

The Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2006 builds on the law's successes.

It directs the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to make grants to States to coordinate, expand, and enhance service delivery systems and charges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with identifying strategies to prevent TBI, as well as increasing awareness and understanding of TBI by implementing public education programs. Finally, the legislation directs the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct much needed basic and applied research on brain injury rehabilitation and development of a cure.

With such a vast and diverse community, it is often difficult for the TBI community to speak with a unified voice. This bill represents a consensus among the national stakeholders who strongly support swift action on the bill this year.

The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force is dedicated to the health of these programs as part of a larger goal of improving the quality of life for those who have sustained brain injuries.

Mr. Speaker, only a strong commitment will allow us to continue the incredible advances we have made in the area of basic brain research; prevention, detection and early treatment; physical and mental rehabilitation; long-term care and patient advocacy issues.

I invite my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this critically important bill, and I urge the committee of jurisdiction to consider it without delay.

Original Cosponsors, The Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2006: PLATTS, ANDREWS, BOSWELL, BOUCHER, BOYD, BRADY (PA), BROWN (SC), BROWN (OH), CAPUANO, CLEAVER, DAVIS (VA), DAVIS (CA), DAVIS (IL), DEFAZIO, DRAKE, EMANUEL, ETHERIDGE, FARR, GOODE, G. GREEN (TX), HAYES, HERSETH, HIGGINS, JACKCHEY, HINOJOSA, HOLDEN, HOLT, INGLIS, JACKSON LEE, JEFFERSON, KENNEDY (RI), KILDEE, KUHL, LOBIONDO, MARKEY, MCCARTHY, MCCOTTER, MCDERMOTT, MCGOVERN, MCNULTY, MEEKS, MILLER (FL), MORAN (VA), NADLER, NEAL, OWENS, PALLONE, PAYNE, RUPPERSBERGER, SANDERS, SAXTON, SCHWARTZ (PA), STRICKLAND, TOWNS, VAN HOLLEN, WAXMAN, WEXLER, WOOLSEY, WYNN.

REMEMBERING STAN TORGERSON

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today, Mississippi pays her respect to a man whose career in journalism and media spanned seven decades: he was "The Voice" of the Ole Miss Rebels for 17 years, he counted sports legends and musical stars as his friends, and any elected official in Mississippi whom he called was certain to respond in person. Today, Meridian buries a great citizen of our State: Stan Torgerson.

Stan passed away at Rush Hospital in Meridian on Monday night at the age of 82, still active in his lifelong media career. He told the Meridian Star last year, "I will continue to work as long as I think I can be productive. I believe in work ethic. I work for three reasons: (1) It's fun; (2) I think I am reasonably good

at it; and, (3) It gives me something to do that I enjoy doing. For me, it's not just a way of adding to my income. It's fun."

Stan began his fun work after returning from service in the Navy during World War II. He became a sports broadcaster and disc jockey and moved into radio management. He worked markets in Memphis, Miami, and San Diego and purchased WQIC in Meridian in 1968. While in Memphis, Stan developed a friendship with Sam Phillips and pumped the Sun Records sound over the airwaves as he got to know personally the likes of Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis. During his sports broadcasting he interviewed Babe Ruth, called games with Hank Aaron playing, and jointly called a game with Harry Caray. Stan used to say "I like to watch the game on the radio. The pictures are better."

For 17 years Stan called play-by-play for Ole Miss basketball; and did the same for 15 years for Ole Miss football. He called about 450 basketball games and 185 football games. As noted during WTOK's tributes to Stan, he was inducted into the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame and was recognized by the Jackson Touchdown Club as one of the Four Most Famous Voices in Mississippi Sports. He also received an Award of Merit from the Ole Miss Alumni Association. He served as an elector on the Heisman Trophy Committee and was appointed chairman of the Mississippi Heisman Trophy Committee in 1993 and served in that capacity for 12 years. In 2005, Stan was appointed by Governor Haley Barbour to a 6-year term on the Mississippi Athletic Commission.

After retiring from his radio station, Stan went to work first as a sports stringer and later as a reporter for the Meridian Star. After several years in print, he moved to WTOK television in Meridian where he worked until his retirement last month. As a journalist Stan was known for hard and insightful questions, but delivered in a fair and honest manner. As a friend, I knew Stan as a man of wit and wisdom. Even in retirement, he continued writing his syndicated sports and culture columns and hosted a monthly wine tasting.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this Congress joins me in remembering Stan Torgerson and expressing our sympathy to his wife of 59 years, Dorothy, and the families of his children Barbara and Larry Stan. For over half a century the airwaves of our country carried the sound of Stan's voice. It is silent now, but the memories will continue to be as vivid as those pictures he painted on the radio.

CRUISE LINES OVERTIME ABUSES

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday at the markup session of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, there was a great debate over whether the seaman's wage penalty law should be changed. These changes have been sought by the foreign-flag cruise industry which has had to payout millions of dollars in damages for not paying thousands of their workers the overtime they had accrued for working more than 70 hours per week.

The Members of this body may be unaware of the types of worker abuses that have occurred in the cruise industry. I am submitting for the record the testimony of Luis Bolanos in support of his claim in U.S. District Court that shows the type of fear and intimidation that cruise ship workers live under if they ask for the overtime pay they have earned.

DECLARATION OF LUIS BOLANOS

Pursuant to 28 USC §1746, Luis Bolanos, hereby declares, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the following is true and correct.

1. I am a class representative in this litigation seeking unpaid overtime wages for me and my co-workers who worked in the catering departments of Norwegian Cruise Lines vessels. We were required by NCL to regularly work more than 70 hours per week but NCL never were paid wages for this overtime work.

2. I was born in Penon Kundinamarca, Colombia on March 2, 1943. I currently am 61 years old. I have a fifth grade education from schools in Colombia. I read and write Spanish. I understand very little English, and I can only read a little English. I have a wife, a son and a daughter. I presently live at 14323 S.W. 180th Terrace, Miami, FL 33177. My son is a veterinary doctor and my daughter works for the United States government.

3. I worked for NCL for over 20 years. The following is my service history, since 1998, with the Norwegian Cruise Line company, as best as I can recall:

Vessel, Dates of Employment, Job Position:

Norway, 10/97—mid August 1998, 2d Pastryman.

Norway, 11/7/98—8/28/99, 2d Pastryman.

Norway, 11/99—8/12/00, 2d Pastryman and 1st Pastryman.

Norway, Approx. 11/00—2/17/01, 1st Pastryman.

4. While employed for NCL as a Pastryman, I was responsible for making cakes, cookies, pastries and other baked goods. I worked in the galley of the ship. The jobs of a Pastryman include serving on the main food lines in the galley, cleaning; working at outdoor restaurant buffet once a week at midnight, making pastries and serving the pastries to the waiters who then served it to passengers in the dining room; making breads and cakes and pies and cookies. This work is done in a designated area of the main galley. Approximately twice per week, our department had to do what the company calls "Deep Cleaning" before the ship would come into a U.S. Port. Deep cleaning made the works especially hard because the cleaning we had to do had to make our department absolutely spotless. We had to clean every little space and clean up every speck of dirt. This would sometimes make our work days a little longer. In addition, all of the workers in the Pastry Department had to attend Department Meetings that lasted from 20-30 minutes every morning, and we had to attend another meeting at night once a week or once every two weeks. As a member of the crew, I also had to attend and participate in Fire and Life Boat Drills approximately once per week which would take approximately 1-1½ hours.

5. The itinerary of the *Norway* was almost always from Miami to various islands in the Caribbean and back to Miami. When I signed on and off the ship, I always signed on and off in Miami, which is where my voyages ended and I was paid my salary. I do recall the ship sailing some of the time in Europe, but mostly we sailed to and from Miami. When we sailed out of Miami, the voyages were normally 7 day voyages from Miami to the Caribbean and back.