

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, on July 30, 2007, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 758, 759, 760, 761, and 762. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 758, "yes" on rollcall 759, "yes" on rollcall 760, "yes" on rollcall 761, and "yes" on rollcall 762.

REAUTHORIZING THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2707 which acknowledges the necessity to continue funding the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program. Reflecting upon the nearly four hundred years of slavery, another century and a half of severe violations of American civil rights and continued hardship experienced by minorities everywhere, I feel that this measure warrants our support. The time has come for tolerance and understanding to triumph over racism and bigotry.

Our society is one that was formed by those who sought and dared to believe in freedom. Though these individuals committed transgressions of their own, they set the cornerstone for a union of states based on eminent documents and progressive ideals. Just to whom the notions of liberty, prosperity and happiness applied, would have to be settled in an undiplomatic nature, yet thankfully and virtuously the rights of all men prevailed. Before the Compromise of 1820 was agreed upon, a network now known as the Underground Railroad began to take form between those that wanted to gain and to give the ability to live freely.

Now legally armed with the rights and privileges endowed to all men and women, we find our society struggling to remain committed to not only remembering the plight of those who struggled to gain their freedom but what freedom explicitly implies. The struggle of protecting one's civil rights and the capability to act in one's best interests now faces our nation. We have developed as a people but must not stop or even slow our progression forward. The themes of our Founding Fathers must ring in our ears and our souls as loudly today as they did through the fights for our national and personal independence.

This legislation provides continued support for organizations such as the National Underground Freedom Center and the magnificent professionals who are dedicated to improving our community through education. I would like to thank my colleagues for their time and continued support for this institution of which I am proud to have been an original co-sponsor of its founding legislation back in 1999. This leg insures that The Underground Freedom Center and other institutions of the like will con-

tinue to educate and inspire generations to come.

RESOLUTION FROM THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON, CONNECTICUT

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, when we invaded Iraq in March of 2003, we were told that we did so only to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction and to enforce compliance with a United Nations resolution. Now, four years and over 3,600 American lives later, we are mired in a bloody civil war that only grows more intractable every day. Despite overwhelming evidence and an increasingly broad public consensus, the Bush Administration refuses to yield to the reality that our presence in Iraq is not only failing to accomplish our goals, it is hindering them.

So many of the reasons and explanations given to justify this war have proven woefully misleading, were prefaced on faulty intelligence and inaccurate information and—in some cases—wishful thinking. The grave threat posed by Saddam Hussein's burgeoning chemical, nuclear and biological weapons arsenal is now believed never to have existed. Iraq's oil infrastructure, which was supposed to fully fund the country's post-war reconstruction efforts, remains severely damaged and in some cases, actively supporting the Iraqi insurgency. We have been saddled with a war that now actively fuels the forces of terror it was waged to prevent.

While the war's greatest cost lies in human lives, it continues to drain our Nation's treasury at an alarming rate. Nearly \$600 billion has been spent toward the Iraq war thus far, and we continue to expend tens of billions of dollars in funding it every month. Equally disheartening is the estimated \$10 billion in missing Iraq reconstruction funds that simply cannot be accounted for.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration refuses to abandon its hopelessly naive belief that major progress is just around the corner in Iraq, despite the conclusions of its own interim report released days ago on the troop "surge" strategy, which found only 8 of 18 major benchmarks had been met by the Iraqi government to date.

As the secret NSA wiretapping program and his use of so-called "signing statements" have demonstrated, the President's irresponsibility in office extends beyond calamitous military decisions to Iraq to an outright disregard for the rule of law. Tragically, this has led an unprecedented number of Americans to lose their trust and belief in government. Where Americans once believed that government had the potential to affect meaningful change, they now see it largely as a tool for cronyism, corruption and deception at the hands of their leaders.

I have seen and heard that disillusion firsthand from my constituents, neighbors and friends. The outcry against our wrongheaded strategy in Iraq and the President's disregard for the rule of law comes not merely from opinion makers, retired generals and former cabinet members, but from the very people

who elected us to represent them in our Nation's capitol. My office receives dozens of phone calls every week from people so distraught by this President that they can see no other choice but to call for his impeachment.

On April 2, 2007, a coalition of concerned citizens from Washington, Connecticut banded together to pass a resolution calling for the President's impeachment. These citizens include Janet Buonaiuto, John Buonaiuto, Sandra Canning, Ken Cornet, Bill C. Davis, Diane Dupuis, Rita Frenkel, Paul Frenkel, Helen Gray, Diana Hardee, Joe Mustich, Mildred Pond, Davyne Verstandig. These conscientious residents of Connecticut's Fifth District presented me with their resolution and asked me to raise their concerns to the full House. I commend them for their activism and concern, and wish to register their views before Congress here today.

Thankfully, with the new Democratic majorities here in both houses of the 110th Congress, we now have the ability and the will to take a stand against this administration and its reckless conduct at home and abroad. We will continue to confront this President at every turn on his mismanagement of this war, and we will not cease to challenge the corrosive secrecy and corruption that his lack of leadership has spawned. While the battle is proving to be a hard-fought one, I am confident that we can bring the will of the people to the people's house of Congress.

IN HONOR OF DR. JOHN GARANG DE MABIOR

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the late Dr. John Garang de Mabior, known to those close to him as "Dr. John." Dr. John was president of the Government of Southern Sudan and chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, SPLM/A. Yesterday was the second anniversary of Dr. John's sudden death in a helicopter crash.

Dr. John led a heroic life, leading the South of Sudan through the decades-long war with the tyrannical northern government eventually to peace, culminating in the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on January 9, 2005. The southerners saw him as their founding father, their leader, their inspiration. Dr. John transformed his guerilla movement into an organized rebel force, and then into a political party, and eventually into a partner in the coalition government with the North. His influence over the South's destiny was clear; his leadership set the country on a track toward an agreement to share Sudan's vast wealth and power.

While Dr. John's passing deeply saddened us all, those who desire a bright future for Sudan hold in their memories the strength of Dr. John's character, and his strong and abiding belief that Sudan will indeed one day find peace.

HONORING NORMAN MOLLARD, JR.

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor LCDR Norman Mollard, Jr. Lieutenant Commander Mollard is an asset to the City of Palestine and one of our country's true patriots. When he joined the Navy in September of 1942, Norman began a journey that would earn him the prestigious Navy Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Presidential Unit Citation with three stars among many other honors. During World War II, he was stationed aboard the USS *San Jacinto*, where he received the honorable designation of Fighter Ace.

After retiring from the Navy in July 1969, LCDR Mollard returned to Palestine where he continues to work to preserve the history and culture of east Texas. He is an active member of the Palestine Chamber of Commerce and spends much of his time volunteering at the Museum for East Texas Culture, the YMCA, and the Humane Society. He also participates in the Downtown Merchants Association, the Lions Club, and the local Masonic Lodge. LCDR Mollard's active life has been a service both to the City of Palestine and to our Nation.

Madam Speaker, as the Representative of the City of Palestine, Texas, it is my pleasure to congratulate Norman Mollard on his many accomplishments. I am sure that Norman's 6 children and many grandchildren are very proud of what he has accomplished in such a long and distinguished lifetime.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, this year marks my 30th year in public service. On November 8, 1994, I was honored to be elected to represent the citizens of the 18th District. After working for Congressman Bob Michel and Congressman Tom Railsback for 17 years in the minority party, I never imagined that first election night would cap the day that swept the Republican Party back into the majority on Capitol Hill.

Since that first election almost 13 years ago, I have always maintained that this was not a lifetime job. The time has come to honor that commitment.

Therefore, today I am announcing that I will not run for re-election in 2008. There is still much to be done in the 110th Congress, and I look forward to that work, but I will retire from public life at the conclusion of this term in January of 2009.

I truly believe that public service is a noble profession. The citizens of the 18th District, by electing me as their Representative in the U.S. House, have given me a wonderful opportunity to serve not only them, but all the people of Illinois and of our great country. Being chosen by one's neighbors to represent them in Congress is one of the greatest honors free people can bestow on a fellow citizen. I owe a great debt of gratitude to my supporters for this chance to serve.

It is hard to express in words what it means to have the opportunity to represent a district which was once represented by such political giants as Abraham Lincoln, Everett Dirksen, and Bob Michel.

Today I cannot help but think of my parents who instilled in me an ethic of hard work and my grandparents, who immigrated to the U.S. through Ellis Island and eventually settled in Peoria. They were welcomed with the typical generosity and warmth that characterizes our part of the world. They were good citizens, who worked hard, and raised a great family. That their grandson was able to become a U.S. Representative is proof that "the American dream" is not just a slogan but a continuing living reality to those who are willing to make it work. I know that is true, because my fellow citizens helped me live that dream.

In the end it is my family to whom I will be forever indebted. During the past 30 years, my family, and particularly my wife Kathy, has carried many burdens and responsibilities alone as I spent time away from them in an effort to live out my political dream and fulfill my obligations as a public servant. They have supported and encouraged me over the past three decades.

It is time for me to attempt to repay that debt, and I truly look forward to many wonderful years with my wife, my children, and my grandchildren.

God bless the citizens of Illinois who have given me this wonderful opportunity. God bless my family for everything they have endured, and God bless the United States of America.

"MARVIN ZINDLER—EYEWITNESS NEWS"

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, to the residents of Houston and the surrounding cities, the name "Marvin Zindler" was synonymous with "champion" and "crusader." You see, Marvin Zindler has just as many stories as the Lone Ranger himself—just as many tales about his struggles for justice too. He was a fighter for the "little man," defending those who were swindled or scammed—seeking retribution the only way he knew how, with a bright light, an all-seeing camera lens, and a television audience.

For the last thirty-four years, Marvin has been the much loved and revered face of television station KTRK Channel 13 in Houston, Texas. He was known for his consumer reporting—one of the first in the business to do so—letting the unsuspecting public in on the down and dirty dealing of local businesses throughout Southeast Texas. It was his thirst for integrity and justice among his fellow citizens that led Marvin to work day in and out to unmask the unscrupulous. But to truly understand Marvin, you have to understand the man behind the camera—who he was before he became "The Marvin Zindler."

Marvin was born into the wealth and privilege of society in 1921 and he was not sure where he wanted to go in his life. Torn between careers, Marvin came roaring into the media world as a DJ and spot reporter for a

former, local radio station. He moved onto a career with a former Houston newspaper and did spot news reports for a local television station. It was during his early stint in the media that Marvin began to lean towards the law enforcement profession. In the early 1950s, he was a volunteer police officer—all while continuing to be a voice in the media.

In 1962, Marvin put aside his media career and became a member of the Sheriffs Department. Assigned to the fugitive apprehension unit, it was his responsibility to round and rope up those who sought to flee American justice. Madam Speaker, legend has it that Marvin Zindler once chased a Texas fugitive through the heat of the Mexican deserts and into the rainforests of Central America, where he caught up with the Texas outlaw in what was then the U.S. held territory of the Panama Canal Zone. Marvin had a U.S. warrant for this criminal's arrest, but it was not sufficient enough to arrest him in Mexico or Central America. So he just waited until the fugitive touched U.S. soil—the Panama Canal. He then brought him back to face the Texas courts.

I first met Marvin back when I was a prosecutor. I have the honor and privilege of calling him a personal friend of mine and remained so throughout my judicial career. I can attest to his larger than life personality and his determination to make a difference in the world.

With the Sheriff's Department, Marvin established and ran the consumer fraud division. He was good at his job, perhaps a little too good as rumor has it. In 1972, Marvin was fired from the Sheriff's Department because local businesses were angered by his consumer fraud investigations. It was soon after his abrupt departure from law enforcement, he was hired by Channel 13 to be their on-air consumer reporter. From then on, a star was born.

Marvin Zindler stalked unscrupulous businesses like a lion stalks its prey. He was famous for his "rat and roach reports" on health inspections of local restaurants. He stood up to the bureaucrats who tried to walk on the backs of poor Houston residents, who did not have two dimes to rub together and had been swindled. He sought out immoral used car salesmen who made double-crossing deals of one-sided contracts and high interest rates—milking the consumers out of hundreds of dollars.

While the Houston public adored their TV crusader, Marvin did make some enemies, including a local county sheriff. In 1973, not yet a year into his TV career, Marvin exposed the State's best kept secret, a brothel called the Chicken Ranch in La Grange, Texas. His news story not only led to several ladies of the night being out of a job and national notoriety for his efforts and the embarrassment of local patrons, but a public fist fight with a county sheriff—who also happened to be a disheartened customer. The sheriff broke two of Marvin's ribs and snatched the toupee right off his head. It was this story that the famous long-running Broadway hit musical and eventual movie, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," was based on.

Marvin Zindler had a heart of gold. Using his fame and his voice, Marvin began "Marvin's Angels"—a group of doctors who specialized in plastic and reconstructive surgery. These doctors then performed surgery