

H. Thomas Kornegay was first selected as PHA's executive director in April 1992 after working with the Port Authority staff since April 1972. Kornegay will retire after 17 years from his position as PHA's executive director, but his contributions will forever impact the success of the Port of Houston.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
FLETCHER L. GIBSON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Fletcher L. Gibson. Mr. Gibson was born on May 1, 1942 in Marianna, Florida. In 1973, he married his perfect companion, Alonzetta. Over the next 35 years, their great love produced two sons, Brandon and Jason. Together, they established a reputation for honoring God and the power of knowledge. They exemplified the value of caring and giving back to the community.

Fletcher graduated Florida A&M University in 1963 with a Bachelor's degree in pharmacy. As a pharmacist, he was committed to providing superior service, a kind word, and a warm smile to each of his customers. They were as much his friends as anybody else who he was close with. Throughout his career he served as a mentor for young pharmacy students by providing them internships and clinical training.

Fletcher Gibson was a man of great faith and excellent character, a person known for his many good works and his love for family and friends. He always displayed a selfless compassion and a desire to help those around him. An extraordinary man of few words, Fletcher taught lessons of love, giving, and kindness by the example he set and the life he lived. He was a very good friend to me and countless other people. Fletcher Gibson was loved by all who knew him and he will be dearly missed.

NATIONAL BOMBING PREVENTION
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 549, the National Bombing Prevention Act, introduced by my distinguished colleague from New York, Representative KING. This important legislation establishes the Office of Bombing Prevention within the Protective Security Coordination Division of the Office of Infrastructure Protection of the Department.

This legislation is a bi-partisan bill, whose lead sponsor is the Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Representative KING and is also cosponsored by Chairman THOMPSON. The function of the Office of Bombing Prevention already exists in the Department, and this bill establishes it in statute. The Office is responsible for coordinating the

Government efforts to deter, detect, prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States. As we all know, the most likely terrorist threat to our nation's critical infrastructure and transportation modes is from explosives. Moreover, although our nation's security experts have been working assiduously on preventing large-scale terror attacks since the terror attacks that hurt our nation, we must also be vigilant when it comes to improvised and smaller attacks.

Mr. Speaker, we need to ensure that the Office of Bombing Prevention has the protection of being established by the force of law, so the Department can more readily meet the threats to our nation. This legislation requires the Secretary to develop and periodically update a national strategy to prevent and prepare for terrorist explosive attacks in the United States which is due 90 days after the date of enactment. The Secretary is further required to report to Congress regarding the national strategy. This strategy is also called for by Homeland Security Presidential Directive—19, Combating Terrorist Use of Explosives in the United States, issued by President Bush in February of 2007. This legislation also authorizes the Office to support technology transfer efforts as well as research into explosives detection and mitigation.

I did, however, have one reservation with regards to this legislation, regarding canine procurement, which is why I introduced an amendment, which was addressed by the bill in Sections 4 and 5. Dogs are used to detect illicit and illegal substances every day. They are used to: detect illegal narcotics; find money that is being smuggled out of the country; and locate explosives that may be concealed in cargo, within vehicles, on aircraft, in luggage and on passengers.

There is no doubt that every day, the actions of these dogs and their handlers significantly contribute toward deterring threats and protecting our nation from terrorists. While the contributions of our canine forces are priceless, they are not without cost. We must place a price on what we are willing to pay for untrained dogs.

The Department of Homeland Security's Inspector General has found that from April 2006 through June 2007, Customs and Border Protection spent \$1.46 million on purchasing 322 untrained dogs—that is about \$4500 per dog. Most of these dogs are purchased in Europe and brought to America. These are not fully trained animals. They are puppies that will be trained to provide valuable service. I think most people would find \$4500 for an untrained dog an exorbitant amount.

However, I cannot deem this amount out of bounds because the Department of Defense pays \$3500 for each untrained dog. The Secret Service pays an average of \$4500 for each untrained dog. Therefore, the price paid by CBP is within the acceptable range of current practice. However, I think that if we are to be good stewards of the American tax dollar, we must change the current practice. When one considers that domestic breeders offer the same kinds of dogs for \$500–\$2000, we cannot justify what I can only call a puppy tariff.

I am proud to support this legislation, which bring our great nation closer to its goal of securing the homeland, and I encourage my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING BENJAMIN WARREN
BRESLOW

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Warren Breslow of Platte City, Missouri. Benjamin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin Warren Breslow for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PERFORMANCE RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I join my colleagues in both the House and the Senate in introducing the Performance Rights Act of 2009, legislation that takes a first step at ensuring that all radio platforms are treated in a similar manner and that those who perform music are paid for their work. I am joined by Representatives ISSA, BERMAN, BLACKBURN, PETERSON (MN), HODES, WEINER, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, COHEN, NADLER, SHERMAN, WEXLER, JOHNSON (GA), SCHIFF, SHADEGG, JACKSON-LEE, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, HARMAN and WAXMAN.

This narrowly tailored bill amends a glaring inequity in America's copyright law—the provision in Section 114 that exempts over-the-air broadcasters from paying those who perform the music that we listen to on AM and FM radio. The purpose of the bill is to take a necessary step towards platform parity so that any service that plays music pays those who create and own the recordings—just as satellite, cable and internet radio stations currently do.

Fairness mandates that all those in the creative chain—from the artist, musicians and others who bring the recording to life—get compensated for the way they enrich our lives. The U.S. is the only developed country in the world that does not require privately owned over-the-air radio stations to compensate the performers who create the music that broadcasters use to attract the audiences that generate their ad revenues. Because of music, radio is able to profit, and so refusing to compensate those who create the music is unfair and ultimately harmful to everyone—including the broadcasters. Furthermore, the law requires all other platforms in the U.S. (including satellite and Internet radio) to compensate the copyright owner, so broadcast radio should not receive a free pass.