

Mr. Forman, who always had been interested in African liberation movements, went to Africa in 1967. In 1969, he helped organize the Black Economic Development Conference in Detroit, where a "Black Manifesto" was adopted. He also founded a nonprofit organization called the Unemployment and Poverty Action Committee.

On a Sunday morning in May 1969, Mr. Forman interrupted services at New York City's Riverside Church to demand \$500 million in reparations from white churches to make up for injustices African Americans had suffered over the centuries. Although Riverside's preaching minister, the Rev. Ernest T. Campbell, termed the demands "exorbitant and fanciful," he was in sympathy with the impulse, if not the tactic. Later, the church agreed to donate a fixed percentage of its annual income to anti-poverty efforts.

In the 1970s, Mr. Forman was in graduate school at Cornell University and received a master's degree in African and African American studies in 1980. In 1982, he received a PhD from the Union of Experimental Colleges and Universities.

A writer and pamphleteer, Mr. Forman moved to Washington in 1981 and started a newspaper called the Washington Times, which lasted a short while. He also founded the Black American News Service. He was the author of "Sammy Younge Jr.: The First Black College Student to Die in the Black Liberation Movement" (1969), "The Making of Black Revolutionaries" (1972 and 1997) and "Self Determination: An Examination of the Question and Its Application to the African American People" (1984).

His marriages to Mary Forman, Mildred Thompson and Constanca Ramilly ended in divorce.

Survivors include two sons, Chaka Esmond Fanon Forman of Venice Beach, Calif, and James Robert Lumumba Forman Jr. of the District; and one granddaughter.

In July, despite being weak from his long struggle with cancer, Mr. Forman took a train from Washington to Boston during the Democratic National Convention. He took part in a "Boston Tea Party," in which members of the D.C. delegation tossed bags of tea into Boston Harbor to protest lack of statehood and no vote in Congress.

"It was said that on his deathbed, Frederick Douglass's last words were, 'Organize! Organize!' That's what Forman did every day of his life," Bond said. "That's what today's civil rights movement has forgotten how to do."

I take great pride in commending Mr. James Forman for his work to curb racial segregation and win social justice in this country.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF COMMERCIAL SPACE FLIGHT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to enhance the safety of commercial space flight by ensuring that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has the authority it needs to protect the safety of passengers of the emerging commercial space industry.

Mr. Speaker, I support commercial space exploration and the commercial space industry, but not at the expense of totally ignoring

safety. The Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004, P.L. 108-492, prohibits the Secretary of Transportation from issuing safety design and operating regulations or even minimal safety requirements for individual licenses for the next eight years unless there is a potentially catastrophic incident.

The current statutory language amounts to, in essence, the codification of what has come to be known in aviation safety parlance as the "Tombstone Mentality." For years, both I and many of my colleagues on the Aviation Subcommittee have criticized the FAA for waiting until after a disaster to take safety actions, and have urged more proactive safety oversight.

Supporters of the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act argued that safety regulation would discourage experimentation and innovation. However, the Act went well beyond these objectives and essentially tied FAA's hands by totally banning any safety requirements, except in post-accident circumstances where lives have already been lost. Under the Act, the FAA would be prevented from requiring even the simplest, least expensive enhancements to protect safety of passengers on these space flights.

Mr. Speaker, my bill would amend the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act to give the FAA the authority and flexibility to establish minimum safety regulations. My bill would not preclude innovation and, contrary to the claims of supporters of the Act, my bill would not require FAA to impose the same degree of regulation on the developing space travel industry that is imposed on the mature air transportation industry. Specifically, although my bill would require that FAA include, in each license it issues, minimum standards to protect the health and safety of crews and space flight participants, it would further require that, in imposing these standards, FAA must take into account the "inherently risky nature of human space flight." My bill would give the FAA the flexibility to create a regulatory structure governing the design or operation of a launch vehicle to protect the health and safety of crews and space flight participants as is necessary, without having to wait for a catastrophic failure to occur.

Mr. Speaker, safety regulation need not be incompatible with developing new technology. For example, although FAA has closely regulated aircraft manufacturing since the 1920's, this regulation has not prevented major technological progress, including the development of jet aircraft in the 1950's and all-composite general aviation aircraft in recent years.

We can and should protect the safety of passengers on space flights in this new and emerging industry, without placing unreasonable limitations on industry development. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to pass this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, last week I missed two important votes relating to elections in the troubled Middle East. H. Res. 56 commends the Palestinian people for the free

election held on January 9, 2005, and H. Res. 60 relates to the election held in Iraq on January 30, 2005. I rise today to say that I would have voted "yes" on both H. Res. 56 and H. Res. 60.

On Sunday, January 30, millions of Iraqis voted in a free election for the first time in their lives. Many walked great distances and nearly all risked their lives to exercise this new right. Though I opposed the war, the election that took place in Iraq is something to be celebrated. In addition to commending the people of Iraq, I would like to commend our men and women in the armed services. Without their hard work and bravery in developing and executing a complex security plan, this most successful election would not have been possible.

Now that the people of Iraq have had a free election, we need to put our efforts into helping them find ways to defeat the insurgency, involve all religious and ethnic persuasions in the political process and ensure that the rights of minorities are protected as they continue to draft a Constitution.

In addition, it is important that the United States look toward developing an exit strategy. In reality, this should have been done before we initiated military operations. We need to continue to train and equip Iraqi security forces. In order to properly do this, we need to have an accurate assessment of the capabilities of those forces now.

The free election in Iraq was an achievement that cannot be understated. That said, we have a vested interest in a secure and democratic Iraq and while the election was an important milestone, we need to look ahead to a time when our work over there is done and our troops can come home.

Now, turning to the recent elections in the Palestinian Territories. I would like to commend Dr. Mahmoud Abbas on his election as the second President of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people for making their voices heard. The elections on January 9 were conducted under difficult circumstances, including ongoing violence and a limited ability for candidates to campaign. Despite these challenges, an amazing 70 percent of registered voters turned out, according to Dr. Hana Nasir, head of the Palestinian Central Election Commission. The Palestinian people, political organizations, and presidential candidates all deserve praise for this significant step forward. Moreover, although voters in East Jerusalem experienced difficulties, elsewhere in the West Bank and Gaza Israel facilitated the election process. For this Israel also deserves commendation.

International observers—including some of our colleagues here—state that the elections were free and fair. Allow me to share a few key observations of the International Observer Delegation organized by the National Democratic Institute and the Carter Center.

The election was contested vigorously and administered fairly. Election day was orderly and generally peaceful.

The process, organized in just 60 days in accordance with the Palestinian Basic Law and under difficult circumstances of the ongoing conflict and occupation, represents a step forward for Palestinian democracy.

Seven presidential candidates competed in the election, presenting Palestinians with a choice among distinct points of view. . . . This is a tribute to the seriousness of the political competitors and to the Palestinian people's desire to respect political pluralism.

Following the death of Yasser Arafat, many predicted that the Palestinian Authority would crumble into complete chaos. In fact, Palestinian institutions proved more resilient, and the Palestinian people showed greater determination for peace and self-determination than many expected. Consequently, the transition of power from President Arafat to President Abbas stands as a model for the region to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, the Palestinian elections of January 9 were clearly a proud day for Palestinians and a very positive step forward in the effort to broaden the reach peaceful, civil interaction. It is a clear mandate for President Abbas to pursue his agenda of peaceful negotiations with Israel in order to establish a viable, sovereign, and independent Palestinian state. It is now incumbent on the United States and Israel to support President Abbas in his effort to consolidate power, to generate political and economic benefits for the Palestinian people, and to engage seriously in the negotiation of a peace settlement. The recipe for a final agreement has been apparent to most of us for some time. Now all the ingredients appear to be assembled. Those interested in creating peace have no reason or excuse not to move forward.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS TAVERN

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to recognize the Texas Tavern restaurant in Roanoke, Virginia on its 75th anniversary. Texas Tavern opened for business on February 13, 1930. It's known as "Roanoke's Millionaires Club" and for seating "1,000 people—10 at a time." From breakfast to hot dogs, hamburgers, and chile, Texas Tavern's menu is as much an institution as the eatery itself.

The founder of the Texas Tavern was Nick Bullington, an advance man for the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, who also hoped to open a small, short order restaurant in one of the cities he visited on the circus route around the United States. Bullington recognized that the railroad was making Roanoke a major city. He located a vacant lot on Church Avenue in downtown Roanoke for the restaurant. Construction began and a short five months later, the Texas Tavern was open for business.

Texas Tavern has been a family operation from day one. Nick Bullington's son, James G. Bullington, became owner and operator of the restaurant when his father passed away in 1942. In 1966, James N. Bullington became a night manager for his father and in 1983, he purchased the business and property on which the restaurant sits, ensuring that the Texas Tavern would remain in the small, white-washed brick building it's always called home. Matt Bullington—Nick Bullington's great grandson—worked at the restaurant throughout college in the mid-1990s and then took over for his dad, serving today as the man at the helm of one of Roanoke's favorite gathering places.

To visit Texas Tavern is to visit a slice of Americana. The Cheesy Western and chile

are the signature dishes that have kept diners—famous and otherwise—coming back for 75 years. Glen Miller, Debbie Reynolds, and even former Sixth District Congressman Caldwell Butler are on the roster of Texas Tavern aficionados, and so are Gerald Williams and Bill Ammons—two of the original customers who still eat there today. Estimates are that nine and a half million hot dogs and 1,100 tons of pinto beans have been served to those who've sat at the small counter—rubbing elbows with friends and foes alike but never leaving the restaurant unsatisfied.

The Texas Tavern has operated in the best spirit of American enterprise in Roanoke—the Star City of Virginia—for three-quarters of a century. I offer my congratulations to the Bullington family for helping show us that the American dream remains alive and well all these years later.

REMEMBERING CHANEY,
GOODMAN, AND SCHWERNER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the State of Mississippi's pursuit for justice as it has brought forth an indictment of noted Klansman Edgar Ray Killen for the murders of James E. Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner. As the State of Mississippi has been collecting evidence and investigating this case, I would like to submit the following excerpt from Olen Burrage's *The Mississippi Murder of Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney* by Seth Cagin and Phillip Dray.

The owner of a local trucking company, Olen Burrage, was having a cattle pond dug on his property, five miles southwest of town on Highway 21. Burrage had hired Herman Tucker, one of his part-time drivers and the owner/operator of two Caterpillar dozers, to build the pond and the large dam that would restrain it. The Neshoba Klansman arranged for Billy Wayne Posey to arrive at midnight on the lane of the Burrage property with the bodies of Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney. Once the bodies were placed in the center of the dam, fifteen or twenty feet down, Tucker would reveal it with one of the bulldozers. When the pond filled with rainwater, the place where the bodies were stashed would simply become an innocuous part of the Neshoba landscape—a Klansman version of a Choctaw burial mound.

"So you wanted to come to Mississippi?" one of the murderers is reputed to have told the victims later that night. "Well, now we're gonna let you stay here. We're not even gonna run you out. We're gonna let you stay here with us." (p. 55)

Killen, as organizer of the Neshoba and Lauderdale County klaverns of the White Knights of Mississippi and point man for the conspiracy, was eager to return to Philadelphia as soon as he had collected enough men for the operation. There were "arrangements" to be made, he explained to the men at Akin's. Quickly he sketched for them the plan he had devised in collusion with Neshoba County deputy sheriff Cecil Price and Billy Wayne Posey, and possibly—to infer from the events that would transpire—Hop Barnett and Olen Burrage. Deputy Price would release Goatee and the other two civil rights workers as soon as it got dark. Once

the civil rights workers were turned loose and were alone out on the highway, they would be stopped by a Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol car and turned over to the Klan. (p. 336)

Billy Wayne Posey was among those who attempted the Bonanza alibi, but in fact Posey had been far too busy that day to watch television. His role in the conspiracy was to arrange for the disposal of the victims' bodies, a grisly task easily as complex as setting them up to be done away with in the first place. After Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney were arrested late on the afternoon of June 21, Posey met with Olen Burrage, who owned a trucking firm and several pieces of farm property west of Philadelphia, and Herman Tucker, a bulldozer operator who occasionally worked for Burrage. This meeting took place either at Burrage's garage, southwest of Philadelphia, or at the Phillips 66 station.

Posey's arrangement with Burrage to use a dam being built on Burrage's property as a burial site for the three civil rights workers' was probably not the result of brainstorming by the conspirators. In all likelihood, Burrage's dam site had been previously scouted out by the Neshoba klavern for its potential as a secret grave, perhaps as early as mid-May, when Mickey Schwerner's incursions into Longdale were becoming known to the Klansmen. Mississippi FBI agent John Proctor claims to have learned from an informant that Burrage once told a roomful of Neshoba Klansmen discussing the impending invasion of civil rights workers, "Hell, I've got a dam that'll hold a hundred of them." Although the Meridian Klansmen had been instructed to leave Mickey Schwerner alone, the leaders of the Neshoba klavern had apparently been given Sam Bowers's approval to "eliminate" him if they caught him in Neshoba County. They may well have expected to have further opportunities to nab Schwerner on one of his visits to Longdale, and it is possible many elements of the conspiracy—the release from jail, the highway chase, and the secret burial—were loosely in place before June 21.

The previous summer, Burrage had consulted an agent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service about joining a program under which landowners could obtain government funding for pond dams that met certain conservation requirements. Burrage's proposed dam met the program's specifications, but the approval of the funding was contingent upon periodic inspections of the construction site by agents from the Department of Agriculture. In May 1964, when Burrage finalized arrangements with Herman Tucker and authorized him to begin work on the dam, Burrage chose—for reason he never explained—to do so without participating in the government program. (pp. 340-342)

With the civil rights workers' bodies in the hole, Posey signaled Tucker to start moving. The tractor ran fifteen minutes as Tucker bladed off the top of the dam so it would look as though it had not been disturbed.

The eight Klansmen got into Barnette's car and the civil rights workers' station wagon for the short ride down highway 21 to Burrage's trucking garage. There the men replaced the license plates on Barnette's car, which had been removed earlier in Meridian, and Jordan was given all the gloves the men had worn and told to dispose of them. Tucker took a glass gallon jug and filled it with gasoline from one of Burrage's pumps, to use in setting fire to the station wagon. (p. 361)

Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner will be remembered in the State of Mississippi's history as extraordinary individuals doing whatever it took to end racial segregation and win social