

COMMEMORATING WCLO'S 75th
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the achievements of my hometown radio station, WCLO, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. WCLO Radio, based in Janesville, Wisconsin, has served southern Wisconsin for three-quarters of a century through the broadcasting of news, weather, sports and community information.

Since 1930, WCLO has continuously been owned by the Bliss family, making it one of the Nation's oldest family-owned radio stations. It takes seriously its responsibility to its listeners. Despite major regulatory changes, the station has continued to operate as a public servant to its listening area, providing vital news and information to its audience. WCLO also takes an active role in supporting the community, through its continuing efforts on behalf of charities and the arts.

WCLO Radio has been consistently recognized for excellence in broadcasting by its peers and organizations including the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and the Associated Press.

I'd like to extend congratulations to WCLO for 75 eventful years of serving southern Wisconsin.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. KEITH
QUERRY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Lyle K. Querry, a political activist, humanitarian, and a man of faith, whose legacy continues to enrich the lives of all Kansas Citizens. After 24 years of service, Keith, as he is known by all his friends, retired on June 30, 2005, as the Business Manager and Financial Secretary for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, IBEW, Local 53. His dedication and commitment spanned 48 years as a member of IBEW and his service to the Kansas City community is the reason for this recognition and celebration.

Keith's reputation as a leader within the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the community, and political organizations extends beyond the borders of the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri and even of our Nation. Among the many accolades Keith has received over the years was the prestigious Outstanding Leadership Award by the Heart of America United Way in 1988. In 1995, he received the distinguished Harry S. Truman Democratic Achievement Award, named in honor of a former Independence, Missouri, resident, and one of our country's most respected public servants, the 33rd President of the United States. Keith's steadfast commitment to and respect by the IBEW was rewarded when he was named to the Law Committee for their 33rd and 34th conventions held

in 1986 and in 1988, respectively. As of July 1 of this year and despite "retiring", Keith was appointed as an International Representative for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Keith has not only been an active member of the IBEW and many political organizations, he has also contributed his time, energy, and expertise to numerous civic organizations in the metropolitan area. He has served as an executive board member of the Heart of America Central Labor Council, was a board member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and a board member of the Jackson County United Way. He is currently serving on the boards of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City, the Labor Management Council of Greater Kansas City, as a member of the executive committee of the Missouri State Democratic Party, as a committeeman for the 8th Senatorial District, and as chairman of both the IBEW Outside Task Force and Local 53 Safety Committee. He also serves as chairman for both the Missouri Valley Line Constructors Apprenticeship and Training group as well as the Line Construction Benefit Fund.

Born in 1938, a graduate of Fort Osage High School and a member of St. Matthews Presbyterian Church, Keith and his lovely wife Sandy will celebrate their 45th anniversary in October of this year. They are the proud parents of two daughters, Ronda and Tricia, and grandparents to five grandchildren, Marissa, Robert, Allen, Shannon, and Tyler. Over the years, Keith and Sandy have been one of the most influential and respected couples within the Missouri Democratic Party and have regularly been delegates at Democratic National Conventions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Lyle Keith Querry, for his relentless efforts in protecting and assisting the rights of others, while extending the labor movement, not only within the boundaries of the Fifth Congressional District, but within the United States and the entire global community. He represents the best in all of us. I urge my colleagues of the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating Keith on his retirement from the 2,000 member Local 53 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Although we know that he has not completely retired, the desire of this body is that Keith Querry will enjoy the community he helped build.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Fortieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. This historic piece of legislation has helped significantly to restore and secure the voting rights of all Americans.

The 40-year legacy of the Voting Rights Act, which will be celebrated in a major national march and demonstration in Atlanta in which I will participate, on August 6, 2005, stems from the hard-won victories of the non-violent Civil Rights Movement. During the modern Civil

Rights Movement, Blacks fought against the systematic and social oppressions of segregation. Many blacks, especially in the South, were denied the very rights and privileges given and implied by the Constitution. The right to vote was no exception.

Full participation in government and society has been a basic right of the country symbolizing the full citizenship and equal protection of all. The right to vote played an important role in ending the oppressive environment of segregation. Because of this, many Black Americans protested and died for full access to a government and a promise of equal treatment that had been denied to them. This was especially exemplified on March 7, 1965, known as "Bloody Sunday", which ushered in this enactment.

As with the brutal murder of Emmett Till, "Bloody Sunday" reinforced the new consciousness about the plight of Black Americans in this country, especially in the South. Six hundred Civil Rights marchers marched from Selma, Alabama heading east in protest for their rights as citizens to vote. Six blocks later they were met by awaiting law enforcement and were severely beaten with billy clubs and bombed with tear gas. They were subsequently pushed back into Selma. Although this was seemingly a defeat for the progression of the Movement, the incident caught national attention, including that of President Lyndon Johnson.

On August 6, 1965, President Johnson introduced legislation, giving rise to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In an address to Congress, President Johnson supported this Act by saying "At times, history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom . . . about this there can be and should be no argument. Every American citizen must have the right to vote."

In subsequent years the VRA has been modified and evolved to include more and more disenfranchised groups. In 1970, Congress added provisions that extended the right to vote for 18 year olds. In 1975, provisions were added protecting the voting rights of citizens whose primary languages were of other languages. Lastly, the 1982 provisions created Congressional districts creating a more accessible minority voting pool. Through this, Congress has added amendments to the Act that support and secure the future of this most valuable tool for a true democracy.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was indeed a vital instrument of democracy, ensuring the integrity and reliability of a democratic process that we as a Country hold so dear.

As we shortly begin to rethink the questions of the previous provisions previously added to this Act in 2007, remember that our work does not end here. We must continue to uphold the basic principles and sentiments that created this most important and much needed body of legislation.

I submit this article from the current addition of the Carib News concerning the need and importance of securing further protections of the Voting Rights Act in 2007. It is evident, given the voting environment of the election of 2000, that there are still issues of denial that can compromise the voting rights of our constituents.