

CALIFORNIA HAS BORNE ITS SHARE OF BASE CLOSURES—EFA WEST SAN BRUNO SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission will soon make its recommendations to the President on which military bases to close. The Commission has received testimony from hundreds of witnesses, has made countless site visits and will consider thousands of pages of data on the effect of base closings on our Nation's military readiness. In making its decisions it will be imperative that the Commission also take into consideration the economic impact of its decisions.

In the case of a military facility in my congressional district, the Engineering Field Activity West in San Bruno, or EFA West, the Navy recommended not closing this facility because it was concerned about the economic impact of closure on the community. I believe that the Navy was correct in not slating EFA West for closure and I also believe that closing EFA West will have a disastrous effect on the Pentagon's ability to close bases already slated for closure.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 13, 1995, I presented testimony before the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission on the issue of closing of additional military bases in California. In my testimony, I reminded the Commission that no State has borne the bulk of military base closures as California has and that previous rounds of base closures have turned out to be of tremendous adverse economic impact in California. I also explained to the Commission that EFA West's strategic location best serves military operations and that it is essential to the Pentagon that this installation and its personnel remain in San Bruno. Mr. Speaker, I would like to place my testimony in the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS,
12TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission for the opportunity to say a few words on the critical issue of base closures in California and particularly on the future of the Engineering Field Activity West in San Bruno, California, which is located in my Congressional district.

Mr. Chairman, I share your deep commitment to a strong and effective national defense. With the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, it is appropriate and necessary that we reconsider and evaluate our defense posture. At the same time, we must take into consideration local impacts of these base closure decisions. There will be pain from the realignment of our military facilities, but that pain should be proportionately shared and spread among all regions of our nation and among all of our states.

Mr. Chairman, I have very serious concerns about the effect of base closures upon California's economy—particularly since our state has sustained a disproportionate number of job losses stemming from military base closures. As a result of base closures in 1988, 1991, and 1993, California has suffered 69% of the nation's base closure job losses. California will suffer even more job losses as a result of possible base closures projected

for this year. Future base closings must take into consideration the effect on the local economy, as well as the effect on our nation's military readiness.

I have serious concerns about the substantial impact base closures will have on the families of thousands of California workers who will lose their jobs. I am concerned about the impact that closing more bases will have on California communities. Clearly, the citizens of our state should not be asked to suffer additional hardship and dislocation from additional base closures. I urge you to take into account the devastating effects that previous base closures have already had on California's economy as you consider further base closures for our state.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, I am particularly concerned about the possible closure and realignment of the Navy's Engineering Field Activity, which is located in San Bruno, California. Moving personnel from San Bruno to San Diego or another location will have a disastrous effect on the Pentagon's ability to close bases already slated for closure and will slow the process of closing new bases.

As you know, the Engineering Field Activity West (EFA West) is responsible for assisting in the closing of the following facilities that have been previously scheduled to close: Mare Island, Alameda Naval Air Station, Treasure Island, Hunter's Point, Skaggs Island, Moffet Field and Oakland Naval Hospital. It is my understanding that EFA West's base closure activities require continuous contact with local public officials, the public and regulatory agencies in San Francisco. When you consider the monumental task the Pentagon must undertake in closing bases and in working with the affected communities and contractors, it is absolutely clear that the functions of EFA West—which includes important environmental cleanup and property disposition expertise—require a local presence. This is a key function that cannot be handled effectively or efficiently from hundreds of miles away.

Since 1988, the federal government has ordered 70 bases closed—21 of them or almost one-third of the bases are in California. In the effort to close these bases, military officials have run into problems with environmental cleanup and the disposition of property. Problems were inevitable, but they have contributed to substantial time delays and higher cost in closing these bases.

When you begin your deliberations on presenting a list of bases for closure to the President, I believe that you must take into account whether it is in the best interest of the military and the taxpayer to close EFA West, when EFA West's central mission is to provide the technical support and expertise in environmental cleanup and the disposition of property necessary for the closing of other bases. Clearly, if Northern California is to be affected by even more base closures in this current round of downsizing, EFA West's strategic Northern California location and its expertise will be even more essential to the military and affected communities in ensuring that base closures will be achieved in the most cost effective and efficient manner.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, EFA West has a dedicated and committed staff of experienced personnel and unique and thorough knowledge in their respective fields. Closing that facility could well deny to the federal government the critical expertise which these dedicated and hardworking employees bring. If EFA West is closed, most of these employees will not be willing to relocate out of the Bay Area—they have strong ties to their communities and to their families, neighbors and friends. If these dedicated workers are lost, the Navy will have to expend considerable time and ex-

pense in finding replacement workers and training them in order to continue EFA West's critical mission, which must be maintained to complete base closures elsewhere.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the Secretary of the Navy, John Dalton, testified before you in March of this year, that the Navy had decided not to place EFA West on its list of recommendations for closure because it was concerned about the impact on the local economy. The Navy was absolutely correct in considering economic impact when it decided it was necessary to keep EFA West open.

More importantly, however, EFA West's San Bruno location strengthens the military's ability to serve the needs of our region. EFA West's strategic location in San Bruno best serves military operations. It is essential for this installation to remain open to fulfill the responsibilities of base closure and base realignment. When you submit your recommendations for base closure or realignment to the President, I urge you NOT to place EFA West on your base closure list.

Thank you very much.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT DREW MONSON

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I want to call attention today to a major milestone and achievement of a most accomplished young man.

This coming Sunday, in Tucson, AZ, Drew Monson will be awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. This is a level of achievement attained by only 2½ percent of all Boy Scouts. Drew joins the ranks of approximately 1 million others who, since 1911, have achieved this goal.

As his final project toward becoming an Eagle Scout, Drew spent more than 150 hours planning and directing 17 different volunteers in the construction of a nature trail at the Saguaro National Park in Tucson.

This is not Drew's only accomplishment. He will soon begin his senior year as an honor student at Salpointe High School in Tucson, AZ. In addition, he has earned six varsity letters in track and field and cross country running. He is also a skilled musician, specializing in piano. Complementing his other activities, he also participates in the activities of his Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Drew Monson exemplifies the hopes and dreams that we hold for all of our youth. I am proud to add my voice to so many others in commending Drew for his attainment of the Eagle Scout rank. I wish Drew the best of luck in all to which he aspires.

IN HONOR OF FATHER DANIEL A. DEGNAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a brilliant educator, a dedicated scholar, a religious leader, and the

president of St. Peter's College. Father Daniel A. Degnan, S.J. has served the college with distinction for the last 5 years. His achievements will be recognized at a special ceremony on Monday, June 19.

The presidency of St. Peter's College marks the culmination of a 26-year career in education, dating back to a teaching fellowship at Harvard Law School during the 1969–70 academic year. Father Degnan taught 5 years at the college of law at Syracuse University and from there spent 2 years at Georgetown University Law Center. He served as an administrator at Loyola College of Maryland and spent 12 years in New Jersey as an administrator and teacher at the Seton Hall University School of Law, 1978–90.

In 1990, he assumed the presidency of St. Peter's College where he undertook a major building program. During his tenure, the college has undergone major renovations, including the addition of two new residence halls. In addition, a new quadrangle and refurbished McIntyre Lounge, Hudson Room, and college store were completed. Under his leadership, the dream of an east campus has come to reality with the new Whelan Hall, renovations to Saint Peter Hall, and several other additions that have expanded the college east of Kennedy Boulevard.

As president of St. Peter's College, Father Degnan has distinguished himself, but that is nothing new for him. He has been recognized on numerous occasions for his contributions and is the recipient of the Papal Benemerenti Medal, 1992; the Thomas More Medal, 1992; the New York University Presidential Medal, 1994; the Hudson Catholic High School Signum Fidei Award, 1994; and he was named a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, 1992; and a Seton Hall Law School Distinguished Alumnus, 1983.

Father Degnan's term at St. Peter's ends on June 30 and he will be greatly missed by everyone associated with the college. However, I am pleased to report that he will remain active writing about the works of St. Thomas Aquinas. Please join me in honoring a very special man.

STATEMENT IN RECOGNITION OF
NATIONAL WRITE YOUR CON-
GRESSMEN, INC.

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to commend the work of a national

organization called Write Your Congressmen. Founded in 1958, this organization helps focus and amplify the voice of the American people.

National Write Your Congressmen, Inc. provides the voters with an opinion ballot that outlines every side of the issues. They simply present the facts, in order to educate the public. And by doing so, they are creating a more responsible America.

There is nothing more important than citizen involvement in the democracy we have formed. By communicating their positions to their elected Representatives we create a true democracy. My colleagues and I welcome the information provided by the members of National Write Your Congressmen. This organization is truly dedicated to the betterment of America. Their interest is purely in encouraging citizens to be directly involved in their law making process. I am impressed by their candor and inspired by their cause.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would encourage all my colleagues to become involved with National Write Your Congressmen, Inc., and I thank them for providing a more effective way of education and communication for all people, nationwide.