

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM F.
BUCKLEY, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a founder of the modern conservative intellectual movement, William F. Buckley, Jr., who passed away yesterday morning.

Mr. Buckley was a man of all trades—author, soldier, musician, activist, editor, television personality, among others. Above all, he was a true patriot who believed in the ideals of limited government and the promotion of individual freedoms. Those goals were embodied in his extraordinary publication, *National Review*, which brought to light the mainstream conservative values that many Americans cherish and upon which our Nation was founded promoting victory in the Cold War.

Since high school, I have been an avid reader of *National Review*. I was inspired not only by the commonsense ideas that Mr. Buckley espoused, but just as much by his passion and dedication to those principles. He brought an uncanny wit and intellectual quality to his speeches and writings which endeared him to many—even those who disagreed with him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Buckley family during this time. William F. Buckley, Jr., made a positive difference for America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

HONORING CALVARY CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Calvary Christian School in Columbus, Georgia, for their recent "Celebrate America" presentation, and their patriotic commitment to their country.

In a critical time in our Nation's history, with a consistent threat against freedom being declared against the United States of America and our allies, it is vital that the citizens of the United States remember that freedom is not free. Men and women of the United States Armed Forces serve around the world in an attempt to keep the citizens of America free and safe. Our soldiers are willing to pay the ultimate price for the freedom that we enjoy each and every day, and as Americans, we must not ever forget their sacrifice. It is of the utmost necessity that we continue to recognize our freedom and those that continue to ensure that our liberty remains. Too often, we overlook our freedom as a common occurrence.

In early 2008, the faculty, staff, and students of Calvary Christian School demonstrated their patriotism on February 7, 2008, and February 15, 2008, in the presentation of "Celebrate America", which was a time of reflection on all things American, including music, free speech, veteran recognition, active-duty military appreciation, and other displays of nationalism. For

this reason, I would like to recognize before the U.S. House of Representatives the commitment of Calvary Christian School, its faculty, staff, and students for their patriotism. I sincerely hope that these actions encourage other schools, organizations, and individuals to follow the example of nationalistic devotion displayed by the school in this presentation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes No. 78 through 84. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 78, the motion to consider the resolution, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 79, on approving the Journal, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 80, on ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 81, on agreeing to the rule for H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 82, on motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 83, on the Motion to Re-commit on H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 84, on passage of H.R. 5351, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, Florida with my wife as she prepares to give birth to our second child. If I had been present yesterday, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall 78: "nay"; rollcall 79: "nay"; rollcall 80: "nay"; rollcall 81: "nay"; rollcall 82: "nay"; rollcall 83 "nay"; and rollcall 84: "nay."

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NEW
EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION ACT"

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the lure of employment opportunities in the United States has long been acknowledged as a major reason for immigration—both legal and illegal. Those in Congress know I'm for combating illegal immigration. As the ranking member on the Social Security Subcommittee, I, along with several of my subcommittee colleagues, offer an important new component in the immigration reform debate.

Employers want, need, and deserve a reliable employee verification system, and I want to give it to them. Every day, countless immigrants enter our country seeking the economic opportunities that a job in this country has to offer. Many play by the rules, wait their turn, and obtain the proper permission to work. That is called legal immigration, and I am all for it.

But when it comes to enforcing the law for those who do not play by the rules, it can't be done. That is because enforcement is based upon a failed system that is prone to both error and fraud. The result is an illegal immigrant population that has swelled by some estimates to over 12 million. This is a path our Nation cannot sustain, and the American people have rightly demanded action.

The bill we are introducing today is designed to achieve three important objectives: first, ensure a legal workforce; second, safeguard workers' identity; and finally, protect Social Security.

First, this legislation draws upon lessons learned from the past to help guarantee a legal U.S. workforce for the future. The current failed, paper-based I-9 screening process is replaced with an Electronic Employee Verification System, to be known as EEVS. This system would rely on the use of fewer, more secure identity documents and would be built upon the new hire reporting process already existing in each State. This reporting process is used by 90 percent of employers and was put in place a dozen years ago to track down deadbeat dads.

For Americans, work authorization would be confirmed only through the Social Security Administration. This ensures that there is no "Big Brother" law enforcement agency building new databases on law-abiding citizens. For non-citizens, work authorization would be confirmed through the Department of Homeland Security that has the databases on visa and immigration status.

Second, the legislation would help safeguard workers' identity. A voluntary system would be created using the latest technology to authenticate and protect a worker's identity. Private sector contractors, certified by the Federal Government, would authenticate the identity of employees by utilizing existing background-check and document screening tools and then safeguard the identity through a biometric identifier, such as a fingerprint or eye scan. The private sector provider would then verify work authorization in EEVS.

Think back to December 2006 and the now widely known Swift and Company raids. Nearly 1,300 workers in 6 States were arrested, including many in Cactus, Texas. A Swift and Company human resources official testified before a House panel that Swift had willingly participated in the government's voluntary verification program for Social Security numbers since 1997. This shows the system is broken and must be fixed.

Third, this legislation would protect the Social Security program by preventing wages earned through future unauthorized work from being used to determine benefits. Also the bill would protect the Social Security Administration's primary mission and trust funds by authorizing employment verification only through funds appropriated in advance.

So far, efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation have failed. Today we offer a new way forward for this Congress

to discourage unauthorized workers from entering this country illegally to seek work. Ensuring a legal workforce must be a key component of any immigration bill moving through Congress.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to build on this proposal to achieve a bipartisan solution to immigration reform.

HONORING BROOKE EDWARDS

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an essay written by Brooke Edwards, a fourth grader from Flippen Elementary School in McDonough, Georgia. Her school sponsored a writing contest in which students answered the ever patriotic question, "Why I'm Proud to be an American." It is stories like these that inspire all citizens. I am proud to report to the U.S. House of Representatives that Brooke won first place in the contest, I would like to submit her essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for all Americans to read.

WHY I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

My name is Brooke Edwards and I'm a fourth grader. I go to Flippen Elementary School in McDonough, Georgia. I'm proud to live in Georgia because it is in the United States and I'm proud to be an American. What do I like about America? I like our freedom, military, and our 4th of July.

My first reason why I'm proud to be an American is freedom. I like our freedom because we don't have kings or queens bossing us around. For example, England has a queen. We can vote for our presidents. In America we have a choice that other countries don't have.

My next reason is our military. Brave men and women fight everyday all around the world for our freedom. We wouldn't be free if we didn't have the military. We have men and women who are veterans. They served our country and made me feel proud.

My final reason is our 4th of July. On the 4th of July, we celebrate our freedom and have fun too. We also celebrate our flag on the 4th of July because it stands for America. I love the 4th of July!

There are many reasons I like being an American. I like our freedom, military, and our 4th of July. These are my favorite parts of America.

WILLIAM BARRETT TRAVIS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it all started way back in 7th grade, Mrs. Wilson made Texas history come alive and my fascination with Texas legends like Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, James Bowie, and of course my personal favorite, William Barrett Travis, took root. It was this month, 172 years ago, that Travis, a 27-year-old lawyer, penned the most famous letter in Texas history from behind the walls of a besieged, rundown mission in San Antonio.

"To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world, fellow citizens and compatriots,

I am besieged by a thousand or more of the enemy under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannon fire for over 24 hours, but I have not lost a man.

The enemy has demanded surrender at its discretion. Otherwise, the fort will be put to the sword. I have answered that demand with a cannon shot. And the flag still waves proudly over the north wall.

I shall never surrender or retreat. I call upon you, in the name of liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character, to come to my aid with all dispatch. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself for as long as possible, die like a soldier who never forgets what is due his honor and that of his country. Victory or death.

As a child, I was so intrigued by this letter. I would always be the first in my class to volunteer to play Travis at any given opportunity, if only just to read his words aloud. To me, he was the ultimate hero. Travis and his rag-tag group of relentless freedom fighters, made up of men from nearly every State in the Union and 13 foreign countries, including Mexico, held off an entire army of several thousand for 13 days. Defeat was not an option. Retreat was never on the table. Victory or death. And the rest is—as they say—Texas history.

History teaches us everything we need to know, if we just look. This letter was written nearly 2 centuries ago and its message still rings true today. It's a story of "liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character." Freedom is still worth dying for. And to do so as a soldier, "is what is due his honor and that of his country."

Travis believed these words, believed that the cause for independence was his life. Our freedom fighters today understand these words as well, they know that America is worth fighting for and that defeat is not an option. We must not neglect the call.

Unfortunately, the call for help was not answered in time. Commander Travis and 187 volunteers sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom after 13 glorious days at the Alamo. The youngest to die for Texas was 15-year-old William Phillip King. The oldest to die was Gordon C. Jennings. He was 56. Their sacrifice would later be remembered along the banks of the San Jacinto as GEN Sam Houston led the Texans to victory and freedom. But their courage will never be forgotten.

Travis isn't just my favorite Texas war hero, he has intertwined himself throughout my life and even the lives of my children and grandchildren. He is the inspiration behind my profession. I always wanted to be a great lawyer like William Barrett Travis. My grandson, Barrett Houston, is even named after Travis. Inscribed along the bottom of my stationery are his words, "I shall never surrender or retreat," and for as long as I can remember, I end every letter with his famous words, "God and Texas." Because of men like William Barrett Travis, Texas is the great State that it is today. His legacy embodies the passion and loyalty that make Texans stand out around the world.

And that's just the way it is.

DEFENDERS OF THE ALAMO WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES

Alabama: James Buchanan, William Fishbaugh, Galba Fuqua, Issac White.

Arkansas: Issac G. Baker, Jesse G. Thompson, Henry Warnell.

Connecticut: Gordon C. Jennings.

Georgia: Albert (Alfred) Calvin Grimes, William T. Malone, Elice (Eliel) Melton, Manson Shied, William Wells, William Wills

Illinois: Jonathan L. Lindley.

Kentucky: Peter James Bailey III, James Bowie, Daniel William Cloud, Jacob C. Darst, John Davis, William H. Fauntleroy, John E. Gaston, John Harris, William Daniel Jackson, Green B. Jameson, John Benjamin Kellogg, Andrew Kent, Joseph Rutherford, B. Archer M. Thomas, Joseph G. Washington.

Louisiana: Charles Despalier, James W. Garrard, Joseph Kerr, Isaac Ryan.

Maryland: Charles S. Smith.

Massachusetts: John Flanders, William D. Howell, William Linn, Amos Pollard.

Mississippi: M.B. Clark, Isaac Millsaps, Willis A. Moore, George Pagan, Christopher Adams Parker.

Missouri: William Charles M. Baker, George D. Butler, Charles Henry Clark, George Washington Cottle, Jerry C. Day, George W. Tumlinson.

New Hampshire: Robert E. Cochran.

New Jersey: Richard Lucius Stockton.

New York: Robert W. Cunningham, Lewis Dewart, Samuel B. Evans, John Hubbard Forsyth, John Jones, James Tylee.

North Carolina: Micajah Autry, Dolphin Ward Floyd, William Parks, Mial Scurlock, Joshua G. Smith, John W. Thomson, Claiborne Wright.

Ohio: William B. Harrison, Tapely Holland, Robert Musselman, James M. Rose.

Pennsylvania: John J. Ballentine, James Murry Brown, John Cain (Cane), Robert Crossman, David P. Cummings, James Hannum, Samuel Holloway, William Johnson, George C. Kimble (Kimbell), William McDowell, John Purdy Reynolds, John M. Thurston, Hiram James Williamson, John Wilson.

Rhode Island: Albert Martin.

South Carolina: James Butler Bonham, Lemuel Crawford, George Neggan, Edward Nelson, George Nelson, Cleveland Kinloch Simmons, William Barrett Travis.

Tennessee: Joseph Bayliss, John Blair, Samuel C. Blair, Jesse B. Bowman, James (Robert) Campbell, David Crockett, Squire Daymon, William Dearduff, Almeron Dickerson (Dickinson), John Henry Dillard, James L. Ewing, James Girard Garret, Andrew Jackson Harrison, Charles M. Haskell, John M. Hays, William Marshall, Jesse McCoy, Robert McKinney, Thomas R. Miller, William Mills, Andrew M. Nelson, James Waters Robertson, Andrew H. Smith, A. Spain Summerlin, William E. Summers, Edward Taylor, George Taylor, James Taylor, William Taylor, Asa Walker, Jacob Walker.

Texas: Juan Abamillo, Juan Antonio Badillo, Carlos Espalier, Gregorio (Jose Maria) Esparza, Antonio Fuentes, Damacio Jimenez, William Phillip King, William Irvine Lewis, William J. Lightfoot, Jose Toribio Losoya, Andres Nava, Richardson Perry.

Vermont: Miles Deforest Andross.

Virginia: Robert Allen, John J. Baugh, William R. Carey, William Garnett, John Camp Goodrich, Patrick Henry Herndon, James Kenny, George Washington Main, Edward F. Mitchasson, Robert B. Moore, James Northcross.

Denmark: Charles Zanco.

England: William Blazeby, Daniel Bourne, George Brown, Stephen (or Ireland) Dennison, James R. Dimpkins, James C. Gwynne, William Daniel Hersee, James Nowlan, Marcus L. Sewell, Richard Starr, James E. Stewart, Thomas Waters, Anthony (Avram) Wolfe, son age 12 Wolfe, son age 11 Wolfe.

Ireland: Samuel E. Burns, Andrew Duvalt, Robert Evans, Joseph M. Hawkins, Thomas Jackson, James McGee, Jackson J. Rusk, Burke Trammel, William B. Ward.

Germany: Henry Courtman, Henry Thomas.

Scotland: Richard W. Ballentine, John McGregor, Isaac Robinson, David L. Wilson.