

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION TO
STUDY THE CULTURE AND GLO-
RIFICATION OF VIOLENCE IN
AMERICA ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Presidential Commission to Study the Culture and Glorification of Violence in America Act. This bill will establish a commission tasked with not only studying the culture of violence in our country, but also the factors that contribute to this culture and the actions that can be taken to mitigate its effects.

Members of this Commission will determine what connections exist between violence and access to firearms, psychological stress, and economic despair. They will further examine what role schools can play in preventing violence and propose possible solutions to address the glorification of violence in the United States.

Madam Speaker, we have become a society that places violence and aggression above hard work and acts of kindness. Sadly, children today admire gangsters instead of teachers. They would rather be thugs and drug lords than doctors and philanthropists. They measure the strength of their character by the size of their gun and not by their generosity toward others.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has found that prolonged exposure to violence in the media can increase acceptance of violence as an appropriate means of solving problems. It can glamorize weapons as sources of personal power and can contribute to aggressive behavior. It is, therefore no surprise that in 2005 alone, there were over 1.8 million serious violent crimes in America and almost 420,000 firearm-related incidents. In that same year, the Federal Government spent \$35.4 billion on criminal justice and local governments spent nearly three times that amount. Worst of all however, teens and young adults experience the highest rates of violent crime.

It is clear that we must make an effort to raise our children to recognize that violence is nothing more than the physical manifestation of fear and desperation. However, our society's glorification of violence has become so ingrained in our culture that it has become seemingly impossible to reverse.

Madam Speaker, it is our collective responsibility to create a society that values respect toward our fellow citizens. This legislation is simply a small step toward addressing what has become a destructive parasite upon the future of our country. By learning how the media and society promote violence and examining ways in which we can address this most pressing dilemma, it is my hope that we can stem the tide of violence and crime in America so that subsequent generations can live in a more peaceful nation.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the swift consideration of this bill.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

The House In Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1338) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act.

As its name suggests, this bill is about fairness. As a nation, we have made great strides in promoting fairness in the workplace since the Equal Pay Act was passed in 1963. Unfortunately, I do not think the language of that bill adequately addresses the problem of gender-based wage discrimination. In particular, the language of the Equal Pay Act offers little remedy for women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work.

The statistics describe precisely why this legislation is needed. Despite representing nearly half of the American workforce, and despite countless examples of professional women who have ascended to the highest levels of any given field, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

This bill would require that employers, in justifying unequal pay, provide evidence-based reasoning that such pay discrepancies are job-related and necessary for their business. It would help end the secret discrimination of unequal pay by prohibiting employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their coworkers. And this bill would dissuade employers from practicing gender-based pay discrimination by allowing women to sue for compensatory and punitive damages—the same sanctions that already apply to discrimination based on race, disability or age.

There are also some amendments that I think are important to prevent unscrupulous people from unfairly taking advantage of the provisions in this bill. As I said, this bill is about fairness, so I support the amendment from the gentle lady from Arizona, Ms. GIFFORDS, which would clarify that a plaintiff would have to show intent to recover any punitive damages. I also support the amendment of another good friend from Arizona and a fellow supporter of earmark reform, Mr. FLAKE, which would prohibit any funds authorized under this bill from being used for Congressional earmarks.

Women have long proven their equal measure of talent and capacity in every corner of the professional world. It's long overdue that they be compensated equally as well, so I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES E. SMITH
UPON HIS INSTALLATION AS
PASTOR OF BEREA BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize The Reverend Charles E. Smith, who will be installed as Pastor at Berea Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

Pastor Smith is a native of Texas and a longtime resident of Fort Worth, where he has raised his family. He and wife Lawsha Smith have six children. Smith graduated from the Southern Bible Institute in Dallas in 1984, and prior to that completed a Bachelor of Science degree in architecture at the University of Texas at Arlington. In the nearly 25 years since the completion of his theological training, Smith has served in various capacities in Baptist churches throughout North Texas, the most recent being his role as Associate Minister at Berea.

The multiple leadership and service awards that have been bestowed upon Pastor Smith testify to the fact that this is a man who is dedicated to excellence in serving his community. In addition to his service in a religious capacity, he has also positively contributed to his community as a Campus Learning Coordinator and Chancellor's Leadership Committee member at Tarrant County College.

Madam Speaker, I commend Pastor Smith for his longstanding service to Fort Worth and to the members of the Baptist congregations whom he has so capably served. It is an honor to represent Pastor Charles Smith and Berea Baptist Church in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

THE LOSS OF PHIL RUHLE, SR.

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of an important local figure, Captain Phil Ruhle, Sr., affectionately known to so many as Captain Phil. A resident of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, Captain Phil was lost at sea on July 23rd when his fishing boat capsized off the New Jersey shore. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

An experienced fisherman who spent the majority of his life fishing the Atlantic Ocean, Captain Phil was deeply devoted to his career, and his passion for responsible fishing was unparalleled. Born in Oceanside, NY, he moved to Rhode Island early in life. He hails from a long line of fishermen, including his grandfather, father and brother, and his son has followed in his footsteps. Throughout his life, Captain Phil was tested many times. Twice before, he was aboard a fishing vessel that sank. However, despite those setbacks, he continued to persevere and pursue his passion in life.

Captain Phil will be remembered as one who strongly advocated for those in his field,

applying his vast knowledge and determination to serve as a key voice for the fishing industry. Most notably, he worked with fishermen and researchers to develop the "Eliminator" trawl, designed to catch haddock while reducing by-catch of cod and flounder, permitting a faster recovery of depleted stocks and benefiting the entire industry. I had the opportunity to see the trawl first-hand just a few weeks ago on a visit to Galilee, Rhode Island. While there, I also had the pleasure of discussing a variety of policy matters with the Captain's son, Phil, Jr. I know his dad would have been proud of his deep knowledge and commitment to the issues that impact their industry.

Captain Phil engaged deeply in policy matters, representing Rhode Island on the New England Fisheries Management Council. He was a familiar face in my office, frequently visiting and calling to keep us apprised of the most recent developments in fisheries policy and regulations. I appreciated his advice and his counsel, and he will be deeply missed.

Captain Phil is survived by his mother, Gloria, his wife, Donna, his children Phil Jr., Roger, and Alicia, and seven grandchildren. May we keep his loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period.

With this loss, we are reminded that fishing is an important but dangerous profession. I ask that we all remember the sacrifices that have been made and that we pray for the safe return of all those away at sea.

34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DIVISION OF CYPRUS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the unfortunate division of the island nation of Cyprus that began 34 years ago this July.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey dispatched thousands of armed forces to the island of Cyprus. As a result of this action, Cyprus remains divided to this day. 43,000 Turkish troops still occupy a significant portion of the island nation, which is enough for one Turkish soldier per each Turkish Cypriot. The presence of these troops is in spite of the clear preference for a peaceful and mutually acceptable solution demonstrated by all inhabitants of Cyprus. Nonetheless, there are positive indications for the island's future.

The willingness of both Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot leaders to pursue reunification talks is heartening. We in the U.S. Congress were pleased to see that last Friday, July 25, leaders of the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities jointly announced that they have decided to start full-fledged Cyprus settlement negotiations on September 3, 2008, under the good offices mission of the U.N. Secretary-General.

It is essential that these talks result in the reunification of Cyprus as a bicomunal and bizonal federation that respects human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots. The removal of Turkish forces will allow this process to go forward.

I join with other proponents of a peaceful solution on Cyprus in supporting the recent

steps taken by the divided nation's leaders. However, an acceptable political solution will only be possible if the international community continues to press for more substantive reconciliatory actions in the future. While the United Nations has passed numerous resolutions condemning the division of Cyprus, Turkey continues to maintain more troops on the island than the United States has in Afghanistan. This is a clear indication that more must be done by the international community to make clear that the militarization of Cyprus is unacceptable.

As the more than 13 million incident-free crossings of the line dividing the Turkish-Cypriot and Greek-Cypriot portions of the island attest, the people of Cyprus are hungry for a peaceful reconciliation of their island. So am I. The goal of the United States and of the international community must be the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus, the institution of democratic institutions and practices there, and the peaceful resolution to this decades-old dispute in a manner that respects the human and democratic rights of all the people who call Cyprus their home.

As we move into the 35th year since the division of Cyprus, I urge my colleagues to remember the tragic events of the past on this small island nation. At the same time, I pledge to the people of Cyprus that the United States stands with them in their quest for an expeditious and peaceful solution to the division of their home island.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
REGION OF THE CHRISTIAN
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a church whose dedication and contributions to the community of southern California are exceptional. Southern California is fortunate to have dedicated religious organizations that willingly and unselfishly give their time to make their communities a better place to live, work and worship. From August 24, 2008 to August 27, 2008 Amos Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal, C.M.E., Church in Riverside, led by Pastor Julio A. Andujo, will serve as host for the 2008 Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Church Conference.

The Conference will take place at the Riverside Convention Center in Riverside, California. The Right Reverend Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District of the C.M.E. Church will convene the annual conference.

The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church came into existence following the issuance of the historic Emancipation Proclamation, which signaled the movement from slavery to freedom, and gave former slaves the dignity and honor to worship in their own church.

On December 16, 1870, in Jackson, Tennessee, 41 delegates from the Colored Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South organized their own separate and independent religious organization, chose a name for their Church and met all the requirements of the American Methodism.

The C.M.E. Church successfully met the challenges of providing higher education by establishing such historically African-American colleges as Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee, 1882; Paine College, Augusta, Georgia, 1882; Texas College, Tyler, Texas, 1884; Miles College, Birmingham, Alabama, 1905; and the Phillips School of Theology, 1958, Atlanta, Georgia.

Through the years the C.M.E. has shown a remarkable sensitivity to the spirit of changing times as evidenced by the 1954 resolution by the General Conference to change the name from the "Colored Methodist Episcopal" to the "Christian Methodist Episcopal Church."

The C.M.E. Church has continuously shown a commitment to higher education, civic pride and spiritual leadership. Under Bishop Williamson's leadership, the 9th Episcopal District has embraced his "One Church One School Community Partnership Program" which involves churches and schools in partnership to teach young people to value life and learning.

The Christian Methodist Church is truly a pillar in the community of Riverside, California and throughout the state and country. I commend the members and leadership of the C.M.E. for their dedication to worship, to their neighbors and to the Christian way of life.

RECOGNIZING THE FINANCIAL
SERVICES ROUNDTABLE'S COM-
MUNITY SERVICE 2008 INITIATIVE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Community Service 2008 (CS08), an initiative being spearheaded by Financial Services Roundtable and its member companies to harness volunteerism in the financial services sector and improve the communities in which we all live and work.

CS08 companies will complete 1,000 community service projects between July 1 and September 30, in all 50 states with over 28,000 volunteers. In Overland Park, which I represent, a CS08 event was just completed with AXA Equitable in which employees teamed up with KVC Behavioral HealthCare to sponsor a historical tour to youth being treated there.

This expansive effort would not be possible without the strong leadership of CS08 co-chairs Richard K. Davis, Chairman, President, and CEO of U.S. Bancorp, and Don J. McGrath, Chairman and CEO of Banc West Corporation.

Now in its seventh year, the timely focus of CS08 is on financial education, and increasing visibility of financial education programs in communities. This is in addition to member companies' community service projects via blood drives, building homes, neighborhood cleanups, or even outreach to children, like in Overland Park. Roundtable member companies know that the possibilities for community improvement are vast.

I am also proud to recognize our CS08 Honorary Congressional Host Committee. 141 Members of Congress have volunteered to sponsor CS08 and I know I speak for all of the participants in thanking my colleagues in the