

INTRODUCING THE AMERICAN
TRAVELER DIGNITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today I introduce legislation to protect Americans from physical and emotional abuse by Federal Transportation Security Administration employees conducting screenings at the Nation's airports. We have seen the videos of terrified children being grabbed and probed by airport screeners. We have read the stories of Americans being subjected to humiliating body imaging machines and/or forced to have the most intimate parts of their bodies poked and fondled. We do not know the potentially harmful effects of the radiation emitted by the new millimeter wave machines.

In one recent well-publicized case, a TSA official is recorded during an attempted body search saying, "By buying your ticket you gave up a lot of rights." I strongly disagree and am sure I am not alone in believing that we Americans should never give up our rights in order to travel. As our Declaration of Independence states, our rights are inalienable. This TSA version of our rights looks more like the "rights" granted in the old Soviet Constitutions, where freedoms were granted to Soviet citizens—right up to the moment the state decided to remove those freedoms.

The incident of the so-called "underwear bomber" last Christmas is given as justification for the billions of dollars the federal government is spending on the new full-body imaging machines, but a Government Accountability Office study earlier this year concluded that had these scanners been in use they may not have detected the explosive material that was allegedly brought onto the airplane. Additionally, there have been recent press reports calling into question the accuracy and adequacy of these potentially dangerous machines.

My legislation is simple. It establishes that airport security screeners are not immune from any U.S. law regarding physical contact with another person, making images of another person, or causing physical harm through the use of radiation-emitting machinery on another person. It means they are subject to the same laws as the rest of us.

Imagine if the political elites in our country were forced to endure the same conditions at the airport as business travelers, families, senior citizens, and the rest of us. Perhaps this problem could be quickly resolved if every cabinet secretary, every Member of Congress, and every department head in the Obama administration were forced to submit to the same degrading screening process as the people who pay their salaries.

I warned at the time of the creation of the TSA that an unaccountable government entity in control of airport security would provide neither security nor defend our basic freedom to travel. Yet the vast majority of both Republicans and Democrats then in Congress willingly voted to create another unaccountable, bullying agency—in a simple-minded and unprincipled attempt to appease public passion in the wake of 9–11. Sadly, as we see with the steady TSA encroachment on our freedom and dignity, my fears in 2001 were justified.

The solution to the need for security at U.S. airports is not a government bureaucracy. The

solution is to allow the private sector, preferably the airlines themselves, to provide for the security of their property. As a recent article in Forbes magazine eloquently stated, "The airlines have enormous sums of money riding on passenger safety, and the notion that a government bureaucracy has better incentives to provide safe travels than airlines with billions of dollars worth of capital and goodwill on the line strains credibility." In the meantime, I hope we can pass this legislation and protect Americans from harm and humiliation when they choose to travel.

TOM KONGSGAARD POST OFFICE
BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6237, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1351 2nd Street in Napa, California, as the "Tom Kongsgaard Post Office Building".

Tom Kongsgaard was a Napa County Superior Court Judge from 1958 to 1984. As a judge, he missed only one day of work throughout his entire career. He served two terms on the California Judicial Council, was a member and chairman of the Judicial Performance Commission, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the California Judges' Association.

Tom attended Georgetown University before enlisting in the Navy during World War II. He was a Naval officer in the Pacific Theater, and was stationed at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo by the end of the conflict. He returned to school and studied at U.C. Berkeley, then received a law degree from Stanford. Tom had a passion for public service and justice.

He is survived by his two daughters, Mary Williams and Martha Goldman; his son, John; seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

A retired Napa district judge said of Tom, "He was a prince of a man and a towering leader in this community, both on the bench and off. He was a role model for all."

I am honored to bring this bill to the floor and hope that Tom Kongsgaard's legacy will live on, encouraging others to serve their community to the best of their ability.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on November 15, 2010. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "yea" on each of the following:

Roll 566, November 15, 2010: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: S. 3689, To clarify, improve, and correct the laws relating to copyrights.

Roll 567, November 15, 2010: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree: H. Res. 1713, Recognizing the 50th anniversary of Ruby Bridges desegregating a previously all-White public elementary school.

Roll 568, November 15, 2010: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree: H. Con. Res. 328, Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the successful and substantial contributions of the amendments to the patent and trademark laws that were initially enacted in 1980 by Public Law 96–517 (commonly referred to as the Bayh-Dole Act) on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of its enactment.

HONORING MARVIN SCOTT FOR
HIS FIFTY YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
IN BROADCAST JOURNALISM

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Marvin Scott and his fifty years of excellence in broadcast journalism.

Marvin began his foray into journalism as a 14-year-old in the Bronx, chasing celebrities and fire trucks and selling his pictures to local newspapers. Today, he is a seven time Emmy award winner in the category of outstanding journalistic achievement. He has covered 16 presidential nominating conventions, 8 mayoral elections, and 8 gubernatorial elections. Among those he has interviewed include former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and George Bush Sr., as well as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Israeli President Shimon Peres, Henry Kissinger, Rev. Billy Graham, Astronaut Gordon Cooper, Larry King, Sophia Loren, Tony Bennett, Charlton Heston, and Jerry Lewis.

Among his assignments, Marvin was in Wiesbaden, Germany after hostages were released from a hijacked TWA jet, and covered the McDonald's massacre in San Ysidro, California in which a gunman killed 21 people. Over his remarkable half a century of dedication to journalism, Marvin has not simply covered history, but has been a part of the important stories and events of our time. He was the first American reporter since the demise of the Soviet Union to go to sea aboard a Russian warship. His investigation into cheating on New York citywide tests led to legislation making it a crime.

According to Marvin, the most difficult story that he has had to cover was the terrorist attacks of September 11th. In his own words: "I wasn't reporting something that was happening in some far-off place, but it was here and I was a part of the story, feeling the same anger and pain as our viewers." On the anniversary of 9/11 he gained an exclusive by flying over Ground Zero in the back seat of an F–15.

I want to thank Marvin Scott for not only being a truly outstanding broadcast reporter and newsmen, but for being a great storyteller and true personification of New York. Most importantly, I am proud to call Marvin and his wife Lorri my friends.

HONORING BRYAN EDWARD
O'TOOLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bryan Edward O'Toole. Bryan 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 900, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Bryan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Bryan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bryan Edward O'Toole for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 40TH
ANNIVERSARY OF SLIDE RANCH

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of a unique institution that operates within the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreational Area to provide an educational blend of sustainable agriculture and outdoor education.

A former dairy farm perched on a south slope above the roiling Pacific Ocean, Slide Ranch has welcomed over 175,000 people from the inner city, suburbia and beyond to participate in its summer camps and year-round educational programs. Through the efforts of Marin Attorney Doug Ferguson and Huey Johnson of the Nature Conservancy, the land was purchased and protected from commercial development, and founders Ed and Susie Washington-Smith created a 134-acre hands-on place to learn how to farm and care for Mother Earth. Along the way, the extended family of the famed Grateful Dead, played a big role in building and sustaining Slide Ranch with donations, manual labor and benefit concerts by members of the Dead.

Today, Slide Ranch offers a menu of family outings, summer day camps and group programs. The group programs, offered in spring, summer and fall, are geared toward experiential learning, which is especially suited to help young people appreciate the environment, make good choices about healthy foods and good agricultural practices. Students may learn how to turn compost piles, feed farm animals, milk cows and make cheese. Kids from the inner city may spend the first night of their lives camping under the stars and breakfasting on their own hand-picked berries.

The wild lands of Slide Ranch provide miles of hiking trails and a rich coastal habitat adja-

cent to the waters of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Here are spectacular tide pools populated by still starfish, waving anemones and scuttling crabs, while offshore, migrating whales display their spouts.

The pride of Slide Ranch is its bountiful one-acre garden, now under cultivation for over 36 years without the use of pesticides or chemical fertilizers. Using biodynamic and organic methods of improving the soil and controlling pests, the garden grows over 100 species of plants and vegetables each year. The garden includes several educational features such as a medicinal herb area, an urban-style container garden, a worm box and composting bins.

Slide Ranch has weathered forty years of changes in education, new environmental challenges and the ups and downs of the economy. It has survived because it not only has kept pace with the need for a greater understanding of our environment and sustainable food production, but because of the passion and unending curiosity of its staff, governing board and donors—all who deserve our thanks and congratulations today. Madam Speaker, in Slide Ranch's greenhouse, seeds from the garden are potted to produce the next harvest. In its classrooms above the surf or under the starry sky, in the thriving garden or in the barn, the seeds of knowledge are planted for an unending bounty of bright minds.

RECOGNIZING DR. M. RICHARD
SHAINK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, on Friday October 22, the Association of Community College Trustees awarded the 2010 Marie Y. Martin Chief Executive Award to Dr. M. Richard Shaink, the president and Chief Executive Officer of Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan. At their Annual Community College Leadership Congress the Association named him the best community college president/CEO in North America. The citizens of Flint will hold a reception in his honor tomorrow to celebrate this achievement.

Dr. Shaink has served as President of Mott Community College since March 31, 2000. When he assumed the leadership position at the school, Dr. Shaink was faced with stabilizing the school and improving its financial position. He led the fight to bring increased revenue to the school, fought for federal, state and private foundation grants and at the same time instituted cost saving measures across the campus. A proponent of economic development, he identified the needs of employers in the community and spearheaded the construction of the college's Regional Technology Center to prepare students to enter the workforce. Prior to winning this award, Dr. Shaink was named the 2010 Central Regional Chief Executive Officer for the Midwest and Canadian Provinces.

Madam Speaker, the Association of Community College Trustee Awards are given to those educators that have made extraordinary contributions to their colleges and higher education. The selection of Dr. Shaink as the best

community college president in North America is a testament to his leadership, innovation, enthusiasm and commitment to making Mott Community College a powerhouse of learning. Flint is fortunate to have Dr. Shaink and his wife, Sally, live in the area and provide an example of excellence to the next generation. I congratulate him for receiving this award and ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding his work in the field of education.

RECOGNITION OF NAVAL WEAPONS
STATION EARLE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Naval Weapons Station Earle (NWS Earle) based in Colts Neck, New Jersey as they celebrate the 235th Anniversary of the United States Navy. NWS Earle covers 10,160 acres and promotes a long-standing history of aiding the country in combat. I applaud the work, achievements, and dedication NWS Earle has provided the U.S. Navy, local community, and State of New Jersey.

Long before the beginning of the Second World War, officers in both the Army and Navy saw the need to establish a base for loading explosive ammunition. NWS Earle is strategically located in the Port of New York, a focal point for all important rail lines throughout the country. Thus, construction for the Naval Ammunition Depot Earle—named in honor of Rear Admiral Ralph Earle, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance during the First World War, began on August 2, 1943. Naval Ammunition Depot Earle was later commissioned on December 13, 1943. The south side of Sandy Hook Bay in the Leonardo section of Middletown was strategically chosen for the new Naval Ammunition Depot Earle, quickly becoming the focal point for ordnance shipping, loading the majority of ammunition used by the allies for the invasion of Normandy. In 1974, Earle's name was officially changed to Naval Weapons Station Earle.

NWS Earle has tirelessly provided the U.S. Navy with a safe location to house their materials and equipment. Today, the primary mission of the Naval Weapons Station Earle remains the receipt, storage, segregation and issuance of ordnance for all Carrier and Expeditionary Strike Groups of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, which includes the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Department of Defense conventional ammunition requirements. Naval Weapons Station Earle currently houses a combined workforce of over 1,600 civilian, military and contractor personnel. They are home to over 20 tenant units where they also support over 250 military personnel and dependents in their housing. It is the hard work of the people employed at NWS Earle that make it possible for the station to run smoothly and efficiently. Most recently, Naval Weapons Station Earle has provided its assistance as the Department of Defense transshipment site for ordnance used in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

NWS Earle and staff have tirelessly devoted their time to the community, epitomizing what it means to give back in time of need to protect our country. Madam Speaker, please join