

and may God comfort those she left behind with His peace and strength.

—
VFW POST 6996

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of Washington County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6996. VFW Post 6996 was established in 1965 in Potosi, Missouri. Since then, members of Post 6996 have contributed countless volunteer hours in the Washington County community. Their selfless acts continue to set an admirable example for all.

VFW Post 6996 is comprised of members who have served honorably in foreign wars or overseas operations. These dedicated veterans seek to continue serving the American people and their fellow veterans. This non-profit service organization embodies the spirit of service and generosity by supporting troops currently overseas and ensuring returning veterans have access to health care, counseling, and housing.

For their many years of service and commitment to helping others, it is my pleasure to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Washington County Memorial VFW Post 6996 in the House of Representatives.

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RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SELMA VOTING RIGHTS MARCH
WITH THE ISSUANCE OF A POST-
AL STAMP

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bipartisan resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 23, that would honor the Selma to Montgomery, Alabama marches with a commemorative stamp.

I thank the 102 House Members who co-sponsored this resolution and leading sponsors Congressman BYRNE, Congressman HURD, and Congresswoman SEWELL.

The Selma Voting Rights March was a pivotal moment in our history that brought together Americans to march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama 50 years ago.

This stamp celebrates the march and reminds us to protect voting rights.

For 125 years the Postal Service has been issuing stamps that celebrate cultural milestones and the unique history of our nation.

Surely the protection of voting rights is a landmark development in our nation's development.

It is my hope that as we remember the struggles of discrimination and inequality we lift our hearts and unite to find bridges to equality and justice.

I ask that all Members unite and join with me in commemorating this critical watershed event.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VISION
ZERO ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, our communities need to be safer. More than 33,000 Americans die on our roadways each year, yet this is accepted as inevitability. Even more concerning, fatalities of our most vulnerable road users—pedestrians and bicyclists—make up a growing share of those deaths, with pedestrian fatalities increasing 16% from 2009 to 2014. People who die on our streets are disproportionately children, seniors, and people from low income or minority communities.

Communities across the country are recognizing that there is only one number of acceptable deaths on our streets: zero. "Vision Zero" is the goal of eliminating all transportation-related fatalities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists and passengers. Cities from New York to San Diego are implementing interagency Vision Zero plans connecting engineering, education, and enforcement, to reach the goal of ending transportation deaths.

Congress should encourage this innovative approach to transportation safety, and today I'm pleased to introduce the Vision Zero Act of 2015 with my colleague, Representative BUCHANAN. This bill provides local communities of all sizes with funding and best practices to plan and implement a Vision Zero framework. We should no longer accept bicycle and pedestrian fatalities as harsh reality, and this bill gives us the tools to reverse this trend.

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HONORING MS. DORIS GENTRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doris Gentry and the Human Trafficking Steering Committee for the planning and implementation of the first Napa Conference on Human Trafficking. Ms. Gentry saw the need to bring awareness on this important issue, created and led a steering committee made up of the honorable law enforcement officers of Napa County, and has been working hard to bring this conference to fruition.

Human trafficking affects as many as twenty-seven million people worldwide, and as many as eighty percent of the victims of human trafficking are former foster youth, but it is both a global and a local problem. The effort by individuals, businesses, organizations, and governing bodies to promote the observance of Human Trafficking Awareness on March 13th of 2015 represents one of the many examples of the ongoing commitment to raise awareness of and to actively oppose human trafficking.

For Ms. Gentry, philanthropy and volunteerism has been a life-long activity. She has led numerous boards and organizations dedicated to making our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family, and this

conference is yet another demonstration of her devotion. Ms. Gentry is also a foster mom to one hundred teen boys, and has four children and six grand children of her own.

I am proud to represent a district with principled, community-minded and globally conscious people such as Doris Gentry. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Gentry and the Human Trafficking Steering Committee deserve to be recognized and honored here today.

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H.R. 280 AND H.R. 294, REFORMS TO
IMPROVE THE CARE FOR VET-
ERANS WHO HAVE SACRIFICED
SO MUCH FOR OUR NATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 2, due to inclement weather I was unable to vote on H.R. 280 'Authorizing Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Recoup Bonuses and Awards' and H.R. 294 the 'Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act'. If I had been present I would have voted "yes" on the passage of both bills as these reforms would serve to improve the care of our Veterans who have sacrificed so much for our nation. These bills respectively improve the ability of the Veterans Administration to provide for the well being of those who have given so much for this nation, and expand the power of that Department to hold its employees accountable when they fall short of upholding that sacred duty.

Over the past year, the Department of Veterans Affairs has received scrutiny on issues that affect the care and benefits of our Veterans. Congress has taken action, along with the Department's Office of the Inspector General to investigate these wrongdoings. One finding of these investigations was the despicable act of manipulating the Department's appointment system to hide evidence of increased wait times for medical appointments, and the doctoring of medical records to the same effect.

I believe these acts are despicable and the Department of Veterans Affairs must be held accountable. Veterans Affairs employees are placed in positions of special trust and confidence and are charged with the sacred duty of caring for those who have sacrificed for the security of this nation. This bill, H.R. 280, provides the Secretary of Veterans Affairs more authority to hold accountable those employees who break faith with this obligation. While employees would be afforded due process prior to being fined for misconduct, the Secretary's decision would be final and could not be appealed to any other agency or court. No system is perfect and no person is perfect. But the American people entrust the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with the responsibility of caring for our Veterans—which is why it is critical to empower that Department's leaders with the authority to hold their employees accountable for their actions.

My District in Jacksonville, Florida is one of the most popular retirement locations for Veterans. So this bill, H.R. 294 the 'Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act', hits very close to home. As our Veterans enter the twilight of their lives, they often find themselves needing