

to respect the scientific recommendations of the Secretary of Commerce and the IWC's Scientific Committee, and continued to respect the bowhead whale. But they cannot be used as political footballs by the IWC and they cannot have their need for the bowhead whale delayed if the IWC fails to renew their quota in a timely manner.

This legislation will ensure that the AEWC will have their cultural and nutritional needs met in the event that the IWC fails to act to renew their quota or if the IWC decided to hold their quota hostage for political reasons, but does so in a manner that is based on science and the needs of the Alaskan Native people as determined by the Secretary of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ELYSE
JOHNSTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, next Wednesday, July 30th, will mark the 100th birthday of Mrs. Elyse Johnston of DeKalb, Texas. I am honored to join Congressman KEVIN BRADY in recognizing her today and sharing a small part of her life's story.

Born in Quitman, Texas, to Samuel Jackson Benton and Margaret Florence Jones Benton, Mrs. Johnston has witnessed a tremendous amount of change in her 100 years. When she entered the world, the Wright Brothers had only recently made history in North Carolina, and Henry Ford was still a few months away from introducing the world to the Model T. One hundred years later, the world is a much different place. Most of my colleagues will shortly get on a plane holding hundreds of people to get home for the weekend and will be delivered to the airport through considerable traffic congestion by cars that can hardly be compared to Ford's cutting edge invention.

Through her early years of education in Quitman, the one thing that made Elyse happy was music and playing the piano. This would become her lifelong passion. Starting with the First Baptist Church, Elyse played in too many revivals to count. Her reputation as a pianist spread and soon she was being asked to play for all the Methodist church revivals as well. Because she always loved to dance, she claimed to be a "Baptist with Methodist feet." She was elected a Burleson Beauty while she completed her college studies at Burleson College and prepared to enter the working world as a teacher.

After 2 years of teaching in Pleasant Ridge, she scraped together enough money to purchase a Ford Roadster and move back to Quitman. It was here that she would meet her future husband, Bentley Johnston, and where they would have their first date on Easter Sunday. It was clear to Bentley that he had met his bride to be, and he was so distracted that he skipped on his responsibility of watching the holiday dinner and the family ended up eating a burned roast for Easter.

After getting married, they moved to DeKalb and began farming cotton and soy beans and raising cattle. Times were hard during the Depression, but they managed in part due to the large garden and fruit trees that Elyse was

able to maintain and use to help make ends meet by supplying groceries to the area families. The family sacrificed to keep the farm going through the Depression and 5 straight years of crop failure; that old Roadster Elyse saved to buy lost its engine to keep a tractor in the fields. After several years on the farm, the family moved back to town in 1951.

Her love of the piano has never ended and as a church pianist, she has played in revivals and choirs for 42 years and made a name for herself through her showy offertories, leading one pastor to encourage her with, "Well, swing it sister!"

Elyse helped raise two daughters who still live in DeKalb. She celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with Bentley shortly before he passed away in 1980. Her "Methodist Feet" haven't left her yet, and she still enjoys community shows, working in the garden and playing cards. "Nanny" to her six grandchildren and five great grandchildren, she is still very much independent and shows no signs of slowing down.

Madam Speaker, Congressman BRADY and I ask those in the chamber and our colleagues to join us in wishing a very happy 100th birthday to Mrs. Elyse Johnston.

TURKISH MILITARY OCCUPATION
IN CYPRUS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker. I rise today to recognize the unconscionable 34 years of Turkish military occupation in Cyprus.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, in blatant violation of international law. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly expelled from their homes and approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed. Today, Turkey has 43,000 troops occupying northern Cyprus, and the European Court of Human Rights has condemned Turkey in multiple decisions for violating the basic rights of Cypriots such as the right to life, the right to liberty and security, the right to respect for family life, the right to the protection of property and the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment.

Cypriots want a unified island and continue to demonstrate their commitment toward a genuine reunification of Cyprus. However, no solution can realistically happen until the Turkish troops are withdrawn.

I strongly urge Turkey to show a commitment to international law and basic human rights by ending its military occupation and withdrawing its 43,000 troops so that Cyprus can begin to heal these wounds, peacefully integrate its people and economy and grow together as a nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ANIMAL
CRUELTY STATISTICS ACT OF
2008"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the bipartisan "Animal

Cruelty Statistics Act of 2008" along with Representatives GALLEGLY, NADLER, VAN HOLLEN and MORAN. This bill will direct the Attorney General to make changes to existing crime data bases so that data on animal cruelty crimes will be collected and made publicly available. I thank the bipartisan coalition of Representatives who have joined me in introducing this important legislation.

Animal cruelty crimes exist on the books in the vast majority of states and in the federal system. Yet there is no established system to meaningfully collect data on these crimes. The collection of data is important in order to assess the effectiveness of the animal cruelty laws, identify trends and problem areas, and allocate resources efficiently. Social Service studies also have shown a relationship between animal cruelty crimes and family violence. Many domestic violence organizations support this bill because they believe data collection on animal cruelty crimes will also help address the critical problem of domestic violence. This bill will serve these important purposes.

Again, I thank the bipartisan coalition of Representatives who have joined me in introducing this important legislation.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC
RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008 (H.R. 3221). This measure will provide a helping hand for those reeling from the mortgage crisis. Just as importantly, it will restore confidence in our largest mortgage backers, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

We have all seen how unscrupulous lending practices and skyrocketing interest rates associated with nontraditional mortgages have devastated families nationwide. Sadly, these families are often left with few options other than to see their homes foreclosed upon. In Rhode Island, foreclosures have increased by 20 percent in the last six months, and it is our most vulnerable communities that have been disproportionately affected.

Fortunately, today we are considering a package that will stem the tide of foreclosures by authorizing \$300 billion in loan guarantees to establish HOPE for homeowners, a voluntary program administered by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to help at-risk borrowers refinance into viable mortgages. I want to emphasize that this assistance is not a bail-out. On the contrary, the program will require lenders and mortgage investors to take significant losses in the form of a reduced loan principal, and borrowers must agree to share any profit from the resale of a refinanced home with the federal government. Furthermore, only primary residences will be eligible, not investment properties, vacation homes or speculators' purchases.

In addition, this package will provide \$3.92 billion in Community Development Block Grants for local governments to purchase abandoned and foreclosed properties—a provision that is fully paid for. I am glad the President has finally lifted his misguided veto threat