

60-day periods can be indefinitely renewed. Moreover, "imminent attack" is defined as an "attack likely to cause death, serious injury, or substantial economic damage." What is "substantial economic damage?" This definition is so sweeping that hacking into a computer could fit. This bill also strips all courts of jurisdiction over surveillance cases, preventing anyone from seeking redress for illegal or unconstitutional electronic surveillance.

All of us want to be protected from terrorists, but we can protect our Nation without expanding the FISA law so broadly that innocent people can be spied on by their own government without reasonable justification, trampling on our civil liberties. The FISA law already has measures that take into account the need for emergency surveillance, and the need for urgency cannot be used as a rationale for going around America's law. FISA allows wiretapping without a court order in an emergency; the court must simply be notified within 72 hours. The government is aware of this emergency power and has used it repeatedly.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is a Nation built upon its adherence to the laws. And no one—not even a U.S. president—is above the law. Our system of checks and balances must be maintained if American democracy is to be preserved. I urge all of my colleagues to vote "no" to H.R. 5825.

TRIBUTE TO B. MONROE HIERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great public servant and Southern gentleman. Mr. B. Monroe Hiers is retiring as the attorney for the City of Bamberg, South Carolina, a post he has held for more than forty years.

Monroe Hiers was born on October 15, 1923 in the town of Ehrhardt, South Carolina to Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Hiers. In 1943, he graduated from Wofford College and went on to serve three years as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during World War II. Following his military service, Mr. Hiers returned to school and earned a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina in 1948.

For more than 55 years, Monroe has practiced law in Bamberg, and for many of those years served as the city's attorney. During that time, he worked with five different mayors. The current mayor, Alton McCollum, calls Monroe, "the essence of a Southern gentleman."

Monroe Hiers has also devoted his spare time to his community. He has served more than 50 years as the Bamberg County Veterans Service Officer. He is the past president of the Bamberg Chamber of Commerce; past president of the Men's Garden Club; and a past director of the Bamberg County Red Cross. For many years, he has been the vice president, director and attorney for Bamberg's Home Federal Savings and Loan Association, and has been honored by the CFISC for promoting "Community Financial Institutions Business in South Carolina" for 40 years.

He currently serves as Adjutant of the Bamberg County American Legion Post #39, and is a past commander of the Post. He has

helped many students' participation in the American Legion Oratorical Contests, Boys State, and the American Legion Baseball Team.

Perhaps his greatest loyalty lies with the Lions Club. Monroe has been recognized by the organization for 50 years perfect attendance, and was selected for the Lion of the Year Award in 1973–74 for his outstanding service. He is a past president of South Carolina Lions Sight Conservation Foundation, for which he prepared the first Constitution and By-Laws, and made the application for the first Charter of the South Carolina Lions Sight Conservation Foundation, Inc. He has also served as a past president of the South Carolina Lions Sight Conservation Association, Charitable Services.

Monroe was District 32–B's Governor and a 100 percent District Governor, in addition to several other positions he held with the Lions organization. He also organized two Lions Clubs in Swansea and the Seven Oaks area of Columbia. His extraordinary dedication to the Lions Club won him the honor in 2004 of being named to the South Carolina Hall of Fame for District 32–B.

Monroe is a man grounded by his faith and his family. He is married to Eugenia Crosby of Lodge, South Carolina, and the couple has two daughters, one grandchild and one great-grandchild. For over 50 years, he has been teaching adult Sunday school at both Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church in Ehrhardt and Trinity Methodist in Bamberg.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me congratulating Mr. Monroe Hiers for his extensive service to his community. He has dedicated more than 50 years of his life to serving others through his profession and his community involvement. I am confident the City of Bamberg and the State of South Carolina will continue to benefit from his extraordinary commitment even as he officially retires. On this occasion, I offer my best wishes and Godspeed.

HONORING TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND EDUCATION ADVOCATE DR. ROBERT D. HUNTER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Robert "Bob" Hunter for his 50 plus years of public service in the state of Texas and his devotion to higher education.

Dr. Hunter's commitment to educational institutions, the millions of collegiate students and potential students in the state of Texas make him more than worthy of this recognition. Dr. Hunter has displayed a loyalty to higher education that few can match. He served 10 years as Executive Vice President for the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas non-profit organization. Dr. Hunter coordinated the passage of the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant that made attending the university of your choice a reality for thousands of disadvantaged students. As an advocate of education he has served on numerous boards and committees, including being appointed by then Governor of Texas, Dolph

Briscoe, to the Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education.

After serving in the Navy as a Security Aide to two Admirals in the South Pacific, Dr. Hunter returned home to Abilene, TX. He began work at his Alma Mater, Abilene Christian University where, before his retirement in 1993, was named Senior Vice President. In recognition of his diligent work to further higher education, Bob has received Honorary Doctoral degrees from many highly regarded institutions, including: Pepperdine University, Texas Wesleyan College, University of St. Thomas, McMurry University, Hardin-Simmons University, Austin College, and Abilene Christian University. Currently Dr. Hunter is serving his 10th term as a member of the Texas House of Representatives.

An asset to the state of Texas and its higher education system, Dr. Hunter has consistently served without want of recognition. However, today I commend him for his diligent public service efforts in furthering higher education.

IN HONOR OF LYNETTE AND FRANKIE BISCONTI

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, Lynette Bisconti is a courageous young woman who rejoiced when she discovered she was pregnant, only to soon learn she had breast cancer. Six physicians told her to terminate the pregnancy. Thankfully, she ignored the advice of these physicians and delivered a healthy baby boy. Her inspiring story is set forth in the attached excerpt from a recent national magazine article.

[From the Family Circle Magazine Oct. 2006]

"WE FOUGHT BACK"

(By Sandra Gordon)

Lynette was overjoyed late in 1997 when she learned she was pregnant. But a month later that happiness turned to heartache. After having surgery to remove what was presumed to be a benign cyst on her left breast, she was told she had cancer. "The doctors said that the hormones my body was producing would likely fuel the cancer, and that I had to terminate the pregnancy immediately to save my own life," she says. Lynette spent the next few days wrestling with the dilemma of what to do and at the same time began to experience bleeding that made her think she might be miscarrying.

When she went in for an ultrasound, the obstetrician told her, "This little guy is hanging on." Lynette's mind was made up in that moment. "My heart leapt," says Lynette. "I knew that no matter what, no matter how bad it got, my baby and I would get through this together."

Biggest hurdle: Finding physicians who respected her decision. Three weeks after her diagnosis Lynette had a mastectomy. "The lab report was bad. I had an aggressive cancer that had spread to several lymph nodes. I was told that if I went ahead with chemotherapy, which was the next step, my baby might die or be brain damaged." Six other physicians she consulted said the same thing: She had to terminate her pregnancy and get into chemotherapy immediately. "I left every visit crying," she says.

After a truly agonizing first trimester, Lynette got a referral from a family friend that