

proficiency. These provisions apply to four language groups: Americans Indians, Asian Americans, Alaskan Natives, and those of Spanish heritage. A community with one of these language groups will qualify for language assistance if (1) more than 50 percent of the voting-age citizens in a jurisdiction belong to a single language minority community and have limited English proficiency (LEP); OR (2) more than 10,000 voting-age citizens in a jurisdiction belong to a single language minority community and are LEP; AND (3) the illiteracy rate of the citizens in the language minority is higher than the national illiteracy rate.

Section 203 requires that registration and voting materials for all elections must be provided in the minority language as well as in English. Oral translation during all phases of the voting process, from voter registration clerks to poll workers, also is required. Jurisdictions are permitted to target their language assistance to specific voting precincts or areas.

There are currently a total of 466 local jurisdictions across 31 states that are required to provide language assistance nationwide. Of this total: 102 must assist Native Americans or Alaskan Natives across 18 states; 17 local jurisdictions in seven states must assist Asian language speakers and; 382 local jurisdictions in 20 states must assist speakers of Spanish. The total of these figures exceeds 466 because 57 of these Section 203 jurisdictions across 13 states must offer assistance in multiple languages.

There is a great misconception that section 203 is not needed because voters must be citizens, who are required to speak English. While this is true, such citizens still may not be sufficiently fluent to participate fully in the voting process without this much-needed assistance. In addition, there are many other citizens, the majority of whom are Latinos and Native Americans, who were born in the United States but have had little or no education and/or are limited English proficient. The failure of certain jurisdictions to provide adequate education to non-English speaking minorities is well documented in legal decisions and in quantitative studies of educational achievement for Latinos and Native Americans. Before the language assistance provisions were added to the Voting Rights Act in 1975, many Spanish-speaking United States citizens did not register to vote because they could not read the election material and could not communicate with poll workers. Language assistance has encouraged these and other citizens of different language minority groups to register and vote and participate more fully in the political process which is healthy for our democracy.

Mr. Chairman, it should be stressed that language assistance is not costly. According to two separate Government Accounting Office studies, as well as independent research conducted by academic scholars, when implemented properly language assistance accounts only for a small fraction of total election costs. The most recent studies show that compliance with Section 203 accounts for approximately 5 percent of total election costs.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, language assistance works. To cite one example, in 2003 in Harris County, Texas, officials did not provide language assistance for Vietnamese citizens. This prompted the Department of Justice to in-

tervene and, as a result, voter turnout doubled and a local Vietnamese citizen was elected to a local legislative position. Another example: implementation of language assistance in New York City had enabled more than 100,000 Asian-Americans not fluent in English to vote. In 2001, John Liu was elected to the New York City Council, becoming the first Asian-American elected to a major legislative position in the city with the nation's largest Asian-American population.

#### CONCLUSION

The Voting Rights Act of 1965, represents our country and this Congress at its best because it matches our words to deeds, our actions to our values. And, as is usually the case, when America acts consistent with its highest values, success follows. I urge my colleague to vote for the bill and reject all amendments.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO CORAL CHILDS

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 17, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Coral Childs for her tireless efforts to enhance technology in the classroom.

Coral Childs has worked tirelessly to further her vision of providing every student in America with access to computers in their schools. Through the Computers for Learning program, CFL, Coral and her team are turning her vision into a reality, matching these "needy" schools with a donor, either a government agency or a member of the private sector, and giving young students access to the tools they need to prepare themselves to compete in the new economy. The CFL program helped bring to life an executive order that encouraged government agencies to donate computers and equipment to schools.

The General Services Administration took ownership of CFL in late 1999. It was at this time that Coral began her work with the program. Under her leadership over the next 5 years, CFL helped transfer more than 118,000 computers and related equipment to over 12,000 needy schools. Coral played a significant role in both the marketing and outreach for the program, but her active involvement with the CFL's website cannot go unmentioned. Due to her remarkable compassion for the public and her dedication to the cause, the website is a place where agencies can instantly access pertinent information about needy schools. A key innovation to the program that Coral brought to CFL was to expand potential donors from government agencies to donors from the private sector including corporations and individuals.

Coral's achievements with CFL helped propel her to a new position within the General Services Administration. She no longer plays a daily role in the Computers for Learning program, but its success would not exist without the key part she played in the program's initiatives and implementation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Coral Childs. Her dedication to distributing computers and related equipment to needy schools has greatly enhanced the educational experience of countless children. I applaud her

efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE CITY OF ARLINGTON, TX, ON ITS 130TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 17, 2006*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on July 19, 1876, the United States was still celebrating its centennial as Engine No. 20 rolled down the freshly laid tracks of the Texas and Pacific Railroad built to extend rail service west from Dallas. The railroad had hired frontier surveyor and Presbyterian minister Andrew Hayter to locate and lay out a 1-square-mile township as a wood and water stop midway between Dallas and Fort Worth. Entrepreneur James Ditto immediately established a general store in the center of the new town, which had quickly become a shipping point for local cotton farmers and merchants. Hayter and Ditto named the town Arlington in honor of General Robert E. Lee's home in Virginia, and Ditto became the town's first postmaster.

Today, Arlington is the 49th largest city in the United States with a population of more than 360,000 people. It is home to a major General Motors assembly plant, a National Semiconductor wafer plant, a number of Fortune 500 facilities, the fastest growing university in Texas—the University of Texas at Arlington—and an entertainment complex that is one of the top tourist destinations in the country. The original Six Flags amusement park, Hurricane Harbor water park, and the Texas Rangers Baseball Club are located there. And in 2009, when the new stadium is completed, it will become the new home of the Dallas Cowboys football team.

Arlington is and has always been one of the best places in Texas to live, work, and play, to get a quality education and to start a new business. Recent surveys tell us that Arlington is also one of the fittest cities of its size in the Nation, as well as one of the best educated.

As the representative to Congress from Arlington, TX, I want to join the citizens of this great city in celebrating its 130th birthday, recognize the city for its outstanding achievements over the past 130 years, and pray God's blessings on its people for the next 130 years.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DEAN DONALD E. WILSON

#### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 17, 2006*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donald E. Wilson, M.D., MACP, who is retiring as dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine and vice president of Medical Affairs for the University of Maryland.

Dean Donald E. Wilson has transformed the landscape of American medicine and medical education at the University of Maryland. In 1991, when Dr. Wilson was appointed dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine,

he was the first African-American dean of a primarily non-minority medical school, as well as the first African-American dean at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Since 1991, Dean Wilson has increased grant and contract awards from \$77 million to \$350 million. Philanthropic support for the school of medicine has risen from \$1.7 million to \$37 million. Dean Wilson has created one of the most diverse student bodies and faculties in the country, with the School of Medicine doubling the number of full-time African-American faculty. Now ranked among the top medical schools in the country, the University of Maryland School of Medicine has benefited from Dean Wilson's leadership that has promoted the values of cultural and gender diversity and created an all-inclusive atmosphere at the medical school.

Dean Wilson's commitment to the education of minority students in the field of medicine led him to found the Association of Academic Minority Physicians. He continues to serve as editor of the association's journal. For his devotion, Dr. Wilson became the first recipient of the Association of American Medical Colleges' Herbert W. Nickens, MD Award for Diversity.

Dr. Wilson has been a good and trusted adviser to me on health care policy. He has spoken out about the need to expand research into diseases that are more prevalent in the African-American community and among women. His service on the Maryland Health Care Commission has helped to guarantee access to emergency health care for all Marylanders while ensuring that hospitals are able to provide those services.

I hope you will join me in congratulating and thanking Dean Donald E. Wilson for his outstanding contributions to medical education and his commitment to racial and cultural inclusion.

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

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

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. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Norwood Amendment to H.R. 9, the "Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006." The Westmoreland Amendment requires the Attorney General to annually determine whether each State and political subdivision subject to the preclearance requirements of section 5 meets the requirements for bailout. The amendment further requires the Attorney General to then inform the public and each state and political subdivision that they are eligible to bail out. Last, the amendment would direct the Attorney General to consent to the bailout in federal court.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment should be soundly defeated. I agree with Mr. SENSENBRENNER that of all the weakening amendments offered, this one is the worst by far.

The Westmoreland Amendment turns Section 5 on its head because instead of enforcing the Voting Rights Act and stopping voting discrimination, the Department of Justice will be forced to spend nearly all of its time conducting investigations to determine where discrimination no longer exists. In the meantime, voting discrimination and constitutional violations will not be addressed.

Further, Mr. Chairman, this amendment would cripple the Voting Section of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, making enforcement of the Act nearly impossible. There are nearly 900 jurisdictions covered nationwide by Section 5. Under the proposed amendment, determinations of whether a jurisdiction has a clean bill of health will require the Attorney General to dedicate considerable resources to making these determinations, and little else. This amendment has the effect of requiring coverage determinations be made by the Attorney General each year.

The Westmoreland Amendment removes the longstanding requirement that covered jurisdictions bear the burden of establishing that they are free from discrimination and places that burden on the Attorney General. Jurisdictions are uniquely positioned with the evidence showing whether or not voting discrimination is still present.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the current bailout provision in Section 4(a) of the Act provides a reasonable and cost-effective opportunity for qualifying jurisdictions to bailout any time after they meet the criteria, as eleven local jurisdictions in Virginia have already done successfully. The cost for bailout actions has averaged only \$5,000.

I urge my colleagues to reject the amendment.

WELCOMING THE NAACP TO WASHINGTON, DC ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 97TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 17, 2006*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to Washington, DC for its 97th Annual Convention. The NAACP has been dedicated to promoting and preserving civil rights since its founding in 1909. This year's theme, "Voting our Values, Valuing our Votes," reflects well the organization's commitment to the causes of equality and full participation in society for each and every American.

I wish to extend a special welcome to NAACP President and CEO Bruce Gordon who is completing his first year at the organization's helm, and to Chairman Julian Bond, who has provided steadfast direction and counsel over the years.

As a native of Baltimore, the NAACP's home, and as a life member of the organization, I am filled with pride to see such a large turnout this week in our nation's capital. I also want to welcome the delegates from Region 7, including my constituents from Maryland, who

are participating in the week's events. Many of the other delegates flew for the first time into the Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, which was renamed last year in honor of Justice Marshall, a son of Baltimore who served as the NAACP's Chief Counsel prior to his historic tenure on the United States Supreme Court.

The 97th annual convention occurs as the House of Representatives has just overwhelmingly passed—without amendments—a 25-year reauthorization of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and we look forward to its passage this week by the Senate. I want to express my gratitude to Mr. Gordon and Mr. Bond for their vigorous efforts in support of this crucial legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting the NAACP for its extraordinary legacy of commitment and courage and for its outstanding presence at this 97th annual convention. I look forward to working with them to promote and protect civil rights in the years to come.

ON ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFICKING

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 17, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of illegal trafficking of small arms and light weapons which is responsible for the death of approximately 1,000 people every day worldwide. As U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan reminded us in the U.N. conference on curtailing small arms and light weapons, "these weapons may be small, but they cause mass destruction."

The United States objects to any international regulation on arms trade and is opposed to a blanket ban on governments selling arms to 'non-state actors,' i.e. rebel groups, on the grounds that the oppressed have the right to defend themselves against tyrannical and genocidal governments. Unfortunately our policy also leaves the door open for terrorists groups to get their hands on weaponry. The U.S. government is loathe to sacrifice the liberty of the oppressed people worldwide in exchange for a possible security risk (terrorist threat) to the United States, but has no qualms in forfeiting the privacy and civil liberties of American citizens in return for security.

Furthermore, the United States is the leading producer of arms in the world, meaning we, more than any other country engage in arms trade with other governments, as well as 'nonstate actors.' We, as the superpower of the global system, must take the leading role in eliminating illicit arms trafficking which supplies armaments to brutal civil wars and organized crime networks and thereby causing massive casualties worldwide, everyday.

The United Nations has adopted a non-binding agreement program of action in its conference on "Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons In All Its Aspects," held in July 9–20, 2001. It encourages nations to ensure manufacturers use markings on small arms and light weapons make tracing illegal arms easier. It also encourages implementation of procedures to monitor legal sales, transfer and stockpiling of small arms and light weapons