

HONORING STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATORS WHO HAVE CHAMPIONED THE EXAMINATION OF REPARATIONS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, as the author of H.R. 40, The Commission to Study Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act, I am proud to acknowledge those state and local legislators who have had the courage and the foresight to champion local legislation in support of reparations and the passage of federal legislation.

Since its introduction in 1989, H.R. 40 has sought to focus national attention on the issue of compensation for slavery and post-slavery discrimination. Through the efforts of grassroots activists, reparations has grown to become a topic of discussion and debate on numerous national television and radio programs, in the halls of Ivy League institutions, in corporate boardrooms and courtrooms, and within increasing numbers of state and local legislative assemblies. Twenty four local municipalities across this country and three states have adopted legislation supporting the concept of reparations and/or the passage of H.R. 40.

On the auspicious occasion of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America's first Gala Reparations Banquet, June 17, 2004, I recognize the work of the many organizations actively engaged in making H.R. 40 a reality, and I hereby pay tribute to the following state and local champions of justice who have introduced reparations-related legislation in their respective jurisdictions:

California Legislature: Mr. Kevin Murray, Florida Legislature, Louisiana House of Representatives: Mr. Raymond Jetson; Mr. Melvin "Kip" Holden; Mr. Joseph Delpit, Maryland (pending): Mr. Nathaniel Exum, New York Legislature (pending): Mr. Roger Green, Texas Legislature (pending), Alameda County, California: Mr. Keith Carson, Berkeley, California: Ms. Maudelle Shirek, Compton, California: Ms. Yvonne Arceneaux, Foster City, California: Ms. Marie Davis, Inglewood California: Mr. Daniel Tabor, Los Angeles, California: Mr. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Mr. Nate Holden, Oakland, California: Mr. Larry Reid, East Palo Alto, California: Mr. Omowale Satterwhite.

San Francisco, California, District of Columbia: Mrs. Wilhelmina Rolark, 1991, Atlanta, Georgia: Mr. Clarence T. Martin, Ms. "Able" Mabel Thomas, Chicago, Illinois: Alderman Dorothy Tillman, 2000, Evanston, Illinois, Baltimore, Maryland: Ms. Bea Gaddy, 2000, Detroit, Michigan, Jackson, Mississippi: Mr. Terry Kennedy, St. Louis, Missouri: Mr. Terry Kennedy, 1999, Camden, New Jersey, Passaic County, New Jersey: Ms. Marilee Jackson, 2002, Paterson, New Jersey: Ms. Georgia Scott, 2001, Newark, New Jersey, Cleveland, Ohio: Ms. Fannie Lewis, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Mr. Michael Nutter, Dallas, Texas: Mr. John Wiley; Mr. Al Lipscomb, Ft. Worth, Texas: Mr. Frank Moss, Burlington, Vermont: Mr. Richard T. Kemp.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BETTY CLIFTON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Betty Clifton of Fowler, Colorado, on being named the 2004 Etu Tau Lady of the Year. The award acknowledges her contributions towards the Fowler community, and to the many other communities that she has been a part of through the years. This award is a well-deserved testament to her tireless efforts.

Betty's ardent devotion to her community was evident at a young age, as she was a member of the Rainbow Girls and served as president of the Methodist Youth Fellowship during her senior year in high school. This commitment continued to follow Betty as an adult as she became involved in other civic organizations. She is a charter member of Fountain Valley #155 of the Order of the Eastern Star Foundation, a member of the Fowler Historical Society, and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She also volunteers with Meals on Wheels, served for five years as president of the United Methodist Women, and served for two years as president of the Fowler Senior Citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the public service of Betty Clifton before this body of Congress, and this nation. Her contributions towards her community are truly remarkable. I sincerely thank Betty for her service.

REMEMBERING ROY L. STEWART

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to a dedicated patriot who passed away this year, Roy L. Stewart.

Roy Stewart proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force for more than 29 years. Most notably, he was a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor. After his military service, he worked for General Dynamics in Fort Worth, Texas and later started his own business, Roy Stewart Heating and Air Conditioning. Roy actively served his community as a Mason. He was a Master Mason of River Oaks Lodge No. 1311, a member of Moslah Shrine, the Scottish Rite and York Rite Bodies, a Past Patron of the Polytechnic Eastern Star, and a dual member of the Castleberry Eastern Star.

Born in Waco, Texas, Roy Stewart is survived by his wife, Thelma H. Stewart, daughter, Frances S. Reynolds, and husband, Michael E. Reynolds of my hometown of Rockwall, TX, son, Roy Victor Stewart and wife, Kathleen. He also was the proud grandfather of eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Roy will be long remembered as a steadfast citizen who dedicated his life to serving others, and the community of Fort Worth will miss his friendship. On behalf of his many friends and fans, I want to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to pay our last respects to this honorable man—Roy L. Stewart.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to stop playing politics and pass comprehensive energy legislation this year. Our country needs to reduce its dependence on foreign oil and increase its national energy independence. Increasing our energy independence will stabilize future energy prices, benefit American consumers and businesses, and enhance both our energy security and our national security. For these and other reasons, I supported the energy conference report on the House floor in November 2003.

Unfortunately, one issue has blocked congressional passage of this comprehensive energy legislation over the last few months, and it has become clear to me that removing the provision in question would ensure that the Senate will pass, and the President will sign, this measure.

Title 15, Section 1502, of H.R. 6, which is substantially similar to H.R. 4503, contains a safe-harbor provision protecting producers of methyl tertiary butyl ether [MTBE] and other fuel oxygenates from product liability claims. As well, this provision includes language applying the safe-harbor retroactively, potentially barring several pending suits against some of the worst environmental polluters in our country.

Under this provision, cities and towns would be prevented from bringing against potential offenders "defective product" lawsuits, which some cities have employed to recapture the cost of MTBE clean ups. Approximately 130 lawsuits have been filed by states, cities, water districts, and businesses over MTBE contamination. The trade association for the MTBE industry conservatively estimates that a nationwide cleanup of MTBE will cost between \$500 million and \$1 billion. The U.S. Conference of Mayors, however, maintains that those costs could run higher than \$29 billion. Our states and localities, which are struggling with budget deficits, should not be forced to pay the tab for these clean ups. If our states and localities are forced to pay these costs, the real costs will be borne by taxpayers, who should not be responsible for the actions of a few MTBE producers.

According to Congressional Quarterly, on November 24, 2003, one week after House passage of the energy conference report, President Bush called House Majority Leader TOM DELAY and requested that Mr. DELAY remove the MTBE provision that is holding up Senate passage of the legislation. As Senator PETE DOMENICI, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, noted at that time, "At the end, the President personally tried to get the House to support the MTBE removal. He made the call, at our request, to [Majority Leader] DeLay." Regrettably, Mr. DELAY chose to reject the President's personal request. Senate Republican leaders like Chairman DOMENICI, who has been working to pass this legislation for several years, are two votes shy of passing this measure, and removing the MTBE liability waiver would send to the President's desk the most comprehensive energy legislation in more than a decade.