

RECOGNIZING PAUL K. HARRAL
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul K. Harral for his service to the Fort Worth community throughout his career with the Fort Worth Star Telegram. After providing his expertise for nearly a quarter-century in almost every news department of the Star Telegram, Harral will retire at the end of April.

Media is Harral's passion. Before joining the Star-Telegram family in 1986, Harral served the United Press International, Baptist Medical Center and Florida City Magazines Inc. In the Star-Telegram, his goal has always been to present the issues that are important to his community and keep citizens informed. Over the years, Harral served as Senior Editor of Metro news, Ombudsman, Editor of the editorial pages, Editor of zoning operations, and supervised the online department. Under his tenure in 1995, the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors (APME) recognized the weekend and daily commentary sections as best in the state.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Paul K. Harral for his years of service to Fort Worth. His devotion serves as an example to those who had the privilege of working with him. Even though he is retiring, his contribution will be forever appreciated by the Fort Worth community. It is an honor to represent him as a member of the 26th district of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH CLARKE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Keith Clarke is one of these individuals. On April 16, 2009, Keith will retire as the Director of the Building Department for the City of Corona.

Keith graduated from Pacifica High School in 1973 and obtained his Associates Degree in Engineering from Cypress Junior College in 1976. He attended the University of California at Los Angeles and then attended California State University at Long Beach from 1977 to 1979.

After attending college, Keith became a General Contractor and contracted a variety of projects which included masonry structures, patio covers and room additions. From 1981 to 1982, Keith worked as a Deputy Concrete and Masonry Inspector for Southern California Testing Labs where he performed inspections on masonry and concrete structures in order to insure compliance with approved plans and structural specifications. In 1982, Keith came to the City of Corona and he began as a

Building Inspector. He quickly rose up the ranks: he became a Senior Building Inspector in 1984, an Assistant Building Official in 1986, a Building Official/Director in 1989, the Acting Director of Parks and Community Services in 2005 and the Building Official/Director from October 2005 to March 31, 2009.

Keith is a member of several organizations, including: the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), the International Association of Electrical Inspectors, the International Fire Code Institute, Building Officials and Code Administrators, the Citrus Belt Chapter of ICBO, and California Building Officials. He also serves or has served on the California Building Officials (CALBO) Board of Directors, the CALBO State Contractors License Board, the United States Navy League, the CALBO State Historical Code Committee, the ICC Citrus Belt Chapter, the Toastmasters International, and the Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Club and as a Calbo CTI Instructor.

Keith has received several awards over the years including: Building Inspector of the Year; Citrus Belt Chapter ICBO 1986; Building Official of the Year; Citrus Belt Chapter ICBO 1988; Toastmasters, Best Table Topics Speech Contest 1997; California Building Officials, Building Department of the Year, 2003; California Building Officials, Building Official of the Year, 2004; and California Building Officials, Hall of Fame Award, 2009.

Keith's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. I am proud to call Keith a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him and his 27 years of service to the City of Corona.

HONORING ROBERT AYERS GOULD,
SR.

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Robert Ayers Gould, Sr., for his exceptional leadership and outstanding public service.

After graduating from Athens High School in 1957, Bob joined the United States Navy where he served aboard the USS *Coral Sea*. Following an Honorable Discharge, he returned to Athens where he opened the Gould Insurance Agency in 1962, which he has owned and operated for over forty years.

Bob Gould served on the City Council of Athens for twelve years before his retirement in 2007, where he oversaw many projects benefiting his community. Among his many civic activities, Bob has been the Director and Vice-President of the Athens Chamber of Commerce, Co-Founder of the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Charter Director for the Henderson County YMCA. He has also received many awards from his community, including the Roadhand Award from the Texas Highway Commission and the Athens Citizen of the Year Award in 1984.

In addition to faithfully serving his community, Bob is a husband to Mrs. Peggy Lorene

Lubben Gould and father of four children: Robert Jr., Joseph, Patricia, and Mary.

I want to recognize Bob for his service and commitment to his community. Due to Bob's leadership in the city and throughout the business community, Athens remains a strong, supportive, and vibrant community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 5th District of Texas, it is my pleasure to recognize my good friend Mr. Robert Ayers Gould, Sr. for being an invaluable public servant and community leader.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRIVATE
PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT OF
2009

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to reintroduce the Private Property Protection Act of 2009. I am also pleased to be joined again by Rep. JIM SENSENBRENNER, the Chairman Emeritus of the Judiciary, and the lead Republican on this bipartisan bill. This bill is successor to H.R. 3053, from the 110th Congress and we are joined today by 24 original copponsors.

The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution provides in part that "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

On June 23, 2005, a majority of the Supreme Court chose to close its eyes to the Constitution and our Nation's rich history of protecting private property rights. The Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in *Kelo vs. City of New London*, held that "economic development" can be a "public use" under the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause justifying the government's taking of private property. The Court held that the creation of a more lucrative tax base can justify the government's taking of private property from one small homeowner and giving it to a large corporation for a private research facility.

The *Kelo* decision interpreted government taking for "public use" to mean no more than "public purpose." Put simply, this decision meant that government would have an almost unlimited ability to seize private property—homes, churches, synagogues, and thriving businesses—and hand it over to private companies so long as they convince the local land authority that the project will yield economic benefit for a community that has been arbitrarily deemed "distressed." Private companies and developers all over the country went into a frenzy to file project site plans when *Kelo* was decided. They knew that they would be able to make huge amounts of money so long as they produced public benefit—this was a ridiculous over-expansion of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

As the dissent in *Kelo* pointed out, "To reason, as the Court does, that the incidental public benefits resulting from the subsequent ordinary use of private property render economic development takings 'for public use' is to wash out any distinction between private and public use of property—and thereby effectively to delete the words 'for public use' from the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment." The dissent made clear that, as a result of the

majority's decision, "Any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party, but the fallout from this decision will not be random. The beneficiaries are likely to be those citizens with disproportionate influence and power in the political process, including large corporations and development firms. As for the victims, the government now has license to transfer property from those with fewer resources to those with more. The Founders cannot have intended this perverse result."

The bottom line is that local and Federal governments must take every landowner as a special case because the people who own the properties that are subject to economic redevelopment play just as big a role as the projected revenues that the local jurisdiction hopes to bring in with a new development. Just because you are poor does not mean that your right to private property is worth any less than that of a wealthy developer.

The Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2009 will restore the property rights of all Americans that the Supreme Court changed with the Kelo decision. This legislation would prevent the Federal Government or any authority of the Federal Government from using economic development as a justification for exercising its power of eminent domain. This bill would also discourage States and localities from abusing their eminent domain power by denying States or localities that commit such abuse all Federal economic development funds for a period of two years. This bill is substantially similar to H.R. 4128, legislation that passed the House in the 109th Congress by an overwhelmingly vote of 376–38, nearly a 10–1 margin, but unfortunately, was never enacted.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to protect the private property rights of every American and hope they will join me in sponsoring the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2009.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

For 60 years, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of mutual political, economic, cultural, and strategic benefit. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations from the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the People's Republic of China in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act to ensure that the United States would have continued commercial, cultural, and other relations with Taiwan. With President Carter's signature on April 10, 1979, this important and lasting piece of legislation became law and codified the basis for relations between the United States and Taiwan. This year will mark the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Over these past 30 years, Taiwan has seen remarkable changes, from rapid economic

growth to significant political transformation. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Taiwan witnessed a peaceful transition of political power from a one-party state under martial law to a full-fledged democracy and a multi-party political system. In March of last year, the people of Taiwan participated in Taiwan's fourth direct and democratic presidential election. The smooth and peaceful transition from one administration to another is a testament to Taiwan's continued dedication to the principles of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

The Taiwan Relations Act has also been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability across the Taiwan Strait. When the Taiwan Relations Act was signed into law, it affirmed that the United States' decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means. The Act also states that "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability." I believe that, in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States should continue to support the legitimate defense needs of Taiwan.

It is my hope that the United States, Taiwan, and the People's Republic of China can continue to work together to promote enduring peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, especially across the Taiwan Strait. Let us recognize the past 30 years of the Taiwan Relations Act and maintain and strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations for many years to come.

HONORABLE JOHN LAWRENCE
MADURO

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, one of the legends of the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Honorable John Lawrence Maduro will be laid to rest next week. Many will rise to speak in his honor for he was one of the founding fathers of the political system in the territory and as a consequence someone who influenced our community in the social and economic aspects as well.

Born on St. Thomas, Maduro was a graduate of Charlotte Amalie High School, New York University and George Washington University School of Law. He served in World War II in the North African and European theaters and achieved the rank of Master Sergeant and later Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves.

We were proud to honor him and all living WWII Veterans in the Virgin Islands two years ago, and he was always very proud of his service.

When he returned to the Virgin Islands in the 1950s, he became active in politics and in the process became one of the titans of the Legislature, serving for twenty-two years. He presided over the body twice and during his tenure, worked with his colleagues to achieve political rights for the territory that included the right to elect its own governor and delegate to

Congress, the right of the Legislature to apportion its seat in accordance to the vote rule, the right to fix the compensation of its members and the rights to override gubernatorial vetoes.

Maduro presented a weekly political radio broadcast that kept his constituency informed about legislative issues and also was an active partner in the law firm of Birch, deJongh and Farrelly.

It has been said of John L. Maduro that "he was determined to create a Virgin Islands that would offer unlimited opportunities to its citizens in all areas of social, political and economic endeavor and a Virgin Islands where pride in one's heritage and homeland would be everlasting."

Madame Speaker, John L. Maduro and Elmo D. Roebuck, who I spoke of earlier this week are part of a generation of leaders who put their intellect, their discipline and their foresight to the use of the people of the Virgin Islands. They were leaders who we were proud to follow, who rose to the challenge of shepherding the territory through the rapid changes of 20th century modernization and they gave our generation and the generations to follow a territory that is still poised to be a regional leader and a positive example of democratic government.

Madam Speaker, we will miss Johnny Maduro. The people of the Virgin Islands will not forget his example as we work to create for this century, a free and prosperous Virgin Islands.

IRAN'S MISSION FOR NUCLEAR
PROLIFERATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to Iran's mission for nuclear proliferation. If Iran were to acquire nuclear weapons, the repercussions would be detrimental to our global security. A nuclear Iran would not only pose a threat to the United States and our allies, but would also destabilize an already volatile Middle East region.

Under the guise of energy production, Iran is today actively seeking to acquire nuclear weapon technology. This fact is supported by United Nations inspectors who have found that certain aspects of the Iranian nuclear program are useful only for developing nuclear weapons.

Recently, Iran has further developed its nuclear weapons production capability. In December, Iran constructed a domed containment center adjacent to a heavy water reactor in Arak. This structure makes it impossible to monitor the reactor by satellite. In the past three months, Iran has installed nearly 1,500 centrifuges. As a result, it could take only 2 to 3 months for Iran to enrich uranium to weapons grade. Furthermore, Iran has recently acquired 2,200 pounds of low enriched uranium—enough for one first-generation nuclear bomb.

A nuclear Iran would significantly impact the surrounding region. The repercussions would be felt not only by Middle Eastern countries, but also by countries around the world. The possible outcomes could range from a Middle