

U.W. Clemon judged the same Equal Protection Clause, and its descendant, Title VII, with a vision. It seems to go something like this: discrimination still has deep roots in our culture; a reading of the law that is too parsimonious, or too cramped, will yield one kind of community, while a more heroic interpretation will generate a public sphere that shines more brightly. Finally, I think Judge Clemon always felt that corporate power should feel a little unsettled when it walks into a courtroom. It's an instinct that I appreciate the more I see the customary advantages that the entrenched and the privileged enjoy in most seats of power.

I congratulate Judge Clemon on a noble, heroic career.

MS. ROSA E. LUJAN—TEXAS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 1992

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, the El Paso, Texas community is proud to have some of the best teachers in the country. Today, I would like to acknowledge one of those, Ms. Rosa E. Lujan, a teacher at Ysleta Elementary School in the Ysleta Independent School District, for being selected as the 1992 Texas Teacher of the Year. Ms. Lujan received the highest honor that the State of Texas can award to a teacher because of her commitment to the children of El Paso. The Texas Education Agency annually recognizes and rewards teachers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and excelled in the classroom. Ms. Rosa E. Lujan represents the best of the teaching profession, and on behalf of the El Paso, Texas community, I applaud her dedication to our schools.

Ms. Rosa E. Lujan's love of teaching was ignited in her teens as a student at Ysleta High School. During the summer, she worked as an aide for South Loop and Ysleta Elementary School. Later on, at the University of Texas at El Paso, she started working for the Ysleta Independent School District as a fourth grade teacher. She has been noted to say: "Being a teacher has allowed me to change children's lives. Hopefully, I have inspired children to believe in themselves, just as my teachers inspired me." After 35 years in education, her passion for students and learning is still burning.

Ms. Rosa E. Lujan is part of a larger history of educational excellence in El Paso. I am proud to note that to date, El Paso area educators have been chosen as Texas Teachers of the Year nine times. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

I am proud of the work of our teachers, and I am committed to ensuring that education remains a top priority in this Congress.

THANKING ROB VON GOGH FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent Rob von Gogh who today marks the end of his twenty-two years of service as an employee of the United States Government, including ten years of distinguished service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rob began serving the House of Representatives in 1998 as the Branch Manager and Graphic Artist within House Information Resources (HIR), preparing visual communications for Members of Congress. In 1999 he was promoted to HIR's Director of Client Services, where he managed the COA's centralized, non-partisan technology support team that provides infrastructure support for the entire House of Representatives and the more than 950 district offices across the country.

Rob was selected as the recipient of the 2006 Chief Administrative Officer's Excellence Award for his role managing the Client Services team. Rob has guided the House's technological infrastructure through periods of significant transition and strain. Within his role as manager of the Client Services team Rob has been involved in many milestones and business changing events of the House. They include the House's Y2K transition, the anthrax crisis and September 11th attacks, the House Mobile Computing Project, House Active Directory Project, CAO Seat Management for computers and the House Information Hosting Service.

Rob has served in a nonpartisan role as one of the senior problem solvers for House operations. Blending an artful balance of technical knowledge with compassion and a keen focus on delivering results, he instilled a sense of quality customer service with his teammates that earned him the reputation as a person who gets things done fast, right and always with a smile. Mr. von Gogh served the House and our country with distinction. On behalf of the entire House community, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Rob for his service and years of dedication to the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, due to other congressional business in my district, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Thursday, March 26, 2009.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, and 162.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "JOHN
HOPE FRANKLIN TULSA-GREEN-
WOOD RACE RIOT CLAIMS AC-
COUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the "John Hope Franklin Tulsa-Greenwood Race Riot Claims Accountability Act of 2009," along with Representative NADLER. This legislation will extend the statute of limitations to allow the survivors of the Tulsa-Greenwood Riot of 1921 to seek a determination on the merits of their civil rights and other claims against the perpetrators of the Riot in a court of law.

This legislation is named in honor of the late Dr. John Hope Franklin, the noted historian, who was a first-hand witness to the destructive impact that the riot had on the African-American community of Tulsa. Dr. Franklin made numerous scholarly contributions to the understanding of the long term effects of the riot on the city and worked to keep the issue alive in history and on the minds of policymakers. On April 24, 2007, he served as a witness, testifying in favor of the legislation, and its passage would be a fitting tribute to his memory and to a community which has never received its fair day in court.

The Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma, was one of the nation's most prosperous African-American communities entering the decade of the Nineteen Twenties. Serving over 8,000 residents, the community boasted two newspapers, over a dozen churches, and hundreds of African-American-owned businesses, with the commercial district known nationally as the "Negro Wall Street." In May 1921, all that came to an end as 42 square blocks of the community were burned to the ground and up to 300 of its residents were killed by a racist mob. In the wake of the violence, the State and local governments quashed claims for redress and effectively erased the incident from official memory.

The 1921 Tulsa Race Riot was one of the most destructive and costly attacks upon an American community in our nation's history. However, no convictions were obtained for the incidents of murder, arson or larceny connected with the riot, and none of the more than 100 contemporaneously filed lawsuits by residents and property owners was successful in recovering damages from insurance companies to assist in the reconstruction of the community.

The case of the Tulsa-Greenwood Riot victims is worthy of congressional attention because substantial evidence suggests that governmental officials deputized and armed the mob and that the National Guard joined in the destruction. The report commissioned by the Oklahoma State Legislature in 1997, and published in 2001, uncovered new information and detailed, for the first time, the extent of the involvement by the State and city government in prosecuting and erasing evidence of the riot. This new evidence was crucial for the formulation of a substantial case, but its timeliness raised issues at law, and resulted in a dismissal on statute of limitation grounds. In dismissing the survivor's claims, however, the Court found that extraordinary circumstances

might support extending the statute of limitations, but that Congress did not establish rules applicable to the case at bar. With this legislation, we have the opportunity to provide closure for a group of claimants—all over 90 years old—and the ability close the book on a tragic chapter in history.

Racism, and its violent manifestations, are part of nation's past that we cannot avoid. With the prosecution of historical civil rights claims, both civil and criminal, we encourage a process of truth and reconciliation which can heal historic wounds. In this case, the Court took "no great comfort" in finding that there was no legal avenue through which the plaintiffs could bring their claims. The "Tulsa-Greenwood Riot Accountability Act" would simply give Tulsans and all Oklahomans, white and black, victims and non-victims, their day in court. Without that opportunity, we will all continue to be victims of our past.

MR. MIGUEL IGNACIO TINAJERO—
TEXAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR
FOR 1995

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas has many great teachers and today I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my long-time friend Miguel Ignacio Tinajero, a teacher at Ramona Elementary School in the Ysleta Independent School District, for being selected as the 1995 Texas Teacher of the Year. This is the highest honor that the State of Texas can award to a teacher and the program selects only the best teachers to represent the state in the National Teacher of the Year Program. Mr. Miguel Ignacio Tinajero is one of the finest teachers in the El Paso area community, and I am grateful that he has served our children with such passion and dedication.

Mr. Miguel Ignacio Tinajero is recognized for his innovative approach and teaching methods to reach bilingual students. He developed effective programs to teach children both academic and literacy skills and became the favorite teacher of the fifth- and sixth-graders at Ramona Elementary School. Mr. Tinajero is praised by students, parents, and fellow teachers in the El Paso community for his dedication and commitment to youth.

Mr. Miguel Ignacio Tinajero is part of a larger history of educational excellence in El Paso. I am proud to note that to date El Paso area educators have been chosen as Texas Teachers of the Year nine times. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

I am proud of the work of our teachers, and I am committed to ensuring that education remains a top priority in this Congress. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2009 PRINCE WILLIAM AMERICAN RED CROSS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2009 Prince William American Red Cross Awards. These individuals and their work with the Red Cross stand as an example of dedication and service for the benefit and safety of the community.

The Elizabeth Smith Davies Award commemorates the hard work and dedication of Red Cross volunteers and staff members with at least twenty-five years of service. Jean Johnson is receiving this award for her thirty years of involvement in the Red Cross. Her years of service include training thousands of community members in Red Cross health and safety programs, including training for family care giving, responding to emergencies and CPR/AED/First Aid certification. Ms. Johnson's service combines education, safety and a positive attitude that encourages those around her to take an active role in Red Cross initiatives.

Rear Admiral James E. Miller's five-year membership of the Board of Directors merits the Dr. Gail Kettlewell Award for outstanding volunteer leadership and service. As an active member of the board, Admiral Jim Miller is the chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and a member of the Governance and Service Delivery Committee. He and his wife, Anna, are enthusiastic fundraisers. Each year they go out into the Haymarket and Gainesville communities to request support for the annual silent auction at the "March is Red Cross Month" celebration. Admiral Miller is always looking for new members, volunteers, and opportunities for the Red Cross by spreading the word of the Red Cross' mission wherever someone will listen.

The Brownie B. Smith Award is the pre-eminent award for volunteer leadership and is bestowed upon individuals who have exemplified sustained dedication and leadership in a volunteer capacity. The recipient, Marty French, serves in any capacity that will further the cause of the Prince William American Red Cross. His involvement in the Disaster Response Team is leadership from the front. He assists victims displaced by fire or broken water pipes and can be depended on to lead Red Cross emergency response any time of day or night.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the staff and volunteers of the Prince William American Red Cross. When a community is hit by disaster, it is often the Red Cross that provides comfort and assistance. The efforts of individual members are responsible for the organization's outstanding reputation, and I am honored to recognize Jean Johnson, Rear Admiral James E. Miller and Marty French for doing their part to uphold this tradition of excellence.

HONORING ILWU LOCAL 29

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a time-honored and long-revered labor union that has created many well-paying jobs on our Pacific west coast—the International Longshoremen Worker's Union (the ILWU).

The ILWU Local 29 was granted its charter with jurisdiction embracing all workers in or about the City and County of San Diego, California on September 21, 1937. Local 29 embraces workers of all races and beliefs, who come together with one single purpose: to achieve a better life for themselves and their families. It is a union that is democratic, committed and dedicated to the idea that solidarity with other workers and other unions is the key to achieving economic security and a peaceful world.

Through the years the Local 29 membership has grown and work opportunities have improved. ILWU Local 29 dispatch longshoremen to a variety of jobs every day. Today longshoremen work the cruise ships, vessels transporting fruit, automobiles, cement, and a wide variety of break bulk cargo.

In July 2002, the ILWU negotiated a six year contract covering all locals in California, Washington, and Oregon that secured decent living wages and medical benefits covering the children and families of these outstanding workers!

I urge my colleagues to join with me today to honor ILWU Local 29!

MR. ANTONIO A. FIERRO—TEXAS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 1997

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas has a history of producing strong, passionate, and caring educators who motivate and engage our children to become lifelong learners. As a parent and grandparent, I am grateful for the contributions of our teachers in the El Paso area, and today I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Antonio A. Fierro, a teacher at Sierra Vista Elementary School in the Socorro Independent School District, for being selected as the 1997 Texas Teacher of the Year. The Texas Teacher of the Year is the highest honor that the State of Texas can award to a teacher. Facilitated by the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Teacher of the Year Program annually recognizes and rewards teachers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and excellence in teaching. Mr. Antonio E. Fierro represents the best of the best in the teaching profession, and we salute his energy, efforts, and dedication.

Mr. Fierro knew from a young age that he would be teacher. His grandmother retired as a principal in Mexico, and he has vivid memories of sitting in his sixth grade social studies class and imagining himself teaching in front of a classroom. Fierro attended El Paso Community College and graduated with honors