

Vietnam, Ron Laney worked his way through college as a juvenile probation counselor, earning a degree in criminology and a masters in criminal justice. Mr. Laney soon found his calling in policy development at the Federal Government's Law Enforcement Assistance Agency, LEAA. Continuing his career in public service, he joined the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention, OJJDP, as a law enforcement program manager. Mr. Laney quickly made his presence known developing OJJDP's first law enforcement training program entitled Police Operations Leading to Improved Children and Youth Services, POLICY.

Mr. Laney continued to develop new and dynamic programs for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, including Child Abuse and Exploitation Investigative Techniques, CAE; Managing Juvenile Operations, Gang Investigations, and Gang and Drug Policy; and School Administrator for Effective-Policy, SAFE-Policy, which is one of the first comprehensive interagency efforts to improve school and community safety. For approximately 10 years, Ron trained over 96,000 participants including law enforcement, legal professionals, social service personnel, as well as medical and other child protection and enforcement professionals.

In 1998, Congress appropriated funding to combat child exploitation through the internet. Mr. Laney seized upon this opportunity to create a national prototype program, called the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, ICAC. Initially, the ICAC Program consisted of 10 regional task forces made up of local, State, and Federal agencies all working together to provide expertise to investigate child sexual exploitation via the internet. The ICAC Task Force now also provides community outreach programs to teach children and parents of the dangers of internet usage, and has expanded to include 46 regional task forces, with over 500 local, state, and federal law enforcement officers covering all areas of the United States. Since ICAC's creation, investigations of sexual victimization of children involving the use of internet technology have spanned the globe and have sparked the training of other foreign governments on ICAC techniques. The ICAC programs have come to represent the most comprehensive effort to recognize, investigate, and prosecute adult child sex offenders using internet technology.

In addition to working to create the ICAC, Mr. Laney contributed to the development of the Amber Alert program, advocated for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and provided policy and funding assistance for the American Prosecutors' research institute. Throughout his exemplary civil service career, Mr. Laney has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment to his colleagues. Mr. Laney's commitment to child protection for over 30 years is evidenced by the training of over 500,000 child protection specialists from multiple disciplines. Additionally, he has provided training to educators and school administrators impacting the safety of over 750,000 K-12 students. Mr. Laney's legacy to our society is the protection of our children and advocacy for abused children and their parents.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding his past accomplishments and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

#### HONORING MIKE JUNE

### HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike June, a man of tremendous courage and spirit who recently passed away.

Michael John June was many things to many people. He was a son. He was a husband. He was a father. He was a brother. He was a friend. All who knew and loved him will tell you that he was as kind-hearted, generous, and unselfish an individual as there ever was.

Mike also was a constituent of mine, and a hard-nosed football coach at Palm Harbor University High School, near my congressional district. Mike was always determined and focused on winning, though he cared deeply for his players and wore his emotions on his sleeve. He sometimes cried, after both wins and losses, but often displayed the trademark smile that lurked just below his handlebar mustache, especially when his players performed as he knew they could.

Mike also had an ebullient personality and can-do attitude. He was diagnosed with leukemia in November 2002, yet was coaching his boys the following season. His best friend and former college roommate observed that, "it seemed like there was nothing that could get him down." Mike kept coaching and teaching, even when his cancer returned and his doctors told him that he was risking death by doing so. He did so because, as one of his former players has commented, "he loved to give what he had."

Those who cared for Mike in his final days have said that, despite his serious illness, he did not pity himself or lament the hand he had been dealt. In fact, when asked how he was doing, he always replied "excellent."

Mr. Speaker, Mike June loved his wife Paula, and his children Mike, Max, Matthew, Mitchell, and Mia. I hope the sadness that they and those who cared about him feel at his passing will one day be eclipsed by the joy of knowing that his legacy will live on in those who were fortunate enough to have known him. May God bless his soul and may He watch over his family.

#### FANNIE LOU HAMER, ROSA PARKS, AND CORETTA SCOTT KING VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 9) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965:

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Chairman, on July 13, I reluctantly voted against H.R. 9, a bill that significantly altered the Voting Rights Act (VRA). Contrary to popular opinion, H.R. 9 did not represent a time-critical reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act. The VRA, which pro-

hibits voter discrimination, is permanent Federal law. It never needs reauthorization. However, certain provisions of the Act (Sections 6-9 and Section 203), which were meant to be temporary and periodically reviewed by Congress, are due to expire a year from now—not today, this month or even this year.

When enacted in 1965, the Voting Rights Act played a critical role in granting equal rights to all Americans to cast their ballots. At that point in our Nation's history, some jurisdictions used extraordinary voter suppression devices like poll taxes and literacy tests that were designed to discriminate against minority voters and indeed had that effect. Congress rightly responded in kind with extraordinary remedies that were deemed emergency provisions. The emergency or temporary provisions of the VRA include Section 5, which requires certain covered jurisdictions to pre-clear any change in their election laws or procedures with the Department of Justice. This means relocating a ballot booth in one neighborhood can require Federal approval. It also includes Section 203, added in 1975, mandating that ballots in certain jurisdictions be provided in languages other than English.

Unfortunately, H.R. 9 is significantly flawed. For example, H.R. 9 does not simply reauthorize Section 5 of VRA but makes significant changes to the section. Specifically, it requires that for Section 5 pre-clearance that minorities as a group, not as individuals, be allowed to elect their preferred candidate of choice. Legal scholars disagree on the meaning of this phrase but many interpret it to mean that states will now be forced in decennial Congressional redistricting to maximize the number of districts where a certain political party wins. For example, in the recent Texas redistricting case it was found that if most members of a minority group vote Democratic, they are entitled to a district that elects a Democrat. If a minority candidate wins the district, that is not sufficient. It must be a Democrat minority candidate. That is not a voting right; it is a voting wrong. No less a legal authority than former Solicitor General Ted Olson has stated the following:

"For forty-one years, the Voting Rights Act has focused on protecting voters' rights to cast a ballot by forbidding States from adopting laws that 'abridge[] the right to vote on account of race or color.' The new version of the Voting Rights Act, however, risks shifting the Act's focus to protect politicians' interests in holding office, by entrenching preferred candidates of choice. I believe that most Americans would agree that the Voting Rights Act should be used to protect voters' access to the ballot box, not to protect incumbents' reelection chances."

Thus, Section 5 should be reauthorized as is without this new language.

Another flaw of H.R. 9 is that it preserves 40-year-old criteria (based on the 1964, '68, and '72 presidential elections) to determine which states and counties are subject to provisions of the VRA. But minority-voting patterns are now dramatically different than they were 40 years ago. For example, today in Georgia, blacks are more likely than whites to register to vote and to exercise their right to vote. The VRA should be used to protect voting rights everywhere, not just the South and a handful of other counties. Discrimination today can happen just as easily in Michigan or New Jersey as it can in Texas or Georgia. Unless this

section is changed, many of our grandchildren will continue to be punished for the sins of our grandfathers. That should not happen in America.

Using election data from 1964—when 60% of Americans today were not even alive—to determine discrimination patterns today is deeply troubling and raises questions as to the fairness and constitutionality of the legislation. The criteria should be updated to the relevant last three presidential elections to assure equal protection under the law.

Finally, I continue to believe that section 203 is bad public policy. In America, English is the language of opportunity. This common language binds us together as a people and strengthens us as a Nation. We must continue to emphasize the importance of learning English to those integrating into American society and culture. This is important to them and critical to the Nation as a whole. Those entering the country illegally clearly are not allowed to vote and naturalized citizens must demonstrate English proficiency before becoming Americans. Thus, contrary to popular notions, there are relatively few Americans not sufficiently proficient with English to cast a ballot. Those that are not already have their voting rights protected by laws permitting them to bring a translator into the voting booth with them. If a city or state wishes to print multiple ballots in numerous languages the Federal Government should not prevent them from doing so. On the other hand, the federal government should not mandate that they do it either. Simply put, taxpayers should not be compelled by federal law to pay for printing ballots in languages other than English.

The amendments that I supported to shorten the bill's extension to 10 years, apply the VRA fairly and nationwide, remove jurisdictions from coverage when they have shown a consistent respect for the voting rights of minority citizens, and end a requirement forcing taxpayers to pay for ballots in languages other than English—would have greatly improved this bill. I hope that appropriate changes are made to strengthen this bill, so that I am able to vote for final passage when it comes back to the House.

There is no doubt that the debate over the Voting Rights Act is an emotional one. For many Americans it has become an icon and rightfully so. The VRA has been a critical weapon in the struggle for civil rights and equal opportunity and should remain so. But the emergency provisions were written in a different time to address a different set of challenges. There is danger in allowing symbolism to overcome reality and principle.

This is not a vote I took lightly. I know too often in America that when the accusation is racism, one may wrongly be considered guilty until proven innocent. I regret the phenomena but will not let it dictate my conscience. Everyday we should not only work to root out racial discrimination but should work to reduce race consciousness as well. As Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts opined in the case *LVLAC v. Perry*: "It is a sordid business, this divvying us up by race." I agree. Instead we should all work together to achieve Martin Luther King, Jr.'s goal of achieving a society that judges our children "not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

FANNIE LOU HAMER, ROSA PARKS, AND CORETTA SCOTT KING VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 9) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965:

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 9, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments. Since its enactment in August of 1965, the Voting Rights Act (VRA) has helped bring us closer to realizing the true spirit of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees all American citizens the quintessential democratic right to vote. Today we'll vote to reauthorize expiring provisions of the VRA and by doing so send a signal that we will not tolerate discrimination at the polls.

Some of our colleagues will rise today to offer amendments that would weaken the VRA. I am opposed to any attempts to dilute the intent and spirit of the VRA by weakening Section 5 of the bill. Section 5 ensures that the Federal Government will take a closer look at election practices in states and localities with a history of discrimination at the polls.

Our Nation has made a great deal of progress since 1965 when the VRA was first signed into law by President Johnson. But some municipalities continue to make it difficult, intentionally or otherwise, for ethnic and racial minority voters to register and vote. The great civil rights leaders of the 1960s, including our distinguished colleague Rep. JOHN LEWIS, worked tirelessly to fight discrimination in all aspects of our society. They knew then, and we know now, that the right of all Americans to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy. We must continue their great legacy and pass the bill before us today without amendment.

PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, on July 19, 2006, I voted against H.R. 2389, the Pledge Protection Act of 2005.

The American flag is a symbol of liberty and justice, of freedom of speech and expression, as well as the other freedoms we cherish which are guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. But even more important than the symbol are the ideals and principles that the symbol rep-

resents. I believe the best way to honor the American flag is not to wrap ourselves in it, but to respect and honor the values for which it stands. That our Nation can tolerate disrespect for our flag is proof of the enduring strength of our Nation. It is proof to me that ours is the greatest nation on earth.

I served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. I know how deeply our veterans love and revere our flag. I share those feelings for our flag and all that it represents.

Our democracy has withstood many tests over time, and has been strengthened as a result. There is no more important protection provided by the First Amendment than its protection of political speech and expression.

In a letter to Senator PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont dated May 18, 1999, former Secretary of State (then General) Colin L. Powell wrote to express his concerns regarding a constitutional amendment banning flag burning: "The First Amendment exists to insure that freedom of speech and expression applies not just to that with which we agree or disagree, but also that which we find outrageous. I would not amend that great shield of democracy to hammer a few miscreants. The flag will still be flying proudly long after they have slunk away. . . . If I were a member of Congress, I would not vote for the proposed amendment. . . ."

I agree wholeheartedly with Colin Powell's statement, and believe it applies here as well. The Pledge of Allegiance is an invaluable part of our national heritage, but we must also bear in mind the immeasurable significance of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Finally, I have deep concerns about current efforts to deny the Federal courts, including the Supreme Court, the ability to review the constitutionality of our Federal laws. I believe preserving our three-branch system of government is in our Nation's best interest.

CONGRATULATING LAKE COUNTY ELECTRICIANS JATC CLASS OF 2006 GRADUATES

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and admiration that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, July 28, 2006, the Lake County Electricians Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, JATC, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the National Electrical Contractors Association will honor the class of 2006 at their annual Apprentice Completion Banquet, which will be held at the Avalon Manor Banquet Hall in Hobart, Indiana.

This year, the Lake County Electricians JATC will be recognizing and honoring the following graduates, who have completed the apprentice training: Nicholas Bacan, Daniel Boyd, Glen Britton, Nicholas Cardaras, Gonzaliev Castillo, Robert Coleman, James Crocker, David Delaney, Oliver Ewing, Jason M. Gallion, Nathan Gombus, Nathan Gonzales, Eric Hardesty, Jeremy Huber, Mark Jackson, Eric Kociara, Craig B. Konopasek,