

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, this bill provides mechanisms to ensure that FISA's longstanding exclusivity is crystal clear. It states that only a new statute directly addressing the Executive branch's foreign intelligence surveillance authority can modify FISA. It provides clarity for the public and for telecommunications carriers by requiring requests for assistance to cite the statutory authority under which they are issued.

In a January 19, 2006 White Paper on NSA Legal Authorities, the Justice Department made public a legal justification for the President's Terrorist Surveillance Program, TSP. It claimed that the President had an extra-statutory legal basis for foreign intelligence surveillance outside of FISA, both implicitly through an Authorization for the Use of Military Force or through a broad reading of Article II of the Constitution. Those arguments fly in the face of the longstanding doctrine of FISA exclusivity and are contrary to the plain language of the FISA statute. To be clear, the inclusion of these additional exclusivity mechanisms in this measure does not ratify the Administration's arguments with respect to the TSP. Nor does the bill's treatment of liability issues in Title II stand for a Congressional ratification of the Administration's actions under the TSP.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my thanks to a few additional staff who worked tirelessly over the past few months on this FISA compromise, including Margaret Cantrell of the Whip's staff, Ted Kalo and Mark Dubester of the Judiciary Committee, Wyndee Parker of the Intelligence Committee, and Chris Healey of Senator ROCKEFELLER's Intelligence Committee staff.

COMMENDING DR. RAY
AUTHEMENT UPON HIS RETIRE-
MENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT
LAFAYETTE

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, after 34 devoted years as president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Dr. Ray Authement retired this month. A legend in higher education, he stood as the longest serving university president in the country. The significant changes to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and for the city of Lafayette demonstrate his invaluable service to the school and the greater community.

As the university's chief, Dr. Authement is credited with producing nationally recognized programs for computer science, Francophone studies, and environmental and biological research at UL Lafayette during his tenure. He supervised the construction of a significant portion of the campus, including Lafayette's Cajundome and convention center. And, most notably, he is responsible for raising the uni-

versity's stature academically, spearheading higher enrollment requirements and recruiting highly qualified faculty and staff.

His vision and commitment for the school shaped lifetimes for the thousands of alumni, like myself, for which we are forever grateful.

Dr. Authement's vision for UL Lafayette first manifested itself as he pushed to develop a computer science program during the new technology's infancy. His leadership drove the university to create the first Master's program in the United States for computer science, defining a cutting-edge path for the university's future growth. The nationally recognized computer science program continues to maintain this distinction since the 1980s.

When Authement began his tenure in Lafayette, the school was officially known as the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Dr. Authement recognized the misperception by many of the institution as simply a regional school. Perspective students, potential employers and many across the State failed to consider the school as a top-tier university, and as a result, the school was unable to flourish fully.

After a protracted fight with the State legislature and other State leaders, Authement successfully changed the school's name to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 1999. Most importantly, the new name conveys the prominence of the university. In bonding the university to the city in the title, Authement highlighted the connection between Lafayette and the school.

Dr. Authement leaves the university a much better place. One of his final projects, the Capital Outlay program, which outlines construction and renovation for 5 years, enables UL Lafayette the opportunity to continue its growth. The plan increases the university's foundation endowment from \$600,000 to \$140 million. A chief component of the project's success was Authement's famed fiscal responsibility, which inspired enormous confidence that donations would be used wisely.

Enabling the success and achievements of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Dr. Authement developed and maintained an impressive reputation for the school. His dedication to improving Lafayette encouraged the city to greater heights. The legacy Dr. Authement leaves behind at UL Lafayette and in the community is everlasting as the students who carry the university's banner are attributable to his good work.

I wish he and his wife Barbara all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives together, and I thank both of them for their commitment to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

RECOGNIZING TOM STEVENS,
SHARON NEVITT AND JEANNIE
DIVINE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary congressional service of three individuals who will be leaving the United States Capitol Guide Service at the end of June. Tom Stevens, Sharon Nevitt and Jeannie Divine

have together provided 87 years of service to Congress, and their departure will certainly leave a void that is difficult to fill.

Tom Stevens has served as the Director of Visitor Services, charged with managing our dedicated crew of Capitol Guide Service and Congressional Special Services employees. He first came to the Guide Service in March 1985, and has served as the head of this organization since 2003. Tom has done an outstanding job, managing the group that provides assistance to literally thousands of visitors who come to the U.S. Capitol from around this Nation and the world every day. In addition, Tom has worked tirelessly to help plan and prepare for the opening of the Capitol Visitor Center.

Sharon Nevitt has served the Guide Service since November 1977, in a variety of management positions, and she currently is the Assistant Director of the Guide Service. Her commitment to this institution has been dedicated and extraordinary. Working side by side with Tom Stevens, Sharon has worked diligently over the past few years to ensure that the transition to operations in the Capitol Visitor Center will be successful and beneficial for all of our visitors.

Jeannie Divine joined the Capitol Guide Service in May 1988, coming directly from 13 years of service with the Architect of the Capitol. Jeannie is part of the fabric of this institution, as she is one of the unheralded staffers who work with our offices every day to schedule tours and coordinate the many visits we have by constituents. She has done a difficult job with consummate professionalism and ceaseless good humor.

Madam Speaker, we are indeed fortunate to have had the services of these dedicated individuals. Their work on the behalf of our constituents and visitors has been exemplary and I invite my colleagues to wish them well in their future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF HOMELAND SECURITY RELIEF CORPS ACT OF 2008

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, last Friday, 121 truckloads of needed Household supplies arrived in the Gulf Coast for people displaced by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Though these supplies are surely still welcome, they arrived 3 years late.

Tragically, at the same time that 90,000 "living kits" were distributed by FEMA in Louisiana, other Americans, this time in the Midwest, have experienced a trauma of their own, as flood waters rose and levee after levee was breached. Resources—whether human, financial, or equipment—must be made available immediately to the American people in need, whether that need is a result of storms, floods, terrorist attacks, and other emergencies.

A recent Mason Dixon poll indicates that some residents of hurricane-vulnerable states say they will not evacuate and prefer to weather storms at home. Furthermore, the results of the poll indicate that many residents lack disaster plans and are still misinformed about how to protect themselves and their

families during a storm. These results are particularly troubling when we consider how many citizens of the Gulf Coast did not have plans and were forced to accept relocation to toxic trailers.

The Homeland Security Relief Corps Act of 2008 will ensure that the areas ravaged by Katrina will not go unattended by providing trained workers to engage in actual rebuilding efforts. This bill will assist us in addressing some of the harms caused by Katrina.

As introduced, the Homeland Security Relief Corps Act will establish a much needed Response and Recovery Corps within the Department of Homeland Security. The Corps members will receive core training in emergency response, post-incident recovery, and rebuilding efforts. Equipped with the knowledge and preparation needed to make the disaster recovery process more efficient, the Corps members will be of tremendous assistance to the ravaged areas.

With the floods in the Midwest and the other disasters this Nation has seen since Katrina, it is time for citizens to get more involved in disaster response and recovery. This bill provides a path to the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast and provides hope for quicker recovery for residents of other ravaged areas.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN RUSH COUNTY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as elected officials and community leaders in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor the Board of Commissioners and County Council, as well as these outstanding individuals in Rush County:

Mike Ooley, Director, Emergency Management Agency.

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff.

Merv Bostic, Mayor, City of Rushville.

Ron D. Cameron, Chief of Police, City of Rushville.

These areas suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

Madam Speaker, I commend these fine men and women for their tremendous dedication to the Hoosier families, businesses, farmers and communities that they serve. As Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the people of Rush County will be well served by these officials.

SUPPORTING THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for the decision made by the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold an individual's right to keep and bear arms. Today, the Court rightly struck down the ban on handguns in the District of Columbia. Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have co-sponsored legislation to end this ban, which contradicts the Second Amendment rights guaranteed to all Americans by the U.S. Constitution.

In issuing its decree, the Court protected the right of a sportsman to have a shotgun in his home and affirmed the right of a homeowner to keep a handgun to protect his family and property from intruders. Our Founding Fathers fought and died for the individual liberties we all enjoy—among them, the right of the citizens of this country to possess firearms.

We are not given the latitude to pick which of those liberties we choose to follow or enforce, be it the freedom to speak or the freedom to worship. Like those fundamental freedoms, we cannot dismiss or dilute the right to keep and bear arms.

As an avid hunter and strong gun rights advocate, I applaud the Court for its decision. I look forward to continuing our work in Congress to protect the integrity of the Second Amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE 2008 JEFFERSON AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE HONOREES FROM MISSISSIPPI

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the Jefferson Award for Public Service from the great state of Mississippi. Nancy Collins of Tupelo, Mississippi, one of only 5 national honorees, and the 4 local winners Robert Davison of Steens, Mississippi, Claire Crawford, Armondo de la Cruz, and Cooper Kennard all of Starkville, Mississippi.

The Jefferson Award for Public Service is presented to the most dedicated and hard working of our nation's volunteers. Last week, I had the tremendous honor of attending the 2008 National Jefferson Awards Ceremony in Washington, where Nancy Collins was awarded one of only 5 national awards.

Ms. Collins was instrumental in getting funding for Sanctuary Hospice House and was also a co-founder, realizing her goal of providing physical and spiritual care to the terminally ill. She was inspired by a visit to a similar hospice she visited in Mexico. To date the Sanctuary Hospice House, located in Tupelo, has served more than 600 people and has been an invaluable resource for the families and patients in its care.

Ms. Collins and her fellow honorees are the embodiment of public service. I am honored for Ms. Collins to represent North Mississippi

with her dedication to the community. Please join me today in congratulating Ms. Collins for this prestigious recognition of her contributions to the greater good.

THE DAILY 45: A PYRRHIC VICTORY FOR SOME IN TODAY'S SUPREME COURT RULING

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, since February of this year, on virtually every day the House has been in session, I have decried the senseless loss of life, due to gun violence, for what I call the forgotten "Daily 45." This number refers to the fact that, on average, 45 people are fatally shot in the United States at the hands of an assailant or, worse, a loved one with a gun.

There's still no national outrage at the fact that this number dwarfs the number of fatalities—Iraqi and American—that lose their lives daily, or even weekly, in the Iraq war zone! And, in the midst of all this, Madam Speaker, today, in a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that residents in the District of Columbia have an individual right to own and maintain a gun in their homes. This decision will negate the efforts made by D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty, and the Metropolitan Police Department, to reduce the skyrocketing murder rate as a result of firearms.

I don't know what community the Justices live in but in my community, on the South Side of Chicago, there will be no celebrations in praise of this pyrrhic victory. Unfortunately, I can guarantee you that, tonight, some parent, some brother, some sister or some community leader will, once again, cry out in agony at the loss of yet another life from the violence wrought by a gun.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRANK SACKTON (RETIRED)

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of retired Lieutenant General Frank J. Sackton in honor of his upcoming 96th birthday. Leading a life of service to his country and the State of Arizona, Frank has shown himself to be a man of honor, intelligence, and dedication.

Frank served in the U.S. Army for 30 years, retiring as a Lieutenant General in 1970. In 1945, Sackton was personally decorated and promoted by General Douglas MacArthur to Colonel on the battlefield in the Philippines. He later served three years as Secretary of the General Staff for General MacArthur during the occupation in postwar Japan. Frank has fought valiantly to protect this Nation, and I am deeply grateful for his service.