promise. The Democratic majority has done our job by passing this bill. Sadly, the residents of Louisiana and Mississippi will have to keep on waiting on you to remember your promise.

The good citizens of Louisiana and Mississippi demand good government that is responsible and caring and walks the walk and not just talks to the talk.