

changed in the record from a “nay” vote to a “yea” vote.

For the 11th Congressional District that I represent as well as for all of Illinois, passage of this legislation is of the utmost importance. WRDA contains instructions at my request for the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out studies and projects within my district at La-Salle and at Ballard’s Island in the Illinois River. The conference report also contains the critical updating of the lock and dam system on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, vital to Illinois farmers and exports.

In closing, I want to commend Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA for producing a good bipartisan bill again and I am hopeful that this year we can finally get this bill to the President for his signature.

ON THE DEATH OF PATRIARCH
TEOCTIST

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on Monday, July 30, Patriarch Teoctist, the head of the Romanian Orthodox Church, died in Bucharest of complications after a surgery. He was 92 years old and had not been in good health for several weeks.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Helsinki Commission, I have been very concerned and active on issues regarding the promotion of human rights and children’s rights in Romania. I have visited Romania five times—both when it was under Communist rule and since 1990—and I know Patriarch Teoctist was respected and beloved by millions of Romanians. He became patriarch in 1986, resigned immediately after the revolution in 1989 that overthrew the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu, but was recalled by the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Madam Speaker, after 1990 Teoctist promoted ecumenical dialogue. He invited Pope John Paul II to visit Romania. This visit took place in 1999 in Bucharest, where Teoctist met with Pope John Paul II, embraced him fraternally and prayed with him. What a magnificent gesture! It was the first time the Roman pontiff visited a predominantly Orthodox country since the schism of 1054.

At this time of sorrow, I wish to express my condolences to the Romanian Orthodox believers and confidence and prayers that Teoctist rest in peace.

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for bringing this important bill to the House floor.

H.R. 2831 is designed to be an important but narrow reversal of the Ledbetter decision,

without upsetting any other current law. As many of us here today know, earlier this year, the Supreme Court decision Ledbetter versus Goodyear made it much harder for workers to pursue pay discrimination claims based on the fact that plaintiffs would need to file their charge of pay discrimination within 180 days of the employer’s decision to pay them less.

What was particularly disturbing about this decision was the fact that it stripped Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of its longstanding position that every paycheck resulting from an earlier discriminatory pay decision is considered a violation of the Civil Rights Act. The importance of this consideration of each and every paycheck is vital to the CRA.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court decision was untenable. Employees often do not know what their co-workers earn, or how and when pay decisions are made. These dynamics in the workplace make it nearly impossible to file a complaint precisely when discrimination first occurs. Many times they find this out far after the fact, and thus need a filing deadline that takes this time delay into account.

The bill before us today maintains the law’s current statute of limitations and limits on back pay recovery. It states that an employee must still file a charge within the statutory filing period after receiving a discriminatory paycheck but would provide a realistic timeline consistent with the Civil Rights Act.

Again, I thank the Chairman for bringing up this bill that calls attention to the fact that we need to make our pay discrimination laws work in a much more realistic and fair way for all parties involved.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 779, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

On rollcall No. 780, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 781, I would have voted “nay.” On rollcall No. 782, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 783, I would have voted “nay.” On rollcall No. 784, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 785, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 786, I would have voted “nay.” On rollcall No. 787, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 788, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 789, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall No. 790, I would have voted “yea.”

HONORING DR. KAY HILL ON THE
OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the family, friends and colleagues who have gathered this evening to celebrate the retirement and the remarkable contributions to our community of Dr. Kay Hill—one of my dearest friends. An educator, mentor, advocate, and friend, Kay

has touched the lives of tens of thousands through her teaching, writing, and constant self-learning, even as she devoted herself to her family, through tough times and good times.

Upon graduation from Yale University, Kay began her career with the New Haven Public Schools system as an English as a Second Language instructor at the Welch School. Just a year later, she became the Supervisor of the World Language Program for 38 elementary, middle and high schools. Through intelligence, a strong work ethic, and compassion, Kay has earned the love and respect of her students and colleagues alike. It has been under her leadership that the program has grown from 24 to 80 teachers and currently has 6,370 foreign language students and 690 dual language students enrolled. Perhaps the most telling examples of the success of this program have been the outstanding achievements of its students who have excelled at the state COLT poetry recitation contest as well as on national and state exams.

Kay has always had a passion for foreign language and education. To understand her enthusiasm and her deep commitment to education, one only has to look to the inspiration she received from her parents. Her mother traveled to Paraguay at a young age on a missionary trip sponsored by her Mennonite church. It was during her time with this program that she learned the Spanish language—a passion which she passed on to Kay. Kay’s father had an illustrious career as a minister with the Church Center for the United Nations and later as a minister for world peace in Tampa, FL. Even in his retirement, he continued to make a difference as writer and editor of a social justice newsletter. Like so many of us, Kay took the lessons she learned as a child and made her own mark on the world.

In her position as supervisor for the World Language Program, she traveled extensively, opening the doors of opportunity for her students. Her first trip was to Russia where she and 30 students spent 3½ weeks touring the country visiting Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Nizhny Novgorod. Kay’s dedication to education—especially foreign language education—has been recognized on many levels. She attended an international conference for compensatory education in Paris where she was the only educator representing the United States and was sent by the Connecticut Department of Education to recruit and interview prospective educators. Just last year, Kay traveled to China with a group sponsored by the Chinese government aimed at learning more about their culture and to promote Chinese language education.

As an educator, Kay’s leadership and vision opened many doors to her students, however, it is through her dedication and love as a parent that one truly sees the difference she can make in the life of a young person. As the mother of an autistic child, Kay has diligently sought out every possible program and opportunity for her son, Peter, to learn and grow—and what a young man he is. She and her husband, Mitch, make each other stronger, as they knock down the barriers that fate has put in front of them. Reflecting their determination and leadership, their daughter, Lily, recently co-chaired the annual State Prejudice Reduction Conference—a leadership conference of more than 1,000 students from across the state.

I also must take this opportunity to thank Kay for her many years of special friendship. As an educator, parent, and colleague, Kay has inspired greatness in others, including myself—leaving an indelible mark on their lives. I am proud to join her husband, Mitch, her children, Peter and Lily, as well as all of the friends and colleagues who have gathered this evening to extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Kay Hill as she celebrates her retirement.

TURKEY PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, as a Member of the Intelligence Committee, I congratulate the nation of Turkey on its recent elections. On July 22, 2007, 43 million Turkish citizens—over 80 percent of Turkey's population—exercised their civic responsibility and went to the polls to elect Turkey's 550-member parliament for the next 5 years. The election occurred without incident or allegations of impropriety. With this election, Turkey affirmed that its democracy is alive and well, and provided an inspiring example to other nations in the region.

The election will seat three parties in Parliament: the Justice and Development Party (AKP), the Republican People's Party (CHP), and the National Action Party (MHP). In addition, 27 seats will be filled by independents.

Turkey's financial markets reacted with enthusiasm to the elections. On Monday, July 23, the Istanbul Stock Exchange (IMKB) rose by 5.08 percent, hitting a record high at one point during the day, reacting to expectations of continued stability and increased economic prosperity.

Foreign governments and world leaders praised the election process as free and fair. Numerous major media outlets, including The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times here in the United States, published positive editorials praising the "wisdom of the Turks" and noting that "democracy was affirmed."

America must cultivate and support our allies. We must reach out to moderate Muslim nations in the Middle East and build stronger relationships to repair our reputation abroad. Allies like Turkey can help foster economic and regional security. Turkey supports the Global War on Terrorism and is a critical ally in keeping nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists.

As the only democracy in the Middle East with a predominantly Muslim population, the significance of this election cannot be understated. The U.S.-Turkey relationship is critical to both nations' security. Turkey is and will continue to be an important and strategic ally of the United States. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Turkey on this impressive achievement of democracy.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation before the House that fixes a drafting error that has kept ranchers in Kansas from receiving important disaster assistance. My top priority this year has been to see that the agricultural producers in my district who have been devastated by extreme weather are given the support needed to stay on their feet and continue feeding our nation.

I was glad to see Congress recognize the importance of delivering disaster assistance to our country's hardest hit producers. I was not glad to see an error in the bill effectively prohibit ranchers from receiving this aid. A provision required ranchers to have participated in a particular insurance pilot program. The problem is that this pilot program does not exist.

Absent the fix we are making here today, some producers in Kansas, at no fault of their own, will not be in business come winter. In Kansas, we have struggled through 5 and 6 years of drought followed by last year's strong winter storms in December that caused 44 of Kansas' 105 counties to be declared natural disasters. And as you have all seen, tornadoes, hail and floods have now affected the rest of the State of Kansas. In total, 65 of the 69 counties I represent have been declared federal disaster areas this year.

I am grateful we are taking action to allow the intended disaster assistance to reach ranchers across the plains. The bill before us, the Senate version of a bill I introduced here in the House, will simply strike the one sentence in the disaster bill that is causing the problem.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation, and I ask my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, to support this bill.

HONORING THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the African Methodist Episcopal Church Sunday School Union on the occasion of its 125th anniversary. The Sunday School Union has played a critical role not only in preserving the church's history, but also in educating its members and providing an encouraging vision for the future. For over a century, the Union has been a fine contributor to the Nashville community, to the State of Tennessee, and to many parts of the world that have benefited from this organization's publications and services.

As far back as 1818, there grew a call within the African Methodist Episcopal Church for an organization that would produce suitable literature for its youth and would advocate training for its Sunday school teachers. Richard Allen, the church's founder, knew that in order for the church to grow, effective circulation of the information would be essential.

In 1847, the A.M.E. Church began considering several proposals for an organization that could achieve these goals. In 1882, after over 60 years of preparation, Reverend Charles Smith presented the final plan to the bishop in Cape May, NJ. The Department of Publications and Book Concern was created, publishing the first Sunday school literature by African-Americans. In a letter to Reverend Smith, Frederick Douglass wrote that the Union "will doubtless be a luminous point in the moral and intellectual progress of the colored people of the South."

In 1886, Reverend Smith purchased a five-story brick building on the square in Nashville for the newly founded organization. Madam Speaker, I take great pride in the fact that, since that time, Nashville has been the headquarters for the Sunday School Union.

In the years that followed, a number of dedicated and capable men led the Union. They sought to innovate the production process and to improve the quality of the publications. Reverend William Chappelle took over for Reverend Smith in 1900 as secretary-treasurer and served for 8 years. He was followed by Ira Bryant, under whose leadership the Union acquired additional property and purchased a modern printing plant. Then in 1936, E.A. Selby headed the Union, and it was during his term that the Department of Publications and the Book Concern merged with the Sunday School Union.

Reverend Charles Spivey, Sr., was elected in 1964 and served until his retirement in 1972. Upon the announcement of his retirement, Reverend Spivey made a generous donation of \$20,000 to the A.M.E. Church to help support its continued growth. Reverend Henry Belin, Jr., who followed Spivey, secured a new publishing house for the Union. Under his leadership, the Union published not only denominational materials, but also several scholarly works covering topics such as theology and history.

Reverend Belin was ordained as a bishop in 1984, and Reverend A. Lee Henderson was elected in his stead. Henderson revamped the Union's publications, giving the Sunday school literature and other publications a new look through the use of brilliant color and creative graphics.

In 2000, Reverend Dr. Johnny Barbour was elected. The efforts of Secretary-Treasurer Barbour and of Bishops Philip Cousin, Sr., McKinley Young, Gregory Ingram, and Vashti McKenzie have combined to lead the Union to its current strong state on its 125th anniversary. Because of their passion, the Union can look forward to a bright future.

This anniversary marks real accomplishment that years of perseverance have made possible. For decades, the African Methodist Episcopal Sunday School Union has focused its energy and its talent, making itself a first-class publishing institution. Today, the A.M.E. Sunday School Union continues its mission, publishing the highest quality hymnals, study courses, and church materials.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the African Methodist Episcopal Sunday