

years of sisterhood, scholarship, and service to our beloved sorority.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a public service, non-profit organization founded at Howard University in 1913 by 22 brave and ambitious African American women. The major programs of the sorority are the organization's Five Point Thrust of: economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement.

The Sorors of "The Mighty 33" have professional and academic accomplishments in the areas of politics, education, law, medicine, finance, business, and government service. The Sorors include: Wanda Rembert Arnold, Esq., Sandra Austin, Sandra Berry, Vera Brooks, Phoebe Carter, Lynn Davis, Ruth Fomby, Dr. Delores Groves, Frances Hunter, Marsha Johnson, Esq., Margaret Killough, Gloria Pace King, Josie Lindsay, Glenda Lottier, Louis Lynch, Ruby McCullough (deceased), Shirley McKinney, Dr. Shirley McNair Robinson, Lucile Minor, Beverley Grace Odeleye, Jewell Painter, Renee Paige, Bernice Phillips Prewitt, Lois Bradford Roberts, Carla Shannon, Barbara Stonebarclay, Renee Pye Street, Mary Taylor, Antoinette Venable, Deborah Allen Ward, Beverly Warfield, Marva Williams, Linda Winston and myself, Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

We continue to carry high the Torch of Wisdom and Pledge to uphold the noble ideals of our sorority.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, I join with my Sorors and line sisters of "The Mighty 33" in celebrating our 25th anniversary in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. I am honored to be counted among such an accomplished and talented group of women. These Sorors will always be honored for their lifetime commitment to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

HONORING MR. QUENTIN SMITH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration and immeasurable gratitude that I rise today to honor Mr. Quentin Smith for his many contributions to his community as an educator and civic leader, as well as to the entire country, as a member of the storied Tuskegee Airmen. His efforts as a veteran of the 99th Fighter Squadron, along with all of the Tuskegee Airmen, are worthy of the highest commendation.

For their efforts and their service, the surviving Tuskegee Airmen were recently recognized, though long overdue, with the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington, DC. These brave individuals had an overwhelming sense of patriotism and loyalty to their country. Unfortunately, these men, most of whom were college graduates or undergraduates, served at a time when they were not treated as equals. In a time when segregation existed in the military as well as in our communities, the Tuskegee Airmen, though not recognized at the time, are now rightfully remembered as one of the most successful units in our military's history, not only for their courage and

sacrifice in the air, but for the role they played in the progress of the military and American society as a whole. It was not until 1948, when President Truman ordered the equal treatment and opportunity for all service members, that the significance of their efforts began to be realized. Though we as a nation continue to strive toward improving our society, the progress we have made is in large part due to the efforts of people like Quentin Smith and the Tuskegee Airmen.

Beyond his selfless service in the United States Military, I would be remiss if I did not speak of Mr. Smith's continued service to his community and the State of Indiana. As a civilian, Mr. Smith continued to serve his community as an educator, counselor, and principal at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as Adjunct Professor at Indiana University, Northwestern University, Valparaiso University, and Calumet College of Saint Joseph. A highly regarded member of the educational community, Mr. Smith has served in many prestigious capacities, including: Chairman of the National Association of Secondary School Principals' Committee to Evaluate High Schools, President of the Gary Reading Council, and State Commissioner of Education, to name a few.

In addition, Mr. Smith has for years been a pillar of his community through his service as a member of many civic organizations. In fact, he has served as President of several organizations, such as: the Lake County Welfare Board, Gary Common Council, Lake County Community Development Committee, Gary/Chicago Airport Authority, Urban League of Northwest Indiana, and the Gary Human Relations Committee.

While he has recently been honored for his military service, Mr. Smith has been a recipient of many prestigious awards for his involvement in enriching the lives of his students and his community. These awards include: the Distinguished Hoosier award, presented by Governor Mitch Daniels, the coveted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award, presented by the Gary Frontiers Service Club, and the Teacher of the Year award, presented by the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. In addition, Mr. Smith is also a member of the City of Gary's Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, Quentin Smith has dedicated his life to bettering his community and his country. From his service as a member of the 99th Fighter Squadron to his service as an educator and public servant, he has been a true role model for all Americans. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Quentin Smith for his lifetime of loyalty, dedication, and service to his community and the entire country. For this, Quentin Smith is worthy of the highest admiration, and I am proud to represent him in Washington, DC.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1294, THOMASINA E. JORDAN INDIAN TRIBES OF VIRGINIA FEDERAL RECOGNITION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill. I applaud the precedent set here, which subjects any casino projects to state laws and does not allow the tribes special gaming privileges. In considering this bill, I hope that we will be consistent in the tribes we support, especially when there is a potential for gaming. Native American communities rightly deserve to have sovereign control over their land, including the capacity to use tribal-run businesses to raise funds for the tribe. However, I oppose using lands not associated with the tribe or newly acquired lands for building casinos. My opposition stems from my own experience with legislation to federally recognize tribes. Vocal communities in my district have consistently stood up against the proliferating problem of off-reservation gaming—and we must do more to stop the most egregious forms of reservation shopping allowed by IGRA. Thus, it's important that we proceed with caution as we move forward with tribal recognition legislation, and that we make our intents transparent.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL SUFFRAGISTS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 105—A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Suffragists Day to promote awareness of the importance of the women suffragists who worked for the right of women to vote in the United States.

One suffragette in particular comes to mind—Ms. Sojourner Truth. Sojourner Truth was an ex-slave, abolitionist and feminist who fought for women's rights. In that regard, she delivered her famous "Ain't I A Woman" speech at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio.

Her speech dispels the perception of women as fragile beings unable to hold our own in society. Ms. Truth outlined the work she has done—planting, plowing and gathering in barns. All without the assistance of a man. She then raises the question; Ain't I a woman?

Sojourner Truth called for the extension of voting rights to all women. Her presence at the Convention was an important milestone in the women's movement and her speech left an indelible mark on the Convention, thus becoming a milestone of the women's rights movement.

Sojourner's thought provoking speech resonates even today. Her courage helped to empower and ignite the spark in future generations of women.

Fannie Lou Hamer, an ideological descendant of the suffrage movement became known as the lady in the civil rights movement that was "sick and tired of being sick and tired."

Shirley Chisholm was the daughter of Caribbean immigrants. She was the first black woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress, (a beneficiary of a voting rights district). And the first black woman candidate for President of the United States. Shirley Chisholm was another descendant of the suffrage movement.

And, Mr. Speaker, thanks to the bravery, perseverance and determination of women such as Sojourner Truth, Fannie Lou Hamer and Shirley Chisholm—women on whose shoulders I stand—Here I Stand—elected in the 110th Congress and representing a voting rights district.

If Americans are honest, the list of individuals that have benefitted from the blood, sweat and tears of the women suffragists would fill volumes.

It is my hope that all suffragists, in particular those of color such as Sojourner Truth and Fannie Lou Hamer whose contributions have historically been sidelined, are recognized for the vital role that they played in giving all women the right to vote in the United States.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisles to join me in voting in the affirmative for this important resolution.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PLUMBERS
LOCAL UNION 210 APPRENTICE
GRADUATES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, June 8, 2007, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will honor the graduating class of 2007 at the Annual Apprentice Graduation Banquet, which will be held at the Patio Banquet Hall in Merrillville, IN.

At this year's banquet, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will recognize and honor the 2007 Apprentice Graduates. The individuals who have completed the apprentice training in 2007 are: Kraig Bailey, Daniel Borowski, Micah Dolatowski, Steven Frederick, Michael Martin, Jr., Timothy Matson, Charles Standifer, Rickey Thomas, and Dustin Werner.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These graduates are all outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women of northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1684) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, as Congress passes the Homeland Security Department Authorization bill, I must register my deep concerns with the recent operations of one branch of the Homeland Security Department, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement).

I have very serious reservations with the immigration raids on local communities in my District—both the manner in which they were conducted and their lasting effects on our community. No one, especially our children, should have to live in fear. Nor should they have to live in ignorance of their basic rights in this country.

I have been working closely with local organizations and officials trying to convince ICE to mitigate its heavy-handed tactics and the ways they hurt our local immigrant communities. For instance, since ICE agents have been announcing themselves as "police," local governments are still struggling to regain the trust that they had worked for years to develop in order to combat crime in their jurisdictions. The responses from ICE officials regarding their policies and procedures—and their lack of concern for the ramifications their actions have on children and families in my community—are troubling.

As one example of the way these actions are terrorizing our communities, ICE officials held 7-year-old Kebin Reyes in jail with his father with only bread and water for about 10 hours. Allegedly, ICE officials repeatedly denied his father's requests to find alternative care for Kebin, and the child continues to suffer lasting trauma as a result of his detainment. So egregious was this detention that the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit on Kebin's behalf. ICE's apathetic response to

incidents such as these demonstrates their lack of concern for respecting the people in our communities as they carry out their duties.

As Congress reauthorizes Homeland Security, we must strike a careful balance between keeping America safe and respecting the human and civil rights of our local immigrant families. Protecting our borders cannot come at the expense of people's dignity.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1684) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Chairman, since the Department of Homeland Security was initially created in 2003, Congress has been unable to pass a single authorization bill for the Department. Today marks an important accomplishment, as the 110th Democratic Congress will pass a bill that finally brings much-needed accountability to DHS.

Along with containing provisions to ensure full funding of security grants that go to our Nation's first responders; and to restore rights to DHS workers, providing them with the same protections received by employees of every other department and agency within our government; I am pleased to see this bill contain a provision requiring stronger oversight of the US-VISIT program.

Although Congress mandated this border management tool 11 years ago, US-VISIT is a completely broken program at DHS because there have been few attempts to develop an exit component and complete this important program.

Instead, DHS appears to be using the funds to create a vast and unauthorized database of personal information about every visitor to this country.

As the representative from one of the most highly diverse districts in America—a district that is both a home and a popular destination for many thousands of people originally from other countries—I am highly concerned about this program. Congress intended to create a border management tool, not a massive list of personal information about law-abiding visitors.

Again, I am pleased to see that this bill imposes greater oversight of this and other ineffective programs at DHS.