

provided the initial loan to establish the auxiliary. Over the past five decades, the auxiliary has successfully continued to raise funds to benefit both the fire company and the town of Clayton. A junior program for 16 to 18-year-olds was created in 1973, and today, membership in the Clayton Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary has grown to over 70 women, including 35 life members.

On this 50th Anniversary, I would like to recognize the unequalled devotion of the Clayton Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. Since 1959, the women of the auxiliary have volunteered their time, their energy, and their hearts in support of the Clayton Fire Company and its surrounding community. I commend them for their tireless dedication and immeasurable contributions, and I wish them all the best on this momentous anniversary.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose H.R. 1388. The idea that it is legitimate for the federal government to take money from one group of citizens and use that money to bribe other citizens into performing "national service" violates the basic moral principles of individual liberty that this country was founded upon.

I would make three points to those of my colleagues who try to justify this bill by saying that participation in the programs are voluntary. First, participation in the program is not voluntary for the taxpayers. Second, nothing in the bill prevents federal taxpayer dollars from being used to support state and local programs that force children to perform "community service" as a condition of graduating from high school. Because an increasing number of schools across the nation are forcing children to provide "service" as a condition of graduating, it is quite likely that the funds authorized by this bill will be used to support mandatory service. Third, and most importantly, by legitimizing the idea that it is an appropriate role for the government to promote "service," legislation such as H.R. 1388 opens the door for mandatory national service. Today, influential voices in both major parties are calling for a national program of mandatory service as well as a resumption of the military draft. With the increased need for more troops for the administration's expanded military adventurism in Afghanistan, as well as the continuing movement to conscript young people not eligible for military service to serve the government at home, can anyone doubt that this bill is only the down payment on a much larger program of mandatory national service?

The moral case against national service was eloquently expressed by former President Ronald Reagan in the publication *Human Events* in 1979: "... it [national service and conscription] rests on the assumption that your

kids belong to the state. If we buy that assumption then it is for the state—not for parents, the community, the religious institutions or teachers—to decide who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where and how in our society. That assumption isn't a new one. The Nazis thought it was a great idea."

Mr. Chair, millions of Americans including many young people, are already volunteering their time and talents to help their fellow citizens and better their communities without being bribed by the government. In fact, to suggest that the young Americans need a federal check as an incentive to volunteer is an insult to the American people. I hope all my colleagues to join me in standing up for individual liberty, the great American tradition of true volunteerism, and the Constitution by opposing H.R. 1388.

A TRIBUTE TO BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF PASADENA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bethel Missionary Baptist Church of Pasadena, California. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary with the theme "The Church—Moving Forward in the Power of the Holy Spirit."

Established in February 1959, under the leadership of Reverend Freeman S. Stevens with seventeen members, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church was formally recognized in June of that year as a constituted Baptist Church. For a few months, the church held services at the Pasadena Buddhist Church and with Dr. J. W. Coleman at Community Baptist Church in Pasadena. In December of 1959, Reverend Stevens and church members moved into a small frame house at 1972 N. Fair Oaks Avenue in Pasadena, and with the assistance of architect Luther Eskijian, constructed a new church at the site.

Continuing to grow, the church underwent many renovations over the years, including the purchase of the adjacent property in 1984 which allowed for expansion and a major renovation of the church in 2007 under the leadership of the current pastor, Pastor John T. McCall.

Since its inception, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church has provided spiritual guidance and tangible support to the Altadena and Pasadena community. Some of the church's many programs include the Youth Scholarship Fund instituted by the last Pastor Kurling C. Robinson and Wednesday Family Night, established by Pastor John T. McCall. Other services include a food pantry for the community, Project Fatherhood—a mentoring program for fathers, a youth summer program and a youth fellowship group. In addition, the church actively supports D'veal Family and Youth Services agency's programs such as the Alive and Free Violence Intervention and Prevention program.

I consider it a great privilege to recognize Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on its fiftieth anniversary and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the congregation for their fifty years of service to the community.

SUPPORT OF A BILL TO AMEND THE RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT TO INCLUDE THE TERRITORY OF GUAM IN THE LIST OF AFFECTED AREAS WITH RESPECT TO WHICH CLAIMS RELATING TO ATMOSPHERE NUCLEAR TESTING SHALL BE ALLOWED

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have reintroduced a bill that would amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, RECA, to include Guam in the list of affected areas for claims regarding and relating to atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons. My bill addresses a serious concern about the downwind affects of such testing that was conducted by the United States Government in the Marshall Islands from 1946 through 1962. This is an issue that concerns many of my constituents, and the bill I have reintroduced today would provide an avenue for redress and compensation for any illnesses that may have been contracted by individuals who resided on Guam during the testing period.

On April 27, 2005, a special committee of the Board of Radiation Effects Research of the National Research Council of the National Academies submitted a report to Congress entitled the "Assessment of the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program." The report, which was the result of a Congressional directive, stated, "As a result of its analysis, the committee concludes that Guam did receive measurable fallout from atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific. Residents of Guam during that period should be eligible for compensation under RECA in a way similar to that of persons considered to be downwinders." This is a critical finding.

The bill I have reintroduced today directly acts on this finding and would provide a process by which such residents of Guam who may have been affected by radiation fallout from the Pacific tests can file compensable claims under RECA with the Department of Justice. The bill conforms to the current process under RECA that is utilized for residents of certain counties in the Western United States mainland that were similarly affected and downwind of other atmospheric nuclear weapons testing conducted by the United States Government.

In reintroducing this legislation today I recognize the Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors, PARS, for their work and dedication to addressing this issue. Their support and continued efforts in raising public awareness about the legacy of United States testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific is making a difference in our community and provides an informed basis from which we should take up our work in Congress to amend RECA.

I look forward to working with the Committee on the Judiciary in reviewing this legislation and the findings of the Committee to Assess the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program. I also look forward to this bill becoming law so that justice may be brought to those individuals who were adversely affected by the