

and white students were “inherently unequal.” That ruling and the Court’s subsequent order that public schools be desegregated with “all deliberate speed” touched off a firestorm of protest in the South and contributed substantially to the growth of the modern-day civil rights movement. Today, the NAACP has over 500,000 members standing in unity with all who support protecting our constitutionally guaranteed civil rights against all who would oppose protecting these freedoms.

Even in my district in Houston, the NAACP seeks to be a voice against injustice for all minorities. The NAACP Houston Branch has a long and rich history championing civil rights in Houston on vital issues such as the desegregation of Houston schools, combating the spread of HIV/AIDS, and improved access to education and information technology.

The NAACP Houston Branch has played an instrumental role in breaking new ground on the path to freedom and equality for Houston’s minority community. The branch has been experiencing tremendous growth in recent years while serving the Harris County area through its programs and myriad committees made up of its dedicated staff and volunteer members. Led by an Executive Committee of approximately 25 volunteers, there are approximately 800 members in the Houston Branch.

Some of the Houston Branch’s programs include collaborations with the City of Houston Health Department in STD prevention and awareness programs, legal assistance in the form of legal consultation and educational seminars, a year-long enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African American high school students, and other programs beneficial to minorities across the city of Houston.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I truly appreciate the support from the NAACP in fighting for the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act. We all know that without the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, the voting rights of many U.S. citizens would be in jeopardy. When I authored H.R. 745 in the 110th Congress, I am proud to say that with the NAACP’s support, my colleagues and I were able to rename the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Cesar E. Chavez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006. This bill renamed the Voting Rights Act to demonstrate the many faces of the Civil Rights Movement. The bill was renamed to recognize the Hispanics and other persons of color who labored in the vineyards to insure that all receive equal treatment in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res 35 provides for a tribute to celebrate the impact and achievements of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in their efforts to better the lives of minorities and the community. There is still a need for justice and equal treatment for minorities in our country. I am grateful for the many fights for equality that he organization has won, and thankful that the NAACP will be there in the future to champion the cause of justice wherever and whenever it needs a spokesman.

The struggles of the NAACP have helped pave the way for the election this country’s first African-American President Barack Obama. During a speech celebrating the NAACP, President Obama declared that

“serving as . . . [P]resident, 100 years after the founding of the NAACP, I will stand up for you the same way that earlier generations of Americans stood up for me—by fighting to ensure that every single one of us has the chance to make it if we try.”

I thank my colleague, Representative AL GREEN, of Texas, for introducing this important legislation, to ensure that we celebrate, treasure and recognize the African American spiritual as a national treasure and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Con. Res. 35.

The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HONORING GRIFFIN BELL

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 71) acknowledging the lifelong service of Griffin Boyette Bell to the State of Georgia and the United States as a legal icon.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 71

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell was born on October 31, 1918, in Americus, Georgia, to Thelma Leola Pilcher and Adlai Cleveland Bell, a cotton farmer;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell died on January 5, 2009, at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, after enduring long-term kidney disease and a battle with pancreatic cancer;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell was raised in the Shiloh community outside of Americus until his family moved into Americus to establish a tire retail store;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell proved himself a superior student in the Americus public schools and later at Georgia Southwestern College also in Americus;

Whereas in 1942, Griffin Boyette Bell was drafted into the Army, where he served in the Quartermaster Corps and Transportation Corps;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell, while stationed at Fort Lee, Virginia, met and married Mary Powell, who also had family ties in Americus, Georgia, and they later had one son, Griffin Jr.;

Whereas in 1946, Griffin Boyette Bell, after being discharged from active duty in the Army with the rank of Major, enrolled in the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell worked at the firm Anderson, Anderson, and Walker while in law school;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell, while still a law student, passed the Georgia bar examination and was appointed city attorney of Warner Robins, Georgia;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell, after graduating Mercer University law school with honors in 1948, practiced law in Savannah, Georgia, and Rome, Georgia;

Whereas in 1953, Griffin Boyette Bell accepted an offer to join the Atlanta law firm of Spalding Sibley Troutman and Kelley, later renamed King and Spalding;

Whereas in 1958, Griffin Boyette Bell was appointed chief of staff to Governor Ernest Vandiver and while serving in that capacity was influential in organizing the Sibley Commission, which mapped Georgia’s approach to school desegregation;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell, while as chief of staff to Governor Ernest Vandiver, also helped moderate State policy concerning civil rights and was instrumental in keeping Georgia’s schools open during that turbulent period;

Whereas in 1961, Griffin Boyette Bell was appointed by President Kennedy to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals where he served for 14 years and often played an instrumental role in mediating disputes during the peak of the United States Civil Rights Movement;

Whereas in 1976, President Jimmy Carter nominated Griffin Boyette Bell to be the 72nd Attorney General of the United States and he was confirmed to that position on January 25, 1977;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell brought independence and professionalism to the Department of Justice during his tenure as Attorney General by daily posting of his third-party contacts, including meetings and calls with the White House, Members of Congress, or other non-Justice Department individuals;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell in his capacity as Attorney General, advised the Carter administration and helped to increase the number of women and minorities serving on the Federal bench by recruiting Wade McCree, an African-American Eighth Circuit judge, to serve as Solicitor General of the United States and Drew S. Days III, an African-American lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, to head the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell also led negotiations to divide his former appellate court, the 5th Circuit spanning from Georgia to Texas, into two courts: a new 5th Circuit based in New Orleans and an 11th Circuit based in Atlanta;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell, upon resignation as Attorney General in August 1979, was appointed by President Carter as the Special Ambassador to the Helsinki Convention;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell served as a member of the Secretary of State’s Advisory Committee on South Africa from 1985 to 1987;

Whereas in 1989, Griffin Boyette Bell was appointed Vice Chairman of President George H. W. Bush’s Commission on Federal Ethics Law Reform;

Whereas Griffin Boyette Bell served as counsel to President George H. W. Bush during the Iran Contra Affair investigation;

Whereas in September of 2004, Griffin Boyette Bell was appointed the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Military Commission Review; and

Whereas during Griffin Boyette Bell’s career as a lawyer, he specialized in corporate internal investigations, and many that were high profile, including E.F. Hutton following

Federal indictments for its cash management practices, Exxon Valdez after an oil spill in Alaska, and Procter and Gamble after rumors circulated that the company's moon-and-stars logo was a satanic symbol: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) acknowledges the lifelong service of Griffin Boyette Bell to the State of Georgia and the United States as a legal icon; and

(2) commends Griffin Boyette Bell for his tenure as Attorney General of the United States and his commitment to the American Civil Rights Movement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I will yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor the lifelong service of Griffin Boyette Bell to the legal profession and to the American civil rights movement. I want to thank Representative JACK KINGSTON of Georgia for introducing this fitting tribute to one of Georgia's native sons.

Griffin Bell was born in 1918 in rural Sumter County, the son of a cotton farmer. His family relocated to Americus, the county seat, when the advance of the boll weevil devastated cotton crops.

Griffin Bell excelled at school and for a while attended Georgia Southwestern College and worked in his father's successful tire shop. When duty called in 1942, Griffin enlisted in the U.S. Army serving in the Quartermaster Corps, the Transportation Corps, where he rose to the rank of Major.

After the Army, he attended Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, graduating with honors. While still in law school, he was appointed city attorney of Warner Robins, Georgia. He practiced law in both Savannah and Rome, Georgia, eventually joining the Atlanta law firm now known as King and Spalding.

In 1959, he returned to public service as chief of staff to Governor Ernest Vandiver. One of his responsibilities was helping guide the State of Georgia in implementing the Supreme Court's Brown versus Board of Education decision requiring that public schools be desegregated—which was a matter that was creating public and political tensions throughout the South.

Working with the blue-ribbon Sibley Commission that he organized, he navi-

gated a steady but incremental approach which helped Georgia implement the Brown decision without the school closings and other public rancor experienced elsewhere.

Griffin Bell's handling of this and other matters for Governor Vandiver brought him to the attention of President Kennedy, who appointed him in 1961 to the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which used to incorporate the State of Georgia, but now Georgia is in the 11th Circuit.

In addition, among the many cases he dealt with during his 14 years on the bench were numerous school desegregation cases throughout the States from Texas to Georgia and Florida where he worked with a great deal of success to ensure that the Brown mandate was carried forward resolutely, but also with the cooperation and support of school boards and local communities whenever possible.

I had the opportunity to practice before the Fifth Circuit to promote civil rights on many occasions, including one case where I represented the NAACP in a voting rights case. In that case, the NAACP was denied an application to conduct voter registration drives. The court decided that the city could not prevent the NAACP from conducting voter registration drives if this would have a discriminatory effect, a decision which might not have been possible had lawyers and judges like Griffin Bell not had the courage to stand up for civil rights over the course of decades.

Judge Bell retired from the bench in March of 1976 only to be called back to public service soon thereafter by President-elect Jimmy Carter, who nominated him to be Attorney General of the United States. He was instrumental in restoring morale and public confidence at a Justice Department whose reputation had been severely damaged by Watergate. And he helped greatly increase the representation of women and minorities on the Federal bench.

Judge Bell returned to King and Spalding in 1979, but he remained active in public affairs not only in his community, but in national and international affairs as well.

He had barely left the Justice Department when President Carter appointed him to lead the U.S. delegation to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Two years later, he served as co-Chair of the Attorney General's National Task Force on Violent Crime, and in 1985, he accepted the position on the Secretary of State's advisory committee on South Africa. In 1989, the first President Bush appointed him to be vice chairman on the Commission on Federal Ethics Law Reform. In 2004 at age 86, he was commissioned as a Major General in the United States Army to serve as chief judge on the appeals court for reviewing military commission trials of enemy combatants.

To fully list the many positions Judge Bell held and the many ways he

served his community and his country and the world would take more time than we have here today. Last fall, his historical essays were published in a book called "Footnotes to History."

Griffin Bell was anything but a footnote to history. His advancement of civil rights and commitment to the rule of the law will continue to be an inspiration to the many who worked with him, who knew him, and who will read about him in years to come.

I am proud that today we celebrate his many accomplishments and honor his life.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume

Mr. Speaker, I support House Resolution 71 which acknowledges the lifelong service of Griffin Bell to the State of Georgia and, of course, to the United States.

Griffin Bell was the son of a cotton farmer, and he rose to become one of the most respected legal counselors in the whole United States. He was appointed by President Kennedy to serve as a judge on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. He left the court after 14 years of service on that bench to rejoin the law firm of King and Spalding.

In 1986, President Jimmy Carter nominated him to become the Attorney General of the United States. In that role, Judge Bell operated in a remarkably open manner that has not been duplicated since.

Every day, he would publicly post his contacts with third parties, including meetings and calls from the White House, Members of Congress, and others outside the Justice Department. His efforts to strengthen transparency of his office did much to rebuild confidence in the Justice Department after the Watergate scandal.

As Attorney General, Judge Bell led the effort to pass the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978. At the time, he gave testimony to Congress in which he made clear that the legislation "does not take away the power of the President under the Constitution."

Judge Bell also led negotiations that resulted in dividing his former appellate courts into two circuits: the Fifth Circuit, based in New Orleans, and the 11th Circuit, based in Atlanta.

Judge Bell was known for his love of rooster pepper sausage and for his wide and bold-colored ties. He was a figure full of personality as he was wise, and greatly respected by Members of both sides of the political aisle.

Judge Bell passed away earlier this year on January 5, 2009. He and his sage advice and his opinions will be missed.

As a former judge and prosecutor, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to honor the life of Judge Bell, a man committed to justice because, Mr. Speaker, justice is what we do in America.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER).

□ 1815

Mr. LINDER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Griffin Bell was a friend of mine for maybe 20 years and a decent human being. I'm not going to go back and reflect on his contributions to his city, his State or his Nation. Mr. JOHNSON and Mr. POE have already done that.

He served in many capacities in a decent way, but I just want to get something in the record. You never, ever will understand Griffin Bell until you understand what a wonderful sense of humor he had.

I moved to Georgia from Minnesota in 1969, almost 40 years ago, and one of the things we have in the South is respect for story telling and great good humor. And I have never heard a better one than Griffin Bell. And some of the stories he told me about he and Charlie Kirbo, who was another of President Carter's close personal advisers, as partners representing companies and individuals were just hilarious.

I want you to know that the Nation is going to miss a great man, and those of us who knew him are missing a great humorist.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time, and I have no more speakers.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this H. Res. and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I can think of no man who deserves these accolades who is greater than the late Judge Griffin Bell, and I look forward to this measure passing.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my friend and colleague Representative JACK KINGSTON for introducing this resolution to commemorate the life of one of the giants in the legal community of Georgia and the Nation—Griffin Boyette Bell. His passing is a great loss to me, his family, and the country he proudly served. We have lost a true friend and a prominent leader. Mr. Bell's distinguished service as a civil rights advocate, U.S. attorney general, World War II veteran, and Federal judge reflects his lifelong commitment to public service and the American people.

Born in Americus Georgia, Mr. Bell, the only son of a farmer, dedicated his life to helping others. Following his Army service in the Quartermaster and Transportation Corps during World War II, Griffin Bell attended the Georgia Southwestern College and went on to law school at Mercer College. Even before graduating, he passed the Georgia Bar and served as city attorney of Warner Robins, Georgia.

Following law school, he set up a successful practice in Savannah and Rome and soon was invited to become a partner at the prominent law firm of King & Spalding. Griffin Bell could not stay out of public service for long. Shortly after the election of President Kennedy, he accepted an appointment to the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

As a judge on the Fifth U.S. Circuit, Griffin Bell acted as a guardian of our constitutional

rights and stood in strong opposition to segregation and discrimination. Later, as President Carter's Attorney General, he was an independent advocate of justice. Watergate was still fresh in people's minds, and Griffin Bell focused on eliminating official corruption. After his work as attorney general, he returned to King & Spalding, but still continued to be active in the public sphere. He served on the State's Advisory Committee on South Africa, President George H.W. Bush's Commission on Federal Ethics Law Reform, and was appointed the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Military Commission Review.

Throughout his career in public service, people from all walks of life—rich and poor, black and white, Democrat and Republican—benefited from his insight and wise counsel. He strove to bring people together and resolve differences in a fair and pragmatic manner. Put simply, he was a model of integrity. He was a strong influence in my own life and was an inspiring mentor to countless numbers of young people over the years. Griffin Bell was looked up to and loved by everyone, and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 71.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM RE-AUTHORIZATION OF 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 908) to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 908

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization of 2009".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM.

Section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) GRANT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, the Attorney General, through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall award competitive grants to nonprofit organizations to assist such organizations in paying for the costs of planning, designing, establishing, and operating locally based, proactive programs to protect and locate missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and other missing elderly individuals.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “competitive” after “to receive a”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The Attorney General shall periodically solicit applications for grants under this section by publishing a request for applications in the Federal Register and by posting such a request on the website of the Department of Justice.”;

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall give preference to national nonprofit organizations that have a direct link to patients, and families of patients, with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.”; and

(4) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2016.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we come to the floor with three elder justice bills, each with bipartisan support, and each addressing, in different ways, serious problems faced by our ever-expanding aging population. These problems range from dementia, and elders who “go missing,” to neglect, financial exploitation, and physical abuse. The three bills we are considering today address these critical problems.

The bill before us now, H.R. 908, the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization of 2009, addresses the serious problem of seniors who go missing each year as a result of dementia. It passed the House on suspension last September, but Congress adjourned before the Senate could consider it.

The Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program was created in 1994, and while Congress has continued to support and fund it, its formal authorization expired in 1998.