

INTRODUCTION OF "SEARCH ACT OF 2007"

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the "Servitude and Emancipation Archival Research Clearing House, SEARCH, Act of 2007," a companion to Senator MARY LANDRIEU's bill of the same name, which would establish a national database of historic records of servitude and emancipation in the United States to assist African Americans in researching their genealogy.

Madam Speaker, for most Americans, researching their genealogical history involves searching through municipal birth, death, and marriage records—most of which have been properly archived as public historical documents. However, African Americans in the United States face a unique challenge when conducting genealogical research.

Due to slavery and discrimination, African Americans were denied many of the benefits of citizenship that produce traceable documentation such as voter registration, property ownership, business ownership, and school attendance. As a result, instead of looking up wills, land deeds, birth and death certificates, and other traditional genealogical research documents, African Americans must often try to identify the names of former slave owners, hoping that the owners kept records of pertinent information, such as births and deaths. Unfortunately, current records of emancipation and slavery are frequently inaccessible, poorly catalogued, and inadequately preserved from decay.

Although some States and localities have undertaken efforts to collect these documents with varying degrees of success, there is no national effort to preserve these important pieces of public and personal history or to make them readily and easily accessible to all Americans. While entities such as Howard University and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Library have extensive African American archives, the SEARCH Act would create a centralized database of these historic records. This database would be administered by the Archivist of the United States as part of the National Archives.

The SEARCH Act would also authorize \$5 million for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to establish the national database, as well as \$5 million in grants for States and academic institutions to preserve local records of servitude and emancipation.

I believe that this legislation will be a vital step in resurrecting the rich history of African Americans and the vital role that they played in building America. This legislation is not only a means by which African Americans can trace their lineage, but also a means by which our Nation can preserve historically comprehensive and accurate information for generations yet unborn.

Author Maya Angelou once said that "No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place." Let there be no mistake, Madam Speaker, the SEARCH Act will provide African Americans an opportunity to forge a crucial nexus between the

past and the present. Just as important, it will give our Nation an opportunity to continue to correct the unintended consequences of the past.

This Monday marks the anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, and the day that we as a nation celebrate his legacy. In honor of Dr. King and the contributions he has made, and on behalf of the many African Americans throughout the United States, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the SEARCH Act.

Join me in ending the horrible legacies of slavery and discrimination by giving African Americans a real chance to understand who they are and from whence they came.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE JOHN HAROLD WHITTINGTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge John Harold Whittington of Dallas County, who passed away over the holidays in Irving, Texas due to natural causes.

Mr. John Whittington lived a respectable, accomplished life, and continues to be a political inspiration to many Republican officeholders. When he was elected County Judge in November 1975, he was one of the first Republicans elected to countywide office in Dallas County since Reconstruction. As a Judge, Mr. Whittington was not only dedicated to following the law, but also ensured fairness in that each person's position was heard; those who worked for Judge Whittington had the utmost respect for him. He also had a dry sense of humor that seemed to reduce any tension in the courtroom. Mr. John Whittington was an inspiration as well as a political mentor for many young Republican officeholders.

Born in Bloomington, Indiana, Mr. John Whittington moved with his family to Dallas, Texas as a young child. Growing up, he served as an altar boy at Christ the King Catholic Church and was active in sports at North Dallas High School. He received his Bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University and his law degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He later enlisted in the Navy, where he served as a gunnery officer and was a boxing champion. Mr. Whittington then served in the Navy Reserve, retiring as a captain. After moving back to Dallas, he was continuously active in the community by working for the Veterans Administration's legal department, the City Council, as mayor (pro tem), and for the Dallas County Commissioners Court, after which he served as County Judge. Having a full career, Judge Whittington leaves an exceptional legacy.

John Harold Whittington is survived by his wife, Margaret Whittington, son, Mark Whittington, three daughters, Lynne Whittington, Jeanne Ann Whittington, and Maria Malcolm, and four grandchildren, Stephen Whittington, Patrick Whittington, Liza Jane Malcolm, and Evan Malcolm. In addition to his role as a devoted and respected Judge, he will forever be remembered as a loving husband and father, loyal colleague and friend, and a dignified citizen of this country. I

extend my sincerest sympathies to his family and friends. Mr. John Whittington will be deeply missed and his service to our community will always be greatly appreciated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, January 11, on very urgent business, having joined President Bush in his visit to Ft. Benning, which, as you know is located in my district. Had I been present for the three votes which occurred yesterday afternoon, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 15, rollcall vote No. 21; I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3, rollcall vote No. 20; I would have voted "no" on H.R. 3, rollcall vote No. 19.

IRAQ AND EMBASSY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding the President's folly in Iraq.

Folly is not the right word. Better words would be disaster, catastrophe, tragedy. The folly is the new embassy the United States is building in Baghdad.

The embassy complex—21 buildings on 104 acres, is the size of Vatican City and will be the largest in the world. It will employ over 5500 people.

Currently, there are 1,000 people who work in the U.S. Embassy in Iraq.

However, only 33 are Arabic speakers and Only six speak the language fluently.

The Iraq Study Group said that "our efforts in Iraq, military and civilian, are handicapped by Americans' lack of knowledge of language and cultural understanding."

"In a conflict that demands effective and efficient communication with Iraqis, we are often at a disadvantage."

The U.S. government should give "the highest possible priority to professional language proficiency and cultural training" for officials headed to Iraq.

Who do we send?

Over twenty thousand new military personnel.

The embassy's 104 acres is six times larger than the United Nations compound in New York and two-thirds the acreage of Washington's National Mall.

The embassy will cost over 1 billion, One billion, dollars.

It will be self-sufficient, designed to function in the midst of Baghdad power outages, water shortages and continuing turmoil.

It will have its own water wells, electricity plant and wastewater treatment facility, "systems to allow 100 percent independence from city utilities."

It includes two major diplomatic office buildings, homes for the ambassador and his deputy, and six apartment buildings for staff.

The compound will also offer a swimming pool, gym, commissary, food court and American Club, all housed in a recreation building.

Security, overseen by U.S. Marines, will be extraordinary: setbacks and perimeter no-go areas that will be especially deep, structures reinforced to 2.5-times the standard, and five high-security entrances, plus an emergency entrance-exit.

The extraordinary security designed into this embassy shows how insecure our personnel are considered to be by the government.

The President's Iraq policy has made us less safe and must be changed.

Get our troops out now.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. BENJAMIN MORGAN RADCLIFF, SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Mobile County and, indeed, the entire state of Alabama, recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Benjamin Morgan Radcliff, Sr. was an outstanding American, a devoted family man, and a dedicated community leader throughout his life.

He was a veteran of the United States Army and spent much of his own life making sure generations to follow would be safe. He represented loyalty and dedication in his everyday life, and I salute him, at this difficult time for his family and friends, for his upstanding morals and his outstanding character.

Mr. Radcliff was a native and lifelong resident of Mobile. He spent his entire life working to make Mobile and south Alabama a better place to live and work.

As founder and chairman of the board of Ben M. Radcliff Contractor Inc., a multi-million dollar company he built from the ground up, Mr. Radcliff literally helped to build Mobile from a small, sleepy southern city to a major port of commerce in the heart of the central Gulf Coast. His outgoing nature coupled with his hard work, strong work ethic, and determination are just some of the reasons why he accomplished so much during his life.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama.

"Mr. Ben," as he was affectionately known around town, loved life and lived it to the fullest. It is safe to say that when spring turkey season rolls around this year, there will be a giant void in the piney woods and gently rolling hills of south Alabama. Suffice it to say, his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of us.

"Mr. Ben," will be deeply missed by many but most especially his beloved wife, Jean Faulk Radcliff; his three daughters, Carolyn Akers, Elizabeth Latham, and Julia Menge; his son, Benjamin Morgan Radcliff, Jr.; 12 grandchildren; and the countless friends that he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF CRAIG WEBRE

HON. BOBBY JINDAL

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. JINDAL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a resolution honoring and recognizing the achievements of Sheriff Craig Webre of Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

Elected as Sheriff of Lafourche Parish on July 1, 1992, Sheriff Webre ushered in a new era of accountable, responsible and professional law enforcement in Lafourche Parish. In the past 15 years, Sheriff Webre enhanced first responder morale, equipment, and communication capability, and initiated or improved over 40 public service programs including Crimestoppers, Crisis Management Unit Team, and Police Social Services, a one-of-a-kind comprehensive victim assistance program that serves approximately 1,400 crime victims per year.

Under Sheriff Webre's leadership, the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office became the second Sheriff's office in Louisiana history to become nationally accredited, placing the Sheriff's office in the top four percent of all the law enforcement agencies in the United States.

Sheriff Webre played an instrumental role in coordinating distribution of personnel, material and supplies to storm damaged parishes during and after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and worked to provide access for outside agencies to come to the aid of neighboring parishes in Louisiana.

Widely respected by his peers, Sheriff Craig Webre was elected as First Vice President of the National Sheriffs Association in 2006, and is in line to become National President in 2007.

I call on my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring and recognizing the achievements made by Craig Webre, who exemplifies the willingness, dedication, and sacrifice to ensure the security and safety of the citizens of Lafourche Parish.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, because of a family medical emergency, I missed 2 recorded votes on January 9. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

H. Res. 35—"no"; H.R. 1—"no."

HONORING JOHN HINDMAN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to John Hindman, a public servant, businessman and citizen from my congressional district. John is

retiring this month as vice president of Public Affairs and Communications for UPS Airlines, ending a 32-year career with the company.

A native of Ottumwa, Iowa, John earned his bachelor's degree in education from Iowa State University. John first joined UPS in 1974, advancing through various positions in package operations. Over the next 20 years, he managed the Des Moines facility and spent tenures in the West Region's Marketing, Industrial Engineering, Human Resources, Employee Relations and Public Affairs departments.

Before serving in his current position, John spent six years as Air Group Public Affairs manager, monitoring government activity and promoting legislative objectives in Frankfort and Washington, D.C. Since being named vice president of Public Affairs and Communications, John has demonstrably strengthened the reputation of UPS among the public and employees.

Through his work, John has secured millions of dollars in incentives to support UPS projects and corporate social responsibility. I would especially note his stewardship of Metro College, a program that provides kids an opportunity to go to college while working for UPS.

John has distinguished himself as a community leader, serving on the board of directors for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the Louisville Medical Center Development Corp., and the Boy Scouts of America. He formerly served on boards for the YMCA, Kentucky Forward, Associated Industries of Kentucky and the Louisville Zoo Foundation.

John's vast business knowledge and strong work ethic has earned the attention of several Kentucky Governor's including Governor Ernie Fletcher who appointed John to the Louisville Arena Task Force in 2006 and Governor Paul Patton who appointed him to the Southern Governors Association's Transportation Task Force in 1999. John was awarded the 2006 Governor's Economic Development Leadership Award.

It is my great privilege to recognize John Hindman today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his leadership and service. His unique achievements make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I find it no coincidence that as we were preparing to deliberate federal funding for human embryonic stem cell research, a study was released that announced a breakthrough in the form of amniotic-fluid stem cell research. These stem cells do not present any ethical controversy and have already shown more promise than embryonic stem cells.

Federal funding already goes to research and development for embryonic stem cells. The NIH currently spends \$40 million for such studies. It spends \$600 million on stem cell research in general. In fact, nearly \$3 billion has