

Judge Stevens was awarded the Lon O. Hocker Memorial Trial Lawyer in 1962, and the Spurgeon Smithson Award in 1987 by the Missouri Bar Association. He was also awarded the President's Award in 1995 by the Missouri Bar President, the Charles E. Whitaker Award in 1996 by the Lawyers Association of Kansas City, and the William F. Yates Distinguished Service Medallion in 1998 by William Jewell College.

Judge Stevens was active in the community. He was on the Board of Trustees and sang in the choir at the Central United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Man-of-the-Month Fraternity from 1996 until the present, and of the Missouri Academy of Squires. He was a former member of the Board of Directors and later the Board of Governors of Truman Medical Center, 1981 to 1998, and a former trustee of the Bartsow School. He was on the Board of Directors for the University Club from 1994 until 1997, and was also a member of the Carriage Club, Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, Epsilon Lambda Chapter. He was President of the Vanguard Club in 1993 and the Mercury Club in 1995.

Judge Joseph Edward Stevens will be missed by everyone who had the privilege to know him. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Norma; his two daughters, Jennifer and Rebecca, and his sister and brother.

LEGISLATION TO AUDIT MILITARY PURCHASES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUY AMERICAN ACT

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I introducing legislation to direct the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to conduct an audit of fiscal year 1998 procurements of military clothing by four installations of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps (a total of 16 installations). The installations should be in the United States or U.S. possessions and territories.

The objective of the audit is to determine whether contracting officers complied with the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a) and the Berry Amendment (10 U.S.C. 2241 note) when they procured military clothing and related items. The audit should be completed by September 30, 2000 and the results submitted to Congress.

I introduce this legislation in response to the findings of an IG audit conducted last year pursuant to an amendment I had included in the fiscal year 1998 defense authorization bill, Public Law 105-85, directing the Pentagon's IG to audit the procurement of military clothing and related items.

I was deeply troubled by the findings of the audit (Report No. 99-023). The audit found, among other things, that "151 of 256 contracts (59 percent) did not include the appropriate clause to implement the Buy American Act or the Berry Amendment. The noncompliance

with the Buy American Act and the Berry Amendment resulted in 43 potential violations of the Antideficiency Act."

The audit only covered 12 military organizations. The likelihood is very high that there had been widespread violations of the Buy American Act throughout the military. The audit noted that procurement officials within the Department of Defense have agreed to issue policy guidance to contracting officers emphasizing the importance of complying with the Buy American Act. However, I am concerned that there will continue to be widespread violations of the Buy American Act unless the Congress exercises continued vigilance in this area.

That is why I am introducing this legislation. My bill will ensure the IG conducts a follow-up audit to determine whether or not the Pentagon has effectively addressed the widespread Buy American Act violations revealed in the original audit. I hope all Members will support this important bill.

HONORING WEST UNIVERSITY PLACE, TEXAS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate West University Place, Texas, on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, which they will celebrate with a series of events throughout 1999. The first event will be the reopening this Saturday, February 6, 1999, of the newly refurbished City Hall, which was built back in 1955.

West University Place was originally developed by former Tennessee Governor Ben Hooper, who wanted to build a community of country homes outside Houston out of an old Spanish land grant that had been surveyed by A.C. Reynolds. In 1912, Governor Hooper bought 750 acres of land that became the city of West University Place because of its proximity to Rice University.

West University Place, known affectionately as "West U," had humble origins. By early 1923, only about 40 families lived in West University Place, an area remembered as a low-lying, poorly drained swamp, that flooded whenever it rained heavily. West University Place incorporated to help its residents accomplish together what they could not do alone. That is, residents needed to build the necessary infrastructure to protect themselves and their property from heavy rain and flooding—streets, drainage systems and water sewers—and provide for schools, police, and fire protection.

In the first step toward incorporation, community leaders filed a plat of their proposed city in October 1923. There were 29 signatories, all of whom had lived in West U for at least six months. The petition to incorporate was filed with Harris County Commissioners Court on December 1, 1923, and signed by County Judge Chester H. Bryan. The Judge ordered an election for incorporation on December 18, 1923. The election drew a total of 30 people, all of whom voted to incorporate.

The incorporation papers were signed on January 2, 1924.

In the years since, West U has grown into a thriving community that, together with Houston and the rest of Harris County, is one of the nation's great metropolitan areas. Today, over 13,000 residents live in West U. The City has progressed toward its present position as one of the area's most desirable neighborhoods. Civic-minded citizens and small-town governments, combined with a proximity to major business, educational, cultural, and scientific centers have enriched life for all living in the Houston metropolitan area.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate West University Place and all of its citizens as they celebrate their 75 anniversary. I wish them continued success as they build on the strong sense of community they have established in West University Place, Texas.

IN MEMORY OF C. SAM THEODUS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of C. Sam Theodus. Sam was a great national labor leader and a great friend to many, particularly in the Greater Cleveland area; I am proud to count myself as having been Sam's friend.

C. Sam Theodus was a key leader in the Teamsters. He was President of Local 407 from 1982 to 1987, and again from 1990-1995. Mr. Theodus was a member of Local 407 for 46 years. He was a man of the people, never placing himself above those he represented. He was dedicated to the advancement of ordinary working men and women, and he dedicated his life to improving the lot of others. This was his life's mission. In addition, Sam was a compassionate leader and loyal colleague.

For anyone who knew Sam, knew that he stood on principle, and was willing to stand up for those beliefs. He fought to introduce rank-and-file elections for national Teamster offices, an idea that was considered impossible at one time. Now, of course, it is the national policy. He also challenged the traditional practice of appointing local leaders; Sam worked to allow all members to determine the leaders. That was the essence of his legacy, fighting for the democratic principles of improving the representation of his fellow Teamsters.

I will always be proud of knowing and working with Sam Theodus. He was always in the trenches with the members, fighting every battle side-by-side with everyone else. Perhaps it was something he learned while serving his country in Korea. Sam's respect and confidence in the rank-and-file was recognized in 1991 when the Teamsters instituted their first rank-and-file election. He was the top vote getter for the position of vice-president in that election. Clearly the national Teamsters recognized what Local 407 had long known—that Sam Theodus was an incredible, compassionate, and dignified leader.

I will miss Sam. To his wife Lillian, and his loving family, I extend my heartfelt sympathies.

God Bless Sam Theodus.