

been silenced, the democratic ideals she so fervently fought for will continue to be voiced throughout Pakistan. The torch she carried will be borne by her son and her many other followers.

In a world where terrorism has become a pronounced presence, this assassination is yet another example of the lengths that terrorists will go to achieve their ends. And in a world where the United States has vowed to fight terrorism to the bitter end, this resolution is yet another example of how we will assist all governments in the fight against terrorism. Terrorists everywhere must understand that the world will not stand still.

Although no one can bring back this brilliant leader of the Pakistani people, the world must condemn these terrorist activities and promote a free and democratic environment in Pakistan, an environment in which future great Pakistani leaders will rise from Bhutto's memory and continue her successes.

INTRODUCTION OF CAGING
PROHIBITION ACT OF 2008

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Caging Prohibition Act of 2008, a critical contribution to the Congress's election reform efforts as we approach the 2008 election. I would like to acknowledge and thank those that join me in this introduction—Representatives RAHM EMANUEL, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, XAVIER BECERRA, RUSH HOLT, MIKE HONDA, CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, and GWEN MOORE and members of my committee, the Judiciary Committee—Representatives JERROLD NADLER, ZOE LOFGREN, STEVEN COHEN, and KEITH ELLISON.

Since the late 1950's, the pernicious practice of "voter caging" has been used to discourage or prevent eligible voters from having their vote cast and counted on election day. Recent elections have shown that caging tactics are not outdated, and in fact, have been used to disenfranchise voters in recent midterm and Presidential elections. While caging efforts have traditionally been directed at minority communities, all voters are susceptible to these attempts at voter intimidation and suppression.

The undemocratic practice of voter caging involves sending mail to voters at the addresses at which they are registered to vote. Should such mail be returned as undeliverable or without a return receipt, the voter's name is placed on a "caging list." These caging lists are then used to challenge a voter's registration or eligibility. For those that suggest that voter caging is done with the purest of intentions, I point out that this method remains an unreliable and dangerous way to identify ineligible voters. Mail may be returned as undeliverable for any number of reasons unrelated to an individual's ability to vote. Typos, transposed numbers, new street names, and improper deliveries explain just some of the many reasons for returned mail.

In my home State of Michigan, I have seen firsthand how caging efforts are used to harass, bully, and ultimately disenfranchise, eligible voters. During the 2004 election, chal-

lengers monitored every single one of Detroit's 254 polling stations. With a Michigan lawmaker advocating "suppress the Detroit vote," it was obvious why the challengers were at every polling place—to create a tense and hostile environment for those eligible voters who simply wished to participate in our democracy by casting a ballot. And furthermore, I cannot help but think that "suppress the Detroit vote" is synonymous with "suppress the Black vote" as Detroit is 83 percent African American. These voter suppression campaigns always seem to target our most vulnerable voters—racial minorities, language minorities, low-income people, homeless people, and college students.

However, during the 2004 election, we learned that no one is immune to voter suppression when Ohio and Florida caging lists specifically targeted soldiers whose mail was returned as undeliverable because they were stationed overseas. Here it is, our soldiers are fighting for democracy abroad, but find out that they cannot participate in democracy at home. During the last Presidential election, caging tactics were not limited to Michigan, Ohio, and Florida. Reports of caging came from all over the country—from Wisconsin, where "suspicious addresses" were used as the basis for challenges, to Nevada, where partisan gains were the acknowledged motive for challenges.

Voter caging is inconsistent with the principle that every eligible citizen should be entitled to the right to vote. The Caging Prohibition Act of 2008 will clearly define and criminalize voter caging and other questionable challenges intended to disqualify eligible voters. This bill is really quite simple. One, it requires election officials to corroborate their caging documents with independent evidence before a voter can be deemed ineligible. And two, it limits all other challenges that do not come from election officials to those based on personal, first-hand knowledge.

Caging tactics meant to suppress the vote do more than impede the right to vote. They threaten to erode the very core of our democracy. By eliminating barriers to the polls, we can help restore what has been missing from our elections—fairness, honesty, and integrity.

IN HONOR OF POLICE OFFICER
VINCENT J. ROMANO, CITY OF
NEW JERSEY, NJ

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jersey City Police Officer Vincent J. Romano on the occasion of his retirement. Police Officer Romano who retired on November 1, 2007, received numerous recognitions for his service, evidence that he was an outstanding member of the Jersey City Police Force.

Police Officer Romano, was appointed to the Jersey City Police Department in 1988, and initially assigned to the South District. His dedication garnered the trust of his superiors and earned him other opportunities to serve the Department in the West District, North District, Municipal Court Unit and the Records Room. His experience and his knowledge of

the community also won him specialized assignments in the Narcotics Unit and the Violent Crimes Unit.

Throughout his career, Police Officer Vincent J. Romano has received numerous awards which included: 2 commendations, 11 Excellence Police Service Awards, 3 Unit Citations and 1 World Trade Center Award.

Please join me in honoring Police Officer Vincent J. Romano for his distinguished service to the Jersey City Police Department, and in congratulating him, his wife, Connie, and their two sons, Vincent and Joseph.

COMMENDING BILL CAMERON FOR
BEING NAMED THE SOUTHEAST
FARMER OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate a friend and hardworking farmer who has received one of the most distinguished awards a farmer can receive in the Nation. Bill Cameron, a Hoke County citizen, won the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farm of the Year for 2007, and I couldn't be more proud of him for this well-deserved accomplishment.

Bill Cameron is a native of Hoke County. He coached the high school football team for 11 years and then decided to focus on farming full time and invest his life in the agriculture industry.

Bill started his farming operation with 82 acres, and it has grown to almost 900 acres today. He is well diversified with swine, cattle and row crops. His livestock operations include Santa Gertrudis cows, bulls used to raise seed stock, feeder steers and a large breeder gilt grower operation. On the crop side, Cameron grows hundreds of acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, rye and hay.

During the Southeastern competition, Cameron was selected among ten state finalists in the Southeastern states including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Folks, this is quite an achievement to be selected from such a competitive group of farmers, and I am very happy for Bill. I know that there was a tremendous amount of hard work and sacrifice that went into his operation and making it such an efficient and successful operation.

Anyone who knows Hoke County understands that agriculture is at the heart of the community. Bill Cameron has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help create and sustain a strong agriculture community, and as a citizen of North Carolina, I join many in sincerely thanking him.

Not only has Bill Cameron built a first class farming operation, but he has worked tirelessly to help increase the quality of life for Hoke County and the 8th District as a whole. Bill is a former Hoke County Commissioner, and his determination to help build and create a better community and a better North Carolina is inspiring.

I would also like to acknowledge Bill's family that has been there backing him in his efforts and successes. I am sure Bill's wife, Rhenda,