

HONORING 100 YEARS OF THE VISITING NURSE SERVICE IN SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Visiting Nurse Service for its 100-year commitment to the improvement and expansion of patient medical care in southern Wisconsin. Since 1908, when the Attic Angel Association began working with a local nurse to procure in-home care for its residents, the Visiting Nurse Service has grown to become an integral component of the Wisconsin health care industry. As a section of the Home Health United health care agency, the Visiting Nurse Service now continues to facilitate independent living and enhance the quality of life for patients across 23 Wisconsin counties. By offering patients the option to cope with illness and work with medical professionals from the comfort of their own homes, the Visiting Nurse Service has truly enhanced our Nation's health care system.

The Visiting Nurse Service that operates in Wisconsin originated in Madison as an innovative, unique approach to health care. It all began when the Attic Angel Association, initially founded as a charitable service group, perceived a void in the health care system. By hiring Maud Reeder, the first visiting nurse in the area, Attic Angel found a way to improve the scope of existing medical services by initiating more convenient, personalized in-home care. The Attic Angel Association helped implement a change in Wisconsin's health care system that would extend far beyond the Madison area. Since its inception, the Visiting Nurse Service has operated with the simple goals of providing more accessible nursing services and offering charitable medical treatment.

Over the past century, the Visiting Nurse Service has enriched the lives of countless Wisconsinites. As America's health care practices have evolved and developed during the last hundred years, visiting nurses have continued to provide a dependable service, acting as a valuable constant in an ever-changing system. The enduring legacy speaks to the Visiting Nurse Service's remarkable ability to provide effective, professional health care and to adapt to a growing society. The Visiting Nurse Service has demonstrated a genuine commitment to addressing the specific, individual needs of its patients, and an impressive ability to respond to the needs of its community.

For their commitment to the people of Wisconsin and to the enrichment of their community through improved medical care, I congratulate the Visiting Nurse Service. The 100th anniversary of the organization's inception marks a truly extraordinary, well-deserved milestone.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

TRIBUTE TO NELSON ELECTRIC

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nelson Electric of Ames, Iowa, on celebrating its 100th anniversary and to express my appreciation for their commitment to providing an important service to Iowans in the Central Iowa area.

In 1908, Ben Nelson left his job at the Ames Municipal Power Plant and began his own business offering electrical contracting services. He contracted his first jobs by going up and down Main Street in Ames and building a reputation of good service at a fair price. His son Chuck joined the crew, and they worked together for 40 years, including persevering through the Great Depression. Chuck's sons, Paul and Jerry began working at the company in the 1960's and still manage the company today. Jerry's sons, Chris and Matt are now the fourth generation of the family to work at Nelson. Nelson Electric began working on wagons and carts but have kept up on the ever changing electric codes and work in the commercial/industrial design build sector of today, taking on residential and small business projects as well.

I commend Nelson Electric of Ames for providing quality and dedicated service to Iowans for over 100 years. It is an honor to represent the Nelson family and all the members of the Nelson Electric crew in the United States Congress, and I wish them continued success in serving their community.

BOUMEDIENE DECISION

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to state my strong concern that Congress should not take any steps to curtail the recent Supreme Court decision in *Boumediene et al., v. Bush*. In a 21 July speech, Attorney General Michael Mukasey called on Congress to create rules governing treatment of detainees' petitions for habeas corpus instead of simply following the rules developed as a result of lower court cases. Additionally Justice Department officials appearing this week before the Armed Services Committee on which I serve have called for Congress to step in and help curtail the form of the status review process for prisoners. Acting on these requests so soon after the Supreme Court's decision and before the Federal district courts have had a chance to address them is shortsighted and possibly damaging to the United States in the long term.

As you know in its 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court held that detainees who are being held at the U.S. Naval Station in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are entitled to the habeas corpus privilege under the Suspension Clause of the U.S. Constitution, meaning that they can appeal the justification for their detention before a court. The Court also held that Section 7 of the Military Commissions Act of 2006 which limited judicial review of executive de-

terminations of the detainees' enemy combatant status, did not provide an adequate and effective substitute for habeas corpus and therefore acted as an unconstitutional suspension of the writ of habeas.

The decision itself was limited both in scope. It only applies to detainees held at Guantanamo and not elsewhere. The decision also does not prevent the administration from detaining suspected terrorists or interrogating them. It simply confers upon them the basic right to know why they have been detained.

Letting the Federal courts process pending habeas petitions is the right thing to do and demonstrates to the world that we have confidence in our American values and the integrity of our legal process. It also will make sure that Guantanamo only holds prisoners who are threats to the United States and allows us to release those who are innocent.

Among the matters that the courts must necessarily address is the credibility of the Combatant Status Review Tribunals or CSRTs. As you know, the CSRTs were created by the Pentagon in response to the 2004 Hamdi decision to review the determinations of enemy combatant status for every detainee at Guantanamo.

While the CSRTs were not the central concern of *Boumediene*, the Court made a number of critical observations that I hope the lower courts will address for the sake of our country's reputation and because of the strength of our values.

The Court found that the procedural protections afforded Guantanamo detainees "fall well short of the procedures and adversarial mechanisms that would eliminate the need for habeas corpus review."

The court listed additional deficiencies including constraints upon the detainee's ability to find and present evidence at the CSRT stage to challenge the government's case; the failure to provide a detainee with assistance of counsel; limiting the detainee's access to government records other than those that are unclassified, potentially resulting in a detainee being unaware of critical allegations relied upon by the government to order his detention; and the fact that the detainee's ability to confront a witnesses may be more theoretical than real given the minimal limitations on the admissibility of hearsay evidence.

The court found that there was "considerable risk of error in the tribunal's findings of fact." And that "given that the consequence of error may be detention for the duration of hostilities that may last a generation or more, this is a risk too serious to ignore."

As a Member who is deeply committed to ensuring we have the best process to prosecute and hold accountable every terrorist and release innocent civilians, I have very little confidence in the CSRT process that is currently in place.

As the Federal courts begin to process the habeas petitions before the government, I again urge my colleagues in Congress to not chill the process currently underway with the narrow legislative solutions the Bush Administration is asking for. I ask that we give our civilian legal system the time to address the new circumstances created by the Supreme Court and put in place a successful review process that the administration has so far failed to do.