

were found guilty and sentenced to death. Goering swallowed a cyanide pill just hours before he was to mount the gallows.

Today, in the midst of a national debate on how to treat captured terror suspects, my mind flashes back to Room 600 at Furtherstrasse 22. We gave Goering and the other war criminals a chance not only to defend themselves but in some cases, preach hate and violence.

In a ruined Germany, where so many corpses still lay buried in the rubble, and life seemed so very fragile, we found it in ourselves to give the worst of men due process.

JUDGE THOMAS RUSSELL JONES
GREAT POINT-OF-LIGHT

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Judge Thomas Russell Jones was appropriately described as an activist, soldier, assemblyman, civil rights lawyer, and judge at a memorial service held in Brooklyn, NY, at the Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims on Tuesday, December 5, 2006. My personal recollections of Judge Jones compel me to describe him as a Great Point-of-Light for all Americans. He was a rare leader with a great gift for inspiring others. He was an extrovert, outgoing, always giving advice freely, always offering encouragement generously. It is not exaggerating to call Tom Jones the Father of the Brooklyn Empowerment Spirit. All aspiring candidates could look up to Tom Jones and his independent record and see a clear standard for their future performance. He broke ground and ran for the Assembly without the endorsement of the powerful Brooklyn political machine. As a result of the bold moves of Tom Jones, civil rights activists for the first time began to examine electoral politics as a possible effective instrument for change. To the picketing and the sit-ins we added voter registration and voter participation. Without Tom Jones and the pioneering Unity Democratic Club there would have been no successful election of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. His unblemished record of integrity and wisdom on the bench are outstanding recent memories. Both his judicial career and his political trailblazing are sparking legacies which justify the citation of Judge Thomas Russell Jones as a Great Point-of-Light for the people of Brooklyn and for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LANE EVANS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a dear friend and colleague, Congressman LANE EVANS.

I've gotten to know LANE through our work as co-chairs of the Congressional Working

Group on Parkinson's Disease. He is a deeply dedicated, kind, and courageous person who I admire and who I will truly miss.

For the past 24 years, Congressman EVANS has been a champion of veterans and Parkinson's issues on Capitol Hill and a great friend to both communities. Earlier this week, I was proud to see a bill passed that included a program, Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers, PADRECCs, conceived and created by LANE. By working with the former and current VA Administration, Representative EVANS helped to establish these Centers that serve American veterans battling Parkinson's disease.

As a former Marine, Ranking Member on the VA Committee, and person battling Parkinson's disease, Representative LANE EVANS has a strong sense of mission about providing the highest standards of care for both constituencies. Though I am sad to see LANE go, I am encouraged by his commitment to help others and make a difference in people's lives. I hope to continue his legacy while working with the Working Group on Parkinson's Disease to find a cure for this terrible disease.

This body is losing a true patriot, but we can all agree, LANE, that we are proud to know you, proud to have served with you, and are proud to honor you today.

CREDIT REPORTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, thank you very much for the opportunity to talk to you about an important issue involving credit reports that will disproportionately harm low-income homebuyers and put most small independent credit reporting agencies out of business within a month. The issue involves the "joint use" of credit reports for mortgages.

"Joint use", "secondary use" or "reissue" refers to the long-standing practice (recognized in the FCRA, by the Federal Trade Commission, and by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency), which allows a credit report to be jointly used by multiple entities legitimately engaged with the origination of a mortgage at no additional cost. Joint use of credit report information is essential for the proper functioning of the mortgage banking, brokerage and financing industries and is an important process by which consumers shop for and obtain mortgage credit.

Recently, two of the credit repositories, Equifax and Experian (E&E) have announced new mandatory fees and burdensome requirements for joint use of credit reports starting January 1, 2007. Consumers will now be burdened with paying multiple charges for the one-time access of their credit report in order to originate a single mortgage transaction. Unlike other credit industries, the mortgage credit reporting industry is required to depend on three-file merged credit reports provided by E&E and TransUnion. The proposed new policy will significantly increase mortgage origination costs. Costs for joint use of credit reports

potentially increase by 100-300%. E&E will significantly increase their revenues while end users, resellers, and ultimately, consumers will pay the costs. In addition, consumers facing the highest cost increases will be those with credit challenges such as low-income and first-time homebuyers.

Further, about 90 percent of the independent credit reporting agencies will be unable to meet the additional contractual requirements being dictated by E&E. These credit reporting agencies will be unable to access the credit data from E&E and therefore unable to provide the mandatory three-file merged credit reports. They will quickly be forced out of businesses due to these changes.

There is no new legislation, court case, regulatory decision or other external event to justify such action except to increase the revenues of these large companies at the expense of the consumer and to the detriment of small credit reporting companies.

The other repositories, TransUnion and Innovis, have not chosen to drastically alter the joint use procedure. TransUnion is evaluating its position and CBC Companies, the parent of Innovis, is challenging E&E's proposed new guidelines in federal court as a violation of U.S. antitrust laws.

The end-user disclosure (joint use) requirements have been working well since they were enacted as part of the FCRA in 1997. The recent actions by E&E do little to combat the incidence of identity theft and increase data security. The main reason for these policies is to raise revenue and decrease competition. The effort to implement these new reissue/joint use procedures and fees needs to be stopped in order to maintain a level playing field, continue effective competition in the marketplace and provide fair and equitable access to capital for all Americans.

Any efforts by the major credit repositories to change the reissue process should not restrict competition. In order to protect both consumers and small, independent credit reporting agencies, E&E should make the following changes to their proposed reissue policies.

Continue to classify the GSEs, HUD and any other ancillary technology system that is part of the mortgage origination process as joint use, not the new created "reissue" or "secondary use" classification.

Allow credit-reporting agencies, at the direction of the end-user of record, to reissue to any firm on one of the approved mortgage seller or servicer lists of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or HUD without end-user documentation and site inspections.

Designate a reasonable flat fee for reissue. Note: The changes to the 2003 FACT Act which included a free credit report to every American on an annual basis only required an \$.11 per file price increase while E&E's proposed policy changes attempt to justify the charge of \$1.05 to \$3.50 per file.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address this important topic. I strongly suggest that E&E reconsider the policies they plan to implement on January 1. Such policies will ultimately hurt the consumer and will have a disproportionate effect on low-income individuals. All Americans deserve the right to pursue the American dream of homeownership and should not be restricted to access to loans because of a policy intended solely to raise revenue for two large credit repositories.