

COMMEMORATING WCLO'S 75th
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the achievements of my hometown radio station, WCLO, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. WCLO Radio, based in Janesville, Wisconsin, has served southern Wisconsin for three-quarters of a century through the broadcasting of news, weather, sports and community information.

Since 1930, WCLO has continuously been owned by the Bliss family, making it one of the Nation's oldest family-owned radio stations. It takes seriously its responsibility to its listeners. Despite major regulatory changes, the station has continued to operate as a public servant to its listening area, providing vital news and information to its audience. WCLO also takes an active role in supporting the community, through its continuing efforts on behalf of charities and the arts.

WCLO Radio has been consistently recognized for excellence in broadcasting by its peers and organizations including the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and the Associated Press.

I'd like to extend congratulations to WCLO for 75 eventful years of serving southern Wisconsin.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. KEITH
QUERRY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Lyle K. Querry, a political activist, humanitarian, and a man of faith, whose legacy continues to enrich the lives of all Kansas Citizens. After 24 years of service, Keith, as he is known by all his friends, retired on June 30, 2005, as the Business Manager and Financial Secretary for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, IBEW, Local 53. His dedication and commitment spanned 48 years as a member of IBEW and his service to the Kansas City community is the reason for this recognition and celebration.

Keith's reputation as a leader within the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the community, and political organizations extends beyond the borders of the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri and even of our Nation. Among the many accolades Keith has received over the years was the prestigious Outstanding Leadership Award by the Heart of America United Way in 1988. In 1995, he received the distinguished Harry S. Truman Democratic Achievement Award, named in honor of a former Independence, Missouri, resident, and one of our country's most respected public servants, the 33rd President of the United States. Keith's steadfast commitment to and respect by the IBEW was rewarded when he was named to the Law Committee for their 33rd and 34th conventions held

in 1986 and in 1988, respectively. As of July 1 of this year and despite "retiring", Keith was appointed as an International Representative for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Keith has not only been an active member of the IBEW and many political organizations, he has also contributed his time, energy, and expertise to numerous civic organizations in the metropolitan area. He has served as an executive board member of the Heart of America Central Labor Council, was a board member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and a board member of the Jackson County United Way. He is currently serving on the boards of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City, the Labor Management Council of Greater Kansas City, as a member of the executive committee of the Missouri State Democratic Party, as a committeeman for the 8th Senatorial District, and as chairman of both the IBEW Outside Task Force and Local 53 Safety Committee. He also serves as chairman for both the Missouri Valley Line Constructors Apprenticeship and Training group as well as the Line Construction Benefit Fund.

Born in 1938, a graduate of Fort Osage High School and a member of St. Matthews Presbyterian Church, Keith and his lovely wife Sandy will celebrate their 45th anniversary in October of this year. They are the proud parents of two daughters, Ronda and Tricia, and grandparents to five grandchildren, Marissa, Robert, Allen, Shannon, and Tyler. Over the years, Keith and Sandy have been one of the most influential and respected couples within the Missouri Democratic Party and have regularly been delegates at Democratic National Conventions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Lyle Keith Querry, for his relentless efforts in protecting and assisting the rights of others, while extending the labor movement, not only within the boundaries of the Fifth Congressional District, but within the United States and the entire global community. He represents the best in all of us. I urge my colleagues of the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating Keith on his retirement from the 2,000 member Local 53 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Although we know that he has not completely retired, the desire of this body is that Keith Querry will enjoy the community he helped build.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Fortieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. This historic piece of legislation has helped significantly to restore and secure the voting rights of all Americans.

The 40-year legacy of the Voting Rights Act, which will be celebrated in a major national march and demonstration in Atlanta in which I will participate, on August 6, 2005, stems from the hard-won victories of the non-violent Civil Rights Movement. During the modern Civil

Rights Movement, Blacks fought against the systematic and social oppressions of segregation. Many blacks, especially in the South, were denied the very rights and privileges given and implied by the Constitution. The right to vote was no exception.

Full participation in government and society has been a basic right of the country symbolizing the full citizenship and equal protection of all. The right to vote played an important role in ending the oppressive environment of segregation. Because of this, many Black Americans protested and died for full access to a government and a promise of equal treatment that had been denied to them. This was especially exemplified on March 7, 1965, known as "Bloody Sunday", which ushered in this enactment.

As with the brutal murder of Emmett Till, "Bloody Sunday" reinforced the new consciousness about the plight of Black Americans in this country, especially in the South. Six hundred Civil Rights marchers marched from Selma, Alabama heading east in protest for their rights as citizens to vote. Six blocks later they were met by awaiting law enforcement and were severely beaten with billy clubs and bombed with tear gas. They were subsequently pushed back into Selma. Although this was seemingly a defeat for the progression of the Movement, the incident caught national attention, including that of President Lyndon Johnson.

On August 6, 1965, President Johnson introduced legislation, giving rise to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In an address to Congress, President Johnson supported this Act by saying "At times, history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom . . . about this there can be and should be no argument. Every American citizen must have the right to vote."

In subsequent years the VRA has been modified and evolved to include more and more disenfranchised groups. In 1970, Congress added provisions that extended the right to vote for 18 year olds. In 1975, provisions were added protecting the voting rights of citizens whose primary languages were of other languages. Lastly, the 1982 provisions created Congressional districts creating a more accessible minority voting pool. Through this, Congress has added amendments to the Act that support and secure the future of this most valuable tool for a true democracy.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was indeed a vital instrument of democracy, ensuring the integrity and reliability of a democratic process that we as a Country hold so dear.

As we shortly begin to rethink the questions of the previous provisions previously added to this Act in 2007, remember that our work does not end here. We must continue to uphold the basic principles and sentiments that created this most important and much needed body of legislation.

I submit this article from the current addition of the Carib News concerning the need and importance of securing further protections of the Voting Rights Act in 2007. It is evident, given the voting environment of the election of 2000, that there are still issues of denial that can compromise the voting rights of our constituents.

[From the Carib News]

THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT—INSTRUMENT OF
DEMOCRACY

(By Marc H. Morial)

“While we have made progress and curtailed injustices thanks to the Voting Rights Act, our work is not yet complete. We cannot let discriminatory practices of the past resurface to threaten future gains. The Voting Rights Act must continue to exist in its current form.”

So said Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Republican, of Wisconsin, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, in a recent speech to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at its annual convention in Milwaukee.

We at the National Urban League couldn't agree more. We made the renewal and strengthening of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which must be accomplished by 2007, a focus of our recent annual Legislative Policy Conference in Washington, and a top recommendation of our annual scholarly volume, *The State of Black America 2005*.

And we've got plenty of company among the broad coalition of civil rights groups—including the NAACP, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, RainbowPUSH, and such members of Congress as Rep. John Conyers, of Michigan, the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, and the Congressional Black Caucus—who've also long vigorously publicized the continuing need for voting rights protections.

So, we welcome Rep. Sensenbrenner's vigorous expression of support—which he said he'll soon back up with legislation—and his bringing word that Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, Republican, of Illinois, has put the renewal “high on list of issues the House will address this congress.”

Such words are further evidence that it's impossible to overstate the Voting Rights Act's importance. For, by granting the Federal government specific powers to ensure that Americans of African descent in the South could register to vote and vote, the Voting Rights Act made the word “democracy” an accurate description of American Society.

Its enactment was a hard-won victory for the nonviolent Civil Rights Movement, one that had produced casualties in the South literally up to the moment (and beyond) President Lyndon Johnson personally introduced the legislation to Congress on March 15, 1965—against the backdrop of the “Bloody Sunday” beating of civil rights demonstrators in Selma, Alabama to previous week.

His words then were equal to the moment: “At times history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom,” he said. “About this there can be and should be no argument. Every American citizen must have the right to vote.”

With token opposition the law quickly passed the House and the Senate and President Johnson signed it on August 6, 1965.

The political impact was immediate, according to Dianne Pinderhughes, of the University of Illinois, who wrote about the Voting Rights Act in the *State of Black America 2005*. Within a year, more than 250,000 African Americans had registered in the thirteen states covered under the Act; and Mississippi, which had harbored the fiercest resistance to civil rights for blacks, recorded the nation's highest black voter turnout—74 percent.

A similar response in the other states ultimately produced enormous growth in the number of blacks holding elective office throughout the country—from about 350 in 1965 to more than 1,400 just five years later. Now, there are more than 9,000 black elected

officeholders, including 42 members of Congress, according to the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington, D.C. think tank.

In the intervening four decades the Act has been extended three times, and new provisions added extending the right to vote to 18-year-olds (1970), protecting the voting rights of Spanish and other language speakers (1975), and most contentious of all, allowing the creation of Congressional districts in which the majority of voters would be members of a minority group (1982).

The consequences of these amendments underscore the powerful democratizing dynamic the Civil Rights Movement as a whole injected into American Society.

Now, as the date for renewal looms, it's clear the Act is still necessary. The vote-related controversies of the past two presidential elections, which led to some significant number of voters in some districts not being able to vote or not having their votes counted have made that clear—as have continuing debates regarding voter registration, the purging of voter rolls, access to the polls and reliability of election equipment, and the impact of state laws which bar ex-felons and those on probation from voting.

Thus, Professor Pinderhughes concluded in *The State of Black America 2005*, this new landscape “demands that the civil rights lobby educate its mass constituency and the broader American public about these issues which are now wreathed in complexity.”

That's another reason the NAACP invitation to Representative Sensenbrenner and his speech to them are noteworthy: they move us further toward the renewal of that instrument of democracy, the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

HONORING MOLDED FIBER GLASS
COMPANIES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Molded Fiber Glass Companies in Gainesville, Texas, located in my district, and to celebrate the passage of H.R. 6, The Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Molded Fiber Glass Companies had modest beginnings near Lake Erie in Ohio when they first opened their doors in 1948. Since then they have continued to push the limits of technology and have added offices and research facilities across the nation. In 2001, MFG began producing massive blades to harness the power of wind and open new doors in renewable energy. With this new bill, MFG will be able to provide more energy at a lower price to the surrounding communities.

A major component of The Energy Policy Act of 2005 extends the renewable electricity production credit through December 31, 2007 for wind, closed-loop biomass, open-loop biomass, geothermal, small irrigation power, landfill gas, and trash combustion. The provision will encourage the use of renewable energy, like wind energy, thereby increasing the demand for wind turbines such as those manufactured by MFG.

This company provides so much to our community, and I am proud to have them within the district I represent. I hope that their dedication to renewable energy and our environment continues well into the future.

IN HONOR OF DAVID J. MORALES,
MARCH 5, 1945—JULY 9, 2005

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. David J. Morales, a dear friend, loving family man and devoted civic leader who passed away Saturday, July 9, 2005 after a valiant struggle with leukemia. David was laid to rest on Friday, July 15, 2005 surrounded by those who loved and admired him. We are comforted knowing that today he rests in peace.

David Morales was living proof that adversity exists to be overcome. Born to Pablo Morales and Bernardina Diaz Morales in Salinas, California on March 5, 1945, David was the youngest of 13 children. Before he had reached his first birthday, David's mother had succumbed to breast cancer. Thus began his life in his beloved Los Angeles where he was raised in the San Fernando Valley by his godparents, Ventura and Felicitia Borbon.

Living modestly, David learned the lessons of life at an early age. He sold fruit and scrap metal that he found on his family farm. He began to nurture the strong entrepreneurial spirit that would guide his personal and career success that awaited. But before then, at the age of 14, David faced yet another tragedy—his beloved godmother Felicitia passed away.

To finish high school, David moved in with an older brother. His brother would teach him to be a commercial painter, the trade that would shape his future.

In 1975, risking everything he had in order to support his family, David created Borbon, Inc. Over the past 30 years, Borbon, Inc. has become one of the largest commercial painting contractors in the country. A union painting company based in Southern California, Borbon Inc. has been recognized numerous times by *Hispanic Business Magazine* as one of the most successful Latino-owned enterprises in the Nation.

But here I must pause, because those of us who knew him are very familiar with David's rags to riches story. David had the heart, the brains and the guts to succeed. But more importantly—and it's no secret—he had Celia Martinez Morales. Together David and Celia raised five accomplished children, David, Lisa, Melissa, Christina and Paul. They gave their children what a youthful David could only dream of, a solid education, a world of opportunity and a reputation stronger than steel. None of that expired on July 9, 2005.

David defied great odds to become an accomplished businessman and took it upon himself to provide opportunities to others. He was an anchor of support to the Boys and Girls Club of Buena Park, California and the University of Southern California Mexican-American Alumni Association. As a member of the Latin Business Association and the Buena Park Chamber of Commerce, David sought to open doors for America's next generation of entrepreneurs.

In an era where we cannot trust who boards our planes or enters our Capitol, David succeeded on a handshake. In a world marked by indifference and tumbling civility, David was a builder. And in a place we call the City of Angels, David belonged.