

served as the ranking Republican on what was then the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee, which is why I am so glad we are marking his life's work by dedicating this post office in his memory. I knew Hiram Fong, and I found him to be a man of great integrity. He was a compassionate advocate for civil rights and workers' rights, and throughout his 20 years of service in Congress, Senator Fong personified the spirit of bipartisan cooperation. He was instrumental in enacting landmark civil rights legislation; reforming U.S. immigration laws to end discrimination against Asian immigrants; improving job training programs for workers; and fighting for equal pay for women. The people of Hawaii were truly fortunate to have been represented by Hiram Fong.

This son of Hawaii passed away on August 18, 2004, at the age of 97, followed by his wife Ellyn on March 25 of this year. Hiram and Ellyn are survived by 4 children, Hiram, Jr., Rodney, Marvin, and Mari-Ellen; 10 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren. As we remember our good friend, Hiram Fong, on this Admissions Day, I ask my Senate colleagues and the people of Hawaii to pause for a moment to remember all he did on behalf of the Nation and his beloved Aloha State.

Mr. President, as the former chairman of the Senate Postal Subcommittee, I was proud to introduce the legislation designating the Kapalama Post Office in memory of my friend, Senator Hiram Fong. The Senate passed my bill, S. 2089, by unanimous consent on March 3 of this year; the House of Representatives took action on March 7; and on March 20, the President signed the bill, which is now Public Law 109-203.

#### VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one week ago, I stood behind President Bush as he signed the Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 into law. The President gave a short speech about the importance of the legislation and his commitment to defending it. He even distributed a letter to all those in attendance celebrating this reauthorization. In his letter he acknowledged that "further work remains in the fight against injustice, and each generation has a responsibility to write a new chapter in the unfinished story of freedom." I ask unanimous consent to insert his letter into the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. (See exhibit 1).

Mr. LEAHY. Keeping the Voting Rights Act intact is important, but enforcing it is equally important. Now that Congress has passed the law—and the President has signed it—it is up to the President to ensure that this law

and all of its provisions are enforced fully and faithfully. I was pleased last Thursday to hear the President commit to aggressive enforcement and to defend the Act from legal attacks. Article I of the Constitution provides for the Congress to write the laws, and Article II provides for the President to enforce them. Congress has done its part, and now the President must do his. I commended him for saying that he will.

Last week I spoke to the Senate about a letter I had sent to the President in which I urged him not to follow his usual practice of signing a bill with his fingers crossed behind his back and later issuing a presidential signing statement undercutting the law that Congress passed. I return today to report to the Senate that, to the best of my knowledge, the President has accepted that advice and has not issued an after-the-fact signing statement. I thank the President for following this course. In fact, the material posted on the White House website includes a "fact sheet" in which the White House reaffirms the President's commitment "to vigorously enforce the provisions of the law and to defend it in court."

The Voting Rights Act is the keystone in the foundation of civil rights laws and is one of the most important methods of protecting all Americans' foundational right to vote. Several generations have kept the chain of support for the Voting Rights Act unbroken, and now we have once again done our part to continue that legacy and revitalize the Act.

We know that effective enforcement of these provisions is vital in fighting against discrimination that, unfortunately, still exists in this nation today. As the President has acknowledged, the wound is not healed and there is more to do to protect the rights of all Americans to vote and have their votes count.

I also note for the record that today, two weeks after final passage of the House bill to reauthorize and revitalize the Voting Rights Act, and one week after the President signed that historic legislation into law, copies of Senate Report 109-295 have finally been printed. This is the committee report on S.2703 that I commented on during my statement to the Senate on July 27. It contains the objection of all eight Democratic members of the committee. As previously noted, it is unusual in that it does not represent the views of a majority of the committee and certainly does not represent the views of the Democratic sponsors of that Senate legislation.

#### EXHIBIT 1

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
Washington, July 27, 2006.

I send greetings to those celebrating the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Voting Rights Act is one of the most important pieces of legislation in our Nation's history. It has been vital to guaranteeing the right to vote for generations of Americans and has helped millions of our

citizens enjoy the full promise of freedom. By refusing to give in to discrimination and segregation, heroes of the Civil Rights Movement called our country back to its founding ideals of freedom and opportunity for everyone. Leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., and Thurgood Marshall believed in the constitutional guarantees of liberty and equality and trusted their fellow Americans to do the right thing to ensure these blessings for every man, woman, and child.

Over the years, our Nation has grown more prosperous and powerful, and it has also grown more equal and just. Yet, further work remains in the fight against injustice, and each generation has a responsibility to write a new chapter in the unfinished story of freedom. Reauthorizing this legislation is an example of our continued commitment to a united America where every person is valued and treated with dignity and respect.

America is grateful for the sacrifices of citizens such as Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King, after whom the bill reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act was named. I also appreciate the members of the House and Senate for passing this historic legislation. By working together, we can help build an America that lives up to our guiding principle that all men and women are created equal.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DEREK JAMES PLOWMAN  
Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a brave young man from Arkansas who lost his life while serving our Nation in uniform. PFC Derek James Plowman is remembered by those who knew him best as a compassionate soul, who was always quick to bring a smile to the faces of those around him. Having grown up in a large family that was often filled with laughter, he quickly became the life of every party, developing a special gift for being at ease in large groups and brightening the spirits of the people he came in contact with.

Shortly after moving to northwest Arkansas from Florida in 2004, Private First Class Plowman graduated from Valley Springs High School. Hoping to study psychology some day, he enlisted in the Arkansas Army National Guard for an opportunity to earn money towards his college education. It was also an opportunity for him to serve his country, a decision that personified the selfless attitude of this young man.

In the Guard, Private First Class Plowman was a cook assigned to the 142nd Brigade, a brigade comprised of citizen soldiers from north and northwest Arkansas. Upon returning home from basic training, he was informed by one of his superior officers that he would soon be mobilized for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. With courage and reassurance, he looked his Sergeant in the eye and said "That's OK. I signed on the dotted line and I've got a job to do."

The 142nd was mobilized for duty in Iraq on December 7, 2005, and was scheduled to return next summer. Tragically, Private First Class Plowman died from a gunshot wound on