

import surge of the last several years—so much of this well below cost of production—and you see the impact on people, you know we ought to do something.

So the President has until the beginning of next week to act. We call on him to do the right thing. We believe it is the right thing. There are going to be steelworkers from all across the country today. There are going to be marching bands from high schools from all across the country today. I have been told there may be more than 10,000 steelworkers coming to Washington, DC, for themselves, for their children, their communities, and for the country. I hope their voice is listened to.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. LANDRIEU). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak in morning business for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is a 10-minute time limitation. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair and welcome the occupant, the Senator from Louisiana. I look forward to providing her with some factual information this morning, not that she has not been exposed to factual information before.

#### ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I received a letter in my office from the respected former President Jimmy Carter. I suspect this letter went to every Member. It was an appeal on the issue of the energy bill which has been laid down by the majority leader and will be taken up at some point, probably next week.

In his letter, President Carter highlights the realization that every decade or so we have a great national debate about whether or not to preserve our national heritage. He indicated that in the sixties, it was over building dams in the Grand Canyon to oil drilling in Yosemite or Yellowstone. Clearly, there is no consideration for oil drilling in either Yosemite or Yellowstone, to both of which I would object. I know virtually every Member in this body would.

President Carter indicates in his letter that the significant issue before us today is the fate of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, an area first set aside for protection by President Dwight Eisenhower. He is

correct in that generalization, but what he does not add is that out of that area, so-called ANWR, there were 1.5 million acres, or the 1002 area, left out specifically at the declaration of President Eisenhower for Congress to make a determination of the disposition.

Since that time, the matter of opening ANWR has been debated before this body. Many of us will recall that in 1995, in the omnibus bill, ANWR had prevailed and President Clinton vetoed it.

It is important to recognize the sequence of events because they are not necessarily as recounted in President Carter's letter. He states that he has enjoyed the extraordinary beauty of the peninsula and Beaufort Sea, watching the musk ox circle their young. He has wandered on the tundra near the Jago River as the caribou streamed through. He has watched this timeless migration from vital calving grounds. He has watched the dens of wolves, large flocks of Dall sheep, and isolated polar bears. "These phenomena," he terms it, "of the untrammelled earth are what lead wildlife experts to characterize the coastal plain as America's Serengeti."

I live there. I have spent all my life there. I have spent a good deal of time in the Arctic. His description is not without some further explanation.

The difference with the American Serengeti is, of course, the wildlife concentration is virtually year round, and the caribou, which is a nomadic animal, moves through the area. It is quite inspiring when they move through the area, but they are not residents.

In the wintertime, which is 9½ to 10 months of the year, there is virtually no activity of any kind relative to wildlife and bird life. Nonetheless, we have an obligation to address the compatibility of the natural wildlife and the wildlife experience of visitors and the realization that we also have a tremendous amount of reserves of oil in this area. There is a compatibility.

President Carter further states:

Having traveled extensively in this unique wilderness, I feel very strongly about its incredible natural values.

I do, too.

He hopes Members "will not be distracted by the argument that oil exploration and development will have minimal impact because the 'footprint' of modern drilling technology will be small amid the 1,500,000 acres of the coastal plain."

This is where we depart because what he fails to take into consideration is the people who live there and their thoughts and aspirations. I will perhaps go into that a little later.

One realizes in his letter he assumes this area is an absolute wilderness devoid of any villages, devoid of any footprint, and devoid of any personal expression of attitude from the Eskimo people who live on the Coastal Plain, whether they live in Barrow or Kaktovik, or whether the activities in

Prudhoe Bay have, in fact, been a distraction.

He further suggests a precise measurement of activity in the 1002 area would involve a web of drilling pads, gravel pits, access roads, and air fields. While these might not exceed 2,000 acres, they would be spread across a far wider expanse covering hundreds of square miles, connected by a network of what he calls modern transportation routes.

As those who follow the debate recognize, that simply is not the case. We have developed the technology dramatically, and that technology is evidenced in the transition from Prudhoe Bay, which is the 30-year-old technology which uses large areas of surface for roads and so forth, to the development of Endicott, which came on as the 10th largest field, and the actual footprint was 56 acres.

So the point is, we have this technology. It will be advanced if indeed ANWR is opened. It would be further advanced to have ice roads as the access for development of drilling, not roads. We would not open up gravel pits; that would not be necessary because we have technology now that allows us to move only in the wintertime and not leave a footprint in the summer. Further, the directional drilling technology suggests if we were to drill on the Capitol Grounds, we could focus on an oilfield as far away as the Reagan Airport, outside the edge of Washington, DC. That is the technology we have.

So it is an entirely different set of circumstances. To suggest that somehow this would be an expanse covering hundreds of miles, with airports and so forth, is totally inaccurate.

I have a picture. This is children in Kaktovik. To indicate where Kaktovik is, this is in the 1002 area. This is a village that has been there for a long time. There are real people there. They have hopes and aspirations. We have other pictures of Kaktovik which can give an idea of the realism that President Carter simply overlooks in his letter. He suggests this is an unspoiled wilderness. Here is a village that is actually in the 1002 area. There is an old radar site. Here is the community hall.

These people happen to support opening the area. Why? They want a better opportunity. They want health care. They want toilets that flush. They want running water. They want to have opportunities for the children.

It is one thing to simply address the environmental aspects, but that is hardly fair when you have to consider the fact that there are real people living here.

I want to show a little bit about how we develop the Arctic and show some of the activity. Some of the technology we have developed—and I know the occupant of the chair is quite familiar with it—that is used now more often than not is called directional drilling.

This was an article that appeared in the New York Times, and it shows how

in one drill pad you can access a huge area that otherwise was inaccessible. This is called directional drilling. You do this through a process called 3D sizing. That has only come about in the last decade.

Before, we used to have to drill down, and if we hit one of those pockets of oil—they are the dark areas—we would hit them or we would miss them. With 3D sizing, you can spot where these other pockets are and directionally drill from one pad. That is the technology of today. That is why President Carter's generalization that this area is going to be covered with roads and air fields and pipelines, and so forth, is totally inaccurate.

Now let me show you how we operate. I said we are not going to have roads. We are not going to open up gravel pits. That is drilling in the Arctic. That is the same as in the 1002 area of ANWR. That is a winter road. It is a road that is frozen. It works fine. You have a drill pad that is on frozen ground. This ground is permafrost. It is frozen year round. On the surface, it does thaw, but remember, winter is just about 9½, 10 months. So you have a long period of time when you can do development. This is what it looks like in the summertime as a consequence of not having to have a road into the area. That is a spot as well.

So when he says the impacts on the fragile tundra, ecosystem, migratory waterfowl, and other wildlife would be devastated by oil activity, that is not necessarily true.

The Senator from Louisiana knows how you operate in the State of Louisiana. You have numerous areas where you have oil and gas drilling. You have commercial shrimping. You have sport fishing. You have access for waterfowl because you consciously protect them. But there is a compatibility by doing it right and using technology. You do it in monuments that have been set aside by Congress, and you do it correctly.

There is some suggestion that this somehow is of a magnitude to parallel dams on the Colorado River, that we have to make choices: We cannot have the untouched, sublime wilderness on one hand compatible with oil development.

If we look at this map, we note that few people have an idea of the distance and the vastness of the State of Alaska. It is one-fifth the size of the United States. It overlays the United States dramatically in a proportional view that hopefully we have with us—but I guess we do not. It shows Alaska overlaying the United States. It shows an overlay, and Alaska runs basically from Florida to California. It runs from Canada to Mexico on a proportionate overlay. It is a big piece of real estate.

We have this entire area of portions of Alaska associated with wilderness. We have 56 million acres of wilderness, and what we do not really reflect on in the issue of opening up ANWR is the fact there are already footprints in the area; there is a community of

Kaktovikians, and the Coastal Plain is the green area that would be proposed to be leased. The rest of the 19 million acres is split between a wilderness area, which is about 8½ million acres. That is the light buff color on the chart, and the darker buff color is already in the wilderness. So we are talking about a very small area.

We are also talking about, in the House bill, which authorized the opening, only 2,000 acres. That is the size of that little red dot in the chart. That is about the size of a small farm.

So what does 19 million acres equate to? A lot of people do not recognize that. ANWR and the State of South Carolina are about the same size, 19 million acres. So we are talking about 2,000 acres out of 19 million acres of development, which is hardly reflected in the President's letter to each Member. He says: Opening of the Coastal Plain for oil exploration and development would be, despite all the much-vaunted technological promises, severely damaging to wildlife and the ecosystem.

Let me show what our evidence is in Prudhoe Bay. I am sure we have a chart of the caribou and the bear. This is Prudhoe Bay. We had about 3,000 or 4,000 caribou in Prudhoe Bay when the development started in that particular area. Today we have over 20,000 caribou. The issue is, you cannot shoot them, you cannot run them down with a snow machine, so they propagate dramatically. And those are not stuffed; those are real caribou wandering around. So there is a compatibility.

There is a compatibility with the bears. Here are the bears. I know the occupant of the chair has seen this chart many times. They are walking on the pipeline because it beats walking on the snow. You cannot shoot them. You cannot take a gun in there.

People are concerned about polar bears and polar bear dens, but they never tell you it is against the law to shoot a polar bear in the United States. And Alaska is in the United States. You can go out and get a guide in Canada, you can get a guide in Russia, and take a polar bear, but not in the United States.

Talking about conservation, one of the best ways is to make sure they are protected, and they are. So to suggest a mild amount of activity is going to displace their dens is absolutely balderdash.

They talk about the wilderness qualities. You are talking about huge areas. Fifty-six million acres of wilderness is what we have in the State of Alaska alone. We are very proud of it. To suggest we cannot open this area is totally unrealistic.

Let me show some of the other areas in the United States where we have oil and gas exploration. These two charts show oil production facilities in the Nation's wildlife refuges and wetland management districts. We have 9 in Texas, 12 in Louisiana, 4 in California. The other charts oil production in national wildlife refuges and wetland

management districts. We have them in Texas, Oklahoma, North Dakota, New Mexico, Montana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, one in Alaska, California, Kansas, Louisiana, and Michigan.

We have oil and gas development and mineral development in refuges. It is common. Can we do it safely? That is the question. The answer is yes.

Former President Jimmy Carter's letter fails to recognize people have dreams and aspirations and certain rights. He says:

It is inherently fatal to the wilderness qualities of this matchless example of America's heritage.

The letter does not say there are 56 million acres of wilderness in Alaska, and we are proud. He implies somehow if the area is open to modest development, it will be detrimental.

He makes another mistake when he says:

Through compromises that began more than four decades ago and were concluded when I signed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, 95 percent of Alaska's North Slope has already been made available for oil exploration.

We have charts that show the upper Arctic area. This chart illustrates the Arctic Coast from Canada, the area we are talking about, and next is the Prudhoe Bay area, and from Prudhoe Bay we go across the Naval Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. The suggestion that 95 percent is open is inaccurate; 95 percent of it is closed. I guarantee, one cannot get a drilling permit on public land in these areas. This area is the National Petroleum Reserve, and the dark area shows the concentration of lakes. That is where the bird life is. That is Lake Nestia Puk. That is a delicate area. The Department of Interior refused to open leases in those areas. They have leases issued which have been modestly successful, but to make the statement that 95 percent is open, and therefore why not leave the area, is false.

The President has inaccurate information. He said we should not sacrifice the last 5 percent. Well, 95 percent is closed. Furthermore, in his letter he says this issue has assumed gigantic symbolic stature. He is right on target. It is symbolic. It has nothing to do with scientific evidence. It has nothing to do with whether or not there is enough oil to offset the amount of oil we import from Iraq or Saudi Arabia. Some have indicated that this issue is all about our national security. To a large extent, they are right. We are 58-percent dependent upon imported oil in this country. The ramifications of that are very real. As we increase our dependence, we are going to be more and more beholden to those who supply the energy.

We have seen the power of OPEC in reducing the supply and the price goes up. I have discussed time and time again the issue of Iraq. We wonder how we will deal with Saddam Hussein. On September 11, we imported 1 million

barrels a day from Iraq; today it is 780,000 barrels. We are still maintaining a no-fly zone, an area blockade, over that country. We put the lives of men and women at risk each day enforcing that no-fly zone. We take out Saddam Hussein's targets, and he tries to shoot us down, but we are taking his oil. We take his oil, put it in our airplanes, and go back. But he takes our money and develops missile capability, maybe aimed at Israel. We have not had an inspector in that country in 6 or 7 years. When will we deal with that? When we have an unfortunate issue such as a terrorist development that might emanate from there we will wish we would have moved sooner?

These are the questions the administration has to deal with and each Member has to deal with in his or her own conscience. These are very real.

From the Persian Gulf we get almost 3 million barrels; from OPEC producing countries, 5.5 million barrels of oil. That is where we get the oil. We need all the conservation we can get—CAFE, wind power, solar power—but America and the world moves on nothing but oil. We do not have the technology. We will continue to be more dependent.

The question is, How can we relieve that dependence? Obviously, in the Gulf of Mexico and off Louisiana and Texas they have extraordinary technology. They are drilling in 2,500 and 3,000 feet of water. The record has been very good because we have that technology. Can we open up ANWR safely? Absolutely.

This next chart is important. What we are doing is rather interesting. We have substantial prospects for oil and gas off the Atlantic Ocean, off our coastal States, including Florida clear up to Maine. Those States do not want development. That is fine if they do not want development. They have taken 31 trillion cubic feet of natural gas that is believed to be off the east coast and said they do not want to develop it. We should respect that. Off Florida on the gulf side, 24 trillion cubic feet, we have taken that off limits.

Now the west coast—Washington, Oregon, California—they do not want drilling offshore where the risks are relatively high. There are storms and all kinds of bad things that can happen. We have taken the middle area of the country, the overthrust zone of Montana, to a degree, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and said we will not allow any road access in public lands. We have taken that off. We take these off because the people do not want it. We should respect those areas where people support drilling. In my State of Alaska they do. We are not talking about offshore. We are talking about on land. There is a difference. There is much less risk.

These are the arguments used that frustrate those in the Alaska delegation. It is fair to say we probably include Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, who do want responsible

development offshore. It provides a standard of living. It provides a tax base. Those are very important for working men and women.

This is a jobs issue. If we open ANWR, we are putting up for lease in the area of 1.5 million acres out of 19 million acres. That will be competitive lease sale. Companies will put up money to have the opportunity to lease those lands. How much money? It is estimated somewhere in the area of close to \$3 billion. That means \$3 billion coming into the Federal Treasury. That, in itself, should interest our budgeteers. In addition, it is jobs for Americans at a time when we are losing jobs. It is payback time to American labor. These people are entitled to these jobs as opposed to sending our dollars overseas and bringing back the oil from Iraq or Saudi Arabia. We have the know-how, we have the technical ability, and we can bring these jobs home.

How many jobs are we talking about with ANWR? Somewhere in the area of 250,000. Talk about stimulus; show me a better stimulus that does not cost the taxpayer a red cent. That is \$3 billion in revenue and 250,000 jobs, all paid for and put up by the private sector, not the government and not the taxpayer.

These are some of the issues to which we should relate. It is a matter of what is in the national security interests of our country as well as the realism associated with sound jobs in this country.

President Carter goes on to say the truth: We can drill in every national park, wildlife refuge, et cetera.

We are not talking about that. We are talking about a small area, a footprint of 2,000 acres out of 19 million acres. To suggest we can get there through conservation is unrealistic. It will be an interesting issue to watch the debate on CAFE. Some are going to say we are going to do it, and we will mandate the type of cars or public businesses. We are going to compromise safety. We are going to bring in more foreign cars. That is not the answer.

We need better mileage. There is no question about it. But you just can't get there from here because this particular CAFE is going to be effective in the year 2015, 15 years from now. Some of us are not going to be here to be held accountable.

It is very easy to vote and say, yes, we ought to do that; get 37 miles per gallon by the year 2015. Technically, they say you can't get there without a mandate by the Government telling you what kind of car you are going to drive.

We will have that debate later. Nevertheless, I think we have to address the national energy security of this country.

I am always reminded of the statement of Mark Hatfield, a very respected Member of this body from the State of Oregon, who stood here time and time again and said: I'll vote for

ANWR any day rather than send a young man or woman overseas to fight a war on foreign land over oil.

This is leaving us more dependent on foreign oil, and then we know just what happens. Some people forget what happened in 1973 during the Arab oil embargo, the Yom Kippur War, because, I guess, they were too young. We had gas lines around the block. People were indignant. They said: How could Government let this happen?

We were 37-percent dependent on imported oil at that time. Now we are 58-percent dependent.

What does the Department of Energy say? In the year 2007, 2008, we will be somewhere up to 63 or 64 percent dependent. That is reality.

I hope when Members reflect on their vote and recognize the pressures that have been brought about by environmental groups, by President Carter in his letter to each Member, and others, they reflect somewhat on accuracy, factual information, and not the emotional arguments that suggest this is only a 6-month supply; that it is going to take 10 years to go on line; that it is not going to make any difference.

They recognize reality. I hope they recognize their vote should be what is right for America, not what is right to satisfy the environmental lobbyists' desires to use this issue for what it has been used, and that is to generate a tremendous amount of membership and dollars. Once they lose on ANWR, they will go to another major environmental issue and that is understood.

They make a significant contribution. But on this issue they are simply wrong. We can do it right. We can do it safely. It is a significant amount of oil because it is somewhere between 5.6 billion barrels and 16 billion barrels. If it is half that, it is as big as Prudhoe Bay, which has supplied the Nation with 25 percent of the total crude oil produced in this country in the last 27 years.

I will have a chart later. I didn't want to run the risk of having one of my friends from Texas acknowledge that, indeed, ANWR has more oil in it than the proven reserves in one of our largest producer States, and that is the State of Texas.

I think we have to keep the argument in perspective. We have the technology. We can do it right.

When we get on the debate, I trust Members will reflect on the reality that this is one of the biggest jobs issues in the country. Organized labor feels very strongly about the reality of keeping these jobs in the United States.

I will make one more point. As the occupant of the chair is aware, there is a great deal of shipbuilding in Louisiana, Mississippi, and southern California. There is a whole new fleet of tankers being built. They are being built because U.S. law mandates that the movement of oil between two States goes in a U.S.-flagged vessel built in a U.S. shipyard with U.S.

crews. Let me tell you, our oil that goes from the Port of Valdez down there, clear down to the west coast of the United States, primarily in the Puget Sound area, the San Francisco Bay area, and the Los Angeles harbor area—these new ships mean jobs in the shipyards, jobs on the ship, and U.S.-documented vessels.

So it is a big jobs issue. The most significant portions of our merchant marine are these tankers that haul the oil.

Washington, Oregon, and California are going to get oil. What happens? They will get it from Iraq, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. It is going to come over in foreign vessels that do not have double bottoms—all our new vessels have double bottoms—and it is going to come over with foreign crews, and they are not going to have the deep pockets of Exxon. I point out what this means in terms of sound, high-paying U.S. jobs.

Let's do what is right for America. I appreciate the time allotted to me and unless there is another Senator seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Nebraska). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized as in morning business for the purpose of introducing a bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair. (The remarks of Mrs. FEINSTEIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1796 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, as our celebration of Black History Month now comes to a close, I want to acknowledge some of the rich and ongoing contributions made by my State's African-American citizens. Of course, the efforts of African Americans in Florida and throughout our Nation's history should be recognized every day, not just during Black History Month. Back home in Florida, our State has been blessed with a remarkable number of prominent African-American citizens who have served our State and Nation with distinction in a variety of fields. I want to mention a few.

Although not a Florida native, just think of the contributions of Mary McLeod Bethune. She founded one of

the oldest and most prestigious black colleges, Bethune-Cookman College. In addition to serving as President of Bethune-Cookman, she also was one of the leading civil rights activists of her time, and the first African-American woman to serve on a Presidential commission. Bethune-Cookman College is one of our stellar institutions of higher learning. It is located in Daytona Beach. I have had the privilege of attending that college and visiting with the distinguished president, who has been there over 2 decades, Dr. Oswald Bronson.

The spirit that school has today carries on in the memory of Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune. It is just amazing. I have seen that in the classrooms. I have seen it in their auditorium. I have seen it on the football field and the band performing at half time. It is a wonderful and rich part of our heritage in Florida.

That is just one. Let me name another: Justice Joe Hatcher. He was born in Clearwater and, in 1975, Judge Hatcher became the first African American elected a justice of the Supreme Court of Florida. He later went on to serve with distinction on the Federal court of appeals, a body that sits in Atlanta, although he maintained his office right there in Tallahassee. His election to the State supreme court marked the first time an African American won a statewide office since Reconstruction.

I will give you another one: James Weldon Johnson, the first African-American executive director of the NAACP, author, lyricist, creator of the National Negro Anthem, and poet. He was born in Jacksonville.

And then Eatonville, Florida's native, Zora Neale Hurston. She was a folklorist, anthropologist, and acclaimed author of such works as "Their Eyes Were Watching God," and "Of Mules and Men." I got to know about her heritage when I had the privilege, as a young Congressman, of representing Eatonville, FL, in the late 1970s as part of my congressional district.

I will give you another one: Timothy Thomas Fortune. He was born up in the panhandle in Marianna, FL, Jackson County, in 1856. He was the editor and publisher of a paper called the New York Age, and his paper was a platform for defending the civil rights of both northern and southern Blacks.

Here is one you will recognize: Asa Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. He was born in Crescent City, FL. The Brotherhood was the first union founded by and for African Americans.

Not far from there was born, in Palatka, FL, John Henry Lloyd. He was a baseball player and a manager in the Negro leagues, and was considered one of the greatest shortstops in the game. In 1930, as a member of the New York Lincoln Giants, he played in the first Negro League game in Yankee Stadium against the Baltimore Black Sox.

Now I am going to tell you a name that everybody recognizes today: Sidney Poitier, the renowned actor who won an Academy Award in 1964 for his performance in "Lilies of the Field." He was born in Miami.

And our contemporary, my colleague, Winston Scott, one of our Nation's pioneering African-American astronauts, was born in Miami. In 1992, Winston was selected by NASA and served as a mission specialist on flights in 1996 and 1997, and today he has returned to his alma mater, Florida State, where he serves as the dean of students. Winston had logged a total of 24 days, 14 hours, and 34 minutes in space.

Augusta Christine Savage was born in Green Cove Springs, just south of Jacksonville. In 1923, Augusta Christine Savage was among 100 young American women selected to attend the summer program at Fontainebleau, outside of Paris, but was refused admission once the program directors became aware of her race. In the mid-1930s she founded and became the first director of the Harlem Community Arts Theater, which played a crucial role in the development of many young African-American artists. In addition, she became the first Black elected to the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors.

A Washington hero, GEN Chappie James, the first African-American four-star general, was born in Pensacola. As a young State legislator, I had the privilege of meeting General James. He was right back from Vietnam where he had flown so many combat missions. He became one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, earning his wings back in World War II and going on to serve as a pilot, a fighter pilot in Korea and Vietnam. In 1975 he received his fourth star and he became the commander of the North American Air Defense System.

I could go on. As we remember the contributions of these and many others, and so many other African-American citizens, duty calls us to remember the difficulties this community faced as our Nation traveled through the struggle to achieve full civil rights for all people. I want to highlight two small initiatives that should help us preserve these important memories.

Florida now is home to more than a dozen former Negro League baseball players. These men are nearing the end of their lives, and they have never received a pension for their time in the league, unlike their counterparts who played Major League baseball. Although Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier in 1947, baseball didn't truly integrate until a decade after Robinson's historic feat. It took all the way up to 1959 for Major League baseball to integrate the last team.

No doubt their fans appreciate their contribution to baseball, but by refusing to grant a pension to these old-timers who played in a segregated society, Major League baseball is denying