

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago Dwight D. Eisenhower was President of the United States, the communist regime in Cuba was underway, Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog" topped the charts, Don Larson pitched a perfect game as the Yankees beat the Brooklyn Dodgers in the World Series, and the cost of a first class stamp was .03 cents.

Amidst these historical events taking place, the Village of North Palm Beach was created. Much has changed in those fifty years in and around the village with new development, highways and a large population spurt to reach its present size, however, one thing that has not changed is the "small town" nature of the Village of North Palm Beach and its friendly residents.

The village has been blessed over the years with outstanding local elected officials and a strong participation by its residents and civic leaders. Mr. Speaker, over the years I have proudly represented this community, I have witnessed time and time again where the community has pulled together to support a common cause. The spirit of togetherness and pride is ubiquitous in the Village of North Palm Beach.

From the days that John D. MacArthur sold his property, which included a golf course and a country club, to create North Palm Beach, the first of Florida's master planned communities, the Village has always set the mark.

Now with 13,000 residents, its well managed growth has been a model for future planned communities throughout the state and country.

Environmentally, the Village is also ahead of the curve, when in 1989 the State of Florida purchased 437 areas of property from the Village along the Atlantic Ocean to preserve a natural coastal barrier Island. Preserved forever from being developed, it provides a home for nesting sea turtles, birds, indigenous plant and wildlife, reefs and a birthing and natural nursery for Florida Manatees. It is suitably named, MacArthur State Beach Park.

In recent years, the Town has also enhanced our local and State governments by being the hometown and formative training ground of Palm Beach County Commissioner Karen Marcus and State Senator Jeff Atwater.

Well done North Palm Beach in your first fifty years. You truly are "The Best Place to Live Under the Sun."

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROYALTY-IN-KIND FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, this week I have introduced the Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act. This bill is intended to make it possible for the Depart-

ment of Interior to implement a provision in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that was intended to provide a new way to assist low-income people to heat or cool their homes.

For several years before 2005, the Department of Interior had authority to develop "royalty-in-kind" arrangements under which companies developing federal oil could meet their required royalty payments by providing oil instead of cash. The Energy Policy Act expanded this provision to apply to natural-gas developers as well, and also added new authority for Interior to grant a preference to low-income consumers when disposing of natural gas it obtained under such an arrangement.

While this Energy Policy Act provision does not specifically reference the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), its implementation could benefit that program.

LIHEAP is intended to help low-income Americans pay for their heating and cooling costs. However, at current funding levels this critically important program serves less than 15 percent of those who qualify for it. Implementing the Energy Policy Act provision to grant a preference to low-income consumers would supplement LIHEAP funding and expand the amount of energy assistance available to the poor.

Last September, I joined my colleagues from Colorado in writing a letter to Interior Secretary Gail Norton asking her to consider beginning implementation of the new provision through a pilot program in Colorado. In the letter we emphasized the importance of helping this country's most vulnerable citizens, who are increasingly hard hit by rising energy costs.

In a reply to my office, the Interior Department responded that the Interior Department's lawyers had reviewed the Energy Policy Act provision and had concluded that as it now stands it could not be implemented because the current law "does not provide the Department with the authority or discretion to receive less than fair market value for the royalty gas or oil."

My bill is intended to correct the legal deficiencies in the provision as enacted to make it possible for the Interior Department to implement the program. In developing the legislation, my staff has reviewed the Interior Department's legal opinion and has consulted with the Interior Department's lawyers and with other legal experts. Based on that review, I think enactment of my bill will resolve the legal problems cited by the Interior Department and will enable the program to go forward.

Spring may be upon us, but hot summer temperatures and another winter are just months away. I believe the Energy Policy Act provision to help low-income consumers is an innovative tool that must be allowed to work. The Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act would make this possible. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to support energy assistance for this nation's most vulnerable residents.

Here is a brief outline of the bill:

Section One—provides a short title ("Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act of 2006").

Section Two—sets forth findings regarding the importance of LIHEAP and the intent of the relevant provisions of law regarding payment of royalties-in-kind and the conclusion of the Interior Department that the provision of

the 2005 Energy Policy Act intended to allow use of royalties-in-kind to benefit low-income consumers cannot be implemented. This section also states the bill's purpose, which is to amend that part of the Energy Policy Act in order to make it possible for it to be implemented in order to assist low-income people to meet their energy needs.

Section Three—amends the relevant provision (Section 342(j)) of the Energy Policy Act by—

(1) adding explicit authority for the Interior Department to sell royalty-in-kind oil or gas for as little as half its fair market value in implementing that part of the Energy Policy Act under an agreement that the purchaser will be required to provide an appropriate amount of resources to a Federal low-income energy assistance program;

(2) clarifying that such a sale at a discounted price will be deemed to comply with the Anti-deficiency Act; and

(3) authorizing the Interior Department to issue rules and enter into agreements that are considered appropriate in order to implement that part of the Energy Policy Act.

These changes are specifically designed to correct the legal deficiencies that the Interior Department has determined currently make it impossible for it to implement this part of the Energy Policy Act.

HONORING BILL STAGGS FOR VALIANT SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William (Bill) Staggs, Captain, United States Army Air Force for his valiant service as a fighter pilot during World War II.

Upon entering the service in September 1942, Mr. Staggs, born in Portland, Tennessee, was sent to Santa Anna, California for ground school. He soloed in April 1943, in a Ryan PT-22 at King City, California. He flew the PT-13A at Gardner, California, and the AT-6 and P-40 at Luke Field in Phoenix, Arizona. Staggs flew the P-47 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana before departing for England.

In the fall of 1944, Bill was assigned to fly the P-51 Mustang with the 55th Fighter Group, 38th Squadron of the 8th Air Force based at Wormingford, England. The P-51's mission was long-range escort of American and British bombers over Germany. Bill flew 56 missions totaling 279 combat hours from late 1944 to the end of the war.

During World War II, the three squadrons of the 55th Fighter Group destroyed over 580 enemy aircraft and Bill was officially credited with destroying three. Of particular note is the downing of one Focke-Wulf 190 for which he was not credited but resulted in Bill being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. While flying bomber escort over Germany in the spring of 1945, Bill came to the aid of a fellow P-51 pilot who was in a losing battle with a German plane. He skillfully maneuvered his plane behind the Focke-Wulf and shot the plane off his fellow pilot's tail. Bill later learned the pilot in the other P-51 was an 8th Air

Force General. For his heroic act in saving the General's life, Bill was awarded the medal for extraordinary achievement in June 1945, by Brigadier General M.C. Woodley, Commanding General of the 8th Air Force's 66th Fighter Wing. During his entire service in England, Bill was awarded the Air Medal and six Oak Leaf Clusters. The Air Medal is awarded for an act of meritorious service in aerial combat. An Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded as an addition to the Air Medal and each Cluster represents an additional act of meritorious service.

I commend Captain Staggs and the many men and women of the "greatest generation" for stepping up when the people of the world needed them the most. One only wonders how the world would be today if it wasn't for those brave souls.

A TRIBUTE TO JEFF STEINBERG
ON HIS RECEIPT OF THE THOMAS
JEFFERSON AWARD FOR HIS
WORK ON SOJOURNS TO THE
PAST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jeff Steinberg, who was recently awarded the Thomas Jefferson Award for creating Sojourns to the Past. Mr. Steinberg is a resident of Millbrae, California, which is in my Congressional District.

Mr. Steinberg has lived and worked around the Bay Area his entire life. He began his community involvement as a history teacher at Capuchino High School in San Bruno, California and has worked to make our community a better place for over a decade as an educator. In 1999, Jeff created the Sojourns to the Past as an educational tool to teach high school students about American history in the South and to promote tolerance and human rights. Since its inception, over 3000 students have participated.

Sojourns to the Past promotes a living history of the Civil Rights movement. The curriculum contains books, documentaries, audio recordings, and on-site experiences. Veterans of the movement, like my friend and colleague Congressman JOHN LEWIS, meet with the students to teach lessons of tolerance, non-violence and personal courage. The students visit eight cities in the South, starting with Atlanta and ending in Memphis. They tour landmarks of the Civil Rights era and can see firsthand the destructive effects of racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, Sojourns to the Past has inspired thousands of students. When they return from their trip the students have a better understanding of American history and the struggle for civil rights. I have received hundreds of letters from students who share their experience with me and I know that these students return from the trip with a unique appreciation for the struggle faced by the pioneers of the civil rights movement.

Mr. Speaker, Sojourns to the Past is a truly stimulating program and Jeff Steinberg is an extraordinary person who has worked tirelessly for his students and our community. Students who participate in this program be-

come more engaged civically and are more likely to vote. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this wonderful recognition.

IN HONOR OF CALVIN D. WEST

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and someone who has served the people of Newark and my state of New Jersey nearly his entire life—Mr. Calvin D. West.

Calvin has served our state since he returned home from his time in the military more than fifty years ago. Elected to the Newark City Council in 1966, Calvin was the first African-American at-large-councilman in the city of Newark's history. His leadership and advocacy on behalf of the people of Newark and our state has been remarkable, and his more than fifty years of public service serves as an example for us all.

A true champion of the civil rights movement, Calvin helped Newark through the 1967 civil disobediences. He has continued to play a crucial role in the rebuilding of Newark and in bringing together the diverse communities that make the city so great. He has advised Presidents going back to John F. Kennedy, a long succession of New Jersey governors, including his service as Executive Director of the Governor's North Jersey Office for the past five years. Throughout his time in public service he has been a dedicated and tireless advocate for children and those in need.

On a personal level, Calvin's generosity and kindness has touched the lives of so many in Newark and across New Jersey. His work with the Boys & Girls Club of Newark, the Newark Preschools Council and other educational institutions and nonprofit organizations in the community has given countless young people the opportunity to be mentored by someone who understands their struggles.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Calvin my friend and I wish him the very best as we celebrate his fifty years of public service. The people of Newark and our state can only hope that we can continue to benefit from his service, his expertise and his good will for many years to come.

527 REFORM ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in 2002, after six years of debate, Congress passed the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, better known as the McCain-Feingold bill.

Supporters of the bill claimed it would rectify the perception that there is too much money in politics, and that tightening reporting requirements would create full transparency in donor information.

But while their intentions were noble, 4 years later politics is more awash in money

than ever before, only thanks to McCain-Feingold, we now know less about where it's coming from.

According to the bill's proponents, the crown jewel of McCain-Feingold was a ban on large, unregulated contributions to political parties, known as "soft money."

In theory, this prohibition was supposed to prevent billionaires from donating enormous and largely unreported sums of cash to influence federal elections. In reality, it spawned a new, unaccountable funnel for millionaire money—527s.

Although 527s can run political ads, mobilize voters, donate to Federal campaigns through an affiliated PAC, and perform virtually every other function of a political party, 527s—unlike candidate campaigns, political parties, and political action committees—are not regulated by the Federal Elections Commission. Nor are 527s accountable to voters.

527s have carried their message into the homes of millions of Americans without having to adhere to the numerous regulations governing political parties and campaigns.

The bill before us today—the 527 Reform Act—will close this loophole in McCain-Feingold, preventing 527s from having an unfair financial advantage over political parties and individual candidates.

At bottom, this is simply a matter of fairness: everyone who seeks to influence a federal election should be playing by the same rules.

Mr. Speaker, when we passed the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, the other side said millionaires were playing too big of a role in federal elections.

If they truly believe that, I challenge them to support this legislation and restore fairness to campaign finance laws.

CONGRATULATING KELLY NICOLE
BRYANT

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize and congratulate Miss Kelly Nicole Bryant for being selected to represent the State of North Carolina in the 2006 National Cherry Blossom Festival. Kelly has strong ties to North Carolina's Fifth District, as she is the granddaughter of Juanita Bryant and the late Frank Bryant of Boonville.

Kelly has already represented our state at the festival's traditional Japanese lantern lighting ceremony. She has attended several embassy parties and has toured the White House and Kennedy Center.

Tonight, I am looking forward to meeting Kelly at the National Cherry Blossom Congressional Reception. I wish her well for the remainder of her stay in Washington. On Saturday she will represent North Carolina in the National Cherry Blossom Parade.

Kelly is a junior at East Carolina University, where she is majoring in Political Science and minoring in history. She is on the Dean's List and is a Member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Kelly has made a positive difference in her community by volunteering for the Exploris Museum, Habitat for Humanity, Relay for Life and the Race for the Cure.