

On Wednesday, June 7, 2000, I was unavoidably detained and unable to record a vote by electronic device on Roll Number 244. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on Roll Number 244.

On Wednesday, June 7, 2000, I was unavoidably detained and unable to record a vote by electronic device on Roll Number 245. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on Roll Number 245.

TRIBUTE TO KENZAL THOMAS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend young Kenzal Thomas, a Casey Middle School student in Mt. Vernon, IL, for his honesty. Recently after finding a dollar in the bathroom of a Mt. Vernon restaurant, Kenzal began asking everyone in the restaurant if they had lost the bill—including City Councilman Dave Keen.

As a result, Councilman Keen, along with other city officials, honored Kenzal with a framed certificate touting his integrity.

It is a pleasure for me to join in recognizing Kenzal. His honesty is a trait for which we can all be proud of and look to as an example of doing what is right.

IN HONOR OF MONUMENTAL BAPTIST CHURCH, CELEBRATING ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monumental Baptist Church. For 100 years, Monumental has been a sanctuary for fostering Christian ideals and values.

Monumental Baptist Church was established in 1900, in a store front in New Jersey. From its humble beginnings as a small congregation, Monumental has experienced significant growth, establishing a foundation for a prosperous future.

Reverend William Edwards was Monumental's first pastor, followed by Reverend C.H. Garelick, and Reverend William S. Smith, who, in 1905, was able to secure a new site for the church, at 116 Lafayette Street.

Reverend Smith served his church and community with dedication. After forty years as pastor and community leader, he passed away. Under Monumental's next pastor, Reverend William Fitzgerald, a mortgage was liquidated and the church received a new roof.

On the first Sunday of December 1944, Reverend Ercel F. Webb came to serve as pastor of Monumental Baptist Church. For 42 years, Reverend Webb dedicated himself to providing his congregation with spiritual guidance as well as strong leadership. During Reverend Webb's service, financial support to local and national organizations increased significantly. The United Negro College fund received substantial contributions, allowing the church to realize its goal of helping to provide

young African-Americans access to a quality education.

Following Reverend Webb's retirement in 1986, Reverend Willard W.C. Ashley served until 1996. The current pastor is Reverend Joseph L. Jones.

Today, Monumental Baptist Church is 100 years old. I ask my colleagues to honor the church and its congregation for their century of dedication to God.

ELIMINATE THE DEATH TAX

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, today I express my strong support for the elimination of the death tax. When a person dies in this country, an outrageous tax of 37 to 55 percent is levied against the deceased's estate. The last thing that a family in mourning should have to worry about is losing the family business or farm—a life's work—to satisfy the IRS.

Only in America can one be given a certificate at birth, a license at marriage, and a bill at death. This tax is contrary to the freedom and free-market principles on which this nation was founded.

There is no question that Americans deserve to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. It is our duty to provide responsible, targeted tax relief in this time of budgetary surplus. Since my first day in Congress, we have debated what to do with the surplus. Some said tax cuts. I have strongly supported paying down the debt by 2013 or earlier. But if we pass responsible, targeted tax cuts, we can accomplish both. It is essential for Congress to repeal the unfair death tax so that family businesses and family farms can be passed down from generation to generation.

Owning a family business is the culmination of the American Dream. Let's restore the dream and repeal the death tax. We owe it to America's families, small business owners and farmers.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4576) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001. This legislation has placed great emphasis on expanding quality of life initiatives, addressing readiness shortfalls, and enhancing modernization programs. I am particularly supportive of the procurement budget in this legislation for the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) or Hummer.

The Congress and especially the Appropriations Committee have strongly supported sus-

tained Hummer production. The hard-working people of Indiana's Third Congressional district have responded by providing a vehicle that has met, and in many cases, exceeded the needs of our brave troops in the field. The Hummer's superior quality allowed three U.S. Army soldiers to walk away unharmed from their vehicle after it drove over and exploded an antitank mine in Bosnia.

Moreover, both the Army and the Marine Corps have identified the Hummer among their unfunded modernization priorities. This defense appropriations bill meets those priorities by increasing the budget by \$40 million, thereby allowing the Army and the Marines to buy 3,400 Hummers to replace their aging fleet and provide technology insertion. This will go a long way toward protecting our brave men and women in uniform deployed in Kosovo and Bosnia.

I am enthused by the growing capabilities of the Hummer. Earlier this year, I visited the Hummer plant and saw a prototype of the commercial "Hummer 11" which is being developed by a joint effort between AM General and General Motors. The Hummer's expansion into the commercial marketplace will result in the sharing of leading technologies for commercial and military vehicles while maintaining a highly skilled technological workforce in Indiana who I am very proud to represent.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to express my gratitude to the members of the Appropriations Committee who have reported a defense appropriations bill that will ensure continued Hummer production. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT (NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT) TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4444, the PNTR (Permanent Normal Trade Relations) for China Bill, which will open up new markets for our businesses here in the United States. This bill is about breaking down trade barriers abroad and expanding opportunities for American workers. This legislation recognizes the reality of today's global economy and equips our country with the tools necessary to maintain America's leadership throughout the world.

International trade is critical to our nation's continued economic expansion. Over 11 million jobs in the United States can be attributed to exports. The simple fact that 96% of the world's consumers live outside of our borders is irrefutable evidence that in order to grow our economy, we must grow our exports.

In the WTO agreement, the U.S. has won unprecedented concessions from the Chinese that break down barriers to our goods, services, technology products, automobiles and financial services. Our farmers, who have been economically hurting, will be able to sell their agricultural products in China like never before. In Florida, our citrus and fertilizer industry will benefit immensely.

In terms of forcing changes in China, this is also a matter of national security. Once China is admitted into the WTO, they will be subject to the rule of law, which will be enforced by more than 130 countries. As we enter the 21st Century, China is on the verge of expanding its regional dominance. I believe it is apparent that the world's most populous nation is simply too influential to ignore. Thus, I believe that our engagement, rather than disengagement, is essential. I think we have a better chance of encouraging reforms with more U.S. citizens bringing our culture, ideas, and freedoms to China rather than isolating them from the rest of the world.

With regard to China's cross straits relations, the Taiwan question continues to heighten tensions in the region. Passage of PNTR would allow our country to continue to play a constructive role in diffusing that potentially destabilizing situation. Even Taiwan's leaders recognize the importance of passing PNTR and China's accession to the WTO. Recently, the newly elected President of Taiwan, Chen Shui-bian, stated that, "We would welcome the normalization of U.S.-China trade relations . . . We look forward to both the People's Republic of China's and Taiwan's accession to the WTO."

We must respect and address many of the opposing arguments. Opponents argue that we as a nation must send a strong message to China and in many respects I agree. Let there be no mistake about it, forcing China to comply with their commitments will not be an easy task. China must know that we will be vigilant in our efforts to combat human rights abuses, that we will not tolerate acts of aggression towards its neighbors. That is why I commend my colleagues Sandy Levin and Doug Bereuter for all their hard work crafting legislation that will enable our country to closely monitor China's human rights record and compliance with its WTO commitments.

In addition, opponents of PNTR argue that only big business will benefit. I disagree. Today more than ever, U.S. businesses are functioning in a global economy, and thanks to the Information Age and the growth of e-commerce, even the smallest of America's businesses are engaging in and thriving from their interactions in international markets. In fact, a rapidly growing number of small and medium sized companies have already expanded their business to take advantage of the opportunities available in China's marketplace.

In 1997, 82 percent of all U.S. exporters to China were small and medium sized businesses. That same year, in my home state of Florida, companies with less than 100 employees accounted for 52 percent of all businesses exporting from Florida to China. Furthermore, small and medium sized companies combined accounted for 67 percent of all firms exporting from Florida to China. These figures continue.

China's business cannot begin to keep up with the rapidly growing demand of one-fifth of the world's population, leaving international companies an amazing economic opportunity should China open its trade gates. America's strong economy and its wealth of innovative and motivated small and medium sized businesses poises us to be a leader in meeting the product demand of the Chinese.

The benefits of increased trade with China both for our nation and the State of Florida are tremendous. Unless we pass PNTR, our businesses and workers will be forced to sit on the

sideline and watch our global competitors take advantage of the agreement we negotiated. The effect would be to exclude many of Florida's farmers, insurers, and manufacturers of microchips, chemicals, computers, and software who would benefit from this entirely new level of access. These industries employ thousands of Floridians and have the potential to employ thousands more, but only if we can continue our strong export growth.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that increased global competition will put some industries at risk and that with the overwhelming number of winners there will be some losers. We will have to work hard to ensure every American worker can participate in our global economy.

A vote against PNTR will not create a single new job in America, clean up the environment in China, release a single prisoner, nor improve the standard of living for Chinese workers. It will only signal a retreat from the global economy and a surrendering of our nation's leadership in the international arena.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is critical for the United States. Refusal to pass PNTR would put American workers at a disadvantage. Furthermore, this legislation represents our nation's commitment to remaining engaged, and a rededication to ensuring expanded economic opportunities for American workers.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on PNTR.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4576) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, today I rise for women across the country as Co-Vice Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues and for the women of California and Los Angeles, in particular, to praise the work of Chairman LEWIS and Ranking Member MURTHA for ensuring critical funding is provided for the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program.

California, as one of the most populous states has a corresponding high degree of breast cancer deaths and in 1990, over 25 percent of these deaths occurred in the Los Angeles area alone. Nationally, an estimated 2.6 million women—one in eight women—are currently living with breast cancer.

As the leading cause of cancer deaths among women aged 40-59, it is second only to lung cancer in the number of cancer deaths. It is estimated that 40,800 women will die of breast cancer this year. African American women currently have the shortest life expectancy. The need for research to reduce the number of deaths among all women and stop this disparity in life expectancy between Caucasian women and women of color is unequivocal.

The most significant risk factors for breast cancer are simply being female and growing

older. The majority of women with breast cancer have no known significant family history or other known risk factors. In fact, only 5–10% of breast cancers are due to heredity. Therefore, research that is conducted by the Defense Department as well as by the National Institutes of Health is imperative for all women.

Thanks to the bipartisan leadership and dedication of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, the breast cancer research program continues to grow and provide innovative ways of fighting this disease. On behalf of the women of California and women across the country, I thank Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member MURTHA for their commitment to this issue.

SEEING FIRSTHAND NEW JERSEY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to report on a visit I made in April of this year to two of the U.S. Army's installations, one in California and the other in Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, the upper Mojave Desert is a long way from Morristown. Frankly, when you think of southern California and the desert, you conjure up thoughts of oppressive heat, scorching sun and scorpions underfoot.

During the Congressional Easter "recess," I spent several days visiting Fort Irwin, home of the National Training Center and the U.S. Army's premier field combat training facility. There is nothing like it anywhere in the world, according to what I heard and saw during my visit.

For almost two years now, I have had added to my assignment on the House Appropriations Committee, a seat on the Subcommittee on Defense, which includes budget jurisdiction over all of our nation's branches of the Armed Services and our national intelligence agencies.

Whenever possible, I try to visit military installations, bases and especially our young troops in the field. After all, these young men and women need to know that Members of Congress appreciate what they do and that we are committed to their safety, proper training, and the acquisition of the best equipment and technology available.

I saw firsthand the battlefield realism that the National Training Center provides. That location in the desert combines the scope, scale, and intensity of effort that past and future wars have provided.

Take for example, the Persian Gulf War. On the morning of February 24, 1991, combat-ready U.S. military forces launched the land phase of the Persian Gulf War with the objective of removing Iraqi forces from the Republic of Kuwait. One hundred hours later, they accomplished their objective.

The majority of U.S. soldiers contributing to this victory received their combat field training at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin. Their success on the battlefields of Iraq and Kuwait confirmed that authentic, real-time combat training leads to decisive victory.