

that Taiwan's Unification Council will cease to function and the National Unification Guidelines will cease to apply. He came to his decision after weighing the importance of preserving Taiwan's freedom, democracy, human rights, the status quo and Taiwanese people's right to choose their own future.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan stated, "We welcome President Chen's reaffirmation of his administration's commitment to cross-strait peace and stability, and Taiwan's commitment to the pledges that President Chen made in his inaugural address . . . to not unilaterally alter the status quo on the Taiwan Strait."

Since peace in the Taiwan Strait is critical to our national security and any military confrontation must be avoided, I therefore urge China to end its strident rhetoric against Taiwan, rescind the Anti-Secession Law enacted last spring and remove the hundreds of threatening missiles targeting Taiwan.

On the first anniversary of the passage of China's Anti-Secession Law and the 10th anniversary of the Taiwan Strait Missile Crisis, it is high time for a meaningful dialogue to resume between Chinese leaders and the elected leadership in Taiwan, leading to a peaceful resolution of their differences. I support these efforts to reduce the tension on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, and urge my fellow Congressional colleagues to continue their support for repealing the Anti-Secession Law.

H.R. 3402, THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the following Extension of Remarks should have been included during the December 17, 2005 House debate of H.R. 3402:

I rise in support of this legislation, which reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act and the Department of Justice. I first would like to commend Chairman SENSENBRENNER for reasserting the Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction over the Department of Justice and its programs with this bill. I also want to thank Senators BIDEN, LEAHY, and SPECTER for working with us on this legislation. We worked together to address everyone's concerns and arrived at the compromise bill before us today.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

An important piece of the bill is the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. This is the third time we have worked on this bill, and each time we make dramatic improvements by using new vehicles to tackle the issue. Building on work from previous years, the Act reauthorizes some of the current programs that have proven enormously effective, including the STOP program—which provides state formula grants that help fund collaboration efforts between police and prosecutors and victim services providers—and legal assistance for victims.

One important aspect of this legislation is the new program we created specifically tailored to address the needs of communities of color. In the original VAWA, Congress intended for all underserved communities to

have a fair chance at addressing these issues. However, all to often racial and ethnic minorities are overlooked. In this legislation, Congress has included language referencing culturally specific communities in an attempt to respond to the needs of racial and ethnic minorities. Inserting this language into the bill is a monumental victory for communities of color.

In Indian Country (especially in non-Public Law 280 States), non-Indian perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault crimes against Indian victims cannot be prosecuted by tribes or by states. Only the United States has the jurisdiction to prosecute such perpetrators. Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Justice frequently lacks the prosecutorial resources necessary to pursue these cases. The Attorney General of the United States has the authority, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 543, to cross-designate prosecuting attorneys appointed by the Tribal Governments as Special Assistant United States Attorneys. The Committee urges the Attorney General to close the jurisdictional gap by cross-designating tribal prosecutors as Special Assistant United States Attorneys for the purpose of enforcing 18 U.S.C. 2261, 18 U.S.C. 2261A, 18 U.S.C. 2262, 18 U.S.C. 2265, 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(8), and 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(9). Any tribal prosecutors appointed as Special Assistant United States Attorneys pursuant to this process should undergo training on the federal crimes enumerated above; such training should be developed and offered in conjunction with experts on tribal law and domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The progress of these cross-designations and trainings should be a subject for review through the consultation process described in Section 1002 of Title X of this Act.

Title VI—Section 605

The intent of Congress in this section is to ensure that Federal, State, tribal, territorial and local confidentiality protections put into place to protect the safety of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are not undercut by broad data collection programs.

For the purposes of this section, Congress finds that any data that meets the definition of "personally identifying information" cannot be altered to become "non-personally identifying information" simply by being altered technologically for the purposes of limiting access to such information.

Any data that can be construed to fall under the definition of "personally identifying information" shall remain defined as such and shall be protected as mandated in this section as long as a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database is maintained.

Congress notes that participation in an HMIS or other database may be mandated for other non-victim service provider grantees. Any victim service program prohibited from participation in an HMIS or other shared database under this statute may not be penalized for compliance with this statute, either directly or indirectly through mechanisms such as the withholding of incentives.

Title VI—Sections 606 and 607

Congress notes that employees or volunteers of victim service providers who are signing certification documents should be trained service providers. An employee or volunteer serving solely in an administrative capacity is not appropriate to sign a certification form.

Congress notes that these sections should not be construed to require public housing authorities to adopt a preference for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Public housing authori-

ties are encouraged to adopt such a preference, but that decision is at the discretion of the public housing authority, consistent with applicable law and regulation.

Congress notes that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) may want to issue guidance or regulations to assist with the implementation of these sections. Certain nonprofit organizations and other government agencies that have expertise in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, or in housing law and policy, can provide valuable guidance to HUD in creating such guidance and regulations. HUD is directed to work with such expert nonprofit organizations and government agencies in drafting guidance, regulations, and any other communication to local housing authorities and assisted housing providers regarding these sections, including the Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook, the Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, and any HUD-approved forms used for certification as a qualifying victim under these sections.

Congress notes that under these sections, in order to show an 'actual and imminent threat,' a housing or subsidy provider must demonstrate, using forms of evidence admissible under current law, that the tenant's continued tenancy or assistance directly and imminently causes a distinct harm to the safety of the landlord, the subsidy or service provider, other tenants, or those employed at or providing service to the property, but not necessarily a specific physical harm to the intended victim. Nothing in these sections should be construed to negate any tenant's responsibility to follow all terms and obligations of a lease.

Congress notes that bifurcation of a lease under these sections allows a public housing agency, owner or manager to terminate a person or person's rights and obligations under the lease agreement while maintaining the rights and obligations of other lease parties. Nothing in these sections should be construed to obligate a public housing agency, owner or manager to maintain or enter a lease agreement with any individual who is not eligible for tenancy or assistance.

The bill also goes a long way in helping immigrants subjected to domestic violence to secure their right to stay in the country and seek shelter from those who batter them by expanding the class of victims who can seek immigration status by self-petitioning through VAWA. For example, the bill protects victims of child abuse from aging out by allowing for victims to self petition up to the age of 25, parents abused by U.S. citizen children by allowing them to file for relief under VAWA, and victims with prima facie cases as a VAWA self-petitioner, or for a T or U visa, from removal or deportation. It also limits detention for victims who have pending petitions or applications for relief.

This legislation is crucial in our plight to combat violence against women.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REAUTHORIZATION

In addition, the bill provides funding for the various offices within the Department. In this regard, I would like to note that it gives the Office of the Inspector General over \$70 million for its responsibilities. In the past few years, the OIG has been diligent in overseeing the Department's war on terrorism, issuing reports on 9/11 detainees and pushing the Department to change how its procedures for handling terrorism suspects.

The bill reauthorizes the COPS office. We all know that this Clinton Administration program has been increasingly vital in crime prevention and crime solving. That is why COPS has received the praise of the Fraternal Order of Police, the largest law enforcement organization in the country. Local

policing also is the backbone in our war on terrorism, as community officers are more likely to know the witnesses and more likely to be trusted by community residents who have information about potential attacks. This bill provides over \$1 billion per year for this program.

The bill also includes language offered by Rep. Adam Schiff to require the Attorney General to report to Congress on the number of persons detained on suspicion of terrorism. This is important because the Department has thwarted congressional and judicial efforts to obtain justification for terrorism detainees. The Department's Office of the Inspector General found that the Department and its components had abused terrorism suspects, pushing them into walls, leaving them in legal limbo, and depriving them of access to family or counsel. With these reports, Congress can better determine whether the Department is overstepping its bounds again.

Finally, I am pleased the Chairman agreed with me that we needed to amend the emergency sessions authority for federal courts. Just a few months ago, we authorized federal courts to change locations in situations of natural disasters or other emergencies that make their courthouses unusable. This bill now ensures that, in those situations, indigent defendants will be provided with transportation and subsistence costs for the new location so that they will not be left to fend for themselves in disaster.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT V. JEWELL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I am paying tribute to Robert V. Jewell, as he is honored by the University of Michigan-Flint alumni society. The Alumni Society is presenting their Campus Service Award to Rob at a ceremony on March 23 in Flint, Michigan.

The Campus Service Award is given to a volunteer making a significant contribution of time, talent, and service to the University of Michigan-Flint. Rob was chosen to receive this award for his work on the Alumni Society Board of Governors. He has served on the board for over 15 years and has completed two stints as the chairperson. In addition he has played a vital role in the development of the University's School of Education and Human Services Alumni Affiliate.

After graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology with a minor in social work in 1978, Rob began his career of service to the Flint community. He has worked or volunteered for numerous community-based organizations, educational institutions and religious groups. Blending the fresh with the practical he has established a reputation in the community for energetic, enthusiastic problem solving.

Currently working as development coordinator for the Hurley Foundation, Rob works to bring together the people and funds to improve Hurley Medical Center and the Flint area. For many he is known as "Mr. Hurley." He brings that same commitment to his work on behalf of the University of Michigan-Flint as he strives to improve the lifelong educational experience of its students and alumni.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to congratulate Robert V. Jewell as he

receives the Campus Service Award from the University of Michigan-Flint Alumni Society.

CONGRATULATING FATHER PAUL MCDONNELL, PITTSSTON CITY'S PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Father Paul McDonnell, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Pittston, Luzerne County, PA. Father McDonnell was recently selected by the Pittston Sunday Dispatch newspaper to receive the title of Person of the Year for 2005.

The honor is due to Father McDonnell's success in building a new parish community center to serve all citizens in the Pittston area.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish consists of 2,300 members and is showing signs of growth. Father McDonnell recognized in 2002 that the church basement, which hosted community events, was no longer adequate.

He subsequently launched a capital campaign to raise the funds needed for the construction project. The design called for the center to be physically tied into the church so they looked like one building. The plan called for the new center to be supported by the church. But, engineers discovered that a large part of the church's foundation had collapsed during an earlier mine cave-in and it was remarkable that the church over the void was even supporting itself, let alone a new structure. The void was filled with concrete and steel and new steel supports were designed to enable the church to support the weight of the new center.

The Sunday Dispatch newspaper, in reporting on the opening of the new center last year, commented, "The dedication of the parish center . . . was more than just the opening of a building—it was a moving testament to faith, an astonishing display of generosity and an amazing feat of engineering."

Father McDonnell is an exceedingly popular church leader in the city of Pittston, PA. Many people believe it is his personality and exuberance that has his parish growing while others decline. He is especially liked by the elderly. "In his interaction with the elderly, you can see the love they have for him by how they look at him. He touches them, he speaks to them, he listens to them and he laughs with them," the Dispatch wrote.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Father McDonnell for a job well done. His selection as Pittston Person of the Year is a fitting honor for a priest who has captured the admiration of an entire community due to his love of fellow man, his warmth and his enthusiasm. Truly, Father McDonnell has improved the quality of life in greater Pittston.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF KIRBY PUCKETT

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, Minnesota lost a true hero and sports legend this past week. Like Minnesota's Paul Bunyan, he was instantly recognizable, from his name to his gigantic smile to his unique frame.

But Kirby Puckett was very real, and the pain all Minnesotans feel is too real, as we say farewell to a Minnesota icon.

Mr. Speaker, Minnesota is heartbroken. Kirby Puckett was known as much for his great spirit, enthusiasm and energy as he was for his remarkable baseball skills.

He did so much to help people in need, and he was always there for civic and charitable causes of every kind. He never said no to Children's Heartlink, Big Brothers Big Sisters or numerous other charities.

And his "Puckett Scholars" program helped enable so many minority students to attend college and pursue their dreams.

To say that Kirby is known as much for his community service as his baseball is really saying something, Mr. Speaker.

Because Hall of Famer Kirby Puckett in his baseball career put up some historic statistics and gave baseball fans many memorable thrills on the field.

Remember October 27, 1991? In Minnesota, we all know where we were that night.

I was at the Metrodome, and I will never forget Kirby's impossibly high leap at the center-field fence and his amazing catch in the third inning of Game 6 of the 1991 World Series.

And no Minnesota Twins fan will ever forget Kirby's dramatic 11th-inning, game-ending home run to almost the same spot in the very same game.

Mr. Speaker, Kirby did it all in 12 short seasons and was elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame on the very first ballot upon eligibility. Twelve short seasons, and a .318 career average, 2,304 hits, 1,085 runs batted in, 207 homers, 1,071 runs—all in just 1,783 games. And the numbers do not begin to tell the whole story.

Kirby Puckett was the leader, the favorite teammate, the name the kids screamed and the name the public address announcer lingered over and stretched out for maximum dramatic effect.

He ran all out at break-neck speed—in center field and around the bases. And his teammates got the clue. They were driven to match his intensity and love for the game.

Minnesota Twins fans loved him so for that. And we always will.

Mr. Speaker, our entire state has an extended lower lip, and our heads are bowed. We are so very saddened by the death of Kirby Puckett.

Just the mention of his name has always brought smiles to the faces of Minnesotans of all ages—and so many great memories.

Mr. Speaker, you will find many kids in Minnesota named Kirby and the reason is simple: Kirby captured all our hearts.

In summers past, Kirby made our hearts race with his tremendous athletic feats. His powerful batting stroke produced so many clutch hits.