

REGARDING SUPREME COURT DECISION IN SHELBY COUNTY VS. HOLDER

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2013*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in the case of *Shelby County v. Holder*, decided this past Tuesday, the justification relied upon by the conservative majority of the Supreme Court to strike down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act today essentially comes down to this: "Times change." Chief Justice Roberts is right, times have changed. What he neglects to add is that the change is due almost entirely to the existence and vigorous enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

In the same way that the vaccine invented by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1953 eradicated the crippling effects but did not eliminate the cause of polio, the Voting Rights Act has succeeded in stymying the practices that resulted in the wholesale disenfranchisement of African Americans in the southern region of our country but not in eliminating the motivations underlying them. And that is why the vaccine of the Voting Rights Act is needed as much today as Dr. Salk's vaccine is needed to prevent another polio epidemic.

In his opinion, the Chief Justice applauds this remarkable progress brought about by the Voting Rights Act and concludes it was so successful in preventing the states with the worst and most egregious records of voter suppression, intimidation from disenfranchising minority voters that those States should no longer be subject to the federal supervision responsible for the success he celebrates.

But in a record exceeding 15,000 pages in length compiled after holding 21 hearings and receiving testimony from more than 150 witnesses, Congress carefully and meticulously documented why the covered States could not yet be trusted to refrain from a return to their days of shame. And because of Section 5, they could not do so even if they tried.

Without Section 5, Congress recognized that many of the advances of the past decades could be wiped out overnight with new schemes and devices, such as the mid-decade redistricting conducted in my home State of Texas, which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down in part in *LULAC v. Perry*, 546 U.S. 399 (2006) or the attempt to eliminate the North Forest Independent School District in my congressional district.

I call upon the leadership of the Congress and President Obama to follow the example of their predecessors during the 109th Congress and begin immediately to work together to come up with the legislative remedy needed to repair the damage caused by the Supreme Court's misreading of history and disregard of its own settled precedents when it comes to Congress's power to protect the right to vote guaranteed by the 15th Amendment.

While the Congress works to come up with the pre-clearance legislative fix, the administration in the meantime should begin redirecting its resources to wage the many "post-clearance" battles that lay ahead.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 GREATER RESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS FOR CHAMBER EXCELLENCE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize recipients of the 2013 Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Awards for Chamber Excellence.

The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1982 as a business roundtable in the growing community of Reston, Virginia. For more than 30 years, the Reston Chamber has facilitated business growth and entrepreneurship through its programming, advocacy and engagement throughout the community. The Reston Chamber currently has more than 600 member businesses that together employ more than 10,000 people. It is the 6th largest chamber of commerce in the Washington DC-metropolitan region and is deeply embedded in the community.

The Reston Chamber hosts annual events such as Taste of Reston, Oktoberfest Reston, and Best of Reston, and it has received national recognition for its Ethics Day, a workshop for high school students on ethical decision making. Members use the INC.spire Education Foundation and free SCORE business coaching programs to help create and grow their enterprises. INC.spire has assisted more than four dozen entrepreneurs create 500 jobs and \$45 million of business investment.

The Chamber was recognized by Fairfax County Public Schools for its involvement in local classrooms, received the Community Service Award from the Reston Community Center, and received the Best of Reston Corporate Philanthropy Award in 2012.

Each year, through the Awards for Chamber Excellence, the Chamber recognizes member companies, individuals, and volunteers who have demonstrated excellence, innovation and exceptional dedication to the Reston community. I am pleased to join the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce in recognizing the following Awards for Chamber Excellence (ACE) recipients:

Committee of the Year: Business Education Committee, Angela Inzerillo and Cindy Simons-Bennett (co-chairs).

Small Business of the Year: Conversion Pipeline.

Medium Business of the Year: Atrium Catering and Design.

Large Business of the Year: Access National Bank.

Member of the Year: Cynthia Hyland, Northrop Grumman.

New Member of the Year: Lindsay Mensch. Volunteer of the Year: Laura Lee Spatzer.

First Responder of the Year Award: Sally Dickinson, North Point Fire Station 439.

Joe Ritchie Pinnacle Award: Marion Myers, Myers Public Relations.

President's Award: Bill Byers, First Virginia Community Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this year's award recipients and in thanking them for their contributions to the local economy and outstanding service to our community. I also commend the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for its

role as an invaluable partner to local businesses, nonprofits and schools. The efforts of the Chamber, the member businesses, and volunteers have helped make Reston a truly special place live, work and raise a family.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2013*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen death in my family, I was absent for rollcall votes 287–290. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yea," rollcall No. 287 H.R. 2383. To designate the new Interstate Route 20 bridge over the Mississippi River connecting St. Louis, Missouri, and southwestern Illinois as the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge

"Yea," rollcall No. 288 H.R. 1092. To designate the air traffic control center located in Nashua, New Hampshire, as the Patricia Clark Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center.

"Yea," rollcall No. 289. On Ordering the Previous Question.

"Yea," rollcall No. 290. Providing for consideration of H.R. 1613, Outer Continental Shelf Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreements Authorization Act; providing for consideration of H.R. 2231, Offshore Energy and Jobs Act; and providing for consideration of H.R. 2410, making appropriations for Agriculture, FY 2014.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 SHELTER HOUSE, INC. VOLUNTEER AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable efforts of Shelter House, Inc., and to congratulate the recipients of the 2013 Volunteer Awards. Shelter House is a community-based, non-profit organization that works to break the cycle of homelessness by offering support to those most in need in the Northern Virginia community. Shelter House provides crisis intervention, temporary, transitional and permanent housing, training, counseling, and programs to support self-sufficiency. Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work of dedicated volunteers.

Shelter House was founded in 1981 by several faith groups, which came together to better serve low-income individuals and families. Shelter House operates three shelters: The Katherine K. Hanley and the Patrick Henry family shelters, which provide temporary housing for local families who become homeless, and Artemis House, Fairfax County's only emergency shelter for families and individuals fleeing domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking. In 2013, Shelter House added permanent housing to its portfolio by partnering with Falls Church Presbyterian Church to open the Ives House to three homeless/unstably housed families to provide additional case management support to increase their self-sufficiency.