

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4830, BORDER TUNNEL PREVENTION ACT OF 2006; FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6094, COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2006; AND FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6095, IMMIGRATION LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4830, the Border Tunnel Prevention Act.

We need to secure our borders and ensure the safety of our country. The Border Tunnel Prevention Act is one positive step toward preventing criminals from entering our country unnoticed and illegally. This law creates new penalties for anyone using a tunnel to smuggle people, drugs or weapons into the United States. This effort is another tool for law enforcement and border security to begin to address illegal immigration and to aid in their efforts to keep our communities safe.

I have heard numerous times from Minnesota law enforcement agents about illegal drugs that pass through the Twin Cities on a regular basis, much of it originating south of the border and intended for the U.S. or Canada. While our law enforcement has made progress in shutting down meth production in the U.S., 80 percent of this dangerous drug comes from "superlabs" in Mexico. No legislation can entirely stop the flow of illegal drugs into our country, but this bill will add increased provisions to punish those who smuggle drugs into the U.S.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 4830 today as a first step in what I hope will be a comprehensive effort to address immigration reform and the challenges law enforcement faces in keeping our communities and our country safe.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANDREW WATSON

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Andrew Watson of Larkspur, Colorado. Mr. Watson has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our nation's Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Mr. Watson has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Andrew Watson, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN IVERSON

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Marilyn Iverson, the Chief Operating Officer of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES). She is retiring after more than 34 years of service to our men and women in uniform. Ms. Iverson has been an exceptional leader and has played a key role in lifting AAFES to new levels of excellence in providing service members and their families with quality products and services. I am proud to honor Ms. Iverson for her superb accomplishments and outstanding service to Army and Air Force military communities around the globe.

Marilyn Iverson began her career with AAFES in May 1971 and held many positions before becoming the Chief Operating Officer (COO) in 2002. During fiscal year 2005, AAFES revenues reached \$8.7 billion worldwide and are expected to exceed \$9 billion during fiscal year 2006. During her tenure AAFES generated more than \$793 million in direct support for the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs that are so highly valued by military members and so critical to combat readiness.

After a number of visits to Iraq and Afghanistan and other locations where U.S. forces are deployed, I have been most impressed with her efforts to provide unparalleled support to our deployed military with operations at 120 exchange facilities in 13 countries including many austere and hazardous locations. Under her leadership, AAFES also achieved a steady growth in sales, invested in a record 93 major construction projects on military installations, and developed a program to hire and develop a more diverse workforce.

Our men and women in uniform have benefited from Ms. Iverson's unfailing work ethic, outstanding professionalism, and superb leadership. Her efforts have enabled our military leaders to provide essential quality of life programs and service to our deployed soldiers and the families they leave behind. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank her for her service to our country and wish her well in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MARY JEAN DUCKETT

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Mary Jean Duckett.

Ms. Duckett served as the Deputy Director of the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHPG) within the Center for Medicaid and State Operations at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and retired on March 3, 2006 after 39 years of distinguished Federal service. More than half of her career was dedicated to the Medicaid program at CMS, and I rise in honor of her service.

Ms. Duckett served as a champion for people with disabilities and long-term illness to live meaningful lives in the community. She

worked tirelessly to ensure Medicaid beneficiaries received effective and high quality services. Most recently, her skillful and seasoned insight was of great assistance to the Energy and Commerce Committee during the development of home and community-based care legislation, including the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration that was passed as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Ms. Duckett can be proud that her work on this legislation will have a significant impact on the lives of many people with disabilities and enable them to live and work in the community.

Ms. Duckett started her career in the Social Security Administration working the graveyard shift as a secretary so she could attend college full-time during the day. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and then went on to earn a Master's degree in Social Policy while still working full-time and raising two children with her husband. Using this education and her experience, she worked her way up into the CMS management team as the Director of the Division of Benefits Coverage and Payment in DEHPG within the Center for Medicaid and State Operations and eventually became the DEHPG Deputy Director. She provided national leadership in increasing care options for individuals with disabilities by assisting states and others stakeholders in designing financially sound Medicaid programs that emphasize long-term services and supports that foster choice and opportunity for full participation in community life, including independent living, economic self-sufficiency and recovery for individuals of all ages.

Ms. Duckett served as a pioneer in helping states provide alternatives to institutional settings. She is part of the foundation upon which the home—and community-based service (HCBS) program in CMS has been built. The HCBS program was created in 1981, and she contributed to the development, approval, and implementation of each of the approximately 290 home and community based programs operating throughout all 50 states today. The wealth of knowledge she developed will continue to benefit individuals with disabilities and long-term illnesses across the country every day.

Ms. Duckett's expertise was invaluable and extensive, and her commitment to serving individuals with disabilities and long-term illness served as a model for people that worked for her. She provided an infallible sense of public service, and she always put other people first. Her contributions will be carried on as further steps are taken towards improving or maintaining the ability of individuals to contribute to society in a setting of their choice, averting deterioration in individuals' functional status, and reducing the likelihood that individuals with disability and the elderly will need institutional care.

On behalf of the million plus people living in the community of their choosing instead of an institution, who may never know who she is, or how directly and fundamentally her work impacted them, I sincerely hope that you will join me in recognizing and thanking Mary Jean Duckett for her dedication and service to the Federal Government, and in wishing her the best in her retirement.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5825, ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the previous question. This do-nothing Republican Congress plans to adjourn without taking action on the issues facing American families. It is outrageous that instead of addressing our national security and economic security, Republicans are focused on scoring cheap political points that benefit special interests, further divide this country, and put us at greater risk.

Families—not big oil companies—need relief from the economic squeeze most are facing. This year we see the cost of health care, energy and education going up while wages stagnate. Our economic growth depends on an investment in our future and on recognizing that hard working, middle class Americans are the engine of our economy. It is also outrageous that 5 years after the tragedy of September 11, Republican leadership has failed to make the necessary investment in Homeland Security, preferring instead to continue to provide unaffordable tax cuts to corporations.

Democrats have proposed 5 actions that this Congress can take that will make a real difference in the lives of families.

This Congress should not adjourn without increasing the minimum wage. Republicans voted to increase our pay by \$31,600 this year but have refused a pay raise for the 15 million hardworking Americans making the minimum wage.

We must allow the Federal Government to negotiate for best price for pharmaceutical drugs on behalf of American seniors, persons with disabilities and taxpayers. This will significantly lower the cost of drugs, providing for resources that we use to fill the doughnut hole and finally provide the comprehensive coverage our seniors have been fighting for.

In order to ensure our global competitiveness, Congress should reverse the raid on student aid by replacing the \$12 billion cut earlier this year to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest.

This summer gas was over \$3 dollars a gallon. And while we are feeling some relief now, clearly it is temporary. At the same time, oil and gas companies are enjoying record profits at the expense of the American taxpayer. It is time that this Congress insist on an energy plan that benefits families and decreases our dependence on foreign oil. Lets roll back tax breaks for Big Oil and invest those dollars in alternative fuels.

And to keep America safe, Republicans should stop blocking the full implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations and commit the resources necessary to secure our borders, ports, airports and chemical facilities. Instead of simply scaring Americans with talk of a terrorist attack, Democrats want to take real steps to keep American families safe.

Mr. Speaker, America needs a new direction. By voting against the previous question I am voting for initiatives that will promote economic growth and provide real security. I urge

my colleagues to reject the politics of cynicism and fear and to work together to move this country forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on September 28, I inadvertently voted “no” on rollcall 503, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act. Please let the record reflect that I enter an “aye” vote on this rollcall.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO
KELIIHOALANI MITCHELL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Kelihoalani Mitchell of Aurora, CO. Ms. Mitchell has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation’s Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Mitchell has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Kelihoalani Mitchell, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION
NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 403.

S. 403 makes it a Federal crime for anyone other than a young woman’s parent to take her across State lines for an abortion unless the parental notification and involvement requirements of her home State have been met. In States without a current parental notification law, the Federal law applies. This legislation also requires a physician to notify, in person, the parents from another State about a medical procedure the doctor will be performing.

I will continue to work to do more to reduce abortion, but this is the wrong approach. Criminalizing health care providers and clergy while further victimizing young women who are already facing major challenges will not reduce abortions, will not reduce teen pregnancy, and will certainly not help to protect young women in this country. It is unfortunate that this legislation does not contain a judicial bypass process for young women who cannot, through no fault of their own, discuss this issue with their parents, as in cases of abuse or incest. This

bill even criminalizes a victim’s support network, the grandparents, aunts and uncles, adult siblings, religious counselors, and other trusted adults whom a young woman might turn to for help in this time of crisis. It also requires doctors to know the notification laws in all 50 States or face criminal penalties. S. 403 undermines Minnesota’s authority, forcing all States to comply with and enforce other States’ laws.

This legislation is opposed by a wide variety of individuals and organizations including physicians, public health experts, women’s organizations, religious groups, and think tanks. Simply put, S. 403 imposes significant barriers to young women’s emotional and physical health. The reality is that marginalizing and isolating these vulnerable young women will not protect them in their time of need, but rather force them to seek risky and unsafe ways to terminate their pregnancy. Instead, we must do more to support families and to work to reduce unwanted pregnancies through comprehensive education, adoption assistance, and family planning.

Mr. Speaker, S. 403 is a dangerous bill, harmful to those young women most in need of help. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation, which poses a serious threat to young women’s access to safe reproductive health choices.

THE R.S. 2477 RIGHTS-OF-WAY
RECOGNITION ACT

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce “The R.S. 2477 Rights-of-Way Recognition Act.” I am introducing this legislation to advance the dialogue on an issue very important to my constituents and many other stakeholders, particularly in the western United States.

R.S. 2477 Rights-of-Way were originally granted by the 1866 Mining Law. However, in 1976 with the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act or FLPMA, the R.S. 2477 statute was repealed while grandfathering in existing claims. Since the passage the FLPMA and its repeal of R.S. 2477, a long-standing dispute regarding these grandfathered claims has persisted with the validity of these rights-of-way remaining in doubt.

The purpose of my bill is to remove this cloud, once and for all, by declaring that State and local governments hold valid rights-of-way for all public roads that were documented on government maps and photographs at the time the FLPMA’s grandfather clause was enacted.

Everyone must clearly understand the scope of this legislation. It does not establish new claims or to provide a method by which any party may to build roads or improvements on claims not valid under FLPMA. Instead, this legislation intends to reaffirm the rights and responsibilities of State and local governments to the rights-of-way that Congress intended they retain when passing FLPMA.

Thus, any attempt to construe this legislation as an endeavor to create a system of superhighways through public lands is just plain