

False Claims Act but for the public disclosures of the “whistleblower,” that “whistleblower” should be allowed an award under the False Claims Act.

Madam Speaker, this bill cannot help Mr. Stone. Not only did he lose his legal effort to recover as a “whistleblower,” regrettably, he died shortly after the Supreme Court issued its decision in his case. A short obituary from the Rocky Mountain News appears below.

But the bill’s purpose is to properly respect and encourage the efforts of “whistleblowers” like Mr. Stone who call out possible fraud, waste and abuse of taxpayer money. We should not find ways to keep them from the courthouse door, but rather should find ways to keep that door open—and even responsibly widen it—so that “whistleblowers” can have their day in court and seek the compensation they deserve. This bill will help in that regard, and it is a fitting way to remember and honor the courageous efforts of Mr. Stone and others like him.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Apr. 12, 2007]

ROCKY FLATS WHISTLE-BLOWER DIES AT 82
JAMES STONE RECENTLY LOST BID FOR \$1
MILLION

(By Laura Frank and Ann Imse)

James Stone was an engineer to the core. And that made it impossible for him to leave a problem until it was solved.

His hardscrabble life in a Depression-era orphanage and his hard-won engineering degree led to his career-defining challenge: being the chief whistle-blower on environmental crimes at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons site near Denver.

“He would work on a problem round the clock,” son Bob said. “That’s what got him in trouble at Rocky Flats. He wanted to solve the problems, not ignore them.”

Stone, who suffered from Alzheimer’s, died Wednesday at the Julia Temple Center in Englewood. He was 82.

Stone, who worked at Rocky Flats from 1980 to 1986, was the first Flats insider to go to the FBI with details of the radioactive pollution released by the site contractor, Rockwell International.

Rockwell pleaded guilty to 10 environmental crimes and paid \$18.5 million in fines.

Stone filed a whistle-blower fraud case against Rockwell and won \$4.2 million in damages for the federal government. Just two weeks ago, after an 18-year fight, the U.S. Supreme Court denied him a \$1 million share in those damages.

“He died with nothing more than the clothes on his back and the love of his family and friends,” Bob Stone said. “I know if he had it to do all over again, even knowing how it turned out, he would have done it just the same.”

Stone was born in 1924. His parents couldn’t afford to keep him during the Depression, his son said, so he went to a Catholic orphanage in St. Louis. As a young teen, a family with a coal business took him in.

Barred from World War II because of a hearing problem, he worked on engineering jobs in Alaska, on the Air Force Academy chapel and on the Brown Palace heating system. He worked on missile silos in Idaho and Wyoming, and surveyed a pipeline across Greenland. He also invented a sewage treatment system for rural mountain homes and a municipal trash incinerator.

Stone helped design Rocky Flats before it opened in 1952, and he warned against the location “because Denver was downwind a few miles away,” said his longtime attorney and friend Hartley Alley.

Jon Lipsky, the FBI agent who led the 1989 raid on Rocky Flats, said Stone “was the

first one who worked at the plant to talk to me.”

Stone’s job was to identify problems at the plant and recommend solutions. So he was able to give the FBI a road map, Alley said.

Alley said Stone was the source of a key allegation in the FBI search warrant—that Rockwell was incinerating radioactive waste in secret at night. That charge was dropped when Rockwell settled the criminal case, and prosecutors said it wasn’t true. But Alley says he had two other clients who witnessed it.

Stone’s motivation for filing the whistle-blower lawsuit in 1989 was patriotic, Alley said. “He felt the people who operated Rocky Flats in the 1980s were guilty of treason” by building nuclear weapons that wouldn’t explode, Alley said.

In the fraud suit, Stone alleged that Rockwell was defrauding the government by taking money for building faulty weapons while polluting the environment. Proving faulty production was impossible because the evidence was classified, Alley said.

Jim Stone “wasn’t afraid of jumping into anything,” his son said. “The world is a better place with people like him.”

Stone is survived by his wife Virginia, sons Bob, of Lakewood, and Randy, of Wheat Ridge, five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his eldest son, James Stone Jr.

TRIBUTE TO BRUNA MICHAUX

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bruna Michaux for her 43 years of service to the City of Buffalo. Ms. Michaux has provided exemplary service to the city and has consistently demonstrated leadership and notable dedication and professionalism to the Department of Assessment and Taxation.

I would like to briefly touch on the many areas of service that Bruna has been involved with since she was hired by the city in 1964 as a stenographer in the audit department. As a senior tax administrator from 1977 to 1987, she initiated and implemented significant changes to the internal structure of the Tax Division that have ultimately resulted in improved service to the public.

Bruna always fulfilled her duties with integrity and upheld standards in the community. After urging city officials that Buffalo wasn’t holding property owners responsible for unpaid taxes, Bruna was able to take part in the creation of the city’s first property foreclosure auction in March 1981. This accomplishment greatly helped to facilitate and increase tax collections. Five years later in 1986, Bruna had an integral role in getting the city committed to a reassessment process that mandates each parcel is reviewed every 6 years. The reassessment process corrects inequities in tax assessments.

Bruna also served as director of parking enforcement from 1987 until 1994, a position that her father had held years earlier. As in all other roles, Bruna held the position with dignity and commitment.

Ms. Michaux eventually returned to the Department of Assessment and Taxation in January of 1994. In 2003, she was named commissioner, and since then has continued to promote public trust and maintain the professionalism and integrity of the department.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that the City of Buffalo is a better place thanks to the years of selfless commitment and sense of justice brought forth by Bruna Michaux. I ask that you join me in applauding Bruna for her great accomplishments while serving the City and wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3074) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I supported the Hunter/Kaptur amendment because we should not be funding the Security and Prosperity Partnership until the White House tells us what it is and what their plans are. The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America website says that its goals are about eliminating red tape and increasing security. Those are noble goals. But unless the White House is willing to tell us what they really have in mind, we shouldn’t have them spend money on it.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3074) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3074, the Fiscal Year 2008 Department of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill. My colleagues, I think that it is incredibly appropriate that we are here talking about housing today. Forty years ago this week, whole sections of Detroit were engulfed in flames and 43 people died amid 6 days of gunfire, looting and chaos. While there were many reasons for this unrest, one of the biggest was lack of quality, affordable housing; while affordable housing continues to be one of our nation’s most pressing problems, H.R. 3074 makes a number of significant strides in improving the status quo.

Despite the President’s desire to cut Section 8 tenant-based vouchers and possibly force

up to 80,000 families and individuals on the street, this appropriation legislation includes an increase in funding of \$330 million for tenant-based vouchers and nearly \$667 million for projected-based vouchers in order to renew all current Section 8 vouchers, so no one who has a tenant-based voucher will lose it. In addition, included within this amount is \$30 million for 4,000 new, targeted vouchers for homeless veterans and for non-elderly people with disabilities.

Once again this year the President's budget proposed eliminating the HOPE VI program, the highly successful program that revitalizes distressed and obsolete public housing projects. Instead, by providing \$120 million, \$21 million over 2007, Congress has ensured that HOPE VI projects will continue to help transform and revitalize communities across the United States.

Finally, by allocating \$64.5 billion to the Department of Transportation, H.R. 3074 will safeguard the regional needs of our Nation and invest in transit projects for urban areas to help commuters save time and money getting to work. The bill likewise rejects the President's deep cuts to AMTRAK, protecting our national passenger rail system, and it fully funds the highway and transit guarantees set in the SAFETEA-LU authorization bill.

With final passage of this bill today, we in the House of Representatives will be addressing the important challenges of keeping our Nation's transportation system safe and strong, ensuring that every American has adequate shelter, and doing so in a way that strengthens the economy.

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES
INTERNATIONAL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significant contributions made by the Living Word Ministries International Church under the leadership of Bishop John Brannon to the Colorado Springs community. As they near their 4-year anniversary on August 27, 2007, I commend Bishop Brannon and his congregation for their courageous and tireless efforts to reach all of God's people and provide for them the skills to likewise teach others about the life-altering power of the Gospel.

As a non-denominational church, Living Word Ministries International, LWMI, is devoted to bridging the gaps that keep God's people separate and alienated from one another. Through scriptural study, comprehensive prayer, dynamic worship, and focused group ministries, LWMI has successfully created a body of believers capable of reaching the un-churched in the Colorado Springs region and beyond. Currently, Brannon's church is involved in missions in more than seven States and four foreign countries. This is truly a church without walls.

They also seek to provide a comfortable and functional location for the base of their ministries and their weekly church services. On July 22, my wife and I had the privilege of attending the dedication ceremony for their new church building. I was touched and im-

pressed by the sincerity of their efforts to reach ever higher toward the glory of God.

Today, I offer my sincere congratulations to LWMI for all they have achieved since 2003 to the benefit of my constituents in Colorado Springs. I trust and pray that their ministry will only continue to expand in size and effectiveness over the years to come so that they may share their joy and passion with even more of our local and global community.

TRIBUTE TO AMHERST POLICE
CHIEF JOHN J. MOSLOW, JR.

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, with great appreciation I rise today to honor a dedicated and highly respected law enforcement officer who for more than 32 years steadfastly served and protected the people of Amherst, NY.

Amherst Police Chief John J. Moslow Jr. has led a life deeply committed to service, to justice, to making his community a better place. In charge of the region's largest suburban police force for 8 years, Chief Moslow rolled up countless accomplishments, winning awards for his law enforcement initiatives and accolades for his deft management of high-profile cases. But more than awards and accolades can attest, during his 32 years on the force Chief Moslow has earned the utmost respect of area leaders, local officials and his fellow officers. With his straightforward and effective leadership, Chief Moslow indeed has left the Amherst Police Department stronger than he found it.

Chief Moslow joined the department in 1975 shortly after serving his country in another capacity, as a soldier in the Vietnam War. After serving as patrolman for 6 years, Chief Moslow began his steady rise in the force when he was promoted to patrol lieutenant in 1981. Known for his discipline and professionalism, Chief Moslow was made captain starting in 1989, serving in several different capacities for 10 years before being promoted to chief in 1999.

During his tenure, Chief Moslow led the department through times of unprecedented challenges and met each one head on. Whether it was adapting to the new security realities of a post-September 11th world or responding to surprise snowstorms, Chief Moslow took decisive action and improved the performance of his department every step of the way. His long list of achievements include the department's increased community police presence, investments in new crime-fighting and life-saving technology, the implementation of a new community emergency notification system and the establishment of the Amherst Police Foundation. Also on Chief Moslow's watch, every murder case was solved, each one brought to justice. As he goes on to serve as Chief of Security of the Eighth Judicial District, serving Western New York's courts, Chief Moslow's legacy in Amherst will certainly live on.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous service for more than 32 years to the people of Amherst, NY, for his leadership,

his dedication and the lasting legacy he leaves, I ask this Honorable Body join me in honoring Chief John J. Moslow Jr.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL ALLOWING
AMERICAN PARTICIPATION
IN CUBAN ENERGY EXPLO-
RATION PROJECTS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to permit Americans and American companies to take part in exploring for and development of energy resources offshore of Cuba and other nearby countries.

The bill would make an exception to all laws, Executive Orders, and regulations that now prohibit exports to or imports from Cuba or transactions in property in which a Cuban national has an interest. This exception would apply to transactions necessary for the exploration for and development of hydrocarbon resources—such as petroleum or natural gas—from offshore areas under the control of Cuba or another foreign government that are contiguous to the exclusive economic zone of the United States. The bill would also permit Americans to travel to, from, and within Cuba in connection with such exploration and development activities.

Madam Speaker, since coming to Congress I have supported efforts to relax some of the unduly restrictive laws and policies that prevent American companies from doing business in Cuba. The legislation I am introducing today would continue those efforts.

It responds to a U.S. Geological Survey report published last year that estimates some 4.6 billion barrels of oil and 9.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas could lie offshore from Cuba, in the North Cuba Basin.

Cuba's share of the Gulf of Mexico was established in 1977 through treaties with the United States and Mexico. So there is no dispute about the status of the area, and it is my understanding that Cuba has divided its offshore territory into 59 exploration blocs and opened them up to foreign companies in 1999. Already, several foreign companies have indicated interest in some of these blocs, including a Canadian firm as well as companies from China and Venezuela.

However, our trade embargo continues to prevent American companies from seeking similar opportunities. I think this makes no sense, and the bill I am introducing today would change that. Under the bill, the only restriction would be that any exploration or development by an American company offshore from Cuba would be subject to the same conditions for protection of fish, wildlife, and the environment as would be the case if the activities were carried out in the parts of the outer continental shelf under the control of the United States.

Madam Speaker, I am not in favor of unlimited development of oil and gas wherever those resources may be found. In our country, I think some areas should remain off-limits to such activities, and that in some other areas it should be subject to restrictions to protect other resources and values. And if Congress