

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES GADDIE CLINKSCALES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to celebrate the life of a woman who has greatly affected the lives of so many throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Mrs. Frances Gaddie Clinkscales. For 78 years, Mrs. Clinkscales loved and invested wholeheartedly in everyone she met.

Known to those around her as "Miss Frances," Mrs. Clinkscales was an inspiration. Her time was devoted to caring for individuals, predominantly through her role as a nurse. She graduated from Durham High School in Campbellsville, KY, in 1949 and continued her education at Howard University in Washington, DC, receiving her degree in nursing. Thus began her dedication to caring for others.

Mrs. Clinkscales served at North Point Hospital in Long Island, NY, before returning to Ft. Knox, KY, to work at the Ireland Army Hospital, where she served the military community for 31 years. Mrs. Clinkscales spent her time loving those around her, not only through her nursing career but for decades after. Her devotion to her faith was expressed throughout every aspect of her life. As a community and civic leader, she worked to assure Taylor County and central Kentucky was a quality place for everyone to live.

Her participation in a plethora of organizations only contributed to the love she spread. She was a member of the Campbellsville City Council, Greater Campbellsville United, and held long terms of service on the Lake Cumberland Development Board, Habitat for Humanity, and the Campbellsville Family Resource and Youth Services Council.

Along with service to organizations such as these, Mrs. Clinkscales spent many of her later years fighting for patients receiving dialysis. In June 2007, Mrs. Clinkscales suffered from complete kidney failure and underwent dialysis. Her treatment was conducted at the Taylor County Dialysis Center; a facility that she was instrumental in opening. Mrs. Clinkscales's commitment to organizations like these and the people she worked with and loved exemplified her genuine care for the community.

Regretfully, on February 27, 2008, the Commonwealth of Kentucky lost this most respected member of our State; yet her legacy will not go untold. Mrs. Clinkscales's constant love for those around her will continue to resonate. Her infamous words to anyone she met—"pretty, pretty" and "I love you"—will be remembered. Mrs. Clinkscales genuinely dedicated her life and service to her faith and her town. She leaves behind her granddaughter and her grandson-in-law, LaQuita and Christopher Goodin; two grandsons; and seven nieces.

Mrs. Clinkscales served as an important citizen of Kentucky for decades. This service is assuredly not to be forgotten and will carry on as an example to all. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Frances Gaddie Clinkscales for her dedicated service, her example to the community, and in honoring the legacy she has left us.

ENFORCEMENT-ONLY IMMIGRATION BILLS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I regret to see that the Republicans are at it again—offering unworkable solutions to complex immigration issues that only make the problem worse and cater to the basest instincts of the far right fringe.

For 7 years, Republicans have failed to fix the broken immigration system, offering only empty rhetoric and unrealistic proposals. Democrats recognize that our country deserves better—we need to overhaul our broken system, uphold our values as a nation of immigrants, ensure our national security and protect American jobs.

It is unacceptable to have 12 million people in our country who are outside the system. Our illegal immigration problem has skyrocketed because employers know they can get away with breaking the law and abusing illegal workers. And the past 7 years have shown us that deportation alone is not the solution.

It is time to stop coddling employers who break our laws and undercut American workers. It is time to make sure employers follow our immigration and labor laws so that the law is respected, wages are fair, working conditions are decent, workers' rights are valued, and unscrupulous employers are punished. And it is time to treat immigrants with the dignity and respect that they deserve.

I have to ask why the Republicans have failed to address these very real problems. They controlled Congress for 6 years. They have occupied the White House for almost 8 years. Where have they been this whole time?

I can tell you where they have been. They have been cynically using the immigration problem to stir up local resentment and fear to divert attention away from their inaction. They have vilified immigrants, especially Latinos, making them the new unwanted class, the new untouchables. They have tried to convince Americans that declaring English the official language will solve our problems, when in fact English is already our national language, but the Government sometimes needs to use other languages to respond to health care and law enforcement emergencies. They have engaged in targeted attacks on people who are contributing to our communities.

I urge them to drop their rhetorical attacks that cater to the extreme right wing of their party. I urge them to listen to the American people, who want real solutions. Americans understand

that immigration is a complex challenge that requires a comprehensive solution. They know that we need to address the situation of the 12 million illegal immigrants in the country, requiring them to register with the Government or face deportation; that we need to deport those who have committed serious crimes or represent a threat to our national security; that we need to meaningfully go after employers who flaunt the law by hiring those who are not authorized to work; and that we need to ensure that American workers are not harmed by U.S. immigration policy.

We can do this. We can uphold the rule of law. And we can do it without sacrificing our proud tradition of immigration.

The American people understand the issues. Why can't the Republicans?

Instead, they are proposing to deny local communities funding for community policing because such communities recognize that working with immigrant communities helps combat crime and lawlessness. They would force all American workers to prove eligibility to work based on a database that is so flawed it will result in denial of employment to millions of authorized workers, including American citizens. They would impose jail sentences on illegal immigrants who have not committed crimes, further overloading U.S. prisons. Those are just a few of the unworkable proposals they have introduced today, blithely ignoring the untold harm such ideas will cause to the American public.

This Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform in 2006. That bill faced head on the many aspects of the immigration system that are broken. It recognized that it is impractical to deport 12 million illegal immigrants. And it is undesirable—the majority of these people are playing a key role in the U.S. economy, taking care of our children, mowing our lawns, and harvesting our crops.

But that legislation also recognized that the Government must seize control of our immigration system. Border enforcement that is both effective and humane must be implemented. Employers who knowingly break the law and hire illegal immigrants must be punished. By hiring people who are not authorized to work, these bad actors are also violating labor protections in place to protect American workers.

The 2006 bill failed in the House, where the Republican majority instead chose to grandstand the issue and push an enforcement-only bill. Now we are seeing our Republican colleagues in the Senate do the same.

Let's stop the sham. Let's negotiate a real solution. Let's go back to the table, roll up our sleeves, and give the American public what it deserves: an immigration system that works, that is orderly, and that ensures that the system works for Americans. Anything

less is unworthy of the people we represent, and that is why I oppose this effort launched today by my Republican colleagues.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would strengthen and add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On the afternoon of December 4, 2007, 30-year-old Gilbert Aguilar was walking to a friend's house in Yucaipa, CA, when he was accosted by four Caucasian men. According to a witness, one of the men called Aguilar a racial slur, and after a brief exchange of words Aguilar continued on his way. Later that night, Aguilar and two friends, Joshua Morales and Ryan Couture, passed by the area where the confrontation had taken place. The four were still there waiting for Aguilar. According to a witness, one of the men in Aguilar's group threw a punch at one of the Caucasian men, provoking Christopher Fulmer to pull out a gun. A witness says Fulmer fired two or three rounds, hitting Couture in the arm and fatally wounding Morales. Fulmer, who has a swastika tattooed on his chest, will stand trial on counts of murder, attempted murder, and a hate crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. Federal laws intended to protect individuals from heinous and violent crimes motivated by hate are woefully inadequate. This legislation would better equip the Government to fulfill its most important obligation by protecting new groups of people as well as better protecting citizens already covered under deficient laws. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK WEEK

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to publicly recognize School Social Work Week, which is taking place March 2-8, 2008. This important week honors school social workers, who play a vital role in the development of our young students.

My wife Barbara was a school social worker for more than 18 years, so I understand the critical importance of the services they provide to children, families, and schools. Not only do school social workers provide family and student counseling, crisis intervention, family advocacy, truancy prevention, assistance with basic needs, and com-

munity referrals for long-term needs, but they also assist already overwhelmed and underfunded schools in finding ways to assist their "at risk" students. The presence of school social workers has helped increase attendance rates, academic performance, appropriate behavior, and parental involvement.

I believe the best way we can honor school social workers is by providing them with the resources they need to accomplish their jobs and serve our students. Children often must seek help at school for problems they are experiencing personally, as well as at home. Experts note that early identification and intervention can be beneficial in helping distressed young people cope with and handle the problems in their lives. Without school social workers and the wonderful services they provide, far too many children's needs would remain unaddressed.

For these reasons and countless others, proudly I stand today and applaud the wonderful work of these dedicated individuals. I am pleased that their tireless efforts are being publicly celebrated. It is with great honor that I share their impressive commitment to helping and educating our youth with my colleagues.

RECORD CORRECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in yesterday's speech on the executive branch stonewalling of congressional oversight, I erroneously referred to two Egyptian nationals charged with terrorism as former students at Florida State University. In fact, they are former students at the University of South Florida.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ALT. CONSULTING

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a nonprofit organization that has been making a difference in the lives of Mid-South and Delta small business men and women for the last 10 years, alt.Consulting. Founded in 1998, alt.Consulting has been providing small business owners and entrepreneurs with the tools and advice needed to build their businesses and provide jobs in a region of the country in need of a boost.

When one reads their mission statement, you quickly get a sense of what makes alt.Consulting different. It reads as follows:

alt.Consulting works with local business owners and entrepreneurs in rural Delta and minority communities to examine, diagnose, start and rebuild businesses. We provide tailored support, skill building, and access to capital to enhance business performance leading to growth and self-defined success.

We act on our ethical and social principles, empowering entrepreneurs to overcome racial, gender, socioeconomic and geographic barriers. We believe this leads to vibrant, entrepreneur friendly and just communities.

Through its comprehensive, affordable assistance to small businesses, alt.Consulting raises the standard of living by enabling profitability for new and growing businesses and preventing business failures. We demonstrate the contributions of healthy small businesses to growing communities with more jobs, wealth building opportunities and a stronger tax base.

With offices in Pine Bluff, AR, and Memphis, TN, alt.Consulting has gone into some of the most impoverished communities in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee and provided the support and assistance needed to get businesses off the ground. The average poverty rate in their target market is a staggering 24 percent. Average unemployment is 8 percent. Even more daunting is that less than 13 percent of the population has a bachelor's degree in the areas they work.

Due to their methodology, though, alt.Consulting has been making a big difference in the Mid-South and the Delta since its inception. In 2006, 195 businesses received one-on-one assistance. As a result, alt.Consulting was responsible for 75 new jobs in a region of the country that had been experiencing negative growth. Moreover, 10 businesses on the verge of failure were saved which protected 700 existing jobs. The sales growth of companies they assisted resulted in \$12.7 million in new economic activity. And their technical assistance resulted in \$430,000 in SBA community express loans to 39 businesses. This gave those existing businesses the working capital to grow and reach new customers.

alt.Consulting is also working with selected communities to train business specialists to replicate their services at the local level. Thanks to support from U.S. Department of Agriculture, the rural community development initiative program, and the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, they have launched new, nonprofit microenterprise programs to provide continuous resources to rural communities throughout the Mid-South.

One such effort, the Pine Bluff Entrepreneurship Collaborative, was started in June 2006 and was comprised of 47 community leaders. Their goals were to create an equity pool to start and expand businesses, identify local resources for small businesses, make health insurance affordable for small businesses, and develop marketing and training workshops.

Youth is also a major focus for alt.Consulting. Recognizing that youth entrepreneurship builds a lifetime of opportunities, alt.Consulting works with partners to help "at-risk" youth start and build their own small businesses. Through one-on-one mentoring and assistance, alt.Consulting has worked to turn their young ideas into a reality.

As a native of Helena, AR, who grew up in the heart of the Delta, I am proud of the impact that alt.Consulting is making in communities throughout my State. They serve as an example of what we can do when we focus on what