

CONCERNING THE RECENT DEPLOYMENT OF THE 143RD AIRLIFT WING OF THE RHODE ISLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD TO ASSIST WITH RELIEF OPERATIONS IN HAITI

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of the Rhode Island Air National Guard members who deployed to Haiti on Friday, January 22nd, to assist in the critical aid and evacuation effort taking place after the devastating earthquake that hit the country two weeks ago. Immediately after the earthquake struck, members of the U.S. armed services, first responders and relief agencies began their work to help the people of Haiti recover from this tragedy. With an alarming death toll of over one hundred thousand and the number of displaced Haitians reaching one million, the national and the international community must do all it can to support and help rebuild this shattered nation.

I am especially proud that the 143rd Airlift Wing, based out of Quonset Point Air National Guard Station, is helping in this recovery effort with transport and medical evacuation assistance. They will provide critical assets to the relief operation and will help deliver aid and supplies expeditiously to the Haitian people. During the past several years, the 143rd has answered their call to duty with the courage and bravery our Nation has come to rely on from our National Guard. The 143rd provided assistance to the citizens of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, made numerous tours to Iraq and have recently deployed again to Afghanistan. Both our state and our nation are incredibly grateful for their service and the service of all our men and women in uniform serving at home and abroad. I hope all our Rhode Island National Guard members return home safely and soon.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, on January 26–27, 2010, I missed rollcall votes 17 through 25 because of medical reasons. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 17, “yea;” rollcall vote 18, “yea;” rollcall vote 19, “yea;” rollcall vote 20, “yea;” rollcall vote 21, “yea;” rollcall vote 22, “yea;” rollcall vote 23, “yea;” rollcall vote 24, “yea;” rollcall vote 25, “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote Nos. 1–5, 9–11,

15–16, and 20–25. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall votes 3–5, 9–10, 15–16, and 20–25. I would have voted “nay” on rollcall votes 2, 11. I would have voted “present” on rollcall vote 1.

IN MEMORY OF MS. DONICE HARBOR, 2010 NAACP HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Ms. Donice Harbor who will be honored, posthumously, as the North Carolina National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s 2010 Humanitarian of the Year at the 26th Annual Humanitarian Banquet on Saturday, January 30, 2010 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

This is a fitting tribute for an outstanding North Carolinian tragically taken from us long before her time. Donice was thoughtful and hardworking. She often put the needs of others before her own. Though only 36 years old at the time of her passing, Donice’s wisdom and breadth of knowledge exceeded her years on this earth. For those who were blessed to know her, she will always be remembered for her leadership, her quiet determination and her ever-present smile.

A native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Donice received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Fayetteville State University and her Masters degree in Public Administration from North Carolina Central University. While in graduate school, Donice began her career in public service as a Legislative Intern with state Senator Jeanne Lucas, the first African-American woman to serve in the North Carolina State Senate.

In 2001, Donice began working with then Lt. Governor Bev Perdue as Director of Public Liaison. In 2009, when Perdue was elected to the office of Governor, Donice became the Governor’s Director of Faith and Citizens Outreach. In addition to being a dependable public servant, Donice was also a passionate advocate who was an active member of the Wendell-Wake County NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and a valiant supporter of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus and its Foundation.

The tragic loss of Donice Harbor reminds us that cancer touches nearly every family in North Carolina. The U.S. House recently passed my legislation to raise awareness of the importance of early detection of cancer. Simply put, early detection saves lives.

Donice Harbor was an outstanding North Carolinian and very deserving of the NAACP’s Humanitarian Award. She was a very special friend to members of my staff and myself personally, and she will be missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this extraordinary public servant.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present I would have voted “aye” on rollcall vote No. 17 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 990), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 18 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1011), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 19 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1003).

RECOGNITION OF SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, there have been times in history where great technological challenges have been overcome by the combined efforts from both government policy and scientific innovation. We are sitting at one of those critical junctions today. Our country is taking active steps to curb our energy consumption by implementing energy efficiency policies and is also highly engaged in scientific innovation to make renewable technologies, such as solar, a sustainable part of our total energy portfolio. I am here today to discuss several promising technological advancements in solar systems that might one day help reduce our country’s dependence on foreign energy sources.

As we know, solar technologies come in several flavors. Some systems such as solar photovoltaic convert the sun’s energy directly into useable electricity. Other technologies such as solar-thermal systems use the sun’s energy to boil water that then turns a steam turbine which ultimately generates electricity.

Development of solar photovoltaic systems has relied on manufacturing processes developed in the microelectronics industry, which has relied heavily on silicon as the main material component. These manufacturing methods can be slow and they yield relatively expensive solar cells. Through technological advancements in material science, new materials such as copper-indium-selenide (CIS) or copper-indium-gallium-selenide (CIGS) have resulted in low-cost solar cells. Solar cells made with these materials can even be printed much like you would print a document with your inkjet printer at home.

While CIS/CIGS photovoltaic advancements are driving manufacturing costs down, further advancements in silicon solar cells are also progressing. Advancements have been possible through new techniques used in nanotechnology labs across the country. The new generation of solar cells, instead of being constructed of flat layers of material on a silicon wafer, may end up looking more like microscopic cities. These “3D” solar cells are showing promise as they may be able to better absorb the sun’s energy and convert it to usable electricity.

Great things are happening in the solar photovoltaic world, but important advancements in the solar thermal world are also taking place. Recently concerns about the amount of water used in generation of electricity with solar-thermal power plants were raised; these concerns can be misleading as similar amounts of cool water are needed for coal or natural gas power plants. Regardless the solar-thermal industry has responded with an innovative dry-cooling process which could reduce the water consumed to almost nothing.

There are some that want a silver bullet to lay to rest our country's issues with foreign energy sources. While no such bullet exists, we can make real progress by encouraging development in all these promising technologies in parallel. Doing so can help States, like Washington State, achieve goals outlined in their renewable portfolio standards. On a larger scale we can move our entire country towards a clean energy source.

I hope that my colleagues here in Congress will help me in moving relevant bills swiftly through our legislative process.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CECIL MOORE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY ON FEBRUARY 13, 2010

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to Mr. Cecil Moore, a constituent of mine who will be turning 90 on February 13th this year. Mr. Moore is a World War II Veteran and American hero and deserves our greatest praise.

He was so determined to serve our Nation, he hitch-hiked all the way from Sylacauga, Alabama, to Atlanta, Georgia, to enlist in the Marines in 1939. During World War II, he served most of his time in the Pacific and participated in the Marshall Islands campaign.

He eventually retired in 1965 at the rank of Colonel.

On February 13th, this hometown war hero will be celebrating his 90th birthday. All of us across Talladega County and East Alabama are deeply honored to be a part of celebrating this extraordinary veteran's 90th birthday celebration. Our best wishes and happy birthday to Mr. Cecil Moore.

IN HONOR OF TECHNICAL SERGEANT ADAM K. GINETT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Force Technical Sergeant Adam K. Ginett, a 29-year-old from Knightdale, NC, who was killed on Tuesday, January 19 near Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. Ginett was assigned to the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy. It was his second tour of duty in Operation Enduring Freedom. Ginett received a Bronze Star for his role in a firefight on his first tour in Afghanistan. He also served two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

According to his grandfather, Jim Haslam, Sergeant Ginett's unit was walking toward a location where a cache of IEDs was thought to

be hidden. Another servicemember was killed in the incident and three were wounded.

In brave service to our Nation, Ginett opted for explosive ordnance duty after he graduated from boot camp. According to Ginett's mom, Christina Kazakavage of Coats, NC, he chose this dangerous work because it would mean that he would be able to directly save American lives by searching for and defusing bombs that were meant to take someone else's life. Sadly, last week that calling led to his own death from an IED in a field that he was working to make safe for others.

Though he had planned for a career in the military since he was in high school, Ginett had other interests, including artistic pursuits. He interned for four summers during high school with cartoonists at Walt Disney World in Florida, and he worked in a pottery studio in Knightdale during his last year at East Wake High School.

Ginett's body returned to North Carolina yesterday. A funeral mass will be held Friday, January 29 at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Fuquay-Varina and Ginett will be buried with military honors in Raleigh Memorial Park. He is survived by his parents, James and Christina Kazakavage, and sister, Sarah Kazakavage, of Coats; paternal grandfather, Joe Kazakavage of Port St. Lucie, FL.; and maternal grandparents, James and Mary Haslam of Cary.

Madam Speaker, Adam Ginett is a true American hero whose selfless devotion to his fellow soldiers should be remembered. I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting this brave young soldier for his sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. I would like to extend my deepest condolence to Sergeant Ginett's family and to all who knew him. Our Nation lost a true hero and he will be missed.

ON INTRODUCING THE VETERANS PENSIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2010, which will protect veterans from losing their pension benefits because they received payments to cover expenses incurred after an accident, theft, loss or casualty loss.

When assessing a veteran's eligibility for a pension, the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, considers a variety of sources of revenue to determine a veteran's annual income. If such income exceeds the income limit set by the VA, the veteran does not qualify for a pension or loses their benefits. Currently, the VA considers any reimbursement that compensates a veteran for his/or her expenses due to accidents, theft or loss as income. Only reimbursements of expenses related to casualty loss are currently exempted from determination of income.

Under current law, if a veteran is seriously injured in an accident or the victim of a theft and receives insurance compensation to cover his/or her medical expenses, the cost of replacement of the stolen items, or for pain and suffering, he/or she will likely lose their pension. This means that the law effectively punishes veterans when they suffer from such an accident or theft.

Such a tragedy happened to one of my constituents, a Navy veteran with muscular dystrophy who was hit by a truck when crossing the street in his wheelchair. His pension was abruptly cut off after he received an insurance settlement payment to cover medical ex-

penses for himself and his service dog, and material expenses to replace his wheelchair. As a result, he could not cover his daily expenses and mortgage payments and almost lost his home. This is unacceptable!

The Veterans Pensions Protection Act will amend the U.S. Code to exempt the reimbursement of expenses related to accidents, theft, loss or casualty loss from being included into the determination of a veteran's income. This will guarantee the continuity of our veterans' pensions and that no veteran will have their benefits unfairly and abruptly depreciated or cancelled.

Madam Speaker, we must ensure that pensions are issued to veterans who legitimately meet the income criteria and rely on such benefits to survive. We must enact regulations that help veterans live better lives, not hurt them. No veterans should be unable to pay their medical bills, unable to get the care they need, or in a situation where they could lose their home. After serving our country so valiantly, our veterans deserve no less than the very best benefits.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,308,886,504,801.94.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,670,460,758,508.14 so far this Congress.

Yesterday the Congressional Budget Office released their Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2010–2020. They estimate a deficit of \$1.3 trillion for fiscal year 2010. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 18—On the motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 1011, Recognizing the importance of cervical health and of detecting cervical cancer during its earliest stages and supporting the goals and ideals of Cervical Health Awareness Month. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, on January 26, 2010, I was unexpectedly detained and could not vote on H. Res. 990, expressing support for designation of January 2010 as "National Mentoring Month." Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."