

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2317, THE
CREDIT UNION REGULATORY IM-
PROVEMENTS ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2317, the Credit Union Regulatory Improvements Act, commonly known as CURIA, of which I am a proud original cosponsor.

As I have noted many times in many ways, our Nation's credit unions provide a truly invaluable service to their approximately 84 million members throughout our country, including over 742,000 members in my Hawai'i alone. Where other financial institutions are unable or unwilling to do business as and when desired by consumers, credit unions have prospered by offering fair, convenient and relevant financing. In doing so, they are one of the key linchpins binding together the economic and social life of so many of our communities, including those of non-urban and rural America.

Let me provide you with just one example from my own district: the southern portion of my home Island of Hawai'i. Small rural and agricultural-based communities are dispersed throughout this low population density region, which thus does not lend itself to traditional urban-focused banking.

Instead, the main branch of Ka'u Federal Credit Union, known as the southernmost credit union in the United States, is located in the small town of Na'alehu and provides its residents with highly personal and tailored services. But Ka'u FCU has taken its service a step further and added two additional branches in nearby communities—one in Ocean View and the other in Pahala—each located in a local grocery store and no bigger than the size of a small car.

Of course, credit unions are prospering in urban and suburban areas of our country and my Hawai'i as well. This is because they all share the characteristics of highly personal, member-invested services. They are thus clearly a great success story throughout our entire country.

Support for our credit unions should thus be one of our key goals. Here in Congress, one of the best ways to do so is to support this bipartisan legislation.

H.R. 2317 contains three major sections, which, as outlined below, will modernize credit union net worth standards, advance credit union efforts to promote economic growth, and make several needed modifications to credit union activities, governance, and oversight.

According to the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), the independent federal agency that charters and supervises federal credit unions, modifications to the Prompt Correction Action (PCA) system are needed to ensure that the standards are "aptly robust" and "not unduly burdensome or constraining."

This legislation would revise thresholds for PCA net worth categories for credit unions to new net worth ratio thresholds that are comparable to those used by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) for the leverage requirement.

H.R. 2317 would also provide a much-needed update to the definition of net worth in the Federal Credit Union Act for purposes of credit union mergers. The Financial Accounting Standards Board has proposed eliminating the pooling accounting method for mergers and requiring all credit union mergers to apply the purchase method after 2006. Under the purchase method of accounting, only the surviving credit union's retained earnings count as net worth for PCA purposes. This legislation codifies that recommendation.

Finally, CURIA will update and modernize a number of specific outdated regulatory burdens and make other necessary changes to the credit union regulatory system, including improving credit union leasing arrangements on federal land, permitting limited investments in securities, reforming credit union governance, and altering credit union conversion voting requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I commend both the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) for once again spearheading CURIA. I look forward to working with them and my other cosponsors in supporting this vital initiative.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, "It should not be forgotten even for a moment that Israel's security problem is quite unlike that of any other country. This is no problem of borders or sovereignty, but a problem of physical survival, in the literal meaning of the term. And it is a question of the survival not only of the people of Israel but of the Jewish people the world over."

These words were spoken in 1960 by former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, who led the struggle to create Israel.

More than 4 decades have passed since these words were spoken, but they have the same profound impact on us as Jews today as when they were first uttered. Today I express my solidarity with Israel as it celebrates the 57th anniversary of its founding.

As a Member of Congress, I stand with Israel and express my solidarity and support for the State of Israel during these most troubling of times.

We must remember that any legitimate peace process must insist that the Palestinians bring an immediate end to acts of terrorism.

Israel is fully committed to pursuing negotiated agreements with her Arab neighbors so

that it may finally live in peace and security. Israel reached historic peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan in which both sides made serious compromises for the sake of normalized relations. Through its democratic system, the Israeli electorate has voted out governments they believe have not done enough to pursue peace, just as they have voted out governments they believe have not done enough to promote their security.

The Palestinian campaign of terrorism and violence has caused even those Israelis most supportive of the peace process to question the Palestinian Authority's suitability as a negotiating partner and its commitment to peaceful reconciliation with Israel. Israel has demonstrated time and again its sincere desire for peace and its readiness to make the difficult decisions required for peace, as it begins its withdrawal from the Gaza strip and parts of the West Bank.

I hope that the new Palestinian government elected by the Palestinian people will move quickly and make the tough choices necessary for a lasting peace.

CONGRATULATING KERRY AMBROSE

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Kerry Ambrose has been in Bolivia for the past year as a volunteer with the Peace Corps. Ms. Ambrose is following the footsteps of over 178,000 Americans who have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 138 countries over the past 44 years. Kerry is doing extraordinary work in her village and I commend her dedication and service to improve the lives of others. I would like to share with you her editorial submitted to my local newspaper, The Delaware County Times.

[From the Delaware County (PA) Times,
Apr. 3, 2005]

OPINION: SERVING PEACE CORPS MEANS
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(By PCV Kerry Ambrose)

I live in a small pueblo in Bolivia. My house has running water but no shower so we bathe via buckets. I consider myself lucky, though, as some of my friends only have water for a few hours a day, if that.

The family I live with sells chickens. I see the chickens before they are killed. I also watch the grandmother of my house wash piles of chicken claws in a bucket in order to make her delicacy—chicken foot soup.

My family hand-washes its clothes every other day. I still have not mastered the art completely and often the children laugh good-naturedly. My family happens to have a TV in one of its rooms. Most families do not. Most families have a small room that serves as the living room, bedroom, and kitchen. Oftentimes the floor is packed dirt and the roof is thatched.

My favorite part of my day is after waking up. I heat water on our stove and make

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

mate, a type of tea served here. My favorites are manzanilla, which is chamomile, as well as cocoa leaf mate, which is supposedly good for the stomach.

I sit on the steps of our house in the chill morning light with the steaming hot cup of mate in my hands as I look out on into the distance. I live in the altiplano, which is a flat plain above the tree line. It stretches for miles in all directions and looks like a vast sea of earth striving to meet the unreachable horizon.

The wind is harsh as there is no protection from it and for the most part the soil is rocky and hard. Many of the people here depend on the mines, but there are also farmers and herders. All are difficult livelihoods in such an unforgiving place. The altiplano, though, has a stark and desolate beauty to it that creeps in to haunt the soul. It's untouched in many places and is wild and untamed in a way that I imagine the prairie lands of the U.S. were before the settlers.

I am a volunteer in the Peace Corps, which is why I am living here. I mainly work in the schools teaching environmental education and health classes. This year though I am also helping teach physical education from kindergarten through sixth and am hoping to start a basketball intramural league and maybe an art mural club.

The children are so motivated. Everyday I look into their bright eager eyes and smiling faces and cannot help but become inundated with love. I have so much hope for all these children, these brilliant minds waiting to blossom, but I know that the people of this town, this country, are poor. Many of the girls see no future beyond having seven or eight children to help with the farm work, the mortality rate here is as high as almost 50 percent in some areas so the birth of many children guarantees the survival of a few.

The streets of the cities are not lined with gold, but rather with funeral parlors displaying miniature coffins. My heart breaks knowing some of these children I see will go on to sniff glue, become alcoholics, and abuse their wives because these are the examples they know and see. I am determined to help in what little way I can to instill a sense of self-esteem. They may be poor in material objects, but they are not poor in spirit.

I have been here already for a year. Peace Corps volunteers make the commitment to serve for 27 months. When the tragedy of Sept. 11 happened, I personally made the decision to join after I finished college. Many people of the world view America with contempt. I wanted to do what I could to make the most out of the privileges my citizenship automatically bestowed upon me.

I came to Bolivia with idealistic notions that I could somehow change the world. I still hope to make a difference each day I walk hand in hand with a small child looking up at me with eyes so wide. However, I have been humbled in that I realize by simply living here I have learned more this past year about myself, people, and the world then I could have possibly envisioned or ever repay, although I intend to try.

Kerry Ambrose is the daughter of Pamela Ambrose and Gary Pattinson, and a graduate of Gamet Valley High School. She was sworn in as a Peace Corps volunteer on April 7, 2004. Learn more about this organization by visiting www.peacecorps.gov or if interested in donating supplies for a future project or school, contact Kerry at ambrose81@comcast.net

RECOGNIZING MR. PETER H. COTE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Mr. Peter H. Cote will retire from his post as civilian Farrier, after 35 years of faithful and dedicated service to the nation.

Mr. Cote graduated from Woodbridge Senior High School in Virginia in 1967. He then attended the Martinsville Farrier School until he was drafted by the U.S. Army in March 1969 as a Heavy Artilleryman. Mr. Cote's military career includes positions in Germany, Walter Reed and Fort Myer. He was discharged from the U.S. Army on March 1, 1971, and was hired by Walter Reed as the Military District of Washington civilian Blacksmith/Farrier.

Mr. Cote received his Master Farrier Qualification from the Brotherhood of Working Farriers. He is certified as an Equine Appraiser, equine emergency rescuer, equine adjuster and an inspector of American Trail Rides. Mr. Cote has trained 165 personnel in the art of Farriery. He also has participated in the state funerals for President Johnson and President Reagan. Additionally, he has been the head Farrier for nine Presidential Inaugurals.

Mr. Cote's many honors and awards include the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and numerous Exceptional Performance Appraisals. He also was named "The Nation's Farrier" in 1999 by The American Farrier Journal.

I know my colleagues in the House will join me in thanking Mr. Cote for his many years of service to his country and in wishing him all the best in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF ALBERTA HENRY

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the late Mrs. Alberta Henry, a long-time resident of Utah.

Mrs. Henry was a civil-rights activist and educator devoted to providing educational opportunities for all children. Her accomplishments and hard work have been recognized by many including President Richard Nixon, the University of Utah, and the Salt Lake Council of Women's Hall of Fame.

Since being elected to Congress, I have been impressed with Mrs. Henry's efforts to improve her community, and ability to overcome all obstacles that stand in her way. Mrs. Henry has been involved in many organizations, including Utah State Advisory Committee to the U.S. commission on Civil Rights, the United Way, Utah Endowment for the Humanities, and the Black Advisory Board to the University of Utah. She also served as president of the NAACP's Salt Lake Branch for 12 years.

Mrs. Henry's passion for education began early on as a young student in Kansas. Her mother encouraged her to get an education, and became a driving force in her love for learning. After moving to Utah, she worked for the Head Start Day Care and was the first African-American employee at the Salt Lake

School District. She is also the founder of the Alberta Henry Education Foundation which has helped hundreds of underprivileged students pay for college.

Mrs. Henry's work is invaluable and her steadfastness is respected. She will be missed by her family, friends, and the community as a whole.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the modern day state of Israel on its 57th birthday. In 1948, facing overwhelming odds, Jews living in their historic homeland, survivors of the Holocaust and refugees from around the world stood in a small room in Tel Aviv to announce the creation of the Jewish state. In the shadow of the murderous genocide of the Holocaust, the State of Israel was created so that Jews around the world would always have safe refuge from oppression and annihilation.

On May 14, 1948, years of Zionists' dreams culminated at this historic moment as David Ben Gurion announced to the world that once again Israel was to be a free and independent state. Founded on principles of freedom and democracy, the new state of Israel was quickly recognized by the United States as a welcome ally in the Middle East. Unfortunately, within hours of this historic declaration, the neighboring Arab nations attacked and sent Israel into its first war as an independent nation. Despite conventional wisdom, and to the great surprise of many around the world, Israel survived the attack, but at a heavy cost to the young nation.

Today, Israel is a thriving democracy and one of the United States' strongest allies in our War on Terror. Israel has demonstrated to the world that democracy can thrive in the Middle East and that freedom of religion, freedom of the press and basic human rights can work in a region that is otherwise dominated by terror and oppression. Israel, with a free market economy and a commitment to human rights, serves as an inspiration for other nations and new democracies struggling to take hold in the Middle East.

I stand today to congratulate Israel on its strong dedication to freedom and democracy throughout its 57 years of existence. I look forward to strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship and continuing to celebrate Israel's independence in years to come.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL FUND AND THE ARIZONA MEMORIAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the continued efforts of my colleagues, our federal administration, and all Americans toward long-overdue and essential reconstruction of the USS Arizona Memorial Visitors Center at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.