

ON HOUSE APPROVAL OF H.R. 3773

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the House amendment to the Senate-approved version of H.R. 3773, the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, but also to voice an area of concern I have with the legislation. I want to thank Chairmen REYES and CONYERS and for the immense time and effort they both have put into this legislation, and also thank Speaker PELOSI for her efforts to negotiate with the Senate to work out the differences between the two bills.

As Congress works to reauthorize and improve our foreign intelligence surveillance, it is imperative to remember that the United States has enemies abroad who wish to do us harm. In these delicate negotiations, we must be sure to protect the civil liberties of the American people and keep our Constitution in tact, while at the same time giving our intelligence community all the critical tools necessary to keep us safe. I believe that with an updated bill approved by the House, we can work out our honest differences and come up with a good bill that keeps the American people safe and protects our civil rights.

While the House passed bill is a step in the right direction, I believe certain additional provisions should be included in final compromise legislation. It is critical that any FISA legislation works to encourage compliance with our private sector partners in the ultimate goal of keeping America and her people secure. As such, targeted immunity for telecom carriers that allegedly participated in anti-terrorism surveillance programs may become of vital importance.

I am confident that as Congress moves forward in negotiating sensible and effective FISA legislation, we will continue to work toward the right balance that protects the Constitutional rights of all Americans, while also authorizing the measures necessary to keep the United States safe.

HONORING PAUL CRAWFORD**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Crawford, who has been named Historian of the Year by the Bedford County Historical Society. Paul, who is the founder of the Cumberland Valley Township Historical Society in Bedford County, will be honored with this distinguished award at the Bedford County Historical Society's annual history banquet in April.

As founder of the Cumberland Valley Township Historical Society, Paul has dedicated much of his life to researching and preserving the history of his community. He serves as a true leader in the community and the Society, directing many of the projects and events of the organization. Paul is a constant presence in the Cumberland Valley region, active in various community events and projects that support and promote the region.

Paul's role as a historian cannot be denied. He is consistently found pouring over historical documents and photographs, researching, documenting, and cataloging the history of the Cumberland Valley Township so that others can learn and remember the stories of those that came before them. Paul is a great leader in the community, and Bedford County is lucky to have such a dedicated individual working for the benefit of the entire community.

Paul Crawford's dedication to the preservation of his community's history is admirable, and we can hope that others will follow in his footsteps and view our history with the same pride and honor as he has so clearly done.

TRIBUTE TO RITA AND JACK SINDER**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two dear friends, Rita and Jack Sinder, who are being honored by Valley Beth Shalom's 60th Birthday of the State of Israel Dinner Celebration. They are being recognized for their lifetime of commitment to Israel, the Jewish people, and Valley Beth Shalom (VBS).

In 1967, Rita and Jack made their first trip to Israel just prior to the Six-Day War. The outbreak of hostilities forced their early departure on the eve of the war. The impact of their experience motivated them to mobilize the American Jewish community on Israel's behalf.

Their dedication to Israel, however, began long before the State of Israel was created.

Born in Vienna, Rita was immersed in Judaism as a young child. During WWII, when Hitler invaded Austria, Rita's father was shipped to Poland. He fortunately escaped and her mother managed to get herself and her daughters out of Austria. Rita was sent to London on Kindertransport and was not reunited with her family until the war ended. The determination, positive attitude, tremendous resilience, and adaptability that helped her survive still guide her life today. Rita's family was miraculously reunited in America, settling in Los Angeles where Rita attended Belmont High School and graduated from USC with a degree in Business Administration.

Jack, raised in the Orthodox tradition by his father, a prominent Rabbi in Michigan, earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State. He worked for a machine tool company that supplied parts to the big three automakers. He was asked by an associate to help send machine tools to the Jewish fighters in Israel, and together with his friends, he shipped tools which ultimately helped in the creation of the Israeli aircraft industry and the Israeli Air Force.

Rita and Jack have been an integral force in the Jewish Community, living up to the motto, "Give of yourself first and only then ask others to join you." They have generously contributed their time and resources to VBS, the Jewish Federation, Israel Bonds, AIPAC and many other worthy organizations. They endowed the Midrasha Program at the VBS, where Jack formerly was a member of the Board of Directors and currently serves on the Board of

Trustees and the Steering Committee. Rita has chaired many special events at VBS. She is past president of the San Fernando Valley Women's Division of Israel Bonds and the Golda Meir Club, an active member of AIPAC serving on its National Executive Board, and is past president and member of the Executive Board of the Women's Alliance of Israel. Rita and Jack are founding members of the American Jewish University's Wagner Program, university patrons and also patrons of the Wiesenthal Center.

Rita and Jack work together in their business, Jasin Co., he as a real estate developer and she as a real estate broker and property manager. They are the proud parents of Sherri and Alan and adore their three grandchildren. Rita and Jack's greatest joys are being with family and friends, boating and traveling.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Rita and Jack Sinder who have devoted their lives to working for the survival of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK**HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Public Health Week (NPHW), April 7–13, a week to focus on issues facing the public health and find ways to improve the health of all. This year NPHW focuses on how climate change is affecting the health of Americans and people around the world.

The impact of global climate change on our planet and the role we have played in speeding its progress is becoming increasingly self-evident. The work of groups like the American Public Health Association and committed individuals, such as former Vice President Al Gore, have created a heightened awareness of what is one of the most important issues of the coming century. This heightened state of public awareness has led to calls across the country for a new emphasis on reducing the amount of greenhouse gases that are expelled into the atmosphere by finding new, cleaner sources of energy, reducing our consumption of natural resources, and using energy-efficient products.

In my home State of Iowa we are working hard to find new and innovative ways to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases produced. It gives me great pride to say that a recent study by the American Wind Energy Association found that Iowa ranked first in the Nation in the percentage of wind-generated electricity created in the State, and fourth in total wind electricity generation.

The Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council, ICCAC, created less than a year ago in April 2007, is charged with finding ways for Iowa to combat climate change by becoming more energy efficient and independent. The ICCAC is right now creating plans for the reduction of greenhouse gases statewide with target goals of 50 percent to 90 percent by 2050.

In February of this year Governor Chet Culver signed Executive Order Six, establishing a new "green government" initiative. This initiative calls for improving energy efficiency in three areas, greening new and existing State

buildings and facilities, promoting resource efficiency by using recycled and sustainable products, and recycling used material, and increasing the use of biofuels in State automobiles and improving their fuel efficiency.

Across Iowa, communities large and small are following the example set by the State government, and in many places blazing their own path. These efforts must be replicated across the country and around the world if we are to curb the emission of greenhouse gases and protect our planet for future generations.

IN CELEBRATION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JACKSON'S 170TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, on May 4, 2008, First Baptist Church of Jackson, Mississippi will celebrate its 170th anniversary. First Baptist Church of Jackson has a rich history and has grown immensely in size over the years, not only in members but in its outreach to the community through different ministries.

When the church was founded in 1838, Jackson was a 16 year old village with less than 600 people and was struggling to become the permanent seat of state government. Although the early years of the church proved difficult with an economic depression, a yellow fever epidemic, and the Civil War, the church still grew strong in its relationship to God and continued to reach out to others in the name of Jesus Christ.

God has blessed First Baptist Church of Jackson because on May 4, the church stands 170 years old and occupies a 750,000 square foot facility in downtown Jackson. It also includes a sanctuary that seats 3,000; a chapel; two fellowship halls; a Christian Life Center with two regulation basketball courts; rock climbing wall; racquetball court; walking track; fitness facilities; and a fully staffed counseling center. Currently, they have a weekly television broadcast of their Sunday service that covers much of Mississippi as well as a national broadcast on Direct TV. In 2006, First Baptist Church of Jackson established a Madison Campus that has 200 active members today.

First Baptist Church has centered its ministries on connecting people to God through faith in Jesus Christ so that their lives can be transformed into passionate followers of Christ. Today, ministries of the church include an inner-city ministry that has a medical clinic, dental clinic, and legal clinic as well as after school programs for children. Other ministries include help for women recently released from prison and a ministry for international citizens from over 26 countries that teaches them English and assists them in adjusting to life in America. Last year, First Baptist sent hundreds of members across America and throughout the world to build homes and churches, provide medical and dental care, and spread the love of God.

Madam Speaker, I hope the Congress joins me in celebrating with First Baptist Church of Jackson. For 170 years, the church has served out its battle cry, "Connecting People, Transforming Lives into Passionate Followers

of Jesus Christ." This momentous occasion is a true testament of the service, commitment, love, and foundation this church is built upon. May the Lord continue to bless First Baptist in the years to come.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORT JEFFERSON ELKS LODGE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of an established and important landmark in New York's first congressional district—the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is one of the oldest, largest and most respected private organizations in the United States. From its humble beginnings in 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has grown to nearly 1.3 million men and women with 2,300 local lodges throughout the country.

Through these local branches, the Elks organization has contributed more than 5.6 million volunteer hours and \$142 million in philanthropic service last year alone. Many of my constituents are proud hosts of the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge, and many more of my constituents are beneficiaries of the Lodge's invaluable service and contributions to the community.

Since 1958, the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge has been recognized as a benevolent order dedicated to serving the community, including their notable service to our nation's youth and returning veterans. The members of the Port Jefferson Lodge support numerous charitable and patriotic activities in my district—from awarding youth scholarships and aid to disadvantaged families to local food pantry and veterans' program donations.

Through its "Helping Hand" dinner, the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge recently raised \$37,000 for a local Marine Corps veteran, Richard Kramer, who died from cancer due to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam. The lodge donated funds and hosted events at its facility in order to gather community support for the Kramer family. This is a shining example of the Port Jefferson Elk's mission of goodwill and just one among many good deeds performed by the Elks on behalf of the veterans and citizens in our community who are most in need.

I am proud to represent the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge. It is an ally and champion of our continuing efforts to ensure that our veterans receive their deserved benefits and the best quality of life—a small price to pay in return for their bravery, sacrifice, and honorable service to our country. The Elk's mission is best reflected by their pledge: "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent the Port Jefferson Elks Lodge and to recognize its 50th anniversary. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I thank the Lodge and its members for their steadfast dedication to eastern Long Island and for embodying their cherished principles of "charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity".

HONORING MRS. PINKIE PARKER HARDY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy. We lost our beloved Mrs. Parker Hardy on April 3, 2008. She led a full and vibrant life during her 91 years on this earth, raising a loving family and mentoring many in her church and community.

On May 19, 1916, Pinkie Parker was born in Washington, Louisiana to Alice White and John Parker. During Pinkie's life, she witnessed many of the Nation's most turbulent and controversial moments. Growing up in the south in the first quarter of the last century, Pinkie was self-educated and she devoted her energies to her community, her family, and her faith. She was a life-long resident of Eunice, Louisiana.

In 1936, at the age of 20, Pinkie Parker married Herman Joseph Hardy. From this loving union, five sons and two daughters were born. In 1949, Mrs. Hardy, a devout and extremely active member of this congregation until she became ill just last year.

Mrs. Hardy contributed immeasurably to the growth and service of St. Mathilda Parish during her life. Bishop Flynn appointed her as the first Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at St. Mathilda. She also served as Lector and Parish Council President for several years. For 50 years, Mrs. Hardy was an active member of the Knights of Peter Claver (KPC) Council No. 92. Mrs. Hardy spent 26 of those years serving as the Grand Lady of KPC.

In 1987, Mrs. Hardy was the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Diocese of Lafayette. In 2002, she received the Bishop's Medal for devoted service to her church and society.

It is clear that Mrs. Hardy was an indispensable component of her community. She came of age and lived her adult life during the most tumultuous and influential political period in American history. Mrs. Hardy's life exemplifies that of many African-Americans during this century, their struggle for human rights and civic freedom, and their strength and perseverance.

These important men and women are seldom recognized for their greatness. Mrs. Hardy's life is one to be remembered and admired as an example of the true work and inner fortitude that keeps this country together. These individuals dedicated their lives in the service of their God and community in the face of incredible odds. Each and every one of them had a unique story, a special impact, and a loving family. Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy was a member of mine.

On a very personal level, Mrs. Hardy was "family" to me. She shared her deep religious faith, her wonderful Creole cooking (especially her gumbo) and her insights as a strong, yet gentle African-American woman with me on several occasions. To know "Mrs. Pinkie" was to love her.

Mrs. Pinkie Parker Hardy will be sorely missed by all those who loved her and were honored to have her kindness and spirit touch their lives. Her memory and legacy will live on through her seven children, a daughter-in-law,