

corporations, or the best freeway system, but because a humble wordsmith named George Condon picked words from heavens and brought a shower of stars upon this community year after year, ennobling us, making us lighter, making us wiser.

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME
TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2838) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I would like the record to unequivocally show that I strongly support reauthorizing our Nation's Coast Guard but oppose final passage of H.R. 2838 due to the controversial ballast water discharge provisions that were included in the bill.

I represent a district in the Great Lakes region that contains over 60 miles of coastline on Lake Ontario, a body of water that sees its fair share of shipping. New York State is the entry point for commercial shipping into the rest of the Great Lakes from the Saint Lawrence Seaway and I have serious concerns about how and what international commercial shipping vessels discharge into New York waters on their way to the rest of the Great Lakes.

Each minute, 40,000 gallons of ballast water containing thousands of foreign bacteria, viruses, animals and plants, are discharged into U.S. waters. Globally, it is estimated that more than 10,000 marine species each day may be transported across the oceans in the ballast water of cargo ships. Ballast water has been identified as a common mechanism for the transfer of harmful invasive species that threaten the livelihood and recreation of the millions of residents who depend on them annually.

The Coast Guard is in the process of finalizing its rulemaking process for a national Ballast Water Discharge Standard (BWDS) that would act as a floor for regulation on this issue, not a ceiling, and would allow states to impose stricter standards if they determine their waters are at risk. Title VII of H.R. 2838 would preempt this process by setting a weak national standard for the regulation of ballast water discharged into U.S. waters and would prevent states from implementing stronger than national standards when necessary. During consideration of H.R. 2838, I offered an amendment to strike Title VII or H.R. 2838. While, the amendment failed by a vote of 161 to 237, it received strong bipartisan support.

Unfortunately, while I strongly support the Coast Guard, I cannot support legislation that restricts the ability of States to protect against the threat of invasive species. The ballast water provisions in H.R. 2838 restrict these very protections.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER "KIT"
ST. JOHN ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Christopher "Kit" St. John, who recently retired from his post as the executive director of the Maine Center for Economic Policy (MECEP).

Kit is the founder of MECEP and has served as its executive director since 1994. This non-partisan organization utilizes detailed research and analysis to promote sustainable economic growth throughout the state. As the face of MECEP, Kit has helped lead the fight to raise awareness on a wide range of issues affecting everyday Mainers. In these tough economic times, MECEP's advocacy for Maine's poor and under privileged has never been more important.

In the many years I have known him, Kit has proven to be one of the most thoughtful, intelligent, and hardworking people with whom I have had the honor of working. As executive director of the Maine Center for Economic Policy, an advocate at Pine Tree Legal Assistance, and as an activist representing low-income groups in Augusta, Kit has contributed a remarkable career to serving the people of this great state. His unshakable belief in the people of Maine and his vision for all that we can achieve together continues to inspire me in the work that I do.

I am glad to hear that Kit will not be going far. I hope that his wisdom and insight will be available to both decision makers and the public for years to come. While my staff and I will miss working with Kit, I wish him all the best in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Christopher "Kit" St. John for his tremendous contributions and service to the people of Maine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 837, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE AMITY CLUB ON
ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to rise today to pay tribute to a very special community group, the Amity Club, as the membership gathers to celebrate its 75th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization.

During the first part of the 20th century, New Haven, Connecticut was home to the

largest per capita population of Italians, constituting almost half the population of the entire city. At this time, Italian immigrants established strong roots in New Haven, working hard and raising large families. Most of these immigrants came to the United States with only a rudimentary primary school education, yet they had much higher dreams for their own children. They understood that education was the cornerstone of success and it was one of their central reasons for immigrating to the United States. It was from this same commitment to education and success that the Amity Club was established.

In the early 1930s, Frank Rubino, an architect who had become a leading building contractor and real estate developer in New Haven, was an active member of the Kiwanis Club yet he was one of few Italian members—as was the similar case in most of the City's service organizations. He was deeply proud of his American citizenry but he was as deeply loyal to his Italian heritage. Though there were a multitude of small Italian clubs throughout the city, they existed more for social purposes. Frank soon became convinced that the city needed a strong, service-oriented organization, with its membership made up of professional and business men of Italian background who shared his passion for their Italian heritage as well as his pride in being an American citizen. In fact the name AMITY was proposed not only for its dictionary meaning of "peace and friendship" but because it also combined the country they called home, AM for America, and the country of their strong ancestry, ITY for Italy.

Central among their work would be to provide scholarships to deserving students so that they could secure a college education. As one of their first acts following its official recognition as an association, the Amity Club members formed the Amity Trust Scholarship Trust Fund. Over the years, it has consistently grown and its funds have helped thousands of young students earn their college degrees and pursue their dreams. In addition to these scholarships, Amity Club members have been involved in innumerable service projects throughout the city, all aimed at improving the quality of life for all residents.

Our communities would not be the same without the efforts of volunteers and service organizations like the Amity Club, who, for generations, have made a difference in the lives of others and worked to make our towns and cities better places to live, learn, and grow. I am proud to stand today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of the Amity Club and to extend my sincere congratulations to them on their 75th Anniversary. In all that they have accomplished and continue to accomplish, the Amity Club has not only met the expectations founder Frank Rubino had for the organization, they have far exceeded them.

IN HONOR OF DR. JOHAN
GALTUNG

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Johan Galtung, who is being honored by the American Muslim Alliance