

In 1992, Effingham County, Georgia proposed an at-large election system despite anticipating that, due to racially polarized voting, after the change, African-Americans would no longer be able to elect the commissioner who would serve as chairperson. This decision came on the heels of the county's decision to eliminate the position of vice-chairperson, long held by an African-American commissioner. The county's justification for the change—that the proposed system would avoid tie votes in the selection of a chairperson—was tenuous at best because under the new system, an even number of commissioners would invite tie votes to a greater extent than the existing system. This is Robert Kengle, "Voting Rights in Georgia: 1982-2006," RenewTheVRA.org at 9-10.

Ten years after a successful lawsuit that forced the adoption of single-member districts in the city of Freeport, TX, minority candidates had gained two seats on the city council. The City then sought to revert to at-large elections, garnering an objection from the Department of Justice. Similarly, the Haskill Consolidated Independent School District sought to revert to at-large voting after significant gains by minority populations.

After the Washington Parish, Louisiana, School Board finally added a second majority-African American district in 1993, bringing the total to 2 out of 8, representing an African American population of 32 percent, it immediately created a new at-large seat to ensure that no white incumbent would lose his or her seat and to reduce the impact of the two African American members, to 2 out of 9. The Department of Justice objected to this change. (See Letter from James P. Turner, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. DOJ, to Sherri Marcus Morris, Assistant Attorney General, State of Louisiana, and Jerald N. Jones, City of Shreveport, September 11, 1995, cited in Debo Adebile, Voting Rights in Louisiana: 1982-2006, February 2006, at 21.)

A Federal district court found that the at-large method of electing the nine member Charleston County Council in South Carolina violated section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. In particular, the court found evidence of white bloc voting and concluded that in 10 general elections involving African-American candidates, "white and minority voters were polarized 100 percent of the time." The court also noted that there was a history of discrimination that hindered the present ability of minority voters to participate in the political process; significant socio-economic disparities along racial lines; a negligible history of African-American electoral success; and significant evidence of intimidation and harassment of African-American voters at the polls. Following the court's decision, which was affirmed on appeal, a single-member district plan was put in place with four majority African-American districts that eventually led to the election of four African Americans to the County Council. This is Laughlin McDonald "The Case for Extending and Amending the Voting Rights Act," A Report of the Voting Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union at 591-592.

In 2005, a three-judge Federal court enjoined the city of McComb, MS, from enforcing a State court order it had obtained that removed an African-American member of that city's board of selectmen from his seat by changing the requirements for holding that office, holding that the order clearly altered the pre-existing practice. The court ordered the selectman restored to his office and enjoined the city from enforcing the change unless preclearance was obtained. This is Robert McDuff, "Voting Rights in

Mississippi: 1982-2006," RenewTheVRA.org at 8.

In 1991 the Concordia Parish Police Jury in Louisiana announced that it would reduce its size from 9 seats to 7, with the intended consequence of eliminating one African-American district, claiming the reduction was necessary as a cost-saving measure. However, DOJ noted in its objection that the parish had seen no need to save money by eliminating districts until an influx of African-American residents transformed the district in question from a majority-white district into a majority African-American district. This is Debo P. Adebile, "Voting Rights in Louisiana: 1982-2006," RenewTheVRA.org at 24.

ANNEXATIONS

The following are examples from the record where jurisdictions changed their boundaries in order to diminish the voting power of minorities by selectively changing the racial composition of a district. Numerous jurisdictions have annexed neighboring white suburbs in order to preserve white majorities or electoral power.

In 1990, the city of Monroe, LA attempted to annex white suburban wards to its city court jurisdiction. In its objection, DOJ noted that the wards in question had been eligible for annexation since 1970, but that there had been no interest in annexing them until just after the first-ever African-American candidate ran for Monroe city court. This is Debo P. Adebile, "Voting Rights in Louisiana: 1982-2006," RenewTheVRA.org at 24.

Pleasant Grove, Alabama was an all-white city with a long history of discrimination, located in an otherwise racially mixed part of Alabama. The city sought preclearance for two annexations, one for an area of white residents who wanted to attend the all-white Pleasant Grove school district instead of the desegregated Jefferson County school district, the other for a parcel of land that was uninhabited at the time but where the city planned to build upper income housing that would likely be inhabited by whites only. At the same time, the city refused to annex to two predominantly black areas. The United States Supreme Court upheld the District Court's denial of preclearance. This is from City of Pleasant Grove v. United States, 479 U.S. 462, 1987.

In 2003, the Department of Justice interposed an objection to a proposed annexation in the Town of North, SC, because the town had "been racially selective in its response to both formal and informal annexation requests." DOJ found that "white petitioners have no difficulty in annexing their property to the town" while "town officials provide little, if any, information or assistance to black petitioners and often fail to respond to their requests, whether formal or informal, with the result that the annexation efforts of black persons fail." Though the town argued that no formal attempts had been made by African-Americans to be annexed into the town, DOJ's investigation revealed that at least one petition had been signed by a significant number of African-American residents who sought annexation. The fact that the town ignored or was non-responsive to the requests of African-Americans, while accommodating the requests of whites, led DOJ to determine that race was "an overriding factor in how the town responds to annexation requests." This is a Letter from R. Alexander Acosta, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, to H. Bruce Buckheister, Mayor, North, SC, September 16, 2003.

THE CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE-EAST

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I stand firmly with the people of Israel and their government as they defend themselves against these outrageous attacks. The kidnapping of Israeli soldiers and missile attacks against Israeli citizens are unacceptable and cannot be tolerated.

The first steps toward establishing peace must begin with the unconditional and immediate return of the kidnapped Israeli soldiers. Lebanon, Syria, Iran, and countries throughout the region must also condemn the actions of and cease all forms of support of Hezbollah, Hamas, and other groups committed to blocking or derailing the pursuit of peace. These countries must take strong actions immediately to return stability to the region.

Any sustainable peace depends on the cessation of support for terrorist organizations. U.N. resolutions have clearly articulated obligations and requirements of countries throughout the region. Iran and Syria must stop all support for Hezbollah and Hamas immediately.

That said, all sides to this conflict must show as much restraint as possible. It is in the long-term interest of peace that parties to this conflict find an end to this current crisis without damaging the prospects for a sustained and permanent solution to this conflict.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING DR. PETER ALAN McDONALD

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I, along with Senator CANTWELL, pay tribute to the life of a talented physician and respected citizen, Dr. Peter Alan McDonald, who passed away on June 15. I know he will be greatly missed in both Washington and his native Indiana.

Peter has left a rich legacy through his efforts to better the lives of others. From his studies in mathematics and medicine at Indiana University to his well-known work as a gifted and efficient emergency physician at St. Joseph Hospital, he dedicated himself to ensuring the welfare of those around him.

Peter's boundless passion for life led him to excel in many fields beyond his profession. An active outdoorsman and athlete, he found great joy in hockey, windsurfing, boating, and fishing. Family and friends may best remember Peter for his wonderful stories and sense of humor. He is survived by his wife, Kelli McDonald; his father, Alan McDonald; his mother, Mary Mandeville; his two brothers, Tom McDonald and Jeff McDonald; and his sister, Linda Frank.

While it is a tragedy to have Peter taken from us at such an early age, we can find comfort in the full life he led. It is a rare man who can make such an

impact on so many people throughout his years.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Dr. Peter McDonald in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to the States of Washington and Indiana. May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know he is with Peter.●

CONGRATULATING OWENSBORO CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SIXTH GRADE

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Owensboro Catholic Elementary sixth grade Future Problem Solving Team of Owensboro, KY. The Future Problem Solving Team recently earned the State championship in their division, placing first out of about 50 teams. They went on to compete at the international conference in Colorado and placed 22nd out of 55 teams.

The Future Problem Solving Program is a nationally recognized, award-winning program that seeks to increase awareness for the future and encourage creativity in students of all ages.

Over 50,000 students participate in the competitive components associated with future problem solving and community problem solving. Of these, less than 3 percent earn an invitation to the prestigious international event.

I congratulate the Owensboro Catholic Elementary sixth grade Future Problem Solving Team for their achievement. The administrators, teachers, parents, and students of this team are an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky. I look forward to all that the Future Problem Solving Team accomplishes in the future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHELDON, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I recognize a community in North Dakota that recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. On June 23–25, the residents of Sheldon gathered to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Sheldon is a small town located in the eastern part of North Dakota. Previously named Jenksville, E.E. Sheldon bought the land in June 1881 and renamed it after himself. On July 20 of that same year, a new post office was established with Karl E. Rudd as the first postmaster. The National Pacific Railroad arrived in Sheldon in 1882, and the village began to grow, becoming incorporated in 1884. Since the day of its founding, the community has been small but very active.

Shortly after its founding Sheldon established itself as a hotbed for amateur baseball, winning the state title in 1895. In addition, Lynn Bernard "Line Drive" Nelson, 1905–1955, born and raised in Sheldon, played major league baseball during the 1930's with the Chicago Cubs, the Philadelphia Athletics, and Detroit Tigers.

The community had a wonderful weekend celebration to commemorate its 125th anniversary. The celebration was highlighted by a full day of activities on Saturday, including a pancake breakfast, two parades, a tractor and pick-up pull, and a car show. The day was capped off by a street dance that night. In addition to those festivities, a quilt show and a room celebrating the history of the town were open all weekend. The celebration concluded on Sunday with an all-faiths service followed by a brunch.

Mr. President, I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Sheldon, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Sheldon and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Sheldon that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Sheldon has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLFAX, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 22, the residents of Colfax will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Colfax was founded in 1881 and was proudly named after former Vice President Schulyer Colfax, who had owned property in the area. In February 1881, Colfax's post office was established. Colfax became known as the "Fountain City" because of the numerous artesian wells that can be found in the community and the surrounding areas.

Today, Colfax remains a small, proud community. Each year, the community gathers together and has picnics in the park. During the summer, many of its residents can be found at the local pool, catching up with friends and family.

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding, the residents of Colfax will gather on July 22. There will be an all-school reunion to allow former classmates to reunite with each other and a coffee social at the local church. The highlight of the celebration will be the parade, which will feature floats, horses, and this year's North Dakota nine-man football state champs—all of whom are residents of Colfax.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Colfax, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Colfax and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Colfax that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this

fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Colfax has a proud past and a bright future.●

HONORING MARIO KAVCIC

● Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask that the following proclamation be printed in the RECORD.

The proclamation follows:

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF MARIO KAVCIC

Whereas: Mr. Mario Kavcic began his radio career forty years ago in Cleveland Heights for a Slovenian interest radio program, and

Whereas: Mr. Kavcic conducted his first on-air interview in his native Slovenian with then Ohio State Representative and current United States Senator George Voinovich, and

Whereas: Mr. Kavcic moved to Cleveland to work with other ethnic language broadcast companies, and

Whereas: Mr. Kavcic's great success and popularity earned him a prestigious evening time slot for his program, and

Whereas: Mr. Kavcic created a program devoted to international affairs that aired on Saturday nights for ten consecutive years, and

Whereas: Mr. Kavcic moved his program to Nationality Broadcast Network—which reaches communities in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia—after National Ethnic Programming went through a format change, and

Whereas: Mr. Kavcic interviewed President Richard Nixon, President Gerald Ford, Senator Howard Metzenbaum, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, and Cleveland Mayors Michael White and Jane Campbell, to inform his listeners about current issues, and

Whereas: Mr. Kavcic was awarded the prestigious Governor Award by former Ohio Governor John Gilligan, and

Now, therefore, I, Mike DeWine, United States Senator from the Great State of Ohio, would like to commend Mr. Mario Kavcic for his longtime and tireless efforts serving the Slovenian population in Cleveland and throughout Ohio. Mr. Kavcic's outstanding work to preserve and promote the rich heritage and culture of the Slovenian community is a shining example of the positive role the press can play in our society.

On this, the 18th Day of July, 2006.●

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the extraordinary men and women who work there to assist our Nation's veterans. Last year, the VA began a year-long celebration in order to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Department. As the agency that administers veterans' benefits, a well-funded VA is one way our Nation honors those who have served in the Armed Forces.

Veterans programs have a long and distinguished history stretching back before nationhood itself. During the conflict between the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony and the Pequot Indians in 1636, a law was approved mandating that disabled veterans would be supported by the colony. Over the course