

RECOGNIZING THE MARCH FOR
LIFE

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the thousands of people in Arkansas and across the Nation who gathered this week to protest the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*.

Like those who assembled, I believe strongly in the sanctity of human life. 32 years ago, the Supreme Court decided that a woman could end a life by terminating her pregnancy for any reason, including health, gender selection or because it was an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy. As a result, thousands of lives have been ended out of convenience mislabeled as a woman's right to choose.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember this powerful Supreme Court decision this week, I ask that we also remember that we have a responsibility to protect the precious lives of the unborn children to come.

H.R. 304—AIRCRAFT CARRIER END-
STRENGTH ACT

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 304, a bill I introduced in the name of national security. This bill would set in law a requirement that our United States Navy maintain a fleet of at least twelve aircraft carriers.

Why, my colleagues might ask, is this change in law necessary? I believe the reason is clear. Our Nation is enduring an extraordinary amount of pressures, both financially and militarily. Somehow, Mr. Speaker, those financial pressures have weighed so heavy on our military leaders that they feel forced to propose a reduction in the number of carriers available to our Commander in Chief.

Mr. Speaker, the military might of the United States is unmatched. It is unmatched, Mr. Speaker, because no other Nation faces the challenges we face. And that is why I have introduced this legislation. Our unique challenges require force strength, flexibility, and presence. This is not my lesson; this is the lesson of past military conflicts.

The consistent message from senior Department of Defense leadership is that many of the important tactical missions accomplished in Afghanistan and Iraq would not have been possible without our fleet of aircraft carriers.

Aircraft carriers are in constant demand all over the globe. There is no technology, no way they can be in two places at the same time.

The Navy's CNO himself believes even with the technological advances, quantity has a quality all its own.

So this legislation, H.R. 304, will ensure that our Nation's Commander in Chief has a full fleet of carriers in times of peace, and in times of crisis. My colleagues, I urge you to support H.R. 304, support our carrier fleet, and support keeping the fabric of our national security whole.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EARLY
WARNING AND RAPID NOTIFICA-
TION ACT

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be introducing the Early Warning and Rapid Notification Act, which will fix some of the communications problems that plagued the effort to effectively warn people about the tsunami of December 26, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, exactly one month ago over 160,000 people in the Indian Ocean region died as a result of a catastrophic tsunami caused by the largest earthquake the world has seen in over 40 years. In the wake of that disaster, an outpouring of sympathy across this country has resulted in over \$350 million in private donations, with the United States government pledging nearly that much as well. Having witnessed such devastation, we're now asking the question: How can we keep this from happening again?

There were two entirely avoidable problems that contributed to the scale of the December 26 tragedy. The first was a lack of tsunami sensors in the Indian Ocean, which made it difficult for the scientists at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii to determine if the massive earthquake had in fact spawned a killer wave. In response to this we've seen a number of proposals, both from this Congress and around the world, to establish a global tsunami sensor network. I support these proposals, since there is no reason why we should be caught unaware in the event of any disaster where we have the ability to detect it beforehand.

The second problem on December 26 was far more fundamental, and far more mad-denying. It was, in this era of cell phones and instant text messaging and worldwide satellite coverage, a complete breakdown of communications. In some cases, we had the ability to let people know, but couldn't. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center simply wasn't sure who to contact in those countries bordering the Indian Ocean that were in danger from the tsunami. They did an excellent job in reaching who they could, but there was too much confusion, and far too much time passed before they could get the warning to those who needed it. There's no reason for this. The United States should know exactly who to contact in every country in the world if we have information about a natural disaster that they need. In this legislation, the State Department is directed to conduct a study examining the lines of communication about natural disasters between the United States and other countries, and to make recommendations to strengthen those lines if they're found lacking.

But even if we had known exactly when, where, and how hard the tsunami was going to hit, and had been able to get that info to the governments of every nation in the region, not much would have changed. Because in order to save lives, you have to get that information to the people in danger. The people in the towns and villages along the coasts. The tourists on the beaches. Without a way to get warnings to these people, all the sensors in the world won't do a bit of good.

Mr. Speaker, in this country we're used to all types of warning systems. Warnings about

tornadoes, warnings about floods, warnings about hurricanes; warnings about chemical spills and potential terrorist attacks; we grew up with the Emergency Broadcast System to warn us about the unthinkable. In short, we have one of the most advanced systems in the entire world for warning people about all types of hazards. And these warning systems save lives. But many other countries are missing even the most rudimentary ways of getting warnings to people at risk, which results in tens of thousands of unnecessary deaths each year.

The United Nations recognizes the need for a comprehensive, worldwide effort to establish early warning systems in countries that don't have them, and last week launched the International Early Warning Programme. The Programme identifies four elements of effective early warning systems: knowing what the risks are, detecting disasters, disseminating warnings, and making sure people know how to respond.

The legislation I am introducing today directs the United States to work with the United Nations in implementing the International Early Warning Programme, and authorizes \$50 million to help establish early warning systems in other countries for all types of hazards. This isn't merely protection against another tsunami; it's protection against floods, fires, storms, volcanoes, and any other event where a timely warning can save lives. This bill also expands the scope of our existing research programs on early warning systems to include an international component, and directs additional research into the use of advanced technologies to provide quick and effective warnings, both at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, setting up a worldwide tsunami warning system is important, but the sad likelihood is that far more people will be killed from floods and storms in the future than from another tsunami. This legislation will help establish systems that provide effective early warnings around the world for all types of hazards, and will help protect lives and property from the next disaster that, I fear, will come all too soon.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES W. EVATT

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James W. Evatt for his many years of service to the Boeing Company and our Nation's defense programs. Jim is stepping down from his role as vice president and general manager of Boeing's Missile Defense Systems and vice president and general manager for the Missile Defense National Team Systems Engineering and Integration program. He has held both positions since 2001.

A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Jim joined the Boeing Company in 1987 after 22 years of Government service. During his tenure as vice president and general manager, he was responsible for Boeing's Ground-based Midcourse Defense program, the Airborne Laser, Advanced Tactical Laser program, Boeing's Air and Missile Defense program, and the Laser and Electro Optical Systems program. He was also responsible for all