

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## THE CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT

**HON. ASA HUTCHINSON**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the "Citizen Protection Act," legislation designed to hold bounty hunters, and the bail bondsmen who employ them, liable for civil rights violations. The bill also requires bounty hunters and bail bondsmen who travel in interstate commerce to recover a defendant to report their intentions to local law enforcement authorities and provide whatever information is required under that state's laws.

I believe this bill accomplishes an important public safety goal, namely keeping innocent citizens safe from the abusive actions of rogue bounty hunters, without creating a new federal bureaucracy or imposing any mandates on the states.

Under current law, bounty hunters do not operate under the same standards required of law enforcement officers, which prohibit excessive force. Bounty hunters are free to break into the homes of people thought to be criminals in order to capture bond-jumpers, without any accountability to innocent citizens who may be injured because of wrongful and abusive conduct.

In September 1997, five men claiming to be bounty hunters forced their way into a private residence, terrorized a mother and her children, and fatally shot a young couple. Despite the fact that the Arizona suspects turned out not to have been bounty hunters, the notoriety of the case brought national attention to flaws in the bail bond system.

While not as publicized as the Arizona case, bounty hunter abuses occur more frequently than we realize. One such case from Houston, Texas illustrates why Congress needs to provide a legal recourse for innocent victims. In the Summer of 1995, Betty Caballero was beaten by a bail bondsman seeking to arrest another woman, Ms. Ruth Garcia. Because of the beating, Betty miscarried her pregnancy the next day. Although she brought suit against the bail company for the violation of her civil rights, the district court found that federal civil rights laws did not apply to the case and exonerated the bond company from any liability for the bounty hunter's behavior.

Just a few weeks ago, rogue bounty hunters in Memphis, Tennessee beat up a high school student they mistakenly targeted as a bond-jumper. Last year, in another case of mistaken identity, an innocent Kansas City man was shot three times by bounty hunters. And in the summer of 1994, an innocent New York woman was abducted by bounty hunters and transported to Alabama. The bounty hunters ignored the woman's protests of innocence. Three and a half days and 910 miles later, the bounty hunters acknowledge their error and paid for a bus ticket to send the woman back home. She also was not allowed to pursue a

case for violation of her civil rights against the bail bond company or the bounty hunters.

The Citizen Protection Act remedies these injustices by allowing abused individuals to seek redress in federal court. The bail bond industry is interstate in nature, and many of these abuses involve the transportation of victims across state lines. It is important to note that this bill does not create a new federal regulatory scheme or impose any mandates on the states. It merely provides remedial relief to those who are now slipping through the cracks of the justice.

Many professional bounty hunters and bail bondsmen support regulation of their industry in order to drive out the rogue bounty hunters who undermine the industry's reputation and credibility. Law enforcement agents have also been supportive of the notification requirement, arguing that they want to be aware of bounty hunter activities in their jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Congress can and should take this modest step and bring some accountability to the use of bounty hunters. That is why am I proud to be introducing this legislation with my colleagues Congressmen CHARLES CANADY, JOHN CONYERS AND ALCEE HASTINGS.

**JOHN HOGAN III, A VERY SPECIAL YOUNG MAN**

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, in today's cynical, selfish world, it is rare to find an individual whose pure goodness, compassion and selfless generosity transcend his own personal travails. I would like to bring to your attention just such a person, 11-year old John Hogan III of Hadley, New York.

Diagnosed at birth with cerebral palsy and a seizure disorder, John's doctors did not expect him to survive. However, John beat the odds, earning the opportunity to embark on what has already become a remarkable life. Because of his medical conditions, John was referred to the Make-a-Wish program of Northeastern New York, an organization which arranges for children with life-threatening illnesses to realize their dreams. Unlike many young people, John's dream was not to meet a celebrity or to go to Disney World. John's only wish was to feed the homeless—a desire to which he held firm despite the efforts of volunteers and other adults to convince him to do something special for himself. This incredible young man would not be dissuaded from his goal.

Through Make-a-Wish, John arranged for \$50,000 worth of food to be distributed to food banks in his area, riding along in the cab beside a truck driver to personally deliver the 22 tons of much-needed food donated by a local supermarket chain. Although John's wish initially flabbergasted the Make-a-Wish volunteers, John's mother was not at all surprised.

"He's always been this way," she said, "He shares everything with others." In fact, she remembered, when his parents would give him quarters to play in an arcade, John would instead give them away to his brothers. Feeding the homeless was simply a natural next step for this selfless young man, who hopes one day to become a minister.

Mr. Speaker, John Hogan is an example we should all strive to follow. Faced with adversity from the very beginning of his young life, John has not only coped with his situation, he has triumphed over it through his spirit of kindness and generosity. I ask that all members join me in rising to express our thanks and admiration for this remarkable young man. I only hope we can all achieve at some point in our lives the strength and compassion which he has accomplished already in eleven short years.

**TRIBUTE TO DORIAN DAVID ROREX**

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, January 15, 1998, tragedy struck Northwest Indiana when Dorian David Rorex, a police officer with the Gary Police Department, was fatally shot by a drug dealer. Dorian made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life in the effort to protect our community. On the day he was killed, Dorian was working with a team of detectives in an undercover sting operation to put illegal drug dealers behind bars. In the process of making the arrest, however, a drug dealer turned on Dorian and fired his gun repeatedly, putting an abrupt end to the life of a man who had been dedicated to helping protect others.

The black bunting that hung over the police station door in Gary, Indiana, was a reminder of the sadness that hung on the hearts of all the people who have been affected by this terrible incident. It affected all the citizens of Northwest Indiana who suffered loss, knowing that the plague of illegal drugs and the violence they breed had taken the life of a courageous public servant who had been working to protect them. Dorian's colleagues, the officers who knew him and worked with him, are now forced to deal with the pain and anger of a lost partner. Most of all Dorian's family, his mother, father, fiancé, and his young son, David, must face this terrible pain that this tragedy has brought them. They must now struggle to come to terms with their painful loss.

As we all work to move on from this point, we can take solace from the Bible and St. Paul, who said: "Let us not grow weary in doing good. For in due season we shall reap

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

if we do not lose heart." Dorian Rorex did not grow weary of doing good, and he did not lose heart. In all of his life's endeavors he worked to help people. He was a member of Tarrytown Baptist Church and a graduate of West Side High School. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, who served in Operation Desert Storm. While serving as a member of the Gary Police Department he was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, the S.W.A.T. team, and served as an Honor Guardsman.

Dorian's life ended too soon, but his life was full, and he lived it with honor and a sense of duty to others. In all of our endeavors to make our community safe, we were encouraged by his energy. We were made young by his enthusiasm, and, when things weren't perfect, we were warmed by his friendship. His commitment to his colleagues, his department and his city was complete. Dorian's love for his family was absolute. And, though we'll never know "Why?" Dorian was taken from us, we can take heart in knowing that at least part of the reason he gave his life was so that the world his son, David, inherits will be the best he could make it. And with that, in some small way, we can all try to make sure that Dorian's hope for a better world for David, and all of our sons and daughters, is fulfilled.

IN HONOR OF MR. PAT TORNILLO

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to publicly recognize an important civic leader and my good friend, Mr. Pat Tornillo.

As some of you may know, Pat has been the leader of a nearly four-decade effort to improve the public schools in the Miami-Dade County area.

Pat arrived in the Great State of Florida in 1956. As a new teacher in Miami-Dade, he took an active role in the Dade County Classroom Teachers Association (which is now known as the United Teachers of Dade). Today, 42 years later, he serves as the Executive Director of that important organization.

This week, on February 7, the educational and political communities of Florida are joining together to honor Pat L. Tornillo for his "Uncommon Commitment to Public Education." This commitment includes turning Miami-Dade's public schools into one of the largest and most culturally diverse school systems in the country today.

Mr. Tornillo's work has been publicly noted before. He has won the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Brotherhood Award, the Outstanding Leadership Award from the United Way, and the NAACP Distinguished Award. Now, it is Congress' turn. Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues to join me today as we honor a truly great American. A grateful nation thanks Pat Tornillo.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR  
LIONEL WILSON

**HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a historic figure, Lionel Wilson, who was elected in 1977 as the first African American Mayor of the City of Oakland, California. Lionel passed away recently at the age of 82 and left a legacy that forever changed the political contours of the city.

Born in New Orleans, Lionel came to his "hometown" of Oakland, California with his family at age 3. He attended Clawson Elementary and McClymonds High School. Lionel went to law school and eventually became the first African American Superior Court Judge in Alameda County. The Wilson Family became a cornerstone of the West Oakland neighborhood during its economic and social heydays of the forties and fifties. Lionel served as Chair of an anti-poverty board in the sixties and seventies that came out of the Great Society legislation under President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

When Oakland elected Lionel in 1977, City Hall was boldly turned around as his compassionate but firm leadership brought access to those who had been denied access. Wilson opened up city government for blacks and other minorities, creating a new Oakland that paved the way for a new generation of minority politicians. Critical to policy decision is the city budget which was the responsibility of the city manager; however, his insistence that the mayor must have an important role in the process led to a three-term mayor serving for 12 years. His broad vision can be seen in the development of downtown Oakland and its neighborhoods.

One passion that Lionel and I share is the love for baseball, in fact, to be professional players. As you see, history had other plans. Lionel Wilson will be greatly missed and remembered by all as a man with a vision for the City of Oakland.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
KENNETH ROGER THOMAS, ESQ.

**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS and Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD in announcing the untimely passing of one of this nation's outstanding minority newspaper publishers. Kenneth Roger Thomas, Esq., publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel, died on November 28, 1997. He was not only a friend, but a valiant crusader for the truth and a compassionate man who ceaselessly contributed his time and energy to those who needed help.

Born January 1, 1930, in Cleveland, Ohio to James Edward Thomas and Augusta

Dickerson, Ken spent his formative years in Marietta, Ohio. He completed his primary and secondary education there before attending Ohio University from 1947-1951, where he received a bachelor's degree in pre-medicine. His degree took him not to medical school but to the military; Thomas served in the U.S. Air Force from 1951-1956 in Korea and Japan, achieving the rank of First Lieutenant.

Upon returning to the states in 1956, Ken studied law at Ohio State University, earning his bachelor of laws and doctor of laws degrees in 1958 and 1967, respectively. He began his successful private law practice in 1960, and served as a California Probate Referee from 1974 until his death. Ken utilized his keen legal mind to assist and advise a number of organizations, including the Los Angeles Fair Housing Council, the NAACP, and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Over the course of his career, he served on the boards of the California Rapid Transit District, the Los Angeles Urban League, and the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Ken's affiliation with the Sentinel began with his service as longtime attorney for Ruth Washington, the widow of Sentinel founder and civil rights activist Col. Leon H. Washington, Jr. Col. Washington died in 1974, leaving the paper to his wife, who made Ken CEO in 1983. Ken brought tremendous energy and vision to the Sentinel, which had been foundering amid huge debts and antiquated equipment. Through his herculean efforts, the weekly was equipped with computers, its finances were stabilized, and the physical plant was renovated. Meanwhile, Ken found the stamina to maintain his private law practice and help the less fortunate, often playing Santa Claus for foster children at Christmas.

Ken was also important to the Sentinel and the Los Angeles community because he maintained the paper's commitment to relating the black experience to the general public, covering stories not told by the mainstream papers and providing frank commentary untinged by racial bias. He maintained an active interest in Los Angeles politics and was a trusted confidant and advisor to several community and political leaders.

Ken's tenacity, courage, conviction, love, and generosity will be sorely missed by us all. MAXINE, JUANITA, and I strongly urge our colleagues to join us in extending condolences to his loving wife Jennifer, his daughter Maria K. Thomas of Los Angeles, his extended family, and his many devoted friends.

PEACE INITIATIVE OF DR.  
ANTHONY S. LENZO

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 1998*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to a noble initiative proposed by Dr. Anthony S. Lenzo of Crown Point, Indiana. Dr. Lenzo has toiled selflessly for many years in an attempt to designate a "Weekend of Prayer, Meditation and Thought on the Futility of War and the Desperate Need for Peace in the World." His goal is to have the United States submit his resolution to the United Nations. Dr. Lenzo feels that, as a global leader and the chief proponent of