

crews. Let me tell you, our oil that goes from the Port of Valdez down there, clear down to the west coast of the United States, primarily in the Puget Sound area, the San Francisco Bay area, and the Los Angeles harbor area—these new ships mean jobs in the shipyards, jobs on the ship, and U.S.-documented vessels.

So it is a big jobs issue. The most significant portions of our merchant marine are these tankers that haul the oil.

Washington, Oregon, and California are going to get oil. What happens? They will get it from Iraq, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. It is going to come over in foreign vessels that do not have double bottoms—all our new vessels have double bottoms—and it is going to come over with foreign crews, and they are not going to have the deep pockets of Exxon. I point out what this means in terms of sound, high-paying U.S. jobs.

Let's do what is right for America. I appreciate the time allotted to me and unless there is another Senator seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Nebraska). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized as in morning business for the purpose of introducing a bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair. (The remarks of Mrs. FEINSTEIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1796 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, as our celebration of Black History Month now comes to a close, I want to acknowledge some of the rich and ongoing contributions made by my State's African-American citizens. Of course, the efforts of African Americans in Florida and throughout our Nation's history should be recognized every day, not just during Black History Month. Back home in Florida, our State has been blessed with a remarkable number of prominent African-American citizens who have served our State and Nation with distinction in a variety of fields. I want to mention a few.

Although not a Florida native, just think of the contributions of Mary McLeod Bethune. She founded one of

the oldest and most prestigious black colleges, Bethune-Cookman College. In addition to serving as President of Bethune-Cookman, she also was one of the leading civil rights activists of her time, and the first African-American woman to serve on a Presidential commission. Bethune-Cookman College is one of our stellar institutions of higher learning. It is located in Daytona Beach. I have had the privilege of attending that college and visiting with the distinguished president, who has been there over 2 decades, Dr. Oswald Bronson.

The spirit that school has today carries on in the memory of Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune. It is just amazing. I have seen that in the classrooms. I have seen it in their auditorium. I have seen it on the football field and the band performing at half time. It is a wonderful and rich part of our heritage in Florida.

That is just one. Let me name another: Justice Joe Hatcher. He was born in Clearwater and, in 1975, Judge Hatcher became the first African American elected a justice of the Supreme Court of Florida. He later went on to serve with distinction on the Federal court of appeals, a body that sits in Atlanta, although he maintained his office right there in Tallahassee. His election to the State supreme court marked the first time an African American won a statewide office since Reconstruction.

I will give you another one: James Weldon Johnson, the first African-American executive director of the NAACP, author, lyricist, creator of the National Negro Anthem, and poet. He was born in Jacksonville.

And then Eatonville, Florida's native, Zora Neale Hurston. She was a folklorist, anthropologist, and acclaimed author of such works as "Their Eyes Were Watching God," and "Of Mules and Men." I got to know about her heritage when I had the privilege, as a young Congressman, of representing Eatonville, FL, in the late 1970s as part of my congressional district.

I will give you another one: Timothy Thomas Fortune. He was born up in the panhandle in Marianna, FL, Jackson County, in 1856. He was the editor and publisher of a paper called the New York Age, and his paper was a platform for defending the civil rights of both northern and southern Blacks.

Here is one you will recognize: Asa Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. He was born in Crescent City, FL. The Brotherhood was the first union founded by and for African Americans.

Not far from there was born, in Palatka, FL, John Henry Lloyd. He was a baseball player and a manager in the Negro leagues, and was considered one of the greatest shortstops in the game. In 1930, as a member of the New York Lincoln Giants, he played in the first Negro League game in Yankee Stadium against the Baltimore Black Sox.

Now I am going to tell you a name that everybody recognizes today: Sidney Poitier, the renowned actor who won an Academy Award in 1964 for his performance in "Lilies of the Field." He was born in Miami.

And our contemporary, my colleague, Winston Scott, one of our Nation's pioneering African-American astronauts, was born in Miami. In 1992, Winston was selected by NASA and served as a mission specialist on flights in 1996 and 1997, and today he has returned to his alma mater, Florida State, where he serves as the dean of students. Winston had logged a total of 24 days, 14 hours, and 34 minutes in space.

Augusta Christine Savage was born in Green Cove Springs, just south of Jacksonville. In 1923, Augusta Christine Savage was among 100 young American women selected to attend the summer program at Fontainebleau, outside of Paris, but was refused admission once the program directors became aware of her race. In the mid-1930s she founded and became the first director of the Harlem Community Arts Theater, which played a crucial role in the development of many young African-American artists. In addition, she became the first Black elected to the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors.

A Washington hero, GEN Chappie James, the first African-American four-star general, was born in Pensacola. As a young State legislator, I had the privilege of meeting General James. He was right back from Vietnam where he had flown so many combat missions. He became one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, earning his wings back in World War II and going on to serve as a pilot, a fighter pilot in Korea and Vietnam. In 1975 he received his fourth star and he became the commander of the North American Air Defense System.

I could go on. As we remember the contributions of these and many others, and so many other African-American citizens, duty calls us to remember the difficulties this community faced as our Nation traveled through the struggle to achieve full civil rights for all people. I want to highlight two small initiatives that should help us preserve these important memories.

Florida now is home to more than a dozen former Negro League baseball players. These men are nearing the end of their lives, and they have never received a pension for their time in the league, unlike their counterparts who played Major League baseball. Although Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier in 1947, baseball didn't truly integrate until a decade after Robinson's historic feat. It took all the way up to 1959 for Major League baseball to integrate the last team.

No doubt their fans appreciate their contribution to baseball, but by refusing to grant a pension to these old-timers who played in a segregated society, Major League baseball is denying

them an appropriate reward in their efforts. I am trying to help these men resolve their dispute with Major League baseball so that they can receive a small but important token for their contributions to sports history.

Also throughout the era of segregation, when public facilities were segregated by law, the African-American community of Miami was forbidden to use all of the area's beaches but one, Virginia Key Beach, in Biscayne Bay known as "the Negro beach."

Known in those days as the "Colored Only Beach," Virginia Key Beach was an important place in the lives of African-American families—a place for them to gather and enjoy the pleasures of relaxation beside the ocean. The memories of this place are sweet, even mixed and intertwined with the bitterness and memories of segregation.

Together with my friend and colleague, Congresswoman CARRIE MEEK of Miami, we have sponsored legislation that will help preserve this historic place. Our bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to study and report to Congress on the feasibility of incorporating Virginia Key Beach into the National Park System.

By enacting this legislation, we can preserve its 77 acres of beach and wildlife, while honoring its past and present importance to the people of Florida.

These are examples of some of the small ways in which we can honor the lives and memories of our Nation's African-Americans.

My own State, Florida, has an especially proud history in this regard, as well as a willingness to correct past mistakes.

In 1994, for example, the Florida Legislature passed, and the late Gov. Lawton Chiles signed, the Rosewood claims bill, which provided \$2.1 million to survivors and the families of victims of the 1923 Rosewood Massacre.

Last year, the legislature enacted sweeping reforms to give every person an equal opportunity to have his or her vote counted.

You don't want any State to ever have to go through what we went through in Florida in the last Presidential election because there were votes that were not counted. So the Florida Legislature, in 2001, in trying to correct the voting rights abuses, passed legislation to help modernize the system in a Presidential election.

Unfortunately, a \$50-billion State budget proposed by the Florida House last week left out the second of two installments of \$12 million to help counties replace antiquated, punch-card voting machines.

African-Americans were disproportionately affected by flaws in the election system. And Florida lawmakers have made a commitment not only to that community but also to all the people of Florida to fix the system.

Without this funding, they will have broken their promise.

It would be appropriate at this time of recognizing the achievements of Af-

rican-Americans for the State House to do its duty and to keep its word so that every vote gets counted.

Today—and every day—let us celebrate African-American achievement both by remembering our past and by recommitting ourselves to the current fight for social, political, and economic equality for everyone.

I thank the Chair for the time to address the Senate.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 3 o'clock today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for the edification of Members, Senator DODD has been working. I talked to him not long ago. He indicated progress was being made. Even though it appears we are not doing anything, there is a lot of committee work going on around the Hill. With this most important election reform legislation, there is a last-ditch attempt by Senator DODD to see if it can be rescued.

As a number of Members indicated this morning, it would be a real shame if this were held up by virtue of a filibuster, especially when we know that matters go to conference, and with the present makeup we have in Washington, with a Republican President and a Republican House, certainly they should be willing to take their chances with a Democratic Senate.

I hope progress is made and we can resolve the Schumer-Wyden matter. But if we can't, I hope Members look forward to invoking cloture on this most important legislation tomorrow when the vote is scheduled.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I seek recognition and ask unanimous consent that upon the completion of my comments, the Senator from North Dakota, who is sitting in the chair at the moment, be recognized.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

PLEA TO THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I want to follow my remarks of a

few minutes ago about Black History Month with an underlining of my concern of what is happening in the Florida Legislature as we speak, which is meeting in the capital city of Tallahassee.

It is almost ironic that at the very time the Senate is considering an election reform bill, of which for that legislation we are having discussions, negotiations, and awaiting agreements to finally come forth so we do not have to come to the Chamber to break a filibuster to pass it—and it is legislation that is going to get wide support once we get to final passage—but it is almost ironic what has happened in the Florida Legislature since we started this legislation 2½ weeks ago when I spoke in this Chamber in favor of the legislation. At that time, I took to the floor complimenting the Florida Legislature.

In the State of Florida, we went through a grueling experience in the Presidential election of 2000. We saw so many ballots that were not counted. We saw clear voter intent that was not followed. There was confusion over the ballots. There was confusion in the construction of the ballot, how it fit together. There was the famous butterfly ballot. We saw how even when voter intent was so clear for example, a first-time voter, who was not familiar with the ballot, would go down the Presidential names and select one name and mark that on a punchcard ballot, and then at the bottom of the Presidential names there was a line, and it said: "Write-in," and they would write in the same Presidential candidate—the voter intent was clear, but that ballot was not counted.

So after that awful experience, before which I had never known anything about error rates in ballot counting—and thank the Good Lord I never had a close election, and little did I ever know there could be the confusion and so many people, in effect, disenfranchised in an election—when we started our election reform bill in this Chamber a couple weeks ago, I took to the floor and complimented the Florida Legislature because it changed all of the punchcard ballots and it appropriated, out of a \$50 billion annual budget, \$24 million so that the counties could buy new voting equipment and they would never have to go through the confusion of that punchcard voting system again. They would have an optical scan system with a much lower error rate.

That was my compliment to the Florida Legislature. They did right. That was a year ago. But just last week, the Florida House of Representatives did not appropriate, in its appropriations bill, the second \$12 million installment to modernize the election system. What in the world are we thinking in the year 2002, when it is almost taken for granted that it is a bedrock principle that registered voters should have the right to vote and to have their vote counted?