

men and women in uniform. I am proud to represent a South Jersey company that is providing shelter and care for our active duty members who sacrifice so much to protect our nation and our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have Sea Box, Inc., as a part of their community. Sea Box, Inc., has shown a desire to serve our nation and provide for our troops. I am honored to recognize the award of their GSA contract, which will enable them to service our soldiers more efficiently, and to commend Sea Box, Inc., for all of its contributions to our community, before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF  
NATHANIEL R. JONES

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the great jurists of the United States, Nathaniel R. Jones. Judge Jones was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio, just blocks from the federal courthouse that now bears his name. He served his country valiantly in World War II, and later attended Youngstown College.

Judge Jones was the first African American to serve as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. In 1969, he became General Counsel of the NAACP, where he directed national legal efforts to end school segregation. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated Judge Jones to the U.S. Court of Appeals, where he served until he retired from the bench in 2002.

Judge Jones has dedicated his life and career to protecting the rights of all: as a professor at Harvard Law School, an observer in South Africa's first democratic elections, a defender of affirmative action, and an advocate for black servicemen facing discrimination in our newly-integrated military.

At age 90, Judge Jones still serves as Senior Counsel at Blank Rome, LLP in Cincinnati. In October, he will receive the Simeon Booker Award for Courage of which he is so deserving.

Thank you, Judge Jones, for your tireless service to our community, our nation, and our world.

COMMEMORATING DR. JOHN HARVEY'S TENURE OF PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak in honor of a good friend, Dr. John Harvey. Dr. Harvey is the outgoing President of the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG), which has close to 8,000 members spanning the entire state of Georgia focused on enhancing patient care and advancing the art and science of medicine.

Dr. Harvey has served Georgians for more than 25 years as a general and trauma surgeon in the Atlanta area. During his tenure with MAG, Dr. Harvey started the Medical Reserve Corp. The Medical Reserve Corp assists the state in times of disaster by having trained physicians ready to respond. Before serving as the President, Dr. Harvey was the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the primary legislative and policymaking body for the association, for five years.

Mr. Speaker, despite his full schedule, Dr. Harvey still takes time to teach residents in the transitional year at Gwinnett Medical Center and travels across the state to testify on the behalf of patients and physicians. He is a man I am glad to call a friend and a colleague in medicine. I would like to thank Dr. Harvey on behalf of citizens of the Sixth District of Georgia and the entire state for his service to patients and physicians and his commitment to public health.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
TOBLER

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler of the United States Air Force who has been named one of the twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2016.

Aaron enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in 2011 and received honors at both basic training and technical school. He is currently a Geospatial Intelligence Analyst assigned to the 50th Intelligence Squadron at Distributed Ground Station-Two at Beale Air Force Base, California. His mission is to exploit high-value targets and satisfy intelligence requirements in support of Combatant Commanders around the World. As a direct result of Staff Sergeant Tobler's work, weapon manufacturing compounds were identified and destroyed, crippling an entire terrorist network. He also facilitated successful overwatch of Joint Task Force troop convoys, ensuring over two thousand miles of roads were clear of threats.

When he's not working for the Air Force, Aaron is an active member in his community. He is a manager with the California Department of Social Services in Sacramento, and serves on the Board of Directors for Rocklin Residents Unite for Fido community group, an organization that offers scholarships to wounded veterans to receive training for their service dogs. He is involved in several community fundraising events, offering strategic support and is a regular blood donor.

Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler exemplifies what it means to be an Outstanding Airman. He has accumulated many accolades and medals in his Air Force career, and now he can add being the first Reservist in the Intelligence Career Field to ever be selected as an Outstanding Airman of the Year as one of his many accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that Sergeant Tobler and his family are assigned to Beale Air Force Base in my district. And it is my privilege to recognize him here for his outstanding contributions to California and to the United States.

ST. VOLODYMYR UKRAINIAN  
ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on October 30, 2016 the St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding. St. Volodymyr is a part of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and was established in 1916 as the first independent Ukrainian Church in the United States. The centennial celebration will take place on the 30th day of October 2016, starting with the Hierarchal Dinner Liturgy, led by his eminence metropolitan Anthony and his grace Bishop Daniel at 10:00 am at St. Volodymyr, which has been a source of spiritual strength to its members as they perpetuated their religious heritage and culture at the same time. They also found inspiration from their religion to be active and loyal citizens to the USA and to the city of Chicago.

The festivities then will continue with a member banquet held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center at 2247 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago. Since its inception, the cathedral has been an integral part of life of the community at large. Some notable examples include participating in the 1928 women's world fair at the coliseum, and in the Ukrainian Pavilion during Chicago's 1933 century of progress international exposition; sending its son and daughter to war when the government called; providing help to those in need during troubled times.

I congratulate the St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church for 100 years of spiritual and community service and look forward to 100 years more.

RECOGNITION OF THE TAIWANESE  
NATIONAL DAY

**HON. BILL FLORES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Taiwanese people on their National Day, the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China (Taiwan), celebrated each year on October 10th.

Taiwan is a key ally in the region and shares the important values of freedom and respect for human rights with our country. This year, Taiwan went through a peaceful transition of power with the election of President Tsai Ing-wen, the first woman elected to this office. I was pleased to have productive conversations with President Tsai and my colleagues during a recent visit to Taiwan earlier this year. Taiwan's remarkable democracy serves as a model to neighboring countries.

Both Chambers of Congress passed resolutions earlier this year reaffirming the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances. As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I would like to reiterate my commitment of support to Taiwan and its self-defense capabilities.

Once again, I extend my best wishes for a Happy Double Tenth Day to the people of Taiwan and our Taiwanese American friends at home.

## VOTING RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

### HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 21, 2016*

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on May 20, 2016, I was honored as a special guest at an event in Monterey Park, California titled "Protect Your Future: Restore the Vote". The event was organized to help constituents gain a better understanding of the negative impact of the Supreme Court decision, *Shelby County vs. Holder*.

Members from our communities heard expert testimony from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) regarding the devastating impacts of the decision upon the Voting Rights Act. I include in the RECORD the expert testimony of Sean Dugar, Regional Director, Region I of the NAACP into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TESTIMONY OF SEAN DUGAR, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGION I, TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP) ON THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION "PROTECT YOUR FUTURE: RESTORE THE VOTE"—MAY 20, 2016

Good morning, Congresswoman CHU, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congresswoman SANCHEZ, and distinguished guests and friends. Thank you so very much for inviting me here to discuss fully restoring and protecting the right to vote. I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with the thoughts and opinions of the NAACP on this very important issue.

Founded more than 107 years ago, in February of 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP, is our nation's oldest, largest, and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization. We currently have more than 1,200 active membership units across the nation, with members in every one of the 50 states as well as units on overseas military bases. In addition to our community based adult units, we also have youth and college units in hundreds of communities and schools including colleges and university campuses across the country as well as units in prisons.

My name is Sean Dugar, and I am the regional field director for the NAACP for Region I. The NAACP divides the country into seven regions, and Region I is the western-most region: it is comprised of Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and of course, California. I am a national staff person, and I come to you today on behalf of the national NAACP. In preparing this testimony, I consulted with Mr. Hilary Shelton who is the Director of the Washington Bureau and the lead advocate for the NAACP before the federal government. Hilary asked that I tell you all how sorry he is that he cannot be here today and indicated that he would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have which I cannot answer for you.

The NAACP, a non-profit, non-partisan organization was established with the objective of insuring the educational, political, social, and economic equality of racial and

ethnic minorities in our country. The NAACP has as its mission the goal of eliminating race prejudice and removing all barriers of racial discrimination through the democratic process. Voting rights for all eligible Americans, advancing voter participation and the eradication of disenfranchising practices and voter fraud, has been a top priority of the NAACP since our founding. Throughout our more than 107-year history, the NAACP has advocated and worked against such racist and heinous obstacles to full democratic citizenship participation such as America's Jim Crow laws and the Black Codes.

As such, we were instrumental in the development and enactment of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and its subsequent reauthorizations, the 1992 Motor Voter Law, and the 2002 Help America Vote Act as well as several other key pieces of Federal legislation aimed at ensuring and protecting the rights of all eligible Americans to cast an unfettered vote and be certain that our vote has been counted.

Tragically, our country, which promotes itself as the beacon of democracy throughout the world, has seen a reversal in the century-old struggle for achieving the goal of "one person, one vote." This reversal has been strategic and multi-faceted and sadly targeted disproportionately at the very people whom I would argue could use a louder, stronger, and more consistent voice among our elected officials. Specifically, a majority of those currently being disenfranchised by these malevolent laws are racial and ethnic minorities, low-income Americans, the elderly, students and women. Whether through bogus photo identification requirements, racially disparate ex-felon disenfranchisement laws, shortened early voting periods, or initiatives making it harder for third parties to register qualified voters, states are abridging the voting rights of millions of Americans.

Furthermore, with the Supreme Court's misguided, harmful 2013 decision in *Shelby v. Holder*, many of the protections we had begun to appreciate are now threatened. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), for which the NAACP was on the frontlines in the struggle to enact, was signed into law to insure that under the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, no one, including federal, state or local governments, may in any way impede people from registering to vote or voting because of their race, ethnicity or other differences. Most provisions in the VRA, and specifically the portions that guarantee that no one may be denied the right to vote because of his or her race or color, are permanent, and as such are not the provisions subject to reauthorization.

Section 5 of the VRA requires certain states or jurisdictions, which have an established history of laws or policies which result in the disenfranchisement of a group of racial or ethnic minority voters to obtain advance approval or "preclearance" from the US Department of Justice or the US District Court in D.C. before they can make any changes to voting practices or procedures. Examples of these changes include any change in the date, time, place, or manner under which an election is held. Federal approval is given to make the proposed change as soon as the state or jurisdiction proves that the proposed change would not abridge the right to vote on account of race or color. Originally, in 1965, legislators hoped that within five years the problems would be resolved and there would be no further need for these enforcement-related provisions: however, it proved necessary to extend these protections in 1970, and again in 1975, 1982 and 2006 through the Congressional reauthorization process.

As a side note, the 2006 reauthorization, which had passed the House by the over-

whelming bipartisan vote of 390-33, appeared to be stalled in the Senate, and was being threatened by a number of dangerous amendments. But thousands of delegates and friends of the NAACP who were attending our annual convention in Washington, marched from the convention center to Capitol Hill in support of the reauthorization bill and then went to their Senators' offices with specific demands to pass the reauthorization bill without amendment. I am pleased to report that the bill was passed later that same week, unamended, by a vote of 98 to 0.

I am relaying this anecdote because the march was driven mostly by our youth and college division, who led the marchers on that incredibly hot July day not only for the 2+ miles to the Hill, but then also on visits with their Senators. It was an instance where the NAACP, and specifically the next generation of NAACPers, made a real difference.

On June 25, 2013, however, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in the case of *Shelby v. Holder* in which the Court did not invalidate the principle of preclearance. The Supreme Court did decide, however, that Section 4(b) of the VRA, which establishes the formula that is used to determine which states and jurisdictions must comply with preclearance, is antiquated and thus unconstitutional and can no longer be used. Thus, although Section 5 survives, it is currently not being used and will not be used fully until Congress develops and enacts a new formula to determine which states and jurisdictions should be covered by it.

The bipartisan Voting Rights Advancement Act, S. 1659/H.R. 2867, is sponsored in the U.S. Senate by Senators Patrick Leahy (VT), Lisa Murkowski (AK) and in the U.S. House by Congresswoman Terri Sewell and Congressman John Lewis (GA) on behalf of themselves, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus among others. I would like to stop for a minute and express the sincere appreciation of the NAACP to the three legislators here today, Congresswoman Chu, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard, and Congresswoman Sanchez, who are co-sponsors of this important legislation. I would also be remiss if I didn't pass along Hilary Shelton's personal appreciation that they each consistently score an "A" on the NAACP's Federal Legislative Report Card.

This seminal legislation would: modernize the preclearance formula to cover states with an historical pattern of discrimination; ensure that last-minute voting changes won't adversely affect voters; protect voters from the types of voting changes most likely to discriminate against and disenfranchise people of color and language minorities; enhance the ability to apply a preclearance review when needed; expand the effective Federal Observer Program; and improve voting Rights protections for Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Furthermore, this legislation includes all of the priorities necessary for a strong VRA restoration as established by the NAACP National Board of Directors.

We need to fix the damage to the VRA inflicted by *Shelby*, and this legislation would repair and strengthen it. Yet the NAACP has consistently, and before *Shelby*, argued that we need to do more to expand the franchise and get more Americans involved in the electoral system. That is why our Washington Bureau Director asked me again to express our sincere appreciation to the three lawmakers sitting here today for lifting up and sponsoring H.R. 12, the Voter Empowerment Act.

In a time when numerous states are considering or have already enacted legislation