

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor the 36th President of the United States, a great Texan and American, Lyndon Baines Johnson, by passing this resolution naming the headquarters of the Department of Education the "Lyndon Baines Johnson Federal Building." President Johnson's lifelong commitment to improving the American education system and the lives of children across the United States makes him a perfect choice for this honor.

President Johnson, known as the "Education President," made education a top priority of his Great Society programs, with an emphasis on helping poor children. This commitment resulted in the passage of the "Elementary and Secondary Education Act" and the "Higher Education Act" in 1965.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act was the first comprehensive federal education program that provided substantial funds for elementary and secondary schools. This Act funded schools progressively, giving impoverished districts financial support to allow them to fund schools adequately.

The Higher Education Act also greatly improved our educational system by expanding access to higher education for low-income students. The Act established new grants, federal loans and work-study programs that have given innumerable students the opportunity to take advantage of their potential and go to college.

President Johnson also established the Head Start program, which has been critical to ensuring that low-income children have access to pre-school programs. Years of experience have shown that early childhood education leads to improved academic performance and life outcomes. Since its inception, the Head Start program has given over 22 million low-income children the opportunity to take advantage of early childhood education.

President Johnson's commitment to educating all American children was also evidenced by his appointment of the great justice Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court. Justice Marshall rose to prominence by winning the historic *Brown v. Board* case as chief counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. By outlawing segregation in our schools, this case for the first time gave American children hope for the future, regardless of the color of their skin. That President Johnson was willing to appoint as justice a man who had dedicated so much of his life to justice for American children shows the commitment of President Johnson himself to this noble goal.

No president in the history of our great nation has shown a greater level of dedication to

the education of our children than President Johnson. I believe that it is just and fitting that the Department of Education headquarters be named in honor of a man with such unparalleled commitment to the education of our nation's children. I commend my colleague Mr. GENE GREEN from Texas for introducing this resolution.

D.C. HOUSE VOTING RIGHTS BILL OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 12, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the bipartisan bill we introduce today is a culmination of four years of during which Democrats and Republicans have worked together to accomplish a common goal for Utah and the District of Columbia. This effort has been worth every minute, as we are poised to clear the high hurdle to equal citizenship in the People's House—the House of Representatives. Representative TOM DAVIS (R-VA) and I have worked together on many tough bills and have gotten a fair number passed. Still, the bill we introduce today has surely been the toughest, has required the most work for us both, and has taken the most time. I am most grateful to Representative DAVIS who found the balance that makes this bill possible, modeled most recently on Alaska and Hawaii, both admitted to the Union in 1959 after Congress assured itself that their entry would benefit both parties. TOM DAVIS did not stop with his good idea but has worked relentlessly to reach this milestone. Speaker NANCY PELOSI has long fought for the rights of D.C. residents. It was she who personally insisted that this legislation go forward without delay as a bill of historic importance. Majority Leader STENY HOYER, my regional friend for years, has been an especially outspoken champion of this bill. Throughout this process Chairman HENRY WAXMAN (D-CA) has been a central figure, making every possible effort to ensure we would reach this day. From the very beginning, Chairman JOHN CONYERS (D-MI) as a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and a member of the Judiciary Committee has fought for our full rights throughout his years in Congress, pressing all along until as chair he will now preside over the committee that will send this bill to the floor. Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. and the entire Utah delegation have been steadfast and determined throughout.

TOM and I have understood that the essential metric required bringing both parties with us, not only bipartisanship in the usual sense but equivalence, that is no partisan gain and no partisan disadvantage. We have gone through many variations, beginning with TOM's original proposal, where the D.C. House seat would have included some Maryland residents. TOM then accepted our notion that a

D.C. stand-alone seat would be best and less controversial all around, and the talks and proposals proceeded. We since have tried several scenarios for moving the bill. I continued to keep my bill, the No Taxation Without Representation Act for the full representation that will never abandon until a bill agreeable to all could be fashioned.

The District of Columbia has waited 200 years to gain the equal citizenship rights they deserve and seek. The framers were clear that American citizens are entitled to equal representation in the House. Our status as second in the United States in federal income taxes that support our government argues indisputably for equivalent rights. However, in this time of war with residents serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, our bill for congressional voting rights for D.C. residents must and I believe will not be denied.

Finally, I hope I can be forgiven a personal moment. Throughout this process, I have never referred to the District's vote as my vote or what the vote would mean to me personally because it will not belong to me. I have never mentioned the special reason I personally wanted to be the first to cast that vote because this bill is for D.C. residents now and in the future, not for me. However, my 16 years in Congress has been defined by the search for some way to get full representation for the city where my family has lived since before the Civil War. That search has included the two-day debate followed by a vote on statehood more than 10 years ago, and the vote I won in the Committee of the Whole. The struggle has been driven by its own terms, by the here and now. Yet, I cannot deny the personal side of this quest, epitomized by my family of native Washingtonians, my father Coleman Holmes, my grandfather, Richard Holmes, who entered the D.C. Fire Department in 1902 and whose picture hangs in my office, a gift from the D.C. Fire Department, but especially my great-grandfather, Richard Holmes, a slave who walked off a Virginia plantation in the 1850s, made it to Washington, and settled our family here. By definition, subliminal motivation is unknown and unfelt. However, when TOM and I knew that we had reached the best agreement we could, I thought openly of my family. I thought especially of the man I never knew. I thought of Richard Holmes, a slave in the District until Lincoln freed the slaves here nine months before the Emancipation Proclamation. I thought of my great grandfather who came here in a furtive search for freedom itself, not the vote on the House floor. I thought of what a man who lived as a slave in the District, and others like him would think if his great-granddaughter becomes the first to cast the first full vote for the District of Columbia on the House floor. I hope to have the special honor of casting the vote I have sought for 16 years. I want to cast that vote for the residents of this city whom I have had the great privilege of representing and who have fought and have waited for so long. Yes, and I want to cast that vote in memory of my great-grandfather, Richard Holmes.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE CITIZENS
INVOLVEMENT IN CAMPAIGNS
(CIVIC) ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 12, 2007

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today Representative PAUL KANJORSKI and I are introducing bipartisan legislation to establish a program of limited tax credits and tax deductions to get average Americans more involved in the political process. This bill, the Citizens Involvement in Campaigns (CIVIC) Act, will broaden the base of political contributors and limit the influence of big money donors in federal elections.

We need to take a fresh look at innovative approaches to campaign finance reform, with special attention paid to ideas that encourage, and not restrict, greater participation in our campaigns. Toward this end, I have been advocating tax credits and deductions for small political contributions for many years. An updated tax credit system would be a simple and effective means of balancing the influence of big money donors and bringing individual contributors back to our campaigns. The impact of this counterweight will reduce the burden of raising money, as well as the appearance of impropriety that accompanies the money chase.

Most would agree that the ideal way to finance political campaigns is through a broad base of donors. But, as we are all painfully aware, the economic realities of modern-day campaigning lead many candidates to focus most of their efforts on collecting funds from a few large donors. This reality alienates many Americans from the political process.

The concept of empowering small donors is not a new idea. For example, from 1972 to 1986, the federal government offered a tax credit for small political contributions. This provided an incentive for average Americans to contribute to campaigns in small amounts while simultaneously encouraging politicians to solicit donations from a larger pool of contributors. Currently, 6 geographically and politically diverse States (Oregon, Minnesota, Ohio, Virginia, Arkansas, and Arizona) offer their own tax credits for political contributions. These state-level credits vary in many respects, but all share the same goal of encouraging average Americans to become more involved.

The CIVIC Act can begin the process of building this counterweight for federal elections. This bill is designed to encourage Americans who ordinarily do not get involved in politics beyond casting a vote every 2 or 4 years (that is, if they bother to vote at all) to become more active participants in our political process.

The CIVIC Act will reestablish and update the discontinued federal tax credit. Taxpayers can choose between a 100 percent tax credit for political contributions to Federal candidates or national political parties (limited to \$200 per taxable year), or a 100 percent tax deduction (limited to \$600 per taxable year). Both limits, of course, are doubled for joint returns. As long as political parties and candidates promote the existence of these credits, the program can have a real impact and aid in making elections more grassroots affairs than they are today.

A limited tax credit for political contributions can be a bipartisan, cost-efficient method for helping balance the influence of large money donors in the American electoral process. Instead of driving away most Americans from participation in political life, we can offer an invitation for citizens to play a larger role in political campaigns. It seems to me that this will be a fruitful way to clean up our system, while at the same time convincing Americans that they actually have a meaningful stake in elections.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 12, 2007

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, on Friday, March 9, 2007, I was absent from Rollcall votes 132, 133, 134 and 135 due to official business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Rollcall vote 132, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 720, the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007.

On Rollcall 133 for the Baker Amendment to H.R. 720, I would have voted "aye." I strongly oppose extending Davis-Bacon requirements for construction under H.R. 720.

On Rollcall vote 134, the motion to recommit H.R. 720, I would have voted "aye."

Finally, on Rollcall vote 135, final passage of H.R. 720, I would have voted "nay."

I ask that my statement appear in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING LYNBROOK
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 12, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lynbrook Elementary School on their 50th anniversary.

Located in Springfield, Virginia, Lynbrook Elementary School opened its doors on February 11, 1957. Although it opened on that day and was dedicated a month later, the school continued to take shape over the next twenty years as the local population boomed and the true needs of the community were realized. An air-conditioning system, a gymnasium, a music room, additional classrooms and "the pod" were all added to create the Lynbrook that we know today. Additionally, in 1976 a contest was held to select a new school mascot. Out of this contest, and the imagination of a young Wee Lane Yee, Lenny the Leprechaun was born.

The school continued to evolve through the end of the last century. In the 1980's many of Lynbrook's long standing traditions, including "Shamrock Shindigs" and the medieval fair, were started. Also, the students began publishing the schools first newspaper, The Four Leaf Clover, which remains in circulation today.

Lynbrook strives to stay true to its long standing mission statement: to provide a safe environment where all students will become

lifelong learners and develop a positive sense of self-worth and an appreciation among students, staff and community for all diverse backgrounds and experiences.

To that end, the school is constantly seeking to improve its strong relations with its students, parents and community. The students' academic, social and emotional learning are met utilizing proven instructional strategies. Families are encouraged to participate in PTA events, such as: family nights, socials, concerts, student programs and cultural events. Additionally, Lynbrook has been repeatedly recognized for its students' active participation in the Marine Corps Marathon Healthy Kid Fun Run. All of these factors demonstrate a concerted effort on behalf of the school's faculty to mold the young people at Lynbrook Elementary into well rounded, high-functioning adolescents.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate all of the students, faculty and parents who have played such an integral part in the establishment and growth of this fine academic institution. I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lynbrook Elementary School on its 50th anniversary and in wishing them many more years of continued academic success.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID IVORY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 12, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor David Ivory, former Fort Worth city manager, who passed away on Friday, March 9, 2007. Mr. Ivory was known by many as a loyal, trustworthy, and dedicated public servant.

Mr. Ivory served his country for two years in Korea, achieving the rank of Lieutenant. In 1973, he received his master's degree in public administration from Brigham Young University. He also served in the Utah state legislature for a brief time.

After moving to the City of Fort Worth, Mr. Ivory served in many City Hall positions, ultimately being named city manager in 1989. His achievements include involvement in numerous economic developments, such as the annexation of the Perot Group's 5600 acres in North Fort Worth and the creation of Alliance Airport.

Mr. Ivory was 62 years old, at the time of his passing. He is survived by his wife, Margery; his son, Charles; and his daughter, Angela. I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to the Ivory family; my thoughts are with them as they endure this difficult time. The City of Fort Worth has lost a devoted public servant and a great man.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PRIVATE
KELLY YOUNGBLOOD, U.S. ARMY,
OF MESA, ARIZONA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 12, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of Private Kelly