

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KAZZ MICHAEL MARSEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kazz Michael Marsey of Blue Springs, Missouri. Kazz is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1246, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kazz has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kazz has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Kazz Michael Marsey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH VINCE WALTERS FOR COACHING THE NEWARK HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Vince Walters showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Vince Walters was a leader and mentor for the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Walters has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Vince Walters for leading the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to submit a record of how I would have

voted on Thursday, April 3, when I was unavoidably detained. Had I voted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 159.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, abuses of the earmark process by Members of both parties demonstrate the need for reform. However, earmarks are hardly the most serious problem facing this country. In fact, many, if not most, of the problems with earmarks can be fixed by taking simple steps to bring greater transparency to the appropriations process. While I support reforms designed to shine greater sunlight on the process by which Members seek earmarks, I fear that some of my colleagues have forgotten that the abuses of the earmarking process are a symptom of the problems with Washington, not the cause. The root of the problem is an out-of-control Federal budget. I am also concerned that some reforms proposed by critics of earmarking undermine the separation of powers by eroding Congress's constitutional role in determining how Federal funds are spent.

Contrary to popular belief, adding earmarks to a bill does not increase Federal spending. Earmarks are added to appropriations legislation after the total funding levels have been agreed on. Therefore, earmarks simply allocate Federal money that Congress has already agreed should be spent. Thus, adding or subtracting earmarks from legislation does not increase or reduce Federal spending by even one penny.

Since reforming, limiting, or even eliminating earmarks does nothing to reduce Federal spending, I have regarded the battle over earmarks as a distraction from the real issue—the need to reduce the size of government. Recently, opponents of earmarks have embraced an approach to earmark reform that undermines the constitutional separation of powers by encouraging the President to issue an Executive order authorizing Federal agencies to disregard congressional earmarks placed in committee reports.

Since the President's Executive order would not reduce Federal spending, the practical result of such an Executive order would be to transfer power over the determination of how Federal funds are spent from Congress to unelected Federal bureaucrats. Since most earmarks are generated by requests from our constituents, including local elected officials such as mayors, this executive order has the practical effect of limiting taxpayers' ability to influence the ways the Federal Government spends tax dollars.

Madam Speaker, the drafters of the Constitution gave Congress the powers of the purse because the drafters feared that allowing the branch of government charged with

executing the laws to also write the Federal budget would concentrate too much power in one branch of government. The founders correctly viewed the separation of the lawmaking and law-enforcement powers as a vital safeguard of liberty. Whenever the President blatantly disregards orders from Congress as to how Federal funds should be spent, he is undermining the constitutional separation of powers.

Congress has already all but ceded its authority to declare war to the executive branch. Now we are giving away our power of the purse. Madam Speaker, the logical conclusion of the arguments that it is somehow illegitimate for Members of Congress to control the disbursement of Federal funds in their district is that Congress should only meet one week a year to appropriate a lump sum to be given to the President for him to allocate to the Federal Government as he sees fit.

Madam Speaker, all Members should support efforts to bring greater transparency to the earmarking process. However, we must not allow earmarking reform to distract us from what should be our main priority—restricting Federal spending by returning the Government to its constitutional limitations. I also urge my colleagues not to allow the current hysteria over earmarks to justify further erosion of our constitutional authority to control the Federal budget.

NATIONAL MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of H. Res 265, honoring military children during "National Month of the Military Child." While we understand and praise the personal sacrifices our brave men and women make in defending our great nation, we frequently forget about the sacrifices and burdens that children and families face while their parents are serving in the United States Armed Forces.

In peacetime, children of military parents bear the burdens of numerous military moves, both overseas and in the United States. In these moves, they cope with attending several different schools, losing good friends, leaving good communities, and typically have parents who cannot attend their sporting events, music recitals, and other after school activities. The military duty is a 24–7, 365-day commitment for the soldier and also their families.

In wartime, children of deployed military parents spend every day living in fear of the unknown. When will my mom or dad return? Will they be severely injured? Will they be killed? In years past, military children often faced one deployment lasting anywhere from 4 to 18 months. However, in today's long Global War

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