

Task Force is appreciated. All recommended recovery and research strategies to be funded in large part by 80% of the fines and penalties under the Clean Water Act. Although the RESTORE Act purports to follow the recommended strategies, it does not and is flawed.

RESTORE SHOULD FOCUS ON A GULF-WIDE RESEARCH AND RECOVERY STRATEGY

As currently drafted, the RESTORE Act does not promote a Gulf-wide research and recovery strategy. Under the formulas contained in the bill that divide the 80% resources, Gulf-wide research and recovery efforts would be disjointed and receive short-shrift. The formulas currently contained in the bill appear to be based upon Senate dynamics rather than a Gulf-wide recovery and research strategy based upon sound science. The RESTORE Act fails to make a large enough investment in Gulf-wide solutions to the “dead zone,” red tide outbreaks that threaten tourism, and the health of the Gulf overall. Where is the overarching science advisory component that is necessary for such an important research and recovery strategy?

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to address critical systemic issues that have plagued the Gulf for decades. We must not waste it.

RESTORE SHOULD DEVOTE GREATER RESOURCES TO LONG TERM RESEARCH AND GULF MONITORING

RESTORE should be improved to ensure that adequate Gulf research and monitoring are conducted for decades to come. Many of the impacts from the catastrophic disaster are currently impossible to discern to the naked eye and in the short-term. The blowout wreaked havoc on fisheries, marshes, seagrasses, oyster beds, coasts, and aquatic life. In addition, over past decades, science gathering and sharing in the Gulf has been neglected. While RESTORE does carve out some dollars for long-term research and monitoring, the investments are inadequate to ensure a long-term, sustained research and recovery effort.

DO NOT DUPLICATE NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS \$ BILLIONS FLOWING TO IMPACTED AREAS

Any legislation that devotes 80% of the Clean Water Act fines and penalties to the Gulf of Mexico research and recovery effort should not duplicate the billions of dollars going to the impacted areas under the Oil Pollution Act and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment. One billion dollars already have been directed to oiled areas and states for cleanup and restoration.

JOBS AND ECONOMICS

The Gulf is rich in natural resources that support many jobs and economic stability for millions of families. The Gulf ecosystem produced thirty percent of the United States' gross domestic product in 2009. If our five Gulf States were one country it would rank seventh in global gross domestic product. Our abundance of natural resources is critical to our economic health, as those resources dwindle so do our livelihoods and our financial stability. Investing in long-term environmental restoration and addressing environmental issues present prior to the BP oil disaster is critical to achieving comprehensive economic restoration.

I am encouraged to see bipartisan support to direct 80% of the Clean Water Act fines to the Gulf of Mexico. However, the RESTORE

Act as currently drafted falls far short of the coordinated, long-term, science-based effort that is needed to protect such a valuable national resource. Therefore, I look forward to working with all Members on an improved national strategy for the Gulf of Mexico and its communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on rollcall No. 64, I inadvertently voted “no.” I would like to be recorded as “aye” for rollcall No. 64.

SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S REQUEST FOR PURCHASE OF F-16 C/Ds

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, as a long-time member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus and as a Member of Congress who has frequent interaction with the Taiwanese American constituents in my district, I rise today to bring an issue to your attention, which can no longer be delayed.

I would like to comment on how our relationship with Taiwan intermingles with the local economy of North Texas.

Taiwan seeks to procure more than five dozen F-16 C/Ds from the United States that are proudly built in North Texas. These negotiations have been underway since 2006. It is important that this deal not be further delayed. The Administration has resisted the sale and has rather suggested selling Taiwan upgrades for its older F-16 A/Bs. I find this to be a very inadequate position that jeopardizes Taiwan's future defensive capabilities and will result in a hit to the North Texas economy.

Taiwan seeks the F-16 C/Ds solely for defensive purposes. This is very apparent given the increasing number of short and medium-range ballistic missiles aimed at the island by its neighbor, the People's Republic of China. At current there are more than 1,400 missiles aimed at Taiwan from the other side of the Taiwan Strait. I am afraid that China continues to add to the number of missiles pointed at Taiwan and that this number is only expected to increase over time.

The 1979 Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which has been the cornerstone of United States-Taiwan relations for decades, declares that it is the policy of the United States “to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States.” We need to abide by our TRA commitments and support the defensive capabilities of Taiwan.

I would like to call attention to legislation introduced by my colleague, Congresswoman KAY GRANGER, which seeks to remedy this situation. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me

in cosponsoring H.R. 2992, the Taiwan Airpower Modernization Act of 2011. Senator JOHN CORNYN has introduced a companion bill in the Senate. This bipartisan legislation will direct the President to authorize the sale of no fewer than 66 F-16 C/Ds to Taiwan. We cannot continue to delay on this issue, as the production line for F-16s will only remain open for a limited additional amount of time. Once the F-16 production line closes, then we will have missed this opportunity to increase the defensive capabilities of Taiwan and provide a significant economic boost to the North Texas economy.

I will continue to work towards increasing our already strong relations with the people of Taiwan. I believe that the best way forward for improving these relations and helping our North Texas economy is to approve the sale of the F-16 C/Ds to Taiwan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ROBERT C. MANTS, JR.—CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Robert C. Mants, Jr. of Lowndes County, Alabama. Mr. Mants will most notably be remembered as one of the four civil rights leaders of the “Bloody Sunday” march in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965. He was also a very well known and respected community organizer and activist.

Mr. Mants was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia in 1943. While in the 11th grade, at the age of 16, he was the youngest member of the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights, an Atlanta student movement. During this time, he also volunteered at the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee Headquarters (SNCC) in Atlanta. After graduating from high school in 1961, he briefly attended Morehouse College before deciding to dedicate one hundred percent of his time to the Civil Rights Movement.

By the summer of 1964, Mr. Mants was working for SNCC in Americus, Georgia. While working with the SNCC Southwest Georgia Project, he met his future wife, Joann Christian. In early 1965, he went to work in Lowndes County, Alabama, and was instrumental in the planning of the Selma-to-Montgomery March in March 1965. The march was organized at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with the goal to lead protestors to Montgomery and ask Governor George Wallace for protection for black voter registrants. The march was led by Mr. Mants, Mr. JOHN LEWIS, Mr. Albert Turner, and Reverend Hosea Williams.

On “Bloody Sunday,” Mr. Mants was in the front ranks of an estimated 600 marchers as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Waiting for them on the other side of the bridge was a wall of Alabama state troopers. Subsequently, the demonstrators were brutally attacked with nightsticks and fired upon with tear gas. Seventeen marchers were hospitalized, and the day was nicknamed “Bloody Sunday.” Televised images of the

brutal attacks presented people with horrifying images of marchers left bloodied and severely injured, and roused support for the United States Civil Rights Movement. Two weeks later, Mr. Mants helped lead thousands of activists from around the country on a weeklong march from Selma to Montgomery to urge state officials to end practices aimed at keeping black Alabamians from voting.

Mr. Mants could have easily bypassed the growing civil rights movement of the 1960s by remaining at Morehouse College and pursuing “a well-worn path” to success. Instead, he became involved in the movement during its early stages and established a leadership reputation that put him on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on March 7, 1965.

Shortly after the marches, Mr. Mants moved to nearby Lowndes County, Alabama to continue his work with the SNCC. Although the Lowndes County population was roughly 80 percent African-American, no black had successfully registered to vote in more than 60 years, as the county was controlled by 86 white families who owned 90 percent of the land. As a result, the SNCC created the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (LCFO) in 1965. The LCFO was a political party that formed to represent African-Americans in the central Alabama Black Belt (17 counties).

The LCFO was also known as the “Black Panther Party.” The Party’s goal was to promote and place its own candidates in political offices throughout the Alabama Black Belt. In 1966, while their attempts were unsuccessful, they continued to fight and their goal and motto of “black power” spread outside of Alabama. The movement spread all over the Nation. Two black Californians, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, asked for permission to use the Black Panther emblem that the LCFO had adopted for their newly formed Black Panther Party. The Oakland-based Black Panther Party became a much more prominent organization than the LCFO. Thus few people remember the origins of this powerful symbol with impoverished African-Americans in a rural Alabama County.

Mr. Mants continued to live and work in Lowndes County until his untimely death in December 2011. Although he was known more as a civil rights leader and community organizer, Mr. Mants also served as a Lowndes County Commissioner for many years, and was Chairman of the nonprofit “Lowndes County Friends of the Historic Trail.” Mr. Mants is survived by his wife of 45 years, Joann Christian Mants, and three children—Kadisha, Kumasi, and Katanga.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that our colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Robert C. Mants, Jr., a global citizen and activist for civil rights.

HONORING SERVICE MEMBERS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is to the honor of our service members that when they wear the uniform, they do so with the full knowledge that their engagement for our Nation will take them on long, sometimes dan-

gerous missions far from home. Each one is conscious of these dangers but chooses to confront them in the defense of our values. As a veteran I understand that this choice to serve is not just personal, it is shared with their families who must also accept the risks, the absences and in the ultimate circumstance—the loss of the one they love. It is to you the families that I now turn my thoughts to express with humility, my gratitude and respect.

It is fitting that the symbol chosen to mark this shared sacrifice is a Gold Star—fitting because we do not remember simply to mourn but rather to hold high the example of their courage, their willing abnegation. A star, fixed always in the firmament of heroes that we have been blessed to know.

Outside my office door, unique to the halls of Congress is a flag displaying one such star. It stands in tribute to the son of a staff member of mine who gave the fullest proof of his love for our Nation. That flag reminds me of my duty as a Congressman to ensure that those who fight for our country and their families receive the support and care that they earned through their service.

As the original author of the California Gold Star License Plate Bill, these families have a very special place in my heart and I am humbled to continue my support and commitment in their premium sacrifice being recognized.

Allow me once again to express my respect and fervent prayer that the strength we witness in you affirms in each of us the courage to serve our country in all ways we are able.

KHOJALY, AZERBAIJAN TRAGEDY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chairman of the House Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to bring attention to the tragedy that took place in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, a town and townspeople that were destroyed on February 26, 1992.

This month we will mark the 20th anniversary of that devastating and heartbreaking day. Sadly, today there is little attention or interest paid to the plight of Khojaly outside of Azerbaijan. However, one of our greatest strengths as elected officials is the opportunity to bring to light truths that are little known and command recognition. As a friend of Azerbaijan, I am proud to remind my colleagues that we must never forget the tragedy that took place at Khojaly.

At the time, the Khojaly tragedy was widely covered by the international media, including the Boston Globe, Washington Post, New York Times, Financial Times, and many other European and Russian news agencies.

Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, now under the control of Armenian forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians. With a population of approximately 7,000, Khojaly was one of the largest urban settlements of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers the massacre was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with the help of the Russian

366th Motor Rifle Regiment. Human Rights Watch described the Khojaly Massacre as “the largest massacre to date in the conflict” over Nagorno-Karabakh. In a 1993 report, the watchdog group stated “there are no exact figures for the number of Azeri civilians killed because Karabakh Armenian forces gained control of the area after the massacre” and “while it is widely accepted that 200 Azeris were murdered, as many as 500—1,000 may have died.”

Azerbaijan has been a strong strategic partner and friend of the United States. The tragedy of Khojaly was a crime against humanity and I urge my colleagues to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

HONORING LEON C. JOHNSON, SR.

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the life of Mr. Leon C. Johnson, Sr.

Mr. Johnson was born in Columbia, South Carolina, on August 13, 1936, to Maceo P. and Ella L. Johnson, and passed on January 17, 2012. As a young man he was tagged with the nickname of “Lion,” denoting strength of character, leadership, determination and pride. This mantle he wore with pride and resolve, which he ably demonstrated as head of the family after the passing of his father and following his tour of duty during the Korean Conflict. Leon Johnson served from that point forward as the father figure and big brother for his younger siblings, Josephine, David, Theodore and Kenneth, as well as the co-leader of the Johnson family with his elder brother Maceo. Together, they instilled the virtues of family unity, sibling pride, honor, respect and drive to succeed. And each member held true to those life learning tenets and did achieve to those professional heights of success and service. All accomplished under the loving and watchful gaze of their mother, Ella Johnson and aunt, Annie Baisden, two women of strength, courage and determination, who vowed to raise the finest “gentlemen and lady” in the Johnson family tradition, both of whom preceded Leon in death, but left an indelible mark on everyone.

Leon graduated from Stanton High School in 1954 and attended Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, was a proud veteran who served his country in the Army during the Korean Conflict and began his professional career with the United States Postal System where he served in a variety of managerial positions until his retirement. He continued his service to the postal system and its many employees as a long time member of the Postal Credit Union Board of Directors. Leon is survived by his loving and caring wife of 52 years, Barbara Green Johnson; his son, Leon C. Johnson, Jr., and daughter Michelle, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, and a host of aunts, nephews, nieces and special friends.

His passing marks a very special moment, which is reflected in the depth of loss felt and hope renewed. Leon was a loving, caring family man and a dear friend to so many. It is said