

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on May 3, 2007, I requested and received a leave of absence from May 3 to May 9, 2007, due to my presence at previous commitments in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Improving Head Start Act of 2007 (H.R. 1429): Rollcall No. 277, the Price of Georgia Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 278, the Sestak of Pennsylvania Amendment, "aye"; rollcall No. 279, the Hirono of Hawaii Amendment, "aye"; rollcall No. 280, the Mica of Florida Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 281, the Putnam of Florida Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 282, the Carnahan of Missouri Amendment, "aye"; and rollcall No. 283, the Shuler of North Carolina Amendment, "aye".

Rollcall No. 284, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "no"; rollcall No. 285, on Passage, Improving Head Start Act, H.R. 1429, "aye"; rollcall No. 286, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, H. Res. 243, "aye"; rollcall No. 287, the Sullivan (OK) Amendment to Honda (CA) Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 288, the Honda of California Amendment, "aye"; rollcall No. 289, the Campbell of California Amendment No. 5, "no"; rollcall No. 290, the Campbell of California Amendment No. 4, "no"; and rollcall No. 291, the Garrett of New Jersey Amendment No. 11, "no."

Rollcall No. 292, the Flake of Arizona Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 293, the Matsui of California Amendment, "aye"; rollcall No. 294, the Price of Georgia Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 295, on Passage, National Science Foundation Authorization Act, H.R. 1867, "aye"; rollcall No. 296, on Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 364, "aye"; rollcall No. 297, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 364, "aye"; and rollcall No. 298, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "no."

Rollcall No. 299, on Passage, To provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, H.R. 1592, "aye"; rollcall No. 300, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 1868, "no"; rollcall No. 301, on Passage, Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act, H.R. 1868, "aye"; rollcall No. 302, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 407, "aye"; rollcall No. 303, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 1025, "aye"; rollcall No. 304, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, H. Res. 371, "aye"; rollcall No. 305, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H.R. 1294, "aye"; and rollcall No. 306, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 370, "aye".

Rollcall No. 307, on Agreeing to the Resolution, S. Con. Res. 1, "aye"; rollcall No. 308, on Motion to Instruct Conferees, S. Con. Res. 1, "no"; rollcall No. 309, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1595, "aye"; rollcall No. 310, on Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 382, "aye"; rollcall No. 311, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 382, "aye"; rollcall No. 312, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 383, "aye"; rollcall

No. 313, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 383, "aye"; and rollcall No. 314, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Student Loan, H.R. 890, "aye".

EEOICPA OMBUDSMAN ENHANCEMENT AND EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to introduce the EEOICPA Ombudsman Enhancement and Extension Act of 2007. I am also pleased to be joined in doing so by Representatives UDALL of Colorado, SLAUGHTER, WAMP, WHITFIELD, and HASTINGS.

This important legislation is needed to extend the authorization of the EEOICPA Ombudsman, which is set to expire on October 28th of this year. The office of the EEOICPA Ombudsman was created in 2004 to help individuals making claims under Part E of the program navigate the complex and cumbersome claims process. The EEOICPA Ombudsman has proven to be an effective ally for these Cold War heroes who have contracted serious illnesses as a result of their work for the United States Government.

Since the implementation of EEOICPA, it has become tragically apparent that the program is not working as intended. Claimants face overwhelming obstacles on their road to compensation. From a complex bureaucracy, to a highly technical burden of proof, to intimidating health physics discussions—all the while dealing with the physical and emotional strains of their illnesses—obtaining compensation for many claimants has proven to be a particularly difficult process.

With that in mind, Congress created the Office of the EEOICPA Ombudsman, an independent office tasked with providing information to claimants and advising the Department of Labor concerning additional Resource Centers. However, due to objections from the Administration, language originally included in the FY05 Senate Defense Authorization that provided broader authority for the office was scaled back in favor of the language that ultimately became law. As a result, the Ombudsman was not only scheduled for sunset, but was also prohibited from serving as an advocate for claimants. It was instead restricted to a role in which its powers are limited to making inquiries on behalf of claimants. There is no question the Ombudsman has proven to be extremely valuable even in its limited capacity, but with broader authority, the Ombudsman will be that much more effective as an advocate, helping claimants receive the compensation they deserve, which, after all, is the intention of the EEOICPA program in the first place.

Today, my colleagues and I seek to provide broader authority for the EEOICPA Ombudsman by introducing this legislation. This bill extends the life of the EEOICPA Ombudsman indefinitely, expands its authority from Part E of the program to Part B, and provides contracting authority for services necessary to ful-

fill their duties. Also, this legislation expands the powers of the EEOICPA Ombudsman to act as an advocate for the claimants when the Ombudsman determines it is appropriate. One other expansion of power in this legislation is to give the Office of the Ombudsman the authority to provide recommendations to Congress about legislative changes needed to make EEOICPA work more effectively. These are all expansions that are greatly needed to help the Ombudsman build on its already valuable role, which, in turn, helps EEOICPA claimants obtain their compensation.

I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this legislation and help improve and expand efforts to provide some measure of justice to our Cold War heroes.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. ELISHA GRAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a man who may be little known to the Nation, but one who is a treasure to the City of Detroit. Elisha Z. Gray, born on May 1, 1917 in Arlington, TN, right outside of Memphis, celebrated his 90th birthday last week.

At the age of 18, Mr. Gray left Arlington in search of a new life in bustling Detroit. For the next 9 years, he worked on the automobile assembly lines of the famous Packard Plant on East Grand Boulevard. On many occasions during those years, he served as a butcher in Detroit's historic Eastern Market.

It was not until 1944 when Elisha received his barbers' license from Michigan Barber College, that he evolved into his true calling. Since black subjects were not allowed at his school, his first opportunity to cut a black man's hair came in 1945 when he opened the Family Barber Shop on the corner of Hazelett and Milford. In fact, I remember my father John Conyers, Sr. being one of his loyal customers when we lived around the corner from his shop on Colfax.

The Family Barber attracted some of Detroit's most powerful and influential citizens, most of whom came from the west side of Detroit. Mr. Gray not only served his more distinguished clientele, but he was equally inviting to his everyday customers from the neighborhood. The Family Barber was the centerpiece that allowed the two worlds to intersect. His shop was also used as a training ground for other young black African-American barbers who would have their first experience cutting hair for blacks. In addition, he sponsored various athletic teams which enabled the neighborhood youth to get involved in constructive recreational activities, and encouraged them to stay off the streets and out of trouble.

I was sad to hear that Elisha sold the Family Barber in 1972, but it came as no surprise that he was already pursuing a new venture. Soon, he became a real estate agent, then a broker and soon after, he established E.Z. Gray & Sons Realtors on Puritan in Detroit. Although he has long retired from the real estate

business, he still continues to work in the field even today.

He has been instrumental in inspiring and encouraging youth, and especially the young men of Detroit to follow their dreams and overcome life's challenges. He is still engaged in a lifelong passion of getting all citizens reg-

istered and voting in all elections, both local and national.

Elisha Gray is married to Mrs. Labada Elizabeth Gray with whom he celebrated 65 years of marriage with on May 5, 2007. They have three children, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He also currently

serves as Chair of the Deacon Board at the Northwest Church of God in Detroit.

So, Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to celebrate the 90th birthday of a friend, a brother, and a living Detroit legend, Mr. Elisha Z. Gray.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 10

9 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine a status report on reform efforts by the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Management. SD-342

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph Timothy Kelliher, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and R. Lyle Laverty, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife. SD-366

Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider S. 1200, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend the Act, S. 310, to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity, H.R. 835, to reauthorize the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing assistance for Native Hawaiians, and S.J. Res. 4, to acknowledge a long history of official depredations and ill-conceived policies by the United States Government regarding Indian tribes and offer an apology to all Native Peoples on behalf of the United States. SR-485

Appropriations
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Federal Aviation Administration's budget performance and treatment. SD-138

10 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings to examine economic issues for America's working families and middle class. SD-215

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Leslie Southwick, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Janet T. Neff, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, and Liam O'Grady, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. SD-226

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the effects of climate change and ocean acidification on living marine resources. SR-253

Appropriations
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of State and foreign operations. SD-106

2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine violent Islamist extremism, focusing on government efforts to defeat it. SD-342

3 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David George Nason, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Mario Mancuso, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration, Michael W. Tankersley, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank, Scott A. Keller, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Robert M. Couch, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Janis Herschkowitz, of Pennsylvania, David George Nason, of Rhode Island, and Nguyen Van Hanh, of California, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank. SD-538

MAY 15

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the short-term energy outlook for summer 2007, focusing on oil and gasoline. SD-366

Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine green buildings, focusing on benefits to health, the environment, and the bottom line. SD-406
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine equal representation in Congress, focusing on providing voting rights to the District of Columbia. SD-342

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Justice politicizing the hiring and firing of United States Attorneys, focusing on preserving prosecutorial independence. SD-226

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Retirement and Aging Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Alzheimer's disease, focusing on current and future breakthrough research. SD-628

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 553, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 800, to establish the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, S. 916, to modify the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, to establish the Minidoka National Historic Site, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and improvements of the Gooding Division of the Minidoka Project, Idaho, S. 1057, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the New River in the States of North Carolina and Virginia as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1209, to provide for the continued administration of Santa Rosa Island, Channel Islands National Park, in accordance with the laws (including regulations) and policies of the National Park Service, S. 1281, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain rivers and streams of the headwaters of the Snake River System as additions to the National Wild and Scenic River System, H.R. 161, to adjust the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument to include the Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial in Bainbridge Island, Washington, H.R. 247, to designate a Forest Service trail at Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon as a national recreation trail in honor of Jim Weaver, a former Member of the House of Representatives, and H.R. 376, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the battlefields and related sites of the First and Second Battles of Newtonia, Missouri, during the Civil War as part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield or designating the battlefields and related sites as a separate unit of the National Park System. SD-366

MAY 16

10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the state of mercury regulation, science, and technology. SD-406

Finance
To hold hearings to examine the efficacy of United States preference programs. SD-215

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine rogue online pharmacies, focusing on the growing problem of internet drug trafficking. SD-226

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael K. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs. SD-562