

strengthen security planning in regions with more than one rail or public transportation entity, and to ensure the coordination of their security measures.

In addition, rail and public transportation systems need to train their employees on how to prevent, prepare for and respond to a terrorist attack, and conduct exercises to test the preparedness of the transportation systems.

These initiatives are critical and need to be enacted, but we must provide adequate resources for these programs to avoid forcing yet another unfunded Federal mandate on State and local governments.

I urge my colleagues to consider these important proposals to improve rail and mass transit authority.

We must not wait any longer to enact real rail and mass transit security measures. The safety and security of Americans depend on it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from Washington on Tuesday, July 11, 2006. As a result, I was not recorded for rollcall votes Nos. 360, 361, 362 and 363. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 360, 361, 362 and 363.

VOTING RIGHTS AND THE POLITICS OF EXCLUSION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to address the importance of the renewal of the language assistance provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Our Nation's growing Hispanic population is gradually becoming important in the political arena with the increased involvement of second and third generation Latinos. The number of naturalized citizens has also increased over the years. All these Americans, whether native-born or naturalized have an equal right to vote. English-only policies are subtle mechanisms that deny American citizens their constitutional right to vote. America is supposed to be a country of freedom, of democracy.

Naturalized non-English speaking citizens must endure long waiting periods to enroll in English as a Second Language (ESL) literacy centers, whose numbers are scarce due to lack of funding. In New York State, the wait lists were so long, the State decided to establish a lottery system instead. How can we ask for English-only policies when we do not have the requisite infrastructure in place to teach English to our citizens, let alone enable them to comprehend the complex ballots? Why shouldn't we make voting easier for our citizens? Why should we obstruct their ability to exercise their right to vote?

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are forgetting that English is not an easy language to learn. The Republican Party is alienating a large voting population and running the

risk of aligning ethnic politics for years to come against them. President Bush has always urged his party to engage Hispanic voters to keep Democrats in the minority. He is advocating for inclusionary politics. But his efforts are being severely undermined by the hard-line politics of an overwhelming number of conservative Republicans.

I emphasize again the importance of the language issues in H.R. 9 which must be resolved in favor of greater inclusion and assistance for language minorities in the extension of the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Speaker, I request that the article titled "House May Chill Bush's Wooing of Latino Voters," by Charles Babington, published on June 30, 2006 in the Washington Post, be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOUSE MAY CHILL BUSH'S WOOING OF LATINO VOTERS

(By Charles Babington)

By pushing English-only policies and tough measures against illegal immigrants, House conservatives are endangering President Bush's goal of drawing millions of Latino voters to the Republican Party and helping realign ethnic politics for years to come, according to an array of analysts and officials.

The latest blow to Bush's efforts to woo Hispanics came last week, when a band of House Republicans unexpectedly balked at renewing the 1965 Voting Rights Act, partly because of a 30-year-old requirement that many local governments provide bilingual ballots. The revolt, which forced House GOP leaders to abruptly postpone a vote, came as House Republicans are stiffening their resistance to Bush's bid to allow pathways to legal status for millions of illegal immigrants while also strengthening borders and deportation efforts.

"It's sort of a double whammy," said Sen. Mel Martinez (R-Fla.), a Cuban native who is among the GOP's most visible Hispanic leaders. Under Bush's leadership, he said in an interview, "our party has shown a very welcoming approach to the emerging Hispanic vote." However, he said, "there obviously are those who feel that's not important. . . . I think there could be great political risks to becoming the party of exclusion and not a party of inclusion."

While the stalemate over immigration legislation will be difficult to break, House leaders predict they eventually will quell the conservative rebellion over the Voting Rights Act and reauthorize the law for 25 years.

But the depth of House GOP support for English-only policies was demonstrated Wednesday night, when an overwhelming majority of Republicans voted to end funding for the bilingual ballots provision. The effort, led by Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-Fla.), failed only because 192 Democrats joined 61 Republicans to vote against it.

The actions have embarrassed the White House and inflamed many Latinos.

"It's offensive and insulting," said Cecilia Muñoz, vice president for policy for the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest Latino civil rights and advocacy group. She said the national Republican Party is running "a real risk" of replicating the blunder that began unraveling the California GOP in 1994.

That's when then-Gov. Pete Wilson (R) backed a ballot initiative barring illegal immigrants from attending public schools or receiving social services. The ensuing uproar drove hundreds of thousands of Latino voters into Democrats' arms. The state has backed Democratic presidential and senatorial nominees ever since.

"That is exactly the danger that is facing Republicans today," Munoz said. She praised

Bush, Republican National Committee Chairman Ken Mehlman and others who "know that immigrant-bashing is disastrous to the future of their party—and they're right."

Peter Zamora, legislative attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, said he believes that House leaders will manage to salvage the Voting Rights Act renewal. However, he said, "it will be a political challenge to explain tabling the Voting Rights Act to the Latino community if action isn't taken very soon."

Both parties are energetically courting the nation's burgeoning Hispanic population, which will become increasingly important as more second- and third-generation Latinos get involved in politics, and as more immigrants attain citizenship and the right to vote.

Most Latino voters lean Democratic, but Republicans have long felt they can chip away at that advantage. Bush—who has advocated social services and pathways to legal status for illegal immigrants since he was governor of Texas—took 40 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2004 after winning 34 percent in 2000, according to exit polls. In league with Mehlman, political adviser Karl Rove and others, Bush has urged his party to pursue Latino voters in numbers that could help keep Democrats in the minority for decades.

But some GOP activists say the drive is being undermined by the Republican-controlled House's tough stance on immigration and the flap over voting rights.

Many Southern House Republicans have long objected to the Voting Rights Act's requirement that their states obtain Justice Department approval for an array of voting activities. Last week, in a closed GOP caucus meeting, they were joined by colleagues from throughout the country who object to a measure added in 1975 that requires ballots or interpreters to be available in a number of foreign languages in places where census reports found a need for language help.

"Multilingual ballots divide our country, increase the risk of voter error and fraud, and burden local taxpayers," said a letter signed by nearly 80 House Republicans and authored by Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa).

The 2000 Census found that nearly 41 percent of all Hispanic persons 5 years and older spoke English less than "very well," and those eligible to vote needed language assistance.

John Bueno, a Republican from Michigan, is president of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, which was meeting in Dallas last week when news of the voting rights flap broke. "My first reaction was, 'My God, here we are, it's 2006, and we're still dealing with this issue,'" Bueno said. "Mainstream Republicans are frustrated right now with what's going on in Congress."

Latino Democrats, meanwhile, can hardly believe how Bush's overtures are being thwarted by his own party. By stressing English-only policies and stumbling on the immigration and Voting Rights Act issues, congressional Republicans "either made the best case for switching the Congress from Republican to Democratic control, or they made the best case for their own incompetence," said Pedro Colon, a Wisconsin legislator who attended the Dallas convention. "As a Democrat, I'm really optimistic about our opportunities."

REGARDING THE RECENT ATTACKS IN LEBANON BY THE TERRORIST GROUP HEZBOLLAH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn yesterday's brutal attack by a terrorist group on Israel, which took the lives of eight Israeli Defense Forces soldiers and captured two others, on the Israel-Lebanon border.

The actions of the terrorist organization, Hezbollah, against Israel are unconscionable. Instead of working towards peace, Hezbollah has chosen to perpetuate the violence. Terrorist attacks such as these are cowardly actions that resolve nothing. From the South, Israel has been attacked by the terrorist organization Hamas with Kassam rockets and had one of her soldiers kidnapped. Hezbollah's current terrorist assault from the North does not further any legitimate peace process. The timing of these aggressions only serves to enhance the existing tensions in the region.

Israel has complied with the U.N. charter and has completely withdrawn from Lebanon since May 2000. Now it is time for the Lebanese government to abide by the U.N.'s rules. In refusing to disarm Hezbollah as required by U.N. Resolution 1559, the Lebanese government is choosing to openly ignore the decree of the international body.

I call upon Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora to accept responsibility and take immediate action against the terrorist group which Lebanon harbors.

Let us not be misled into believing these attacks arise from a single source. The terrorist organizations, Hezbollah and Hamas, are unquestionably sponsored and guided by the Iranian and Syrian governments. The United States Congress must not allow the Iranian government to use bloodshed as a deflecting tactic against U.S. attention from their unrestricted nuclear program. The Syrian and Iranian governments should be condemned along with the terrorist groups they harbor.

In response to these brutal attacks by terrorists, Israel must have the right to defend herself. Like the United States and other sovereign nations, Israel is justified in reestablishing its deterrent posture.

I express my condolences to the families of the attacked soldiers, and offer a prayer for the safe return of the two kidnapped soldiers from the Lebanon border and the soldier kidnapped in Gaza. I pray for the ultimate end of the cycle of violence in the Middle East.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF PEARL HARBOR

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on July 14–16, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors will commence the Sixth District Convention in St. Augustine, Florida to remember those who served at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

We welcome participants to Florida's Seventh Congressional District and wish them well as they gather in America's oldest city.

It is my privilege to honor the valor and sacrifice of those Pearl Harbor veterans from the State of Florida who recently passed away:

Allfrey, Lesley F.; Altner, Louis I.; Belisle, Frank E.; Benning, Bernard F.; Bernhard, Stephen W.; Brown, Melvin W.; Capra, Everest W.; Cardonell, Robert R.; Childers, James F.; Chilton, Harry C.; Christina, William; Cohen, Leon; Cook, Harold F. (Sarge); DeStwolinska, Adelbert; Forbis, Colbert F.; Freeman, Albert H.; Grabowski, Edward S.; Haas, Frank; Hallsman, Eldred E.; Hartley, Charles W.; Henner, Joseph E.; Henry, Robert; Hiedeman, Henry R.; Hull, Burton W.; Kearns, Joseph F.; Kennedy, Earl; Krakowski, Joseph H.; Lightkep, George R.; Loun, Jasper J., Jr.; Martin, Curtis C.; McClintock, Robert, Jr.; Miller, Howard C.; Payne, Donald; Restiva, Anthony Bilano; Rhodes, Clarence G.; Savage, Norman F.; Schnurman, John D.; Smart, Raymond; Smith, Billie J.; Spradley, Lester L.; Stephenson, Joseph, Jr.; Ulrich, Jack; Whetstone, Amos C.; Williams, Wallace R.; Wilson, George; Wright, Ralph; Young, Edward F., Jr.; and Zelenock, John P.

I know I join all those in attendance at the convention and countless Americans who continue to recognize their heroism and their families incredible sacrifice to our Nation.

DEPUTY MAYOR WALCOTT CELEBRATES CARIBBEAN HERITAGE WEEK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dennis Walcott, New York City's Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development for enthusiastically joining the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and envoys from Grenada, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago in celebrating the Caribbean Week.

I was a co-sponsor of the recent bill (H. Con. Res. 51) that declared the month of June as the Caribbean Heritage Month in order to recognize and applaud the contributions of the Caribbean-American communities to the United States. I have participated in celebratory activities in the said communities, including those in my district, such as parades, carnivals and festivals to commemorate this month and present an opportunity to explore the diversity within the Islands.

Mr. Walcott has joined me in this celebration. A celebrity cricket match, a Caribbean Gospelfest, Town Hall meetings featuring Ministers of tourism from the region, a Caribbean Fair at South Street Seaport, and cooking demonstrations by some of the region's top chefs has taken the city by storm. Mr. Walcott, who traces his origin to the islands of Barbados and St. Croix, envisions a win-win tourism relationship between the Islands and New York City, as well as the Nation.

Mr. Speaker I wish to enter into the RECORD, the article from the June 27, 2006 edition of The New York Carib News, titled Deputy Mayor Walcott Embraces Caribbean Week.

DEPUTY MAYOR WALCOTT EMBRACES CARIBBEAN WEEK

NEW YORK.—According to Dennis Walcott, New York City's Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development, the recent Caribbean Week in New York, staged by the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), is deeply important to the City of New York and people and nations of the Caribbean.

Walcott underscored the importance of the Diaspora to the City, and said Caribbean Week is a reinforcement of his personal roots as well as a reminder of the importance of the Caribbean here. Walcott, who traces his roots to the islands of Barbados and St. Croix, said Caribbean-Americans are key players in the running of New York City.

Caribbean Week presents an opportunity for people to understand the diversity of the Caribbean, and according to Walcott appreciate the various countries that are part of the Diaspora of the Caribbean. The Deputy Mayor envisions a win-win tourism relationship between the City of New York and CTO member nations.

A celebrity cricket match, a Caribbean Gospelfest, Town Hall meetings featuring Ministers of Tourism from the region, a Caribbean Fair at the South Street Seaport, the popular Media Marketplace and cooking demonstrations with some of the region's top chefs, were some of the exciting events that took the City by storm during Caribbean Week in New York.

Addressing a town hall meeting at Medgar Evers College in the borough of Brooklyn, Ministers of Tourism from Grenada, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago told the audience about the importance of tourism to their respective economies, and updated nationals on crime fighting strategies in their territories.

Minister Brenda Hood unveiled plans to work with the VFR (Visiting Friends and Relatives) market, and pledged her commitment to review proposals from the Diaspora media and communications community to promote Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique in the marketplace.

CONGRATULATING DECLARA NIXON BAILEY ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend DeClara Nixon Bailey on her one-hundredth birthday. Born on August 13, 1906 in Midway, Texas, Mrs. Bailey has contributed an entire lifetime to serving her fellow Texans.

While in Midway, Texas, Mrs. Bailey was an elementary school teacher. By balancing a life of career and family, she stood as an exemplary female representative and role model, in an otherwise male dominated society. Her passion to serve the community and her constant strive towards meritocracy is an example for us all.

In 1954, Mrs. Bailey moved to the greater Dallas area where she volunteered her time to mentally challenged students at the John Neely Bryan Elementary School.

In the 1960's, Mrs. Bailey's devotion to assisting the disadvantaged allowed her to become Volunteer Captain for the American Heart Association in Dallas. Her amazing ambition drove her to also volunteer her time at the Dallas Family Hospital.