

TRIBUTE TO RUTH SINGLETON  
SMITH

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, November 14, 2001*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ruth Singleton Smith of Florence, South Carolina, who is a respected member of the community and who has played a major role in several political campaigns, including my own. Mrs. Smith's career achievements and accomplishments exemplify her extraordinary contributions to the state of South Carolina.

Mrs. Smith was born in Florence County, attended Florence County Public Schools, and graduated from Wilson High School in 1945. She is a graduate of South Carolina State College, American University, and Temple Business School.

Mrs. Smith traveled extensively throughout the world with her husband, the late Willie Lesley Smith, who was a career Army serviceman. Upon his retirement in 1965, the Smiths returned to Florence, South Carolina and Mrs. Smith became the Public Relations Director for WBTW TV 13 of Florence. She held that position until her retirement in 1992. She also served as WBTW Liaison for Corporate, Business, and Government Relations from 1992 to 1996. Currently she is the Community Coordinator of Health Education at McLeod Regional Medical Center. She joined the medical center in 1997 and since then she has been responsible for creating, developing, and maintaining health programs for the indigent within the community.

I would like to express my appreciation for Mrs. Smith's deep interest and active participation in politics on both the local, state, and national levels. She has demonstrated strong commitment to the Democratic process through her many years of educating voters about the need and right to vote. She has served as a Poll Manager, and she served as a political consultant for a number of political campaigns, including: Florence Mayoral, Florence City Council, Florence County Council, Florence County Solicitor's, and Florence County Sheriff Campaigns. She was also actively involved with South Carolina State Representative, Senatorial, Attorney General, Adjutant General, and Governor Campaigns. She also worked on the U.S. Senatorial Campaign of Ernest Hollings and on the Carter/Mondale and Clinton/Gore Presidential Campaigns. She also served as manager in the Pee Dee region during my own bid for Congress. I will always remember that she told me "I'll get you to Washington even if I have to carry you on my own back".

Mrs. Smith displayed true enthusiasm and commitment when she ran at-large for Florence County Council. Although her bid was unsuccessful, her tremendous spirits were not weakened.

Mrs. Smith is a lifelong member of Mt. Zion AME Church, choir member, and President of the Richard Allen Club. She is Commissioner for the Florence Housing Authority; the Mental Health Commission; the Executive Board of the NAACP; and the billboard Committee

under the leadership of the Florence City Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Mrs. Ruth Singleton Smith for the incredible service she has provided to the residents of South Carolina. I sincerely thank Mrs. Smith for the outstanding contributions she has given to the state of South Carolina through her distinguished service to the fields of health, public relations, and politics. I would like to thank her for her continual support and wish her good luck and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PORTER J. GOSS**

OF FLORIDA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, November 14, 2001*

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on my return from my district in Southwest Florida, as a result, I was not able to be present for rollcall votes 436 and 437. Had I been present, I would have voted yes for rollcall vote 436 and yes for rollcall vote 437. I request that this statement appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. FRANK MASCARA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, November 14, 2001*

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, on November 13, 2001, I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall votes numbered 436 and 437. For the record, I would have voted aye on both of these votes.

MORE THAN ONE ROUTE TO  
SAFER SKIES

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, November 14, 2001*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the November 12, 2001, Norfolk Daily News. The editorial offers insightful comments on the issue of aviation security and the proper role for the Federal Government.

Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, much attention has been focused on the need to improve security at our nation's airports and in our airplanes. Clearly, there are a number of areas that need prompt improvement. The bill approved by the House on November 1, 2001, (with bipartisan support) would do much to strengthen our nation's aviation security.

The House-passed bill creates a new Transportation Security Administration within the Department of Transportation. It also Federalizes the airline security screening process and requires strict, new standards. However, the House version gives the President the flexibility to determine which option provides the

highest degree of security—either using Federal employees or developing a Federal-private sector coordination. This Member hopes that an agreement will be reached soon which allows the aviation security legislation to be sent to the President.

UNANIMITY NOT SAME AS RIGHT  
SENATE, HOUSE HAVE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES  
ABOUT FEDERAL ROLE

It was of special interest that in the debate about federalizing airport security personnel, the U.S. Senate was unanimously in favor. The rare 100-0 margin may have influenced the vote in the House, but not enough to carry the majority in the lower chamber.

A measure designed to change the present system, but not to the point of federalizing all the workers, passed the House by a narrow margin. That leaves the outcome to negotiations between members of the House and Senate.

Some believe these wide differences point to unnecessary partisanship. We see it based on important principles of governance. For the proponents of federalization, Sen. John McCain described it not altogether accurately: "This is about law enforcement, and law enforcement is a federal function." But law enforcement is also a local and state responsibility. There is actually a division of responsibilities, which need not be a weakness unless agencies do not cooperate.

The Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon succeeded not so much because of failures in airport screening procedures (box cutters and small knives were not considered dangerous as guns), as because of deficiencies in another system that is unarguably and totally a federal responsibility. That is, the system to protect America's borders, to bar illegal entry or access by those who intend harm. Of course, this is a virtually impossible task to perform error-free in so vast a land.

That it is an immensely difficult job—especially for a nation whose legal system has come near the point of ascribing the rights inherent in citizenship to aliens, legal and illegal—does not mean failures are to be excused. It means that they should be examined carefully, to try to reduce future risks to American citizens and legal immigrants.

The point is that efforts to date to meet this unique responsibility through the exclusive employment of agents of the federal government have not created a risk-free environment. Nor will adding airport screeners to the ranks of civil servants.

Competent people to help with that task, with better equipment and more authority to challenge passengers, and with extra direction from federal authorities, could do the screening. It is useful to remember that it is far easier to remove a poor performer from civilian ranks than from the civil service. There should be bipartisan acknowledgment of that fact.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose