

sovereignty, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, IGRA, directs tribes to negotiate gambling compacts with states and the federal government. H.R. 4893 amends Section 20 of IGRA to restrict off-reservation Indian gambling by forcing tribes to enter into agreements with subdivisions of states for the first time in over 200 years.

H.R. 4893 further undermines tribal sovereignty and Indian Self-Determination with a provision that requires tribes to enter into binding arbitration with counties and parishes. Binding arbitration is an alternative dispute resolution process between two equals, yet the Constitution makes clear that Indian Tribes are equal to Federal and state governments, not their local subdivisions. This legislation creates a precarious precedent that could lead to further erosion of tribal sovereignty.

For these reasons, major tribal organizations vehemently oppose passage of H.R. 4893. The National Indian Business Association, the National Indian Gaming Association and the National Congress of American Indians, which includes 250 tribes throughout the United States, are among the bill's detractors.

This bill is only the most recent in a long and regrettable series of assaults on the rights of Native Americans. As a proud member of the Native American Caucus and a stalwart defender of tribal sovereignty, I stand opposed to this legislation and in defense of the Constitution. I will continue to work in Congress to ensure that our federal government's commitment to America's Native peoples, cultures and languages remains steadfast.

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP L.N.
FORBES

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, Bishop L.N. Forbes whom I greatly respect for his dedication, commitment and loyalty to serving the Lord and his people. Bishop Forbes was born on October 24, 1936 in Wayne County, North Carolina, the fourth of ten children to the late Will Scott and Sally Melvin Forbes. At an early age, he began practicing actively and later received his biblical and spiritual guidance at the Leventon Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, where he remains a member in good standing.

After receiving the call to the ministry, Pastor Forbes preached his initial sermon in May 1959, using as a subject, "You Need It and You Must Have It." In 1959, Pastor Forbes established Faith Temple No. 1 in East Orange, New Jersey, and in 1962, Faith Temple No. 2, now in Capitol Heights, Maryland. In 1978, Bishop Forbes established Faith Temple No. 3 in St. Paul, North Carolina.

As the Presiding Bishop of the Original Free Will Baptist Conference, he spearheaded the construction of the L.N. Forbes Tabernacle in Wilson, North Carolina, which was dedicated in 1975. He now serves as the General Bishop of the Original Free Will Baptist Conference of America, the Vice President of the National Convention of Free Will Baptist of USA, President of the East Orange Clergy Movement and Past President of the Hampton University Ministers Conference.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Forbes is my personal friend and I know so well the difference his Ministry is making in our community. He works tirelessly and often without compensation. My colleagues, I ask that you join with me in honoring this great American, Bishop Lemmie Nathaniel Forbes.

RECOGNIZING VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING AND GODCHAUX HALL

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and its historic Godchaux Hall. Some of Nashville's most talented health care professionals, educators and students will gather today to celebrate a place "where tradition meets innovation," the newly renovated Godchaux Hall.

Godchaux Hall was built in 1925 as the dormitory for the 100 students and faculty of the Vanderbilt nursing program. It included classrooms, laboratory space and a library. Since then, it has undergone several name changes and renovations, but last year, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing was awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to improve the space for the first time in thirty years.

Today, Godchaux Hall is a truly innovative place where students from all over the world come to earn advanced nursing degrees and learn the skills they need to care for patients as nurses. An advanced 9-bed "Intervention Lab" provides a simulated hospital environment and includes state-of-the-art computer equipment, "Sim Man," to replicate a human patient. New behavioral labs create space for nursing researchers to work with human subjects outside the laboratory. The increased space also allows Vanderbilt to expand its relationship with community partners like Fisk and Lipscomb Universities whose students can earn Bachelor degrees at Vanderbilt's Godchaux Hall.

The improved learning space at Godchaux Hall will give Vanderbilt the ability to continue its long tradition of excellence in nursing education. I commend Dean Colleen Conway-Welch for her leadership and Vanderbilt University School of Nursing for its achievements in innovation and education. One of the most significant outcomes of today's ribbon-cutting is that it will allow Nashville to combat the nursing shortage our nation faces and continue to provide the best in health care to patients from across Middle Tennessee.

NATO SUMMIT IN RIGA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Croatian Caucus and in light of the forthcoming National Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit in Riga, I would like to bring your attention to the signifi-

cant progress Croatia has made to date under Euro-Atlantic integrations. I would also like to emphasize the contributions Croatia could make as a new NATO member in furthering its principles and enhancing security in the area. Finally, I would like to commend both the Croatian Embassy to the United States and the National Federation of Croatian Americans for their steadfast commitment to furthering the U.S.-Croatian relationship.

In pursuing extensive political, economic, and defense reforms since its independence, Croatia has proven to be a reliable partner in the international community's efforts to build long-term support and stability, and has been an active supporter of the global coalition against terrorism. Croatia fully recognizes the fundamental importance of sharing its vision of Euro-Atlantic integration with other countries in the region, demonstrating this through various regional initiatives such as the U.S. Adriatic Charter for Partnership with Albania and Macedonia.

Croatia is one of the countries first in line for the next round of NATO enlargement, and has benefited greatly from the substantial investment made by the United States in the region. This investment represents the United States' belief in Croatia as a partner in promoting democratic ideals and peace-keeping efforts world-wide. Croatia has been an active contributor to non-Article V. NATO operations in the areas of crisis management and crisis response, notably under NATO-led ISAF operations in Afghanistan. Further, Croatia has consistently demonstrated its support for international efforts to bring peace, stability, and democracy in Iraq.

The Congress' continuing support for further NATO enlargement was expressed last year, when the United States House of Representatives unanimously adopted House Resolution 529, recommending Croatia's integration into NATO. This was quickly followed by a similar resolution in the United States Senate. These resolutions not only represented recognition by the U.S. Legislature of the significant progress made by the Croatian government towards participating actively in a free and democratic world, they also provided valuable support for further efforts in Southeast Europe towards stability and security in the Southeastern European region.

At the Riga Summit, NATO should go beyond its "open door" policy and issue an unequivocal message to invite one or more aspirant MAP countries to begin accession talks with NATO at the next Summit in 2008, provided that they continue with necessary reforms and fulfill the conditions for membership. Croatia has demonstrated it is willing and able to assume responsibilities of NATO membership, and will prove to be an effective contributor to the collective defense and overall Alliance mission.

Mr. Speaker, as a Co-Chair of the Croatian Caucus, I am fully convinced that Croatia's earliest integration into NATO will allow it to be a more valuable ally to the United States. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me today in recognizing Croatia's progress and in encouraging the Departments of State and Defense to push for full integration of Croatia into NATO at the earliest opportunity, preferably with an invitation no later than 2008.