

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2006*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago Dwight D. Eisenhower was President of the United States, the communist regime in Cuba was underway, Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog" topped the charts, Don Larson pitched a perfect game as the Yankees beat the Brooklyn Dodgers in the World Series, and the cost of a first class stamp was .03 cents.

Amidst these historical events taking place, the Village of North Palm Beach was created. Much has changed in those fifty years in and around the village with new development, highways and a large population spurt to reach its present size, however, one thing that has not changed is the "small town" nature of the Village of North Palm Beach and its friendly residents.

The village has been blessed over the years with outstanding local elected officials and a strong participation by its residents and civic leaders. Mr. Speaker, over the years I have proudly represented this community, I have witnessed time and time again where the community has pulled together to support a common cause. The spirit of togetherness and pride is ubiquitous in the Village of North Palm Beach.

From the days that John D. MacArthur sold his property, which included a golf course and a country club, to create North Palm Beach, the first of Florida's master planned communities, the Village has always set the mark.

Now with 13,000 residents, its well managed growth has been a model for future planned communities throughout the state and country.

Environmentally, the Village is also ahead of the curve, when in 1989 the State of Florida purchased 437 acres of property from the Village along the Atlantic Ocean to preserve a natural coastal barrier island. Preserved forever from being developed, it provides a home for nesting sea turtles, birds, indigenous plant and wildlife, reefs and a birthing and natural nursery for Florida Manatees. It is suitably named, MacArthur State Beach Park.

In recent years, the Town has also enhanced our local and State governments by being the hometown and formative training ground of Palm Beach County Commissioner Karen Marcus and State Senator Jeff Atwater.

Well done North Palm Beach in your first fifty years. You truly are "The Best Place to Live Under the Sun."

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROYALTY-IN-KIND FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, this week I have introduced the Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act. This bill is intended to make it possible for the Depart-

ment of Interior to implement a provision in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that was intended to provide a new way to assist low-income people to heat or cool their homes.

For several years before 2005, the Department of Interior had authority to develop "royalty-in-kind" arrangements under which companies developing federal oil could meet their required royalty payments by providing oil instead of cash. The Energy Policy Act expanded this provision to apply to natural-gas developers as well, and also added new authority for Interior to grant a preference to low-income consumers when disposing of natural gas it obtained under such an arrangement.

While this Energy Policy Act provision does not specifically reference the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), its implementation could benefit that program.

LIHEAP is intended to help low-income Americans pay for their heating and cooling costs. However, at current funding levels this critically important program serves less than 15 percent of those who qualify for it. Implementing the Energy Policy Act provision to grant a preference to low-income consumers would supplement LIHEAP funding and expand the amount of energy assistance available to the poor.

Last September, I joined my colleagues from Colorado in writing a letter to Interior Secretary Gail Norton asking her to consider beginning implementation of the new provision through a pilot program in Colorado. In the letter we emphasized the importance of helping this country's most vulnerable citizens, who are increasingly hard hit by rising energy costs.

In a reply to my office, the Interior Department responded that the Interior Department's lawyers had reviewed the Energy Policy Act provision and had concluded that as it now stands it could not be implemented because the current law "does not provide the Department with the authority or discretion to receive less than fair market value for the royalty gas or oil."

My bill is intended to correct the legal deficiencies in the provision as enacted to make it possible for the Interior Department to implement the program. In developing the legislation, my staff has reviewed the Interior Department's legal opinion and has consulted with the Interior Department's lawyers and with other legal experts. Based on that review, I think enactment of my bill will resolve the legal problems cited by the Interior Department and will enable the program to go forward.

Spring may be upon us, but hot summer temperatures and another winter are just months away. I believe the Energy Policy Act provision to help low-income consumers is an innovative tool that must be allowed to work. The Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act would make this possible. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to support energy assistance for this nation's most vulnerable residents.

Here is a brief outline of the bill:

Section One—provides a short title ("Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act of 2006").

Section Two—sets forth findings regarding the importance of LIHEAP and the intent of the relevant provisions of law regarding payment of royalties-in-kind and the conclusion of the Interior Department that the provision of

the 2005 Energy Policy Act intended to allow use of royalties-in-kind to benefit low-income consumers cannot be implemented. This section also states the bill's purpose, which is to amend that part of the Energy Policy Act in order to make it possible for it to be implemented in order to assist low-income people to meet their energy needs.

Section Three—amends the relevant provision (Section 342(j)) of the Energy Policy Act by—

(1) adding explicit authority for the Interior Department to sell royalty-in-kind oil or gas for as little as half its fair market value in implementing that part of the Energy Policy Act under an agreement that the purchaser will be required to provide an appropriate amount of resources to a Federal low-income energy assistance program;

(2) clarifying that such a sale at a discounted price will be deemed to comply with the Anti-deficiency Act; and

(3) authorizing the Interior Department to issue rules and enter into agreements that are considered appropriate in order to implement that part of the Energy Policy Act.

These changes are specifically designed to correct the legal deficiencies that the Interior Department has determined currently make it impossible for it to implement this part of the Energy Policy Act.

HONORING BILL STAGGS FOR VALIANT SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William (Bill) Staggs, Captain, United States Army Air Force for his valiant service as a fighter pilot during World War II.

Upon entering the service in September 1942, Mr. Staggs, born in Portland, Tennessee, was sent to Santa Anna, California for ground school. He soloed in April 1943, in a Ryan PT-22 at King City, California. He flew the PT-13A at Gardner, California, and the AT-6 and P-40 at Luke Field in Phoenix, Arizona. Staggs flew the P-47 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana before departing for England.

In the fall of 1944, Bill was assigned to fly the P-51 Mustang with the 55th Fighter Group, 38th Squadron of the 8th Air Force based at Wormingford, England. The P-51's mission was long-range escort of American and British bombers over Germany. Bill flew 56 missions totaling 279 combat hours from late 1944 to the end of the war.

During World War II, the three squadrons of the 55th Fighter Group destroyed over 580 enemy aircraft and Bill was officially credited with destroying three. Of particular note is the downing of one Focke-Wulf 190 for which he was not credited but resulted in Bill being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. While flying bomber escort over Germany in the spring of 1945, Bill came to the aid of a fellow P-51 pilot who was in a losing battle with a German plane. He skillfully maneuvered his plane behind the Focke-Wulf and shot the plane off his fellow pilot's tail. Bill later learned the pilot in the other P-51 was an 8th Air