

But someone who wanted Bush to lose and KERRY to win said if the documents to support the charge on the National Guard issue aren't there, I will see that they are there. I will do it anonymously. This will be my contribution to the campaign.

It is a really stupid thing to do. But I believe that is the explanation of where this came from.

Stupidity trumps Machiavelli almost every time when you are looking for an explanation.

However, I think everyone ought to focus on finding out who did it. Until we do find out who did it, we will continue to poison the atmosphere with the suggestion that maybe the Clintons did it, maybe Karl Rove did it, or the Republicans played a dirty trick. We know there are other forces at work.

We owe it to clear the atmosphere by finding out who it is that forged these documents.

Back to my own history, we cleared the atmosphere with respect to Howard Hughes when we found out and made public the fact that the H.R. Hughes to whom the million-dollar payment was made by McGraw Hill was, in fact, Clifford Irving's wife. She opened a Swiss bank and told them her name was Helga R. Hughes, and asked McGraw Hill to please make the checks out to H.R. Hughes. And then Clifford Irving's wife deposited them into her account. Naturally, the signature card that endorsed the check H.R. Hughes matched the signature card in the bank because Clifford Irving wrote them. Once we knew that, then the air was cleared.

The air was cleared with respect to the Howard Hughes will and who wrote the will. When Melvin Dumar, the service station attendant who would have inherited \$100 million from Howard Hughes, exclaimed he knew nothing about it, yet was surprised when he came forward and was confronted in court by the fact that his thumbprint was on the will inside a sealed envelope when the will was found. Again, the air was cleared, and there was no more mystery as to where this came from.

The air was cleared with Mark Hoffman and all of the documents that he forged when the murders occurred and we found out that he was trying to cover up his forgery by killing people who were in a position to expose him.

The air needs to be cleared here. We should not just stop at snickering at newspapers and television stations that seem to have been taken in. We should go deeper than that and find out who actually did it. Then we can lay to rest the conspiracy theory that says it came from all of these other places.

I end as I began by saying, over the years, I have always had a warm spot in my heart and a great sense of respect for Dan Rather because of the way he treated a story in which I was a principal some 30 years ago. I know he is a journalist with the highest professional standards. I extend to him my regrets at this time that his journal-

istic instincts failed him, and he didn't realize this was one that was being laid on him in the hope that he would be taken in. I hope he will recover from this. I know at some point he will recognize that he was taken in and step forward and make that acknowledgment clear.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I have enjoyed listening to my friend from Utah. He always speaks eloquently and brings a different insight than most of us can to issues. It is a remarkable saga which he recounts. It also makes me think that here we are, 6 weeks before a Presidential election, which all parties are describing as one of the most important in our history, when we are at war and we have significant issues of health care, immigration—we could make a list a mile long—and jobs, can we keep our jobs in the competitive marketplace, and the dominant issue of the moment is the media covering the media about something that might or probably didn't happen 30 years ago.

My hope is that we recognize that Senator KERRY served, President Bush served, and they both supported the war in Iraq. It is now at the forefront of American consciousness. And the question before us in the Presidential race is which one of these men is the best prepared to be Commander in Chief to lead us into the future? My hope is the media coverage would be more on those issues, more on the future. I don't want to hear too much more about what happened 30 years ago.

The distinguished occupant of the chair was heroic in his service 30 years ago. We admire that. But he spent most of his time looking toward the future, as I do mine, and I think the American people do. We are not elected to CBS president of the United States.

It is my hope that whatever the circumstances, if they made a mistake, admit it—we politicians have learned the hard way that is the best thing to do—and get on with it. Talk about 30 years from now, instead of the media covering the media about what happened 30 years ago or what might not have happened 30 years ago.

Earlier, the Senator from Louisiana, Ms. LANDRIEU, came to the Chamber and talked primarily about the devastating hurricane in New Orleans. Having lived in New Orleans a year, at the time of another great hurricane in 1965, I know how difficult that is going to be for New Orleans, Mobile, and that part of the world. Our hearts and support are with the people of the gulf coast. We are thinking about them and their families and hope they are safe.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Mr. ALEXANDER. The Senator from Louisiana also mentioned the 40th an-

niversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She and I intended today to speak together about that. She spoke about it and she will have more to say. She has worked very hard on it for the last several years.

I take a few minutes in honor of the 40th anniversary of what we call the Land and Water Conservation Fund, or the LWCF in this country. Forty years ago, in September of 1964, President Johnson signed legislation establishing the fund. It has been an important factor in preserving open spaces in our country ever since.

The idea began under a Republican President, President Eisenhower, who signed legislation creating a commission to determine what should be done to preserve outdoor space for recreation. Then a Democratic President, President Kennedy, submitted legislation to Congress creating the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In submitting the draft legislation, President Kennedy wrote:

The Nation needs a land acquisition program to preserve both prime Federal and State areas for outdoor recreation purposes. . . . In addition to the enhancement of spiritual, cultural, and physical values resulting from the preservation of those resources, the expenditure for their preservation are a sound financial investment.

Shortly thereafter, it passed the House by a vote voice and the Senate with only one vote in opposition. Then President Johnson signed it into law. This is an idea that has had bipartisan support from the very beginning.

Since that time, 40 years ago, 37,300 Land and Water Conservation Fund State grants, totalling more than \$3 billion, have been instrumental in preserving 2.3 million acres and building 27,000 recreational facilities. For example, one park that was preserved by grants from the LWCF is Fall Creek Falls in Tennessee. Grants from the fund totalling \$376,000 helped acquire land and built facilities at this spectacular park, which I have visited many times, boasts the highest waterfall in North America east of the Rocky Mountains. Chances are pretty good many parks we have hiked would not even exist if it were not for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Yet since the early 1980s, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been consistently shortchanged of funding. During most of the 1980s and 1990s, funding levels were kept to about one-third of the authorized level—\$300 million of \$900 million authorized, for example. By the late 1990s, funding for State grants under the Land and Water Conservation Fund was cut to zero.

In recent years, we have seen some improvements. Funding for State grants averaged about \$100 million since 2001, but it is not hard to do better when you are doing nothing.

While funding has declined, demand for conserved areas has dramatically increased. Since the Land and Water Conservation Fund was first established, the population of the United

States has grown by more than 40 percent. A growing population puts pressure on open spaces in two ways: First, more people want to enjoy the great outdoors so they need more space for it; second, more land is being used for other purposes—such as new subdivisions, shopping malls, office buildings, and more—which makes open space more scarce, especially in areas where most of us live. The demand for parks and open space is higher than ever before, especially for city parks, the parks down the street in which we walk, run and enjoy the outdoors.

How can we fund conservation efforts in the time of tight budgets? The Americans Outdoors Act of 2004, which Senator MARY LANDRIEU and I introduced in the Senate earlier this year, provides the answer.

The act provides a reliable stream of funding by collecting what we call a conservation royalty on revenues from drilling for oil and gas on offshore Federal lands. It uses this conservation royalty to fully fund three existing Federal programs. First, the State side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is \$450 million annually. Second, the Wildlife Conservation Fund is \$350 million annually. And third, Urban Parks Initiatives is \$125 million annually. It also provides 500 million additional dollars each year for coastal impact assistance including wetlands protection.

This new conservation royalty is not such a new idea at all. It is modeled after the existing State royalty for onshore oil and gas drilling created in the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920. The act gives 50 cents of every dollar from drilling onshore—and in the case of Alaska, 90 cents out of every dollar—as a royalty to the State in which the drilling occurs.

In a similar way, our Americans Outdoors Act of 2004 would create a conservation royalty of about 25 percent for revenues of the funds collected from offshore drilling on Federal lands. Some of the royalty would go to States such as Texas where the drilling occurs. More would go to all States for parks, game and fish commissions, and projects funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The premise of this legislation is simple. If drilling for oil and gas creates an environmental impact, it makes sense to use some of the proceeds to create an environmental benefit. In 2001, the Federal Government received \$7.5 billion in oil and gas revenues from Federal offshore leases. This revenue comes from the Outer Continental Shelf which supplies more oil to the United States than any other country, including Saudi Arabia.

I mentioned at the beginning this was a bipartisan idea. I should mention one other President who was involved in this idea. His name was Ronald Reagan. In 1985, President Reagan asked me to chair the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors which looked ahead for a generation to try to

see what we could do now to help us—today, as it turns out, nearly 20 years later—to enjoy the great American outdoors. One of the major recommendations from President Reagan's Commission on Americans Outdoors was that we take some of the money from offshore oil drilling and devote it to wildlife preservation, to city parks, and to the State and Federal sides of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Senator LANDRIEU and I intend to add an amendment that includes the Federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to our proposal.

Today, we celebrate 40 years of a good idea with a new suggestion for how to improve it: a conservation royalty on offshore revenues that we treat exactly the same way we have treated onshore revenues for 50 years. We give it to the States and to the Federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for wildlife preservation and city parks.

Someone once said Italy has its art, England has its history, and the United States has the great American outdoors. Our magnificent land, as much as our love of liberty, is at the core of our character. It has inspired our pioneer spirit, our resourcefulness, and our generosity. Its greatness has fueled our individualism and our optimism and made us believe anything is possible. It has influenced our music, our literature, our science, and our language. It has served as our training ground for athletes and philosophers, of poets and defenders of American ideas.

So let us come together to conserve the great open spaces of our country for generations to come. That is why the generation before us—Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy and Johnson and Reagan—worked to establish the Land and Water Conservation Fund 40 years ago. That is why we should make sure it is fully funded today. The Americans Outdoors Act will do just that.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I understand that morning business is set to expire soon. I ask unanimous consent that period be extended so other Senators may speak during this extended period of morning business for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, to make sure I do not run out of time—my remarks may take a couple minutes more—I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for so much time as I may consume, not to exceed 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Thank you, Mr. President.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE REYNALDO GUERRA GARZA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Reynaldo Guerra Garza, who passed away yesterday in Brownsville, TX, at the age of 89. Judge Garza was the first Mexican American to serve as a Federal district court judge and a Federal appellate judge. Today, I join my fellow Texans in mourning this loss, along with his wife of 65 years, Bertha Garza, and his five children. By any measure of Reynaldo Garza's stature in the community, he was a mountain of a man.

Reynaldo Garza was born in 1915 in Brownsville, TX, a first-generation American whose parents had fled civil unrest in Mexico. It was during the Depression when he decided to become a lawyer, so he worked as a laborer for the WPA to save money for tuition at the University of Texas.

He excelled in his studies at the University of Texas and developed a great many political friendships, including a longstanding friendship with then-congressional candidate Lyndon Baines Johnson. In 1939, he graduated from the University of Texas Law School and opened his own law office in Brownsville, TX. A solo firm was financially risky for such a green young lawyer, but Reynaldo Garza strongly believed he should practice law in his community, among his family and his friends.

Reynaldo Garza served for 4 years as a gunnery sergeant in World War II and returned to Brownsville with a growing reputation as a civic leader and a brilliant lawyer. He was invited to join the largest firm in town as a partner, where he practiced commercial and insurance law for more than a decade.

When a Federal judicial vacancy came up in 1961, President John F. Kennedy nominated Reynaldo Garza to fill the seat with broad support from the Texas leadership. After being confirmed, Judge Garza plowed through a heavy 2-year backlog of cases in exceptional time. As his profile grew, Judge Garza became a symbol for many young, hard-working Hispanics to pursue their goals of leadership within the legal, business, and social community, blazing a trail for others to follow.

Those in Brownsville, TX, who saw Judge Garza as a model to follow included a junior high school student named Juliet Garcia, who became the first Mexican-American woman president of a university, and a young attorney, Federico Pena, who was to become U.S. Transportation Secretary.

Garza wrote:

I've always said I hope I got the appointment because I was qualified, not because I was Mexican American. But I knew I had to do a good job or else my actions would reflect not only my ability, but also that of other Mexican Americans.

It was in December of 1976 when President-elect Jimmy Carter called