

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my fellow Americans to demonstrate my pride in all the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces by observing Veterans Day. Officially designated in 1938 as "A National Day of Remembrance," commemorating the end of World War I, this special day is now deeply embedded in our Nation's tradition and culture. It is a day that generates a myriad of feelings and activities. Many of us will make a special effort to say "thank you" to our fathers and mothers, uncles and aunts, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, friends and colleagues for their service in America's Armed Forces. Others of us will make a sacred pilgrimage to a national cemetery in order to give thanks for the lives of our beloved soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who have died in service to America.

These are appropriate and important ways to recognize Veterans Day—because all of these choices are available to us only because of the commitment and sacrifice of the millions of men and women who have, with great pride and honor, worn the uniform of the United States of America. They, more than any of us, know that they served so that the rest of us can fully enjoy the fruits of their sacrifice and endeavors—so that the rest of us can live and thrive in a country deeply and securely grounded in freedom and liberty.

Americans have traditionally remembered all the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces by building majestic and moving monuments in their honor. These impressive structures stand as strong symbols of our national appreciation for the courage and heroism of our Armed Forces. But these magnificent memorials and statues are not enough to fulfill our Nation's commitment to our veterans. In order to carry out our national responsibility, America has, since the earliest days of our republic, given life to the many impressive memorials by also providing programs and benefits designed to touch and enhance the lives of our veterans.

We remember and honor our veterans when we assist them in their readjustment to the civilian community by offering GI bill education benefits and job-search assistance; when we provide compensation payments to those with service connected disabilities and when we provide health care for sick and injured veterans through the VA medical care system.

These programs and benefits, which give life to our national commitment to veterans, must be maintained and perfected. They are tangible symbols of our respect for, and gratitude to, those who serve on our behalf in the armed services. Accordingly, we must ensure that veterans' programs and benefits continue to effectively fulfill their purposes—and to en-

sure that the funding necessary to accomplish this goal is provided.

Perhaps the best way to show our appreciation to our veterans, who have sustained and protected us during times of both war and peace, is by exercising our most precious freedoms—voting, worshipping, traveling where and when we want, and expressing our opinions freely. We owe all these freedoms to our veterans. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our veterans and encourage the rest of the nation to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO JOE CASTILLO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Joe Castillo of Fort Collins, CO, a Vietnam Veteran who undertook a meaningful journey from August 14 to November 11. He traveled on horseback from Fort Collins to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, in honor of his friends and comrades who lost their lives in Vietnam. He planned his trip for 2 years.

Joe was born on July 14, 1950 in Texas. He enlisted in the Armed Forces and went to Vietnam at the tender age of 18 along with several of his friends. He was the only one of his group to return home.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 8, Joe and his little troupe of horses and friends were stuck in the mountains of West Virginia in a cold downpour. They were running out of trail and the regular roads are too dangerous so they were worried they might not make it to Washington on time after all. Thanks to some members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who are also horse people and who know how to navigate around that area, Joe and company were able to get out of the mountains and hook up with other VFW members in Cumberland, MD.

But Joe and his horse, Indio, were on time and were part of the official Vietnam Memorial ceremonies Tuesday. The Park Service agreed to allow Joe to ride Indio to the Wall and the Vietnam Memorial Foundation allowed Joe to present his flag at the official ceremonies and say a few words. How fitting it was, Mr. Speaker, that Joe Castillo, who has grown into such an outstanding citizen, spoke at this event.

We owe Joe Castillo our encouragement and praise for such a long journey to honor those who died for our country. He has shown greater character, integrity, and selflessness for embarking on this incredible pilgrimage to the Vietnam Wall. The total estimated mileage is 1,986 and 90 days of travel on horseback.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the veterans community in praise of Joe Castillo for the shining example he sets for all Americans.

FAST TRACK—TOO EARLY FOR AN OBITUARY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, is fact track dead? Hardly. This 25-year-old process is ingrained in the political process and will not soon disappear. The imperial presidency is alive and well as Congress continues the process of acceding power to the executive branch through such processes as the line item veto, administrative law, War Powers Act, Executive orders, and trade negotiations. The attempt at devolution, which is now ongoing, does little to attach the ever growing power of the Presidency. As Congress—and especially the House—reneges on its responsibility under the concept of separation of powers, the people suffer by losing their most important conduit to the Federal Government.

Members opposed fast track for various reasons, some sensible, some less so. Serious proponents consistently stated their support came from their convictions regarding free trade. However, political deals, threats and pressure from financial supporters influenced less serious supporters. This process is nothing new, but in the recent efforts to pass fast track, record offers to persuade Members of Congress to change their vote were made on both sides of the debate. The President and the congressional leaders had a lot to offer and the unions and environmentalists were not bashful about their use of intimidation.

In spite of the blatant politics of it all, there were among us principled free traders, true believers in U.S. sovereignty, serious concerns for domestic labor, and environmental laws and dedicated populist protectionists.

And then there were the laissez-faire capitalists, individual liberty, U.S. sovereignty and low tariff proponents, positions held by a scant few. The supporters of fast track cavalierly dismissed all thoughtful opposition. The delivery of power to the Presidency argument was said to be bogus; the treaty versus agreement argument was argued to be nothing more than designed by those wanting to hide behind the Constitution and those concerned about NAFTA boards, world trade organizations, or the multilateral agreement on investments were all just conspiracy nuts the same group of individuals who are concerned about who is flying the unmarked black helicopters around the country. So much for serious debate.

A few points worth noting:

First, most members of the coalition, who pushed fast track, have in the past, promoted war under the U.N. banner, bailouts by the IMF, foreign aid, corporate welfare, secret centralized banking, and World Bank loans? Is there any wonder that a populist backlash, from Nadar to Buchanan, blossomed and actually won this round?

Second, the chief corporate supporters of the fast track process who claimed to be defenders of freedom and free trade have essentially no record of ever promoting free market

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