

RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the passage of the Voting Rights Act was Congress' greatest accomplishment in America's long struggle in the fight against discrimination and oppression.

This, the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, serves to remind us of the need to reauthorize and strengthen many expiring provisions. There are many who say there is no longer a need for the Voting Rights Act. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

It is true that we have made remarkable progress since 1965, including: outlawing segregationist principles such as literacy tests, poll taxes, and the grandfather clause. However, we must not relent. There is still much work to be done.

As we all saw during the 2004 elections, minorities faced the uphill battle of misinformation distributed in black communities over how and when to vote, purging of voter rolls, and election day lines where individuals were waiting eight or more hours to vote.

I am proud to serve alongside Representative Lewis, whose bravery and presence during that historic march across the Pettus Bridge in Selma changed this Nation. In this pivotal moment, Congress and President Johnson could no longer look away from the oppression and segregation America had long ignored.

There are many young people who may not know of, or did not experience this battle towards equality. However, it is imperative we recognize and celebrate our great accomplishments as a Nation. We cannot develop future policies or laws without knowing or applying the lessons we have learned from the past.

As we move forward, it is my hope that our young people will remain diligent; remembering the contributions of those who came before them, and finding new inspiration to fight for change.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF ARMY SGT. MICHAEL SCHAFER OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and sacrifice of Army Staff Sergeant Michael Schafer of Spring Hill, FL. Sgt. Schafer was killed by enemy fire July 25, 2005 in Oruzgan, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his loving wife Danielle, parents Karen and Dan Barr, brother Tim, and grandparents Ron Forbes and Stand and Loretta Barr. In times when children and families need role models to look up to and emulate, Sgt. Schafer was a true American hero.

A volunteer for the Army in 1999, Sgt. Schafer performed his basic training at Fort

Benning, GA and Airborne training in Fort Bragg, NC. After he completed his training, Sgt. Schafer served in both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, as well as Kosovo. A proud member of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, Sgt. Schafer was one of the first paratroopers to jump into Kirkuk, Iraq during the March, 2003 invasion. Sgt. Schafer served 9 months in Iraq before being transferred to Afghanistan, and had expressed interest in going back to Iraq to be where the action was.

In addition to serving honorably in the United States Army, Sgt. Schafer was a true and dedicated family man. Married to his wife Danielle within a week of shipping out to Kosovo, the couple was in constant contact throughout his tours of duty. At the time of his death, Sgt. Schafer and his wife were looking to adopt a baby.

As a sign of the love for his family, Sgt. Schafer wrote a poem to his mother before he left for basic training.

"Mother, There comes a time in every boy's life When he leaves the warmth of the nest. Perhaps to look for all your qualities in his future wife; Or join the working class like the rest. I am standing here before you this very day. To let you know when I leave not to fear, Because I will never be that far away. And you will always be near and dear to my heart, It is where I will keep your love. I know that the bond that we have between us cannot be torn apart, And when I think of you so beautiful like a white dove, I want you to know that as I leave for the Army, If you are feeling scared, do not be afraid to show it. Your love for me won't let any one harm me. I will be back home before you know it."

Mr. Speaker, as a mother and a grandmother, I know the pain that comes when a child leaves home for the first time. What Sgt. Schafer's family must cope with today, however, is the knowledge that their child will not be returning home. I can offer them this pledge, however: that this Congress will never forget the sacrifice Sgt. Schafer made serving his country.

ARGUS COURIER'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Petaluma Argus Courier, my hometown newspaper, on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

The first edition of the Petaluma Journal and Sonoma County Advertiser, the forerunner of today's Argus-Courier, was published on August 18, 1855. That's 3 years before the City of Petaluma was incorporated.

It is a compliment to the Argus-Courier and its staff that the newspaper has kept in step with the vast changes that have taken place in Petaluma over this 150-year period. As the 10th oldest newspaper in the State of California and one of Petaluma's oldest business institutions, the Argus Courier is an eyewitness to Petaluma history.

The Argus-Courier has always fulfilled its obligation to its community by providing sound information and vigorous leadership on all

matters affecting its citizens since 1855—from the Civil War to the Iraq wars, from the 1906 San Francisco earthquake to Loma Prieta, and from Petaluma's fame as the "egg basket to the world" to its status as telecom valley. The fact that the Argus-Courier has been published continuously for 150 years is evidence of its devotion to the public interest and its contribution to the growth and development of the community it serves.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Petaluma Argus Courier on its sesquicentennial and know that it will continue to inform, entertain, and be a valued messenger of news and information to my constituents and me for many more years to come. And, I know that the Argus-Courier derives much satisfaction from the knowledge that it has had a part in the growth and in the furtherance of the free press that has helped to make this Nation great.

TRIBUTE TO CLIFFORD J. HARVISON, NITC, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not to bury Cliff Harvison, but to praise him.

After, a number of decades of working in Washington, DC, and with 40 years dedicated solely to serving the cargo tank truck industry, Cliff is retiring at the end of this year.

Through the establishment of the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and more recently, the Department of Homeland Security; through deregulation of the trucking industry, and carrier consolidation; through the terrorist attacks on our infrastructure and upon our Nation; Cliff Harvison has kept watch at the National Tank Truck Carriers, Inc., the tank truck industry's national trade association.

In addition to working with me—for almost three decades as a Member of Congress who understands the needs and vast potential of our national transportation network to States such as West Virginia—as well as working with a great many other Members of Congress over the last several decades, Cliff has worked also with labor, with Federal agencies, and with his own carriers to improve highway transportation. In so doing, he has played a key role in the development of major legislative and regulatory initiatives aimed at highway safety, hazardous materials uniformity, and transportation security. The Motor Carrier Safety Act, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act—and its successor, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act—the Safe Food Transportation Act, truck driver hazardous materials endorsements—these are all key pieces of legislation and regulation affecting motor carriers, and bear the stamp of Cliff Harvison's input as an honest, and honorable, broker.

Mr. Speaker, without America's cargo tank truck industry, Americans would not be able to buy gas conveniently at so many corner filling stations across the country. If we couldn't rely on the cargo tank truck industry, our chemical manufacturing sector, which is a very important manufacturing industry in parts of my