FANNIE LOU HAMER, ROSA PARKS, AND CORETTA SCOTT KING VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 9) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965:

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 9, the Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006. The right to vote is the very foundation of our democracy. Yet millions of minority voters face discrimination when exercising this crucial right. As the most effective civil rights statute ever enacted, it is our duty to support the Voting Rights Act. H.R. 9 will better safeguard the rights of minorities. Throughout our history, minority groups have struggled hard to achieve the right to vote. Key provisions of the Voting Rights Act will expire if this legislation is not passed. We need to ensure that these hard-won gains are not rolled back.

The fight against voter discrimination is far from over. H.R. 9 provides more accountability in the voting process so that the votes of American citizens who are not fluent in English will be properly counted. In addition, this will effectively combat discrimination against voting minority groups. As a representative of a territory where the native language of Chamorro is widely spoken, among other languages, I can personally attest to the importance of accommodating non-native English speakers.

H.R. 9 is a necessary reinforcement to the cornerstone of our democracy. Minorities have a much greater voice today than decades before thanks to the Voting Rights Act. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, rise today in honor and recognition of the leaders and members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, of Cleveland, Ohio, as they celebrate 80 years of faith, guidance and support, embracing generations of citizens throughout our Westside Cleveland community.

In 1926, Our Lady of Mount Carmel was established to serve the spiritual and cultural needs of the Italian-American residents of this neighborhood. Father Sante Gattuso and Father Martin Compango were selected by then-Cleveland Bishop John Farrelly to assist and guide the needs of the growing population of Italian-American families, including newly arrived immigrants from Italy.

Father Sante slowly garnered the trust and admiration of the people of the West 69th neighborhood and people began gathering on the front porch of the Fascano family home, where services were first conducted. Storefront space was rented for many years until ground was broken on West 70th Street in 1949, the year that the parish and newly built grade school found a permanent home—all of which was made possible by the faith, commitment and devotion of Father Sante Gattuso and the faithful Italian-American community of the Westside.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every leader and member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, as they celebrate 80 years of cultivating faith, hope and heritage for generations of families within our Cleveland community. We also rise in honor and memory of the struggle, sacrifice and triumph of the founding members of this parish, who journeyed to America with few possessions beyond faith, love and hope in their hearts and the grit to survive. Love and faith still shines from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, encircling this neighborhood with light, strength and hope rising on the dawn of every new day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, 2006 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 358 and 359.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall votes Nos. 358 and 359.

CONGRATULATING II–VI INCORPORATED

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate II–VI Incorporated, one of the leading high tech companies in southwestern Pennsylvania, as they celebrate the 35th anniversary of their founding.

In 1971, II–VI Inc. began by producing materials available for the manufacture of high-powered industrial CO_2 laser optics. II–VI Inc. has grown into a global company with headquarters in Saxonburg, Pennsylvania. Today, CEO Carl Johnson carries on II–VI's tradition of serving the needs of western Pennsylvania.

More than 30 years after its founding, this western Pennsylvania-based company is racing to keep up with record demand for its infrared optics, radiation detection products and crystals used in laser and telecommunications equipment. The company was recently selected as one of Businessweek's Hot Growth Companies.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating II–VI Incorporated. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute this wonderful company.

ON THE RESOLUTION HONORING WESLEY BROWN, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN GRADUATE OF THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the first African American graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a venerable District of Columbia resident, Retired Lieutenant Commander Wesley Brown. On the Fourth of July, I urged District residents to commemorate the day by celebrating the service of Wesley Brown as a tribute to his historic achievement and as a way of reminding the nation on this day of liberty that thousands of men like Wesley Brown have served their country in the armed forces without equal representation in Congress and that the pending District of Columbia Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act affords a way to begin to right this wrong.

Wesley Brown is an alumnus of Dunbar High School, and upon graduation, entered the United States Naval Academy. There, he not only met the tough academic and military requirements to graduate from the Naval Academy in 1949, but also prevailed over racial discrimination and physical and mental abuse at the Academy. Mr. Brown served honorably in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. He retired from the Navy at the rank of lieutenant commander. In recognition of his achievement, the Academy named a building after Mr. Brown last year. His remarkable life story is chronicled in the book ''Breaking the Color Barrier: The U.S. Naval Academy's First Black Midshipmen and the Struggle for Racial Equality'' by Robert Schneller. I am particularly and personally grateful to Mr. Brown, who chaired my first Service Academy Selection Board, which assists me in nominating D.C. high school students for appointments to the military academies, and remains Chairperson Emeritus.

Wesley Brown has become a historical figure living among us. His graduation was a pivotal moment in the nation's efforts to integrate the armed forces of the United States and to improve racial conditions. His leadership paved the way for over 1,600 African Americans who have since graduated from the Naval Academy. Today, nearly 23 percent of the Academy's students are from minority groups.

Wesley Brown deserves special recognition for this pioneering accomplishment, and the service he rendered to the cause of equal treatment for all Americans by courageously accepting unusually difficult challenges for a young Black man before the armed forces themselves were integrated. He did so as generations of Washingtonians have done for the past 230 years in serving the Armed Forces of the United States, always without equal representation in the Congress of the United States and always paying taxes without representation, notwithstanding that this form of tyranny was one of the major causes of the War for Independence which led to the founding of the United States of America.

In the spirit of another great Washingtonian, Frederick Douglass, who challenged the nation in a July 4th address to live up to its stated ideals of freedom and equality, I recognize

and honor other District veterans and remind the nation of the necessity to pass H.R. 5388, the Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act which would afford the full vote in the House of Representatives for the first time in American history. Passage of this legislation would be the optimal way to recognize the service of Mr. Brown, D.C. residents who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the 44,000 D.C. veterans who have honorably served our nation in the United States Armed Forces.

IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING NEUTRALITY WITH REGARD TO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, in the weeks leading up to the G–8 summit, there was some speculation that the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia might be invited to attend the summit as an incentive to help spur further progress on peace negotiations between the two countries over the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. Unfortunately, it appears that that did not happen; and I am deeply disappointed that the world has missed the opportunity this summit offered to help promote peace in a region which has been in conflict for far too long.

Although, in my opinion, a good opportunity to advance peace has been lost, I have not lost hope that, together with other nations, we can help Azerbaijan and Armenia achieve peace, and settle once and for all the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh, which I believe has significantly stunted the development of both nations as well as the broader region.

In 1992, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—CSCE—now the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe—OSCE—created the Minsk Group, a coalition of member states dedicated to facilitating a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The co-chairs of the Minsk Group—Russia, France, and the United States—have served as mediators, trying to work in close and effective cooperation with all parties towards a fair and effective settlement of the issues.

I believe though that our success and credibility as a mediator stems from the policy of never appearing to favor one nation's claims over the other. I believe that even the modest steps towards peace which we have witnessed, are a direct result of this neutrality. According to the United States State Department's 2005 Fact Sheet: ''The United States does not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent country, and its leadership is not recognized internationally or by the United States. The United States supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and holds that the future status of Nagorno-Karabakh is a matter of negotiation between the parties.'' This has been the policy of the United States towards this issue through both the Clinton and Bush administrations, and it is important in my opinion that it remains the same. Any outside influence, any shift in neutrality can only result in a false peace. That is why I am deeply concerned when I hear some of my colleagues throwing barbs at the Azeris and attempting to lay all the blame for this complicated issue at their doorstep.

For example, one of my colleagues once said, ''I have long supported the right of self-determination for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and greatly admire the efforts of the people of this historically Armenian region to build democracy and a market economy in the face of hostility from Azerbaijan.'' So far as I know, the Nagorno-Karabakh region has never been a part of Armenia. To suggest otherwise, and to suggest that the problems in Nagorno-Karabakh are caused solely by Azerbaijan seem to me to distort the facts and potentially undermine our good faith efforts to see this conflict resolved; and to see peace and prosperity come to the people of both Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all of my colleagues to both maintain our neutrality in policy, and to also realize that choosing one side over the other at this point in time is a setback to peace, especially when the side they appear to be choosing may be distorting the facts for its own benefit.

IN HONOR OF DR. EDGAR B. MOORE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dr. Edgar B. Moore, beloved husband, father, friend, educator, and spiritual leader. Dr. Moore leaves a legacy at Baldwin-Wallace College that reflects his personal passions and professional accomplishments in his roles as both chaplain and professor.

Dr. Moore began his career at Baldwin-Wallace in August 1962, when he was hired as chaplain. He immediately became involved in various chapel activities while counseling and advising students and teaching in the Religion Department. At the end of his first year, the History Department underwent major changes, and Dr. Moore was asked to take a position as professor of history. He accepted and was named chairman while remaining chaplain. Dr. Moore remained in the History Department until his retirement.

Dr. Moore's involvement at Baldwin-Wallace extended far beyond the History Department. His students became babysitters for his and his wife's three children, Cynthia, Robert, and Mary Louise. He chaperoned spring formals and Greek parties and assisted in the formation of the Cosmopolitan Club, which brought American and international students together to promote greater understanding between cultures.

Dr. Moore continued his own education while teaching at Baldwin-Wallace. In January 1966, he earned his doctorate of philosophy from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Through a series of visits, he developed a relationship between the schools, which led to the present Academic Studies Abroad program. Dr. Moore attended Northwestern University in the summer of 1969 for graduate classes in African Studies. His new knowledge and ongoing interest in uniting cultures led to the African Studies program.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude to Dr. Edgar B. Moore, whose outstanding 44-year career was defined by his steadfast commitment to spiritual growth, education, and appreciation of diversified cultures. While his students and colleagues will miss him immensely, his legacy and contributions to the Baldwin-Wallace community will live on for many generations to come.

HONORING THE SOLDIERS OF DETACHMENT 1, 779TH ORDNANCE COMPANY, THE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, fellow Members of Congress, please join me today to honor the soldiers of Detachment 1, 779th Ordnance Company, of the Tennessee National Guard.

The 779th deserves the nation's thanks and praise for serving honorably and contributing mightily to our efforts in the Middle East.

They have served America in such dangerous and strategically vital locations as Ramadi, Habanabi, Al Asad and Al Taqaddum, and they have been absolutely critical in the tactical and operational success of coalition forces.

Without the skilled and dedicated soldiers of the 779th, victory in the Global War on Terrorism would not be possible.

Let us join the rest of Tennessee in saying congratulations, welcome home, and job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to reasons beyond my control.

On Thursday July 13, 2006 I had to tend to some family matters and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 370, 371, 372, 373 and 374. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on all votes.

On Monday June 19, 2006 I was unavoidably delayed and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 289, 290 and 291. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on all votes.

On Monday May 22, 2006 I was unavoidably delayed and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 177 and 178. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on both votes.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 916

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER . Mr. Speaker, regrettably, today I am forced to introduce this