

correct in claiming that a number of these groups are opposed to the race-neutral enforcement of the VRA, that they only want the Act enforced for the benefit of racial minorities, and that they had complained bitterly about the Ike Brown case. But of course, what Mr. Kappelhoff had not factored in his criticism of the Brown case was that the primary role of the CRD is to enforce the civil rights laws enacted by Congress, not to serve as a “crowd pleaser” for many of the civil rights groups.

Many of those groups on the issue of race-neutral enforcement of the VRA frankly have not pursued the goal of equal protection of law for all people. Instead, many of these groups act, as they did in the Brown case, not as civil rights groups, but as special interest lobbies for racial and ethnic minorities and demand, not equal treatment, but enforcement of the VRA only for racial and language minorities. Such a claim for unequal treatment is the ultimate demand for preferential racial treatment.

When I became Chief of the Voting Section in 2008 and because I had experienced, as I have described, employees in the Voting Section refusing to work on the Ike Brown case, I began to ask applicants for trial attorney positions in their job interviews whether they would be willing to work on cases that involved claims of racial discrimination against white voters, as well as cases that involved claims of discrimination against minority voters. For obvious reasons, I did not want to hire people who were politically or ideologically opposed to the equal enforcement of the voting statutes the Voting Section is charged with enforcing. The asking of this question in job interviews did not ever, to my knowledge, cause any problems with the applicants to whom I ask that question, and in fact every applicant to whom I asked the question responded that he or she would have no problem working on a case involving white victims such as in the Ike Brown case.

However, word that I was asking applicants that question got back to Loretta King. In the spring of 2009, Ms. King, who by then had been appointed Acting AAG for Civil Rights by the Obama Administration, called me to her office and specifically instructed me that I was not to ask any other applicants whether they would be willing to, in effect, race-neutrally enforce the VRA. Ms. King took offense that I was asking such a question of job applicants and directed me not to ask it because she does not support equal enforcement of the provisions of the VRA and had been highly critical of the filing and civil prosecution of the Ike Brown case. From Ms. King’s view, why should I ask that question when a response that an applicant would not be willing to work on a case against minority election officials would not in any way, in her opinion, weigh against hiring that applicant to work in the Voting Section.

The election of President Obama brought to positions of influence and power within the CRD many of the very people who had demonstrated hostility to the concept of equal enforcement of the VRA. For example, Mr. Kappelhoff, who had complained in 2008 that the Brown case had caused problems with civil rights groups, was appointed as the Acting Chief of Staff for the entire CRD. And Loretta King, the person who forbid me even to ask any applicants for a Voting Section position whether he or she would be willing to enforce the VRA in a race-neutral manner, was appointed as Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Furthermore, one of the groups who had opposed the CRD’s civil prosecution of Ike Brown case the most adamantly was the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF), through

its Director of Political Participation, Kristin Clark. Ms. Clarke has spent a considerable amount of her time attacking the CRD’s decision to file and prosecute the Ike Brown case. Grace Chung Becker, the Acting AAG for Civil Rights during the last year of the Bush Administration, and I were involved in a meeting in the fall of 2008 with representatives of a number of civil rights organizations concerning the Division’s preparations for the 2008 general election. At this meeting Ms. Clarke spent considerable time criticizing the Division and the Voting Section for bringing the Brown case when, in fact, the district court had already ruled in the case. Indeed, it was reported to me that Ms. Clarke approached an African American attorney who had been working in the Voting Section for only a short period of time in the winter of 2009 before the dismissals in the NBPP case and asked that attorney when the NBPP case was going to be dismissed. The Voting Section attorney to whom I refer was not even involved in the NBPP case. This reported incident led me to believe in 2009 that LDF Political Participation Director, Ms. Clarke, was lobbying for the dismissal of the NBPP case.

CONGRATULATING MS. MADIE
TILLMAN

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to acknowledge a hardworking community leader from Ohio’s Third Congressional District.

Ms. Madie Tillman was recently honored as a recipient of the “Living Witness for Christ” Award at the 64th Annual Convention of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Third District Lay Organization. This year’s convention was held in Washington, Pennsylvania on July 29–31, 2010.

Each year, the Living Witness for Christ Award recognizes a Lay person for their work in response to God’s call for Christian service. It is the highest award given to a Lay person. The award was presented by Bishop C. Garnett Henning, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Third Episcopal District and Dr. Willie C. Glover, International Lay President.

Ms. Tillman is an active member of the Greater Allen AME Church, located at 1620 West Fifth Street in Dayton, Ohio. She serves on the Trustee Board, the Finance Committee, and is Treasurer of the Lay Organization. She holds positions on the conference and district levels of the Lay Organization of the AME Church. Ms. Tillman is also an active member of the Dayton Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

As the widow of a veteran, Ms. Tillman has been a dedicated advocate for veterans and their families through her volunteer work at the Dayton VA Medical Center, and as a member of the General Daniel “Chappie” James American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 776, in Riverside, Ohio. She serves as President of both the Midwest Region and the Miami Valley Chapter of the Gold Star Wives of America.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize a good and compassionate citizen, Ms. Madie Tillman, for her devotion to our community and our Nation’s veterans, and I congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award.

HONORING DIVERSE AND
RESILIENT, INC.

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Diverse and Resilient, Inc. on their 15 years of success and their critical contributions to the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, LGBT, organizations, citizens, and their allies.

Diverse and Resilient is a nonprofit public benefit organization that has been vital to the development of public health leadership on behalf of LGBT people in Wisconsin communities for 15 years.

Diverse and Resilient has been a pioneer in the development of community health workers who promote participation in healthy activities, dissuade health risk behaviors, and engage all sectors within the LGBT communities across Wisconsin.

Further, Diverse and Resilient projects and activities are dedicated to building capacity of LGBT individuals, organizations, and their allies to meet the public health needs of Wisconsin’s LGBT communities in Madison, Milwaukee, Eau Claire, Appleton, and La Crosse.

I am particularly grateful to Diverse and Resilient for bringing to light the alarming health disparities that exist for LGBT youth and adults through its tireless advocacy to include important demographic questions in national and State health surveys.

This organization has taken leadership in national, State, and local public health planning and fostered partnerships in public health, secondary and post-secondary education, communities of color, healthcare, and advocacy.

I honor the commitment, leadership, and zestfulness of the founding director, Dr. Gary Hollander, the board of directors, the dedicated staff, youth advisors, and community health workers of Diverse and Resilient as they celebrate 15 years of vital contributions to our community.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
GODFREY, ILLINOIS
LIONS CLUB

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Godfrey, Illinois Lions Club.

The Godfrey Lions Club, chartered in February 1960, has been a model service organization in the Riverbend region of Southwestern Illinois for half a century. As part of The International Association of Lions Clubs, the Godfrey Lions Club is part of a 45,000 club association with 1.35 million members worldwide. The Lions Clubs are known for their work assisting those with vision and hearing impairments and the Godfrey Lions Club has followed that service goal by providing eyeglasses, hearing aids and eye exams to students in the Alton School District.