

COAST GUARD REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 1995**HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, when the House debated and passed the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 1995 on Tuesday of last week, the issue of Coast Guard inspection fees was raised by some of my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Although the amendment failed on a point of order, I wish to associate myself with the logical arguments made on the floor that day.

The Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 requires that the Coast Guard impose user fees for some of its services. While I am in support of the concept, and recognize the importance of such an approach to assist in balancing the budget, the Coast Guard has gone off course with its fee schedule in terms of fairness and balance among different classes of boats.

The Coast Guard estimates it is charging \$87 per hour for the inspection service. However, my colleague from Louisiana, Mr. TAUZIN, cited an example of a 1 hour inspection costing \$545 under the current fee schedule. This is unacceptable. I believe in fee-for-service, but the fees must reflect the value of the services rendered. I fear that the burden of the current policy will fall disproportionately on small vessel owners and small businesses; those who can afford it the least. I am supportive of capping the inspection fees based on boat length to ensure fairness within the current system.

I also believe it is appropriate for the Coast Guard to consider a fee schedule that takes into account the seasonal nature of some commercial boating operations. For example, Rutherford's Cruise Line, which operates in my district from the Grand River on Lake Erie, only operates during summer months. Under the current system, Rutherford's would pay almost \$2,400 to the Coast Guard to inspect three vessels. Small cruise line businesses on the Great Lakes have a limited season and short time in which to make their operation run in the black. The current annual fee requirement, which treats a vessel in Florida the same as one on the Great Lakes, is burdensome and economically unfair to boaters in the Great Lakes region.

I understand Mr. TAUZIN's amendment will be the subject of hearings before the Ways and Means Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the near future. I am supportive of finding a rational and fair approach to the inspection fee schedule that more closely approximates the true cost of the inspection process.

Recreational boating, including charter boat fishing, is an important part of the economy in my district. The 60 miles of Lake Erie shoreline I represent has seen a tremendous resurgence over the past 10 years due to a revitalized Great Lakes fishery. I am encouraged by the small businesses entrepreneurs, who are taking advantage of the opportunity to start new businesses and do not believe they should be punished with unreasonable inspection fees.

YVONNE AND ARVIS RICHARDSON
CELEBRATE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as far as I'm concerned, there are two things which have made our Nation the greatest on Earth, our commitment to family and pride in country. It is my privilege today to pay tribute to a couple who together, have embodied these exceptional characteristics for 50 years now.

Upon the outbreak of World War II, these two young patriots lived far from one another. Yvonne grew up in Cohoes, NY, while Arvis was born in Salem, MO, and moved to St. Louis prior to the outbreak of war. Both of them responded to this impending national crisis like any great American would, they voluntarily enlisted in the military, Yvonne in the Navy Waves and Arvis in the U.S. Marine Corps. It was this love of Nation and service to country that brought the two of them together when their country needed them most.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we are all reminded of the fortunate ending of World War II, especially as we commemorate the 50th anniversaries of V-E and V-J days this year. However, there was another fortunate occurrence as a result of the end of this war. As he promised, Arvis returned when the fighting ceased to seek Yvonne's hand in marriage. On May 26, 1945, Arvis and Yvonne began their life together at Alameda Naval Base in California. Now 50 years later, as we commemorate the historic victory of democracy and freedom over tyranny and oppression, we can also rejoice in the happiness of the Richardson's whose marriage has stood the same test of time.

Yvonne and Arvis should be commended not only for their commitment to their Nation, but for their commitment to their family and one another. It is this commitment and understanding which laid the foundation for a solid family structure, pivotal to their success in raising their two children, Dennis and Peggy.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by their commitment to their family and children, and by what they return to their community. By this measure, Yvonne and Arvis are truly great Americans as evidenced by their clear devotion to family, and the American way of life. This May 28, family and friends will join them in commemorating their 50 years of happiness together. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and all Members join me now in paying tribute to two tremendous patriots and devoted family people, Yvonne Blair Richardson and Arvis Sanford Richardson of Waterford, NY.

KERNEL BLITZ AND PACMEDNET:
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY SUCCESS
STORIES**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the men and women of our

Defense Department's medical corps for the fine job they performed during the Marine Corps' annual Kernel Blitz combat exercise, held last month at Camp Pendleton, California. This exercise showed how military medical care is on the cutting edge of the latest automation technology, and Kernel Blitz demonstrated the integral role that this technology plays in supporting the troops. Our fighting forces deserve nothing less than the very best.

Last year, Congress and the Defense Department proposed a demonstration project known as the Pacific Medical Network [PACMEDNET] which utilized investments already made in the Defense Department's Composite Health Care System [CHCS] and expanded these attributes for effective wartime deployment. This technology was successfully used in Kernel Blitz and will take the Defense Department into the 21st century in both its peacetime and wartime medical missions.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share the following article from Federal Computer Week on how this investment in technology is improving emergency medical care for the Defense Department. This successful usage of CHCS technology is a simulated wartime exercise demonstrates that PACMEDNET is the future of battlefield medical care.

[From the Federal Computer Week, Apr. 10, 1995]

HOSPITAL SYSTEM SURVIVES FIRST
BATTLEFIELD TRIAL
(BY BRAD BASS)

The Defense Department's \$1.1 billion Composite Health Care System (CHCS) went into battle last week, and early reports said the system came through with the colors flying.

The Marine Corps' annual Kernel Blitz combat exercise, held at Camp Pendleton, Calif., last week, featured deployable medical information systems for the first time. The training mission linked hospital based CHCS to battlefield medical systems composed of smart cards, ruggedized handheld and laptop computers, and wireless communications. The expansion of CHCS to the battlefield stems from lessons learned in Operation Desert Storm and other hot spots, where Defense forces suffered from inadequate medical technology, said officials with both DOD and with CHCS contractor Science Applications International Corp.

"The fleet hospitals in Saudi Arabia had no automation," said Cmdr. Mel Baxter, director of development in the DOD CHCS program office.

"Things could have gone a whole lot better if they had these tools," Baxter said. The Air Force has already decided to put a version of CHCS in its base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, next month, Baxter said.

SIMULATED CASUALTIES

The Kernel Blitz system connected two ships—the USNS Mercy, a medical ship, and the USS Peleliu, both off the coast of Camp Pendleton—to forward surgical companies near the beach.

After the Marines simulated a full-scale landing operation using helicopters, tanks and armored personnel carriers, troops moving inland suffered about 200 simulated casualties, according to Steve Hudock, SAIC's director of CHCS deployment. Each soldier carried a CHCS Multitechnology Automated Reader Card, a smart card equipped with a 2K chip, a bar code and a photograph. Manufactured by 3G Inc., Williamsburg, Va., the cards contained basic medical information on the "injured" troops.

Field medics used SAIC's ruggedized SE-1415 Agilpac, a 486SX-based handheld computer purchased from the Army's Common

Hardware/Software (CHS) contract, to translate data from smart cards into a format compatible with CHCS.

The Agilpacs then downloaded CHCS data onto the cards so that medical personnel at other locations would be aware of each patient's condition, medication or other essential information. The casualties were transported to the forward surgical companies, where smart card data was transferred to ruggedized laptops via SAIC's Tactical Communications Interface Module, a controller/signal processor designed for combat applications.

This module is also available on the CHS contract. Throughout the exercise, Marines used SAIC V2AI LC Lightweight Computer Units, 23-pound, ruggedized laptops based on 32-bit, 486DX processors. These machines were purchased from the Army's LCU contract, held by SAIC.

Medical personnel were able to use the LCUs to check the CHCS database for further information on each patient. The laptops connected to CHCS nodes located on the Mercy and the Peleliu via portable satellite dishes or radio.

When patients were evacuated, the forward surgical companies transmitted patients' records to medical staff at the Peleliu and the Mercy to alert them that casualties were on the way and to provide information on the type of injuries and what caused them.

"The doctor has a more complete picture of his patient as opposed to being surprised when the helicopter arrives," Hudock said.

NO GLITCHES

Baxter said people involved in the exercise reported no glitches.

"The summary information rolled from one medical treatment facility to another," he said. "I think people were skeptical at first, but everybody said it is working great."

Baxter said the exercise represents a new phase in the CHCS program and battlefield medical automation in general. CHCS was initially designed as a system for pharmacists, lab technicians, radiologists, and other hospital-based clinicians. DOD officials, however, decided to expand the system into the battlefield rather than develop a separate system for tactical users.

HONORING TOM BOLACK

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, each of us is blessed with the responsibility of representing thousands of hard working Americans back in our districts. Of course, some of our constituents distinguish themselves by excelling in a particular field whether it is business, public service, athletics, or a whole host of other specialties.

One of my most distinguishable constituents is celebrating his 77th birthday. Tom Bolack, whose life has been one giant success story, is still going strong. Over the years, he has excelled in politics, business, and ranching.

In 1942, this Kansas native had a vision of rich oil deposits in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico. His hunch was based on some self-taught geology basics. Experts called his dream a fool's dream. As Tom Bolack says, he followed his dream "to a pool of oil and gas that would quench the thirst of even my harshest critic, the geologist who declared he

would drink every drop of oil I found in the Basin!"

Tom Bolack's reward for perseverance is his cherished home, his ranch, the B-Square, just outside Farmington, NM. It is 12,500 acres of agriculture, livestock, wildlife, and conservation and of course oil and gas.

Tom Bolack's political career began in the 1950's with his election to mayor of the city of Farmington. After serving as mayor, he pushed for construction of the Upper Colorado River Project. He helped secure Federal funding for one of the Southwest's greatest water engineering accomplishments, the Navajo Dam and Reservoir on the San Juan River.

After his lobbying days, Mayor Bolack ran for and was elected to the New Mexico State Legislature. In 1961, he became the first Republican Lieutenant Governor in 35 years. The following year, he was sworn into office as Governor and served out the remainder of Ed Mechem's term.

Governor Bolack retired from career politics after his 1962 service as Governor. But he has remained active in Republican circles over the last 30 years.

Governor Bolack has distinguished himself as an outstanding citizen who had a dream, pursued it and excelled in business, ranching, and politics. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring former New Mexico Governor Tom Bolack as he celebrates his 77th birthday.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Polish American Congress, eastern Pennsylvania district, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary in Philadelphia this month.

Since its formation, the Polish American Congress has been an outstanding organization in southeastern Pennsylvania and continues to be a leading force in the unity of Pennsylvania and the fostering of Polish traditions and culture.

Over the last 50 years, the officers and members of the eastern Pennsylvania district have worked closely with the national organization in supporting its objectives. Members have proudly watched Poland gain her freedom from Communist Russia, and Polish Americans of all ages have supported cultural and educational events to demonstrate the pride in Polish heritage which will last for generations.

There have been many joyous moments in the 50-year history of the eastern Pennsylvania district. The organization has been instrumental in commemorating Pulaski Day and Polish Constitution Day in the Philadelphia region and has played an integral role in establishing the Thaddeus Kosciuszko House as a national historical memorial, so that tourists worldwide can appreciate the unique role this Polish patriot played in our Nation's history.

The Polish American Congress can also take special pride in sponsoring the Polish American Weekend at Penn's Landing, the largest ethnic event held along the riverfront in Philadelphia.

Mr. Speaker, as a Polish American and Congressman of the Pennsylvania's Third Dis-

trict, I am proud to represent the many dedicated people who have given so much of their time to keep the Polish spirit alive in the Philadelphia region.

THE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC CONVERSION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in this time of budget rescissions and cutting of social programs, I am reintroducing a bill that would aid us in refocusing the debate on funding priorities. The Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act, which is designed to take effect when all foreign countries possessing nuclear weapons enact and execute similar legal requirements, requires the United States to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons and to refrain from replacing them with weapons of mass destruction. In addition, the bill proposes refocusing resources that are currently being used for nuclear programs to address human needs such as housing, health care, education, agriculture, and environmental restoration.

The Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act is consistent with current U.S. policy and moves us to the next logical level by redirecting resources to essential domestic needs. The disarmament contemplated by this legislation is not unilateral on the part of the United States but requires multilateral cooperation to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

During the first 100 days of this Congress, many crucial programs were put on the chopping block—money for summer jobs for youth and future levels of funding for school lunches for our children. Yet, with the end of the cold war already making it into our children's text books, we have not yet refocused our priorities, nor reallocated our precious resources toward our most precious resource of all—our children. This act is a step toward that end.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN S. STENNIS

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to pay tribute to the life and service of Senator John C. Stennis, who passed away April 23, 1995.

Senator Stennis' life is the story of 20th century America. In 1901, he was born the son of farmers in the red clay hills of east Mississippi. He graduated from Mississippi A&M College, and received a law degree from the University of Virginia, earning the honor of Phi Beta Kappa.

He kept the promise of his youth and moved back to his hometown of DeKalb, MS, where he began an extraordinary 62-year career in public service which was unblemished by scandal, untainted by personal gain, and unquestioned in statesmanship. He served as a district attorney, State representative, and circuit judge.