

Whereas, the people of Bikini have recently learned from well-respected scientists who have conducted extensive radiological cleanup cost estimates for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that the restoration costs for cleanup and resettlement of Bikini Atoll will exceed several hundred million dollars; and

Whereas, this means that many Bikini elders, who have not been back on their home islands for 53 years, will probably die without returning home; and

Whereas, of the 167 of our elders who were moved off our islands in 1946, fewer than 90 are still alive; and

Whereas, most of these elders live on Kili, an island one-ninth the size of Bikini Atoll which must support six times the number of people who lived on Bikini; and

Whereas, we wish to compensate these elders with a one-time 3% distribution from the corpus of the Resettlement Trust Fund; and

Whereas, unlike people living on other atolls in the Marshall Islands, our people on Kili cannot fish because Kili has no lagoon and no reef, thus requiring our community to supplement our U.S.D.A. food by purchasing other canned goods at great expense; and

Whereas, a one-time 3% distribution from the Resettlement Trust Fund will not require an appropriation of any funds by the U.S. Congress; and

Whereas, given the good management of the Resettlement Trust Fund a 3% distribution would not diminish the original corpus of the trust fund; and

Whereas, Congress has previously authorized ex gratia per capita payments from the Resettlement Trust Fund; and

Whereas, the House Resources Committee (formerly the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs) has held many oversight hearings on Bikini-related issues during the past 25 years, covering such issues as health care, education, agricultural and food programs, establishment and oversight of ex gratia trust funds for the Bikini people, Bikini Atoll cleanup, Compact of Free Association Section 177 Agreement cover-up of the 1954 Bravo shot, and vaporization of islands at Bikini;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that: (1) The Council requests a one-time only 3% distribution from the existing corpus of the Resettlement Trust Fund, with the understanding that the primary beneficiaries of this distribution will be the Bikini elders.

(2) The Council agrees that the amount of such distribution shall be deducted from any future additional ex gratia payments made by the U.S. Congress into the Resettlement Trust Fund.

(3) Legal counsel Jonathan M. Weisgall is instructed to forward a copy of this Resolution to Allen P. Stayman, Director, Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior; Senator Frank Murkowski, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; and Representative Don Young, Chairman, House Resources Committee, and to urge these Senate and House Committees to hold hearings, as necessary, to determine the appropriateness of the above request and to obtain information concerning the status of cleanup efforts at Bikini Atoll, current estimates of cleanup and restoration costs, questions concerning the guarantee of Bikini Atoll's safety, and other appropriate issues.

Final and passed by the KILI/BIKINI/EJIT LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL on the 12th day of March, 1999, at a meeting on Kili Island.

APPROVED:

TOMAKI JUDA,  
Mayor

Witness: Nathn Note, Clerk

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
SUSIE MUSHATT JONES

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 1999*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rich and full life of Susie Mushatt Jones as she celebrates her 100th birthday on July 6, 1999. Mrs. Jones is from the first generation of African-Americans after the abolition of slavery. In the life of Mrs. Jones, she had the opportunity to witness many pivotal events in history. She is a source of history that we need in our community. The experiences of Mrs. Jones can help us better understand the world we live in. She has experienced the great depression, two world wars, the Harlem Renaissance, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's, and many more historical events. She has helped to build the foundation of our community. Mrs. Jones has positively influenced the lives of family and friends from her advice and assistance.

The life of Mrs. Jones must be acknowledged because she has advice on how to live a full and long life. Seniors, such as Mrs. Jones, act as pillars in our community. People in our community need to follow in her "foot steps" because Mrs. Jones has accomplished something that many people dream of achieving. The resounding strength of Mrs. Jones will continue to permeate in the lives of the people that surround her.

We pray that God will continue to bless Mrs. Jones.

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT

**HON. SHERROD BROWN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 1999*

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) was created by Congress in 1977 to encourage federally insured financial institutions to help meet the credit needs of the communities they serve. Fair and equal access to capital and credit should be a fundamental right, yet for too long it has been a privilege based on race or economic class. By any measure, the CRA has been a success in creating jobs, businesses, affordable housing and homeownership in minority and poor neighborhoods.

In my home county of Lorain, OH, the FirstMerit Bank challenge under CRA garnered over a \$20 million commitment from FirstMerit for mortgage lending in low and moderate income tracts. More importantly, the FirstMerit challenge started the Community Development initiative in earnest and led to a \$33 million commitment from local public officials, banks and foundations on a community based development system for the county.

Blatant discrimination in lending is declining and homeownership and small business opportunities are on the rise. We can attribute much of this progress to the Community Reinvestment Act. CRA has proven that working together with local leaders, advocacy organizations, and financial institutions, we can make local investment not only good for busi-

ness, but good for improving the quality of life for low and moderate income residents in our communities. Let's continue to make the American dream a reality for more Americans.

"A SALUTE TO THE MILITARY" IN  
HONOR OF THE UNITED STATES  
MARINE CORPS, EL TORO, CALI-  
FORNIA

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 1999*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, on November 10, 1775, the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, passing a resolution that "two battalions of Marines be raised" for service as landing forces with the fleet. This resolution, sponsored by John Adams, established the Continental Marines and marked the birth of the United States Marine Corps.

From that time forward, and throughout the history of the United States of America, the Marines have proven themselves to be among the bravest and most heroic divisions of the military. The Marines have fought valiantly in the American Revolution, the Battle of 1812, the Mexican War (1846-1848), the Civil War (1861-1865), the Spanish American War (1898), World War I, World War II, and the Gulf War. They have fought from "the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli" to keep our nation free.

El Toro was commissioned as a Marine Corps Air Station in March of 1943. The base was used as a staging area and training facility for the battle with the Japanese in the Pacific. Built on a bean field, the first Marines were housed in bean barracks until the new barracks were constructed. From that point forward, Marine troops poured into the base and soon the first squadrons were formed, flying operational missions into combat in the South Pacific.

Just as the war in the Pacific ended, Congress threatened to close the base. However, with new conflicts beginning in Korea, the base was kept open. At this time it became apparent that a Western base was definitely needed on the Pacific Coast. After the Korean War, the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing was moved from Florida to El Toro. The base was expanded to accommodate the increasing military expansion. With Vietnam, El Toro again became a training, staging, and debarkation point for the Marines.

In 1975, Vietnamese refugees were flown into the base, before being sent to refugee camps in Camp Pendleton. And, in 1983, El Toro received the F/A-18 Hornet, the most advanced fighter-attack aircraft in Naval history. By now the base has grown from the original 2,300 acres and 30 Marines to 4,700 acres and 15,000 personnel.

In the 1990's, the Marines were called into action during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield. After America's victory in the Persian Gulf, the Department of Defense embarked on an initiative to restructure and realign America's military and as a result, El Toro was recommended for closure.

El Toro Marine Base, which has played a most significant and important part of history, will now become part of history. As we bid farewell to the men and women who have so