

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO KAY PATTERSON

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a native South Carolinian, a close personal friend, and exemplary public figure in the State of South Carolina and his community, Senator Kay Patterson. On April 17, 2003, the Columbia Housing Authority will honor Senator Patterson's lifetime of achievements by placing his likeness on its Wall of Fame. This recognition comes on the heels of BellSouth's recognition of his accomplishments by honoring him on its 2003 African American History Calendar.

Born in Darlington County, SC, Senator Patterson was raised by his grandmothers, Meta B. Patterson and Emma Joseph. After graduation from Lincoln High School in Sumter, South Carolina, he enrolled at Claflin College for two years before leaving to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps and rose to the rank of buck-sergeant. Upon completing his military service, Senator Patterson returned to South Carolina and matriculated at Allen University where he earned a B.A. Degree in Social Sciences. Several years later, he would earn a Masters Degree in Education from South Carolina State University.

Like myself, he started his professional career as a middle school teacher. His commitment to educating our youth provided the foundation for Senator Patterson's illustrious career. His 14 years of service as an educator at W.A. Perry Middle School, C.A. Johnson High School and Benedict College and 16 years as a UniServ Representative for the South Carolina Education Association are testimony of his willingness and tenaciousness on behalf of students and teachers.

Senator Patterson began his successful odyssey toward high achievement as a politician in 1974, when he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. He would serve in the House until 1985, when he was elected to his current position in the South Carolina Senate. Renowned as a fiery and inspirational orator, Patterson has been a dynamic force in promoting change in his native state. He represents the constituents in Richland County Senate District 19 on the Senate's Banking & Insurance, Corrections & Penology, Education, Finance & Transportation Committees. In addition, Senator Patterson currently serves as Chairman of the Richland County Legislative Delegation.

Among Senator Patterson's numerous civic activities are membership in the North Columbia Civic Club and life membership in the NAACP, and I am proud to claim him as my brother in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., to which he became a member while enrolled at Claflin.

Senator Patterson was elected by the South Carolina House Education Committee to serve on the University of South Carolina's Board of

Trustees in 1983. He was elected Chairman of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus in 1990, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from South Carolina State University in 2000. And on a personal note is Chair of Friends of Jim Clyburn, my political organization.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have been asked to deliver the Keynote address at Kay's induction ceremony and ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Senator Patterson for a lifetime of lofty achievements. My most sincere congratulations go out to him for his endless accomplishments, and loyal and dedicated friendship.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM FAIRNESS ACT

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to re-introduce the National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act. A few years ago many of my constituents were placed into a special flood hazard area, indicated by FEMA's Flood Rate Maps, that requires them to purchase flood insurance that can cost over \$1,000 per year.

These residents were not notified that they would be required to purchase flood insurance until 2 months or less before the maps became effective, even though the law is supposed to give them six months notice and ample time to purchase flood insurance. Needless to say, this took many of my constituents by surprise when they were required to purchase costly insurance at a moments notice, having not seen flooding in decades or even a lifetime.

Several residents who did not believe they were in the flood zone hired surveyors at their own expense, and many residents continue to hire surveyors. The private surveyors' data has resulted in removal of homes from the special flood hazard area, thus removing them from their obligation to purchase flood insurance. In the long run, while these residents are not required to purchase flood insurance, they have spent over \$200 each for surveyor costs. Unfortunately, this cost burden is the responsibility of the property owner. They were told by FEMA that under current law property owners who challenge the presumed flood classification are responsible for the surveyor expense even though the incorrect classification is no fault of their own.

Clearly, the National Flood Insurance Program needs to be revised to give homeowners more notice, due process, and financial protection when they succeed in removing their property from the base flood elevation classification. That is why I am proposing the National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act

The National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act does the following:

The bill improves the existing program by requiring the FEMA Director to notify by registered mail the Chief Executive Officer of each community affected by the changes in Flood Insurance Rate Maps, rather than by first class mail as is the case currently. The Director will be required to provide a copy of the revised map, along with a statement explaining the process of appeal. The Director will also provide the affected community sufficient information to identify which homes are affected.

It also requires the Director to notify by registered mail, rather than first class mail, the Chief Executive Officer of each community of FEMA's response to the community's appeal of the flood insurance rate maps. This change will ensure that the community receives the notice of changes and has ample time to comply with the map changes within the statutory effective date.

The bill improves upon current law by requiring the Director to notify by first class mail each owner of property affected by the changes in the flood insurance rate maps. Currently, the community is responsible for making sure that the residents are aware of the flood map changes. Requiring FEMA to notify residents expedites the process by eliminating the middleman.

Finally, it requires FEMA to reimburse a resident or property owner for reasonable costs incurred in connection with a surveyor or engineer for a successful request to be removed from the special flood hazard area to the Director. This does not include legal services incurred by the resident.

It is my hope that this legislation will allow communities to work more effectively with FEMA to ensure that residents are given sufficient, fair, and timely notice if they are required to purchase flood insurance and to ensure that homeowners are not held financially liable when a change in a community's flood insurance rate map does not affect their property. In the last Congress I had members from both sides of the aisle cosponsor the bill. I hope to receive even greater support for the bill in the current Congress and look forward to working with my colleagues to see enactment of the National Flood Insurance Program Act.

## INTRODUCTION OF FERN LAKE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ACT

### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today, I am joined by Congressman ZACH WAMP in reintroducing legislation to protect Fern Lake, an important part of our shared scenic heritage. Senator MITCH MCCONNELL will be introducing identical legislation in the U.S. Senate today.

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