

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF POLICE CAMERA ACT 1/3/19

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Police Creating Accountability by Making Effective Recording Act, also known as the Police CAMERA Act, a bill I introduced today with several of my colleagues. If enacted, this bill would establish a grant program to assist state and local law enforcement with the deployment of body-worn camera programs.

Safe communities require good police.

Good policing requires public trust.

Unfortunately, in far too many communities, that trust has become strained.

In the wake of recent police shootings, our nation is facing sobering questions about the basic fairness of our criminal justice system. We face sobering questions about race.

Over the past several years, the wider availability of video has shined a much-needed light on police use of deadly force. Without video of places like North Charleston, Staten Island, Chicago, Cleveland, Baton Rouge, Tulsa and Falcon Heights, Minnesota the world might never know what occurred.

The more we see of these types of videos, the more we are left to wonder about all the incidents that were not recorded.

Had there been better video of the shooting of Darius Stewart in my home town of Memphis, it might have helped to better inform the grand jury that, sadly, refused to indict the police officer who was responsible.

Justice is supposed to be blind, but it is not supposed to be blind to the facts.

Police body cameras can help provide evidence and restore some much-needed trust.

They can protect both police and citizens alike.

The vast majority of police are well meaning, dedicated public servants, and we depend upon them to keep us safe from criminals. They have dangerous jobs, as we have seen all too frequently.

But the fact remains some officers go beyond the law in a callous disregard for due process. Their actions damage the public trust that is essential for good police to be able to serve and protect our communities.

Police body cameras, alone, won't solve this problem. But they are an important step in the right direction.

I urge all members to help pass the Police CAMERA Act quickly.

IN MEMORY OF MR. RALPH
WILLIAM HALL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great soldier, dedicated

husband, loving father, and loyal friend to many, Mr. Ralph William Hall. Sadly, Mr. Hall passed away on December 18, 2018. His funeral service will be held on January 5, 2019 at 11 am at St. Timothy Episcopal Church located at 3601 Alabama Avenue SE, Washington, D.C. 20020.

Mr. Ralph William Hall was born on January 25, 1919, in Metcalf, Georgia to the union of Adam and Maggie Franklin Hall. He was the oldest of five children. At an early age, he moved to Thomasville, Georgia where he lived with his parents and maternal grandmother. During this time, he learned to fish, hunt, and perform farm chores. But, it was also during this time that his unbreakable bond with God was cemented. He joined St. Mark AME Church and attended every Sunday. He also attended Allen Normal School, a private Congregational school where he learned self-discipline and bible study.

A diligent student, Ralph graduated from Douglas High School, where he served as Senior Class President. He went on to continue his education at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he earned a degree in Mathematics in 1941. Ralph was drafted into the United States Army while in college, but was allowed to complete his degree requirements, then served faithfully for five years. He was discharged in 1946. He was initiated into the brotherhood of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and was a life member for 80 years until his passing.

Following his discharge from the Army, his life would change forever as he was joined in holy matrimony with his college sweetheart, Virginia (Ginny) Holder.

He moved his new family to Washington, D.C. and embarked on a career with the Federal Government that lasted for 35 years. During this time, two children were born to this union, Douglas and Angela.

Sadly, Ginny became ill and passed in 1962. Mr. Hall was then left with the awesome task of being a single father. However, as with other challenges in his life, he was more than ready to meet this one. His strong and unwavering faith in God led him to become a member of the Jones United Methodist Church, where he proudly served as Chairman of the Trustee Board, where he led the completion of the Education Building along with serving as the Church School Superintendent.

Another major life changing event for him occurred when he was introduced to Thelma Johnson by a dear Army Buddy and his wife, Milton and Evelyn Serallee. This led to their marriage in 1965 and the new family moved to Hillcrest area in Southeast Washington, D.C.

Ralph Hall continued his love for service to humankind as a member of the Hillcrest Civic Association and as PTA President at Anne Beers Elementary School. In 1966, he and Thelma joined St. Timothy's Episcopal Church where he served many roles to include: Lay Reader, Diocesan Delegate, Member of the Men of St. Timothy's (Most), and the Brotherhood of St. Andrews. He truly dedicated his life to the service of others. And was a con-

stant example of sincerity, loyalty, and devotion to family.

Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the 730,000 constituents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, salute and honor the life of Mr. Ralph William Hall. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to the Hall family during this difficult time of bereavement. We pray that that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION TO STUDY REPARATION PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to re-introduce H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation proposals for African-Americans Act. This legislation was first introduced by retired Member of Congress John Conyers of Michigan in 1989, and was intended to examine the institution of slavery in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present, and further recommend appropriate remedies.

Since the initial introduction of this legislation, its proponents have made substantial progress in elevating the discussion of reparations and reparatory justice at the national level and joining the mainstream international debate on the issues. Though some have tried to deflect the importance of these conversations by focusing on individual monetary compensation, the real issue is whether and how this nation can come to grips with the legacy of slavery that still infects current society. Through legislation, resolutions, news, and litigation, we are moving closer to making more strides in the movement toward reparations.

Today there are more people at the table—more activists, more scholars, more CEO's, more state and local officials, and more Members of Congress. However, despite this progress and the election of the first American President of African descent, the legacy of slavery lingers heavily in this nation. While we have focused on the social effects of slavery and segregation, its continuing economic implications remain largely ignored by mainstream analysis. These economic issues are the root cause of many critical issues in the African-American community today, such as education, healthcare and criminal justice policy, including policing practices. The call for reparations represents a commitment to entering a constructive dialogue on the role of slavery and racism in shaping present-day conditions in our community and American society.

Over the last several years, we have had a distinguished academic and activist panel from

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