

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS TO ENSURE PAYMENTS OF VETERANS BENEFITS

SPEECH OF

HON. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, tonight we consider a bill that is vital to protect our veterans during this Christmas season. As you know, the current Government shutdown means that veterans' checks will be delayed if we do not pass a "rifle-shot" continuing resolution to allow the checks to be sent. I applaud the efforts of my fellow Arkansan, Mr. HUTCHINSON, chairman of the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, for his effort to get this bill to the floor so that we can protect the benefits of those who have served our country.

I strongly feel that each of us is forever in debt to our fellow Americans who risked their lives to protect our freedoms. I believe that after a person has served in the military, like my father did and his father before him, we should make every effort as a country to care for them, especially if they were injured in the line of duty. I want to ensure that veterans benefits receive fair treatment during the current budget negotiations. The current budget debate should not cloud our country's responsibilities and obligations to her veterans and this bill safeguards that obligation.

As important as this bill is, it should not be necessary. There is no excuse for holding any of our citizens hostage to the partisan bickering which has led to the current government shutdown. Although this bill will protect our veterans throughout the rest of the budget debate, we still have millions of other citizens who are not protected from the ill effects of this ideological impasse. For example, many hunters in Arkansas have been turned away from our wildlife refuges at the height of hunting season, even though they played by the rules and purchased their permits.

Since the principal parties have agreed to balance the budget in 7 years, let's end this partisan bickering and accomplish our stated goal. No group, especially our veterans who selflessly served to protect our liberty and freedom, should be pawns in our political games. I strongly support this legislation because it protects our veterans from being used again. However, we should do the same for our hunters and all Americans. The coalition budget proves that a reasonable compromise is possible. Let's stop this demagoguery and get down to the heavy lifting we were sent here to do.

PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in a belated tribute to a great victory in the pro-life movement. While the pro-life movement always has proclaimed the sanctity of human life, pro-life supporters and others touched by abortions have been without a place where they can gather to mourn those lost to abor-

tion or to reconcile the pain of that tragic decision. But that changed in 1993 when a pro-life group in Chattanooga, TN, peacefully brought about the closing of the city's only abortion clinic. This is an incredible story, which I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the House.

In April 1993, the Pro-life Majority Coalition of Chattanooga [ProMaCC] learned of the pending sale of a building that for 18 years housed the Chattanooga Women's Clinic. The abortionist who was leasing the building agreed to purchase the property from the bankrupt landlord for \$254,000. Within 7 days, ProMaCC raised over \$300,000 from local pro-life supporters who wanted the facility closed. When the building was auctioned in bankruptcy court, ProMaCC outbid the abortionist and purchased the building for \$294,000. Faced with the loss of this facility, the owner of the abortion clinic sold all assets and dissolved the corporation.

But the story doesn't end here. After the building was acquired, the question arose of what to do with it. ProMaCC formed a new organization called the Imago Deli—Latin for Image of God—Foundation to decide the future of the 8,600 square foot building. The foundation sold part of the former clinic to AAA Women's Services, a pregnancy center which provides counseling, abstinence training, and infant care instruction and which distributes food, clothing, and other needs for babies.

The remainder of the building will be dedicated as a memorial to the victims of abortion—the National Memorial for the Unborn. Most of the existing building structure will be torn down. The abortion procedure room and waiting area, however, will remain standing to house the central feature of the memorial, the Wall of Names. The wall, which is modeled after the Vietnam War Memorial, will hold name plaques, each one dedicated to the memory of an aborted child by those who mourn the loss. A black wrought iron fence will be constructed over the building's footings to mark the perimeter of the former clinic. Connecting the fence to the Wall of Names is a stone path which winds past meditative gardens and a pool of tears. With both the AAA Women's Service and the National Memorial for the Unborn, an effigy of despair has been transformed, in a real way, into a monument of hope which encourages, supports, and nurtures life, both physically and spiritually.

Abortion is an emotional issue which has deeply divided our Republic since the Supreme Court handed down the Roe versus Wade decision. But I hope that everyone will join me in applauding the efforts of the Imago Dei Foundation to provide a memorial for the unborn where the healing of millions of Americans touched by the scar of abortion may begin.

Besides healing individuals, the National Memorial for the Unborn begins the process of healing a nation. The memorial brings us one step closer to the day when we have mercy for all and malice toward none. Brochures at the memorial read:

On the site where over 35,000 babies were aborted, the National Memorial for the Unborn is a powerful witness to God's redemption and healing for all the victims of abortion and for our Nation.

Indeed it is, Mr. Speaker.

The National Memorial to the Unborn was dedicated on January 23, 1994, and will be

open to the public in January 1996. I commend everyone involved in this project, and I look forward to the day when we as a nation will have a place to mourn individually and corporately the loss of children by abortion.

The following Members of Congress join me in these remarks: Representative ZACH WAMP, Representative CHARLES CANADY, Representative TODD TIAHRT, Representative BOB INGLIS, Representative RON LEWIS, Representative STEVE LARGENT, Representative WILLIAM LIPINSKI, Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH, Representative BILL EMERSON, Representative DAVE WELDON, Representative TIM HUTCHISON, Representative JOE BARTON, Representative NICK RAHALL, Representative JAMES BARCIA, Representative MEL HANCOCK, Representative TOM COBURN, Representative WES COOLEY.

RETIREMENT OF HAROLD T. BUSHEY

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Harold T. Bushey, who will retire next month after 54 years of dedicated service to the Federal Government.

Most of Mr. Bushey's career in the Federal Government has consisted of serving our Nation's veterans. He has been with the Veterans' Administration [VA] since March 1946. A decorated veteran of World War II and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Mr. Bushey has been the Director of the Pittsburgh Veterans Affairs Regional Office since July 1, 1971. In this capacity, Mr. Bushey has worked closely with my office to meet the needs of veterans in the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Under Mr. Bushey's capable leadership, the local VA personnel has promptly and efficiently responded to requests from my office for assistance with health care, pensions, and other veterans' benefits. Prior to his appointment as Director of the Pittsburgh regional office, Mr. Bushey served as Assistant Director and Personnel Director of this office.

His dedication, competence, and professionalism are unsurpassed, and they have been recognized by a number of awards over the past decades. He has served the public and the VA in a number of different capacities. He has served on a number of prestigious VA committees and task forces assigned the responsibility for such diverse missions as improving benefit management and training personnel. In addition, he has held positions of leadership on the Pittsburgh Federal Executive Board and its Minority Business Opportunity Committee. He has been recognized for his efforts to recruit veterans, minorities, and women for the Veterans' Administration in the 1960's, as well as for helping to recruit personnel for service overseas with the Agency for International Development. In 1988, he spearheaded the first VA pilot project to provide housing and other assistance for homeless veterans.

Mr. Bushey has been involved in community activity and in promoting local charitable efforts as well. He has served as the Chairman