

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE HOMELESS VETERANS RE-INTEGRATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce H.R. 3279, the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act of 2005. I am especially pleased that the Ranking Member of the Veterans Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, Ms. HERSETH, as well as Ms. BROWN-WAITE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BRADLEY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BAKER, and Ms. BERKLEY join me as original cosponsors.

H.R. 3279 would reauthorize the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, or HVRP, through 2009, currently the authority for this program expires at the end of fiscal year 2006. The legislation would also retain the authority to appropriate \$50,000,000 to HVRP for each fiscal year.

HVRP, administered by the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service, is designed to take the men and women who are probably the most difficult population of veterans to serve off the streets and return them as productive contributors to society. It is a tall order and one that presents unique challenges to both the government and those who deliver services to homeless veterans. It is a well known fact that a very high percentage of this Nation's homeless have mental health and substance abuse issues. Unfortunately, homeless veterans are not immune to those concerns. In fact, some are so debilitated that they will never fully return to society outside a very structured environment.

HVRP funds are awarded on a competitive basis to eligible applicants such as: State and local Workforce Investment Boards, public agencies, for-profit/commercial entities, and non-profit organizations, including faith based and community based organizations. Grantees provide an array of services utilizing a case management approach that directly assist homeless veterans as well as provide critical linkages for a variety of supportive services available in their local communities. The program focuses on employment and veterans receive the employment and training services they need in order to re-enter the labor force. Job placement, training, and development, career counseling, and resume preparation, are among the services that are provided. Supportive services such as clothing, provision of or referral to temporary, transitional, or permanent housing, referral to medical or substance abuse treatment, and transportation assistance are also provided to meet the needs of this target group.

The emphasis on helping homeless veterans get and retain jobs is enhanced through coordination with various veterans' services programs and organizations such as the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives, veteran service organizations, and the

Departments of Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services.

Today, VA estimates the number of homeless veterans to be about 185,000. This is a far too large of a number, in my mind, one homeless veteran is one too many. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FISHING QUOTA STANDARDS ACT OF 2005

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues, Representatives SIMMONS and DELAHUNT, to introduce the Fishing Quota Standards Act of 2005. This bipartisan bill would amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to ensure that national standards are in place during the development and implementation of individual fishing quota systems.

Poorly designed and regulated quota systems often degrade fishing communities, create monopolies, and lead to overexploitation of fishery resources. If individual fishing quotas are to be an effective management tool, strong national standards must be in place to ensure a healthy future for small businesses in the fishing industry.

The intent of this legislation is to guarantee that any fishery quota established by a regional management council fairly allocates the resource among fishermen of all gear types, prevents excessive industry consolidation and protects the sustainability of the fishery.

The bill retains current law stating that individual fishing quotas are not compensable property rights and are revocable. This principle is strengthened by limiting fishing quota systems and shares to a period not to exceed 7 years, after which time they will be renewed if they are meeting defined criteria.

Well designed Individual Fishing Quota systems can increase seafood quality and value, foster resource conservation, and promote safety-at-sea, but Individual Fishing Quota systems, in and of themselves, do not guarantee that a fishery will be sustainably managed or result in appropriate socio-economic benefits. It is my hope that this bill will give the entire fishing industry a voice in the debate over the future of their industry.

HONORING MAC HARRIS OF BEVERLY HILLS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mac Harris of Beverly Hills, Florida.

Mac Harris, a diligent, respected man in our community and at the power plant, has relinquished his post as spokesperson for the Crystal River nuclear power plant.

Mr. Harris life-long journey has taken many paths including a writer, a professor, and a re-

porter. Along that journey, he has touched the lives of many readers, students, and co-workers. Despite his varying role, his honesty and sincerity remained constant.

Mr. Harris and his wife have chosen to retire in Citrus County, Florida, where they remain active members of the civic and cultural community. In his retirement, Mr. Harris will continue to impact the community through various engagements including writing and directing plays for the art league.

In his capacity as an employee at the power plant, Mr. Harris's commitment to communication with the community is outstanding. Mr. Harris was readily accessible, day and night, throughout the terrible 2004 hurricane season when thousands lost power. He goes out of the way to answer questions and concerns from residents and will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, honorable men like Mac Harris should be congratulated for their service. It is truly a privilege to honor Mac Harris for his lifetime of achievement and contribution.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MARGARET VOLZ THOMPSON

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional federal civil servant with the Department of the Army, Mrs. Margaret Volz Thompson, upon her retirement after more than 26 years of distinguished civilian service. Throughout her career, she has been a dedicated worker, portraying Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions which the Army provides in defense of our Nation. As Deputy Chief of the Programs Division, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Margaret on a wide variety of Army issues and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize her many accomplishments. I commend her superb service to the United States Army and this great Nation.

Mrs. Thompson is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. August Volz, Sr. She graduated from Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana, with a degree in Business Administration. Her first civilian assignment was the Finance and Accounting Office, 7th Infantry Division in Fort Ord, California in 1979. The Thompsons, as a military family, were then transferred to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, where Mrs. Thompson held various positions on the Garrison Staff and served as Children's Advocate for the Fort Sheridan Military Community. In 1983, Mrs. Thompson was selected to be a Department Army Comptroller Intern. She completed her training with the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command and then joined the professional staff as an analyst. In 1989, she began work on the staff of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. She remained there until 2000 when she became the Deputy Executive to the Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Her capstone assignment was as Deputy Chief of the Programs Division, Legislative Liaison, where she established and maintained an excellent rapport with professional staff members of the