

Congratulations to these grad students and to all the bright minds in Pittsburgh working so hard to solve the world's problems. I thank them for their dedication.

INTRODUCTION OF CLEAN WATER RESEARCH BILLS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to describe two bills I am introducing regarding clean water research—H.R. 5826, The Coordinating Water Research for a Clean Water Future Act of 2012, and H.R. 5827 the Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2012. These two bills will help focus the Federal government's research efforts on clean water, a critical natural resource that we too often take for granted.

As a Representative from the great state of Texas, I know how important water is to public health, the economy, and the environment. Moreover, Texans certainly are not alone. Whether facing unpredictable and extreme weather conditions in places like Idaho where increasingly difficult dam and reservoir management is making it harder to protect property and lives; the drawdown of aquifers in the Powder River Basin from coal-bed methane operations; or the billions of taxpayer dollars spent to upgrade water infrastructure in the East, water is an ever-present topic of dinner conversation and political tension across the country.

As of last week, in Texas alone more than a thousand community water systems were forced to limit water use in order to avoid shortages. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the 12-month period between October 2010 and September 2011 was the driest in Texas since 1895. The dry conditions have been so severe that large portions of the State are categorized as being in "an exceptional state of drought," the worst condition on the Federal government's drought monitor scale.

Throughout my career I have fought to ensure that future generations have access to clean water. My introduction of these two bills builds on the accomplishments of the former Chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Bart Gordon, who introduced similar legislation that moved through the House of Representatives in the 111th Congress.

The first bill, H.R. 5826, will authorize coordination of water research activities to ensure a future where clean water is abundant, affordable, and accessible for generations to come. To do this, the country needs to better coordinate federal research among agencies which oversee and protect this natural resource. The bill elevates the importance of ensuring clean and reliable water supplies through the implementation of a National Water Research and Development Initiative at the Office of Science and Technology Policy of the White House. The Initiative will improve the Federal government's role in coordinating federal water research activities that identify, characterize, and address changes in U.S. clean water use, quality, supply, and demand.

H.R. 5826 is drafted based on a range of expert recommendations, including those from

the 2004 National Research Council report, "Confronting the Nations' Water Problems; the Role of Research," and the 2007 Office of Science and Technology Policy report "A Strategy for Federal Science and Technology to Support Water Availability and Quality in the United States."

The second bill, H.R. 5827, "The Energy and Water Research Integration Act" focuses attention on the energy-water nexus, a term used to describe the energy required to provide reliable water supplies and the water required to provide reliable energy supplies. The bill directs the Secretary of Energy to integrate water considerations into the Department of Energy's energy research. The bill requires the Secretary to seek to advance energy technologies and practices that would minimize freshwater withdrawal and consumption, increase water use efficiency, and utilize non-traditional water sources with efforts to improve water quality.

H.R. 5827 is based on hearings held in the 110th and 111th Congress when the Science and Technology Committee reviewed federal research related to water, with particular attention on the energy-water nexus. At the request of the Committee, the Government Accountability Office conducted five studies on the energy-water nexus. As GAO has aptly pointed out in its reports on this issue, energy and water are two critical resources that are intrinsically and reciprocally linked. For example, the energy sector is the fastest-growing consumer of water right now and will account for 85% of the growth in domestic water consumption in the United States between 2005 and 2030. The GAO's reports showed that very substantial quantities of water are needed to produce energy from a wide range of resources, such as for cooling thermoelectric power plants, growing and converting feedstocks into biofuels; and extracting oil shale and natural gas. GAO's work also demonstrated that the development of oil and gas sources often results in the production of large volumes of wastewater that must be managed or treated. Furthermore, GAO's work has also shown that significant amounts of energy are needed to extract, transport, treat, and use water in urban environments.

In many ways, these seminal reports confirmed what we already knew, and that is that water availability and quality are essential for public health and a strong economy, but demands for, and threats to, these resources are growing. We can no longer afford to take it for granted. Whether it is billions of dollars in lost revenue for our agricultural sector, or reduced electric reliability due to low cooling water supplies for power plants, the country is already feeling the impacts of reduced water availability and quality.

That is why communities and businesses across the country want to see more water research and better coordination. The bills are supported by small businesses like NanoH₂O, who see the need for innovative technologies in the water sector, as well as national organizations like Alliance for Water Efficiency, the Water Innovation Alliance, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), and the Water Research Foundation. The Water Environment Research Foundation also supports the Energy and Water Research Integration Act.

Given this diverse base of support and the passage of similar bills through the House in

the 111th Congress, I hope that the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the House will be quick to take up these pieces of legislation and move them expeditiously.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269: 263—"nay", 264—"nay", 265—"yea", 266—"yea", 267—"nay", 268—"nay", 269—"nay".

Had I been present, I would have voted as above.

IN TRIBUTE TO JUDGE MARY THOMASINE GRAYSON MASON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are grateful to pay tribute to Judge Mary Thomasine Grayson Mason who is an inspiration for achieving the distinction of being the Southern Lady who makes a difference. Her extraordinary talents were recognized by her dear friend, U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond, who recommended her appointment in 1971 by President Richard M. Nixon as Federal Administrative Law Judge. Over the years during her residency in West Columbia she became a beloved friend of the Wilson family.

Upon her death this month the following obituary was published in the Post and Courier of Charleston, South Carolina.

JUDGE THOMASINE MASON

SUMMERTON, SC.—Judge Mary Thomasine Grayson Mason, widow of Edgar Fleming Mason, died Friday, May 4, 2012, at her homeplace in Summerton, South Carolina.

Born November 7, 1917, in the St. Paul community near Summerton, she was the daughter of James Fulton Grayson and Anne Gentry Grayson.

She graduated Summerton High School and attended the University of South Carolina. She completed her undergraduate degree in three years, graduating with honors from the University of South Carolina in 1938.

Because her father did not consider the study of law a proper career for a young lady, Judge Mason taught school in West Columbia for one year. In 1940, she enrolled in law school at the University of South Carolina, one of the first two women to attend.

With war having broken out in Europe and fearing she may not get to finish law school, Judge Mason sat for and passed the bar exam during her junior year of law school. She was admitted to the South Carolina Bar on June 12, 1941, and graduated from law school June 1, 1942.

During World War II, she worked as a Civil Service Representative assigned in Atlanta, Athens, and Charleston.

After the war and with her father's health failing, she returned to Summerton and worked with her brother operating the family farm, cotton gin, seed processing, and grain elevator.

She continued her studies at North Carolina State College earning a degree in Cotton

Classing and leading to her work as a cotton merchant. She later practiced law in Manning and served as a trial attorney with the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

Judge Mason was elected to the South Carolina Senate in 1966 representing Clarendon and Sumter Counties. She was the second woman to serve in the South Carolina Senate, and on February 22, 1967, she was called to preside over a session of the Senate becoming the first woman to preside in that body.

In 1960, she served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles and attended the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City in 1968.

She served the Clarendon County Democratic Party as a party precinct secretary for more than a decade.

In 1971, she was appointed as a Federal Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

During her tenure, she was the first Administrative Law Judge to sit on the Appeals Council as an Acting Member of the Council, and she served as Hearing Office Chief Administrative Law Judge for 17 years.

A proud South Carolinian she has served her state and community in numerous volunteer positions, including the Board of Trustees of Clarendon Memorial Hospital for 16 years, the South Carolina State Mother of the Year Search Committee, the Alumni Council of the University of South Carolina Alumni Association, and the American Red Cross as an Area Director for Clarendon County. She was a member of Summerton Baptist Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, several garden clubs, and Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

A member of the American Legion Auxiliary for over 60 years, she worked with Palmetto Girls State, serving as director for more than ten years and as a counselor, committee member, or legislative leader for more than 40 years.

In her professional life, Judge Mason was a member of the South Carolina Bar Association, the Richland County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Federal Executive Council.

In 2008 in recognition of her distinguished career as a public servant and community leader, Judge Mason was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Mark Sanford.

Active in sports and recreational activities throughout her life, Judge Mason loved the outdoors and enjoyed spending time on Lake Marion. At the age of 79, she decided she could no longer continue to water ski, so she learned to drive a jet ski.

She is survived by loving and devoted nieces, MaryAnne Grayson Moore and her husband Nebraska Edward Moore, II, of Summerton and Cora Gene "Cookie" Grayson Culbertson of Lawrenceville, Georgia; great nephews, Nebraska Edward Moore III and his wife Stephanie Faltus Moore of Summerville, Mason Palmer Bethea Moore and his wife Jodi Woods Moore of Belgrade, Montana, and James Fulton Grayson, IV and his wife Susan Walton Grayson of Grayson, Georgia; a great niece, Elisabeth Grayson Mills and her husband Alan Mills of Gainesville, Georgia; and several great, great nieces and nephews. Judge Mason was preceded in death by her brother, James Fulton Grayson, Jr.; and her nephew, James Fulton Grayson, III. The family extends grateful appreciation and acknowledgment to caregivers Roberta, Tee, Willene and Maggie and to Southern Care of Florence, SC.

Graveside services will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. at the Summerton Evergreen Cemetery with the Rev. Brent Hutsell and Rev. Bob Ashba officiating. Pall-

bearers are Thomas H. Gentry, Alton Truesdale, Nebraska Edward Moore III, James Fulton Grayson, IV, Eugene A. Failmezger and R.P. Felder, Jr. Following the services, the family will receive visitors at the home located at 1664 Jack Touchberry Road, Summerton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Summerton Evergreen Cemetery, c/o Ellen Ardis, PO Box 366, Summerton, SC 29148. Stephens Funeral Home & Crematory, 304 N. Church St., Manning, is in charge of arrangements. (803) 435-2179. www.stephensfuneralhome.org. Visit our guestbook at www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston.

HONORING FR. THOMAS BERNAS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fr. Thomas Bernas, Pastor of St. Richard Catholic Church in Chicago, Illinois, for his 15 years of dedicated service to the parish.

Born in 1958 in Evergreen Park, Illinois, Fr. Tom has spent his life in service to the local community. Attending St. Pancratius Grammar School and then Quigley Preparatory Seminary South, Fr. Tom started his Catholic education at an early age. Graduating from high school in 1976, he enrolled at the Loyola University of Chicago, completing his degree at the university in 1980.

Fr. Tom entered seminary in 1989 at the St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois. Ordained in 1994 at Holy Name Cathedral, seat of the Archdiocese of Chicago, by Cardinal Bernardin, Fr. Tom was assigned to St. Richard Catholic Church in 1997 as an administrator; his conscientious and tireless work for the parish resulted in his appointment as pastor in 1999.

Throughout his 13 year tenure as pastor, Fr. Tom devoted his time and energy to improving the community of St. Richard Catholic Church and the surrounding area. Through prudent financial practice, he overhauled the parish's finances, paying off its debt and keeping it debt-free. Upon becoming pastor of St. Richard's, Fr. Tom completed several renovation projects initiated by his predecessor that included re-painting the church, replacing the organ, and installing an elevator to facilitate handicapped access. He also oversaw the construction of the St. Richard Parish Center that now houses all parish offices and a gymnasium used by the St. Richard Grammar School children as well as many community groups. Additionally, he supervised a complete renovation of the priest's residence and further transformed the health of the church with a recent building renovation and floor plan reconfiguration to enrich the spiritual experience of all worshippers.

Fr. Tom has continued to engage in all aspects of community life far beyond his expected duties. Each year he has hosted the Archer Heights Civic Association Halloween Party for community children in the church hall and an annual blessing of Chicago firefighters, paramedics, and police officers.

Through a diligent and caring approach, Fr. Thomas Bernas has transformed the fortunes of St. Richard Catholic Church and touched

the lives of many members of the local community. Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of Fr. Tom, a model citizen and an inspiration to us all. I thank him for his service and wish him the best as he starts his new assignment at St. Rene Goupil Parish.

COMMENDING A MAJOR ADVANCEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise my colleagues of an important decision issued earlier this week by the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Blood Products Advisory Committee (BPAC) that will revolutionize HIV testing and the fight against AIDS. The 17-member advisory panel unanimously recommended approval of the first over-the-counter HIV test. The OraQuick In-Home HIV test detects the presence of HIV antibodies in roughly 20 minutes after a simple oral swab.

OraSure Technologies, a company in my congressional district, has been at the forefront of HIV/AIDS diagnostics for over a decade. If the FDA follows the recommendation of the advisory panel and approves OraSure's In-Home HIV test, it will be the first oral fluid rapid test made commercially available over-the-counter.

BPAC's decision represents a significant milestone in the nation's fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Disease status awareness enables individuals to protect their health and the health of others. Over-the-counter testing will provide an option for individuals to get tested in the privacy of their own home and importantly, is expected to reach traditionally underserved communities. According to an FDA analysis, the OraQuick test is predicted to lead to 45,000 new positive HIV/AIDS diagnoses and avert more than 4,000 HIV transmissions within the first year of deployment.

Nearly 50,000 Americans become infected with HIV each year and some 240,000 are unaware of their status. The availability of an over-the-counter test will lead to greater testing, increased diagnoses, reduced transmissions, earlier treatment and saved lives.

It is my honor to commend OraSure in leading the way in transforming diagnostic testing through innovative new technologies, and I am proud of the company's dedication and accomplishments in making HIV/AIDS testing more accessible.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. ALFREDO GUTIERREZ JR.

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Alfredo Gutierrez Jr. Dr. Gutierrez was a beloved and trusted doctor and dedicated former mayor of Del Rio, Texas. On April 24, 2012, at the age of 80, Dr. Gutierrez passed away from heart failure. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Olga Hernandez Gutierrez, seven children, seventeen grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.