

Panama Canal. In almost every respect, this resolution is identical to House Concurrent Resolution 17, which I introduced in the 103d Congress and which was cosponsored by no less than 85 of my colleagues. The only significant differences is that the passage of time has made its enactment all the more imperative. That being the case, I urge my colleagues join me as soon as possible as cosponsors of this resolution. Without being too specific, it provides the direction necessary to bring about a canal security arrangement that is not only needed but in the best interests of all concerned.

TRIBUTE TO JANET PARKER BECK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Janet Parker Beck—an award-winning journalist for the San Mateo Times, book author, devoted mother, and caring wife—who passed away last month after an 11-week battle with cancer. Having been a friend and admirer of Ms. Beck for many years, I know that her untimely death at the young age of 41 is a tremendous loss for her family, the San Mateo County community, and our country.

Ms. Beck was born and raised in San Mateo and began her journalism career at Crestmoor High School in San Bruno. After graduating from college—having served as editor for student publications at Skyline Community College and San Jose State University—she was hired by the Times. During her career at the newspaper, Ms. Beck covered medical issues and legal affairs, including a dozen death-penalty cases and more than 40 murder trials. Her writing was widely respected by both the subjects of her stories and her readers for its intellectual contents, integrity, compassion, and ability to convey complex situations in a simple manner. She also used her writing talents to author the book, "Too good to Be True: The Story of Denise Redlick's Murder," which sold 70,000 copies.

Ms. Beck earned over 50 awards for her journalistic achievements. Among the many accolades she received, Ms. Beck was named the California Press Women's Communicator of Achievement for 1994 and the National Federation of Press Women's first-runner-up for Communicator of Achievement for 1994. She also received the National Federation of Press Women's first place news writing award in 1986, 1987, and 1988. It was with a great source of pride that her award-filled career was capped off by being chosen to take her well earned place in the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

In addition to her considerable professional accomplishments, Ms. Beck took tremendous pleasure from her family, especially her husband of 16 years, Jim, and their five-year-old daughter, Mandy. Her desk was a well-known gallery for her daughter Mandy's artwork and photographs, while Jim was her constant companion since they met at a YMCA dance in 1970.

Mr. Speaker, Janet Parker Beck was one of the most remarkable individuals I have ever had the privilege to know and work with. Her

passing is a great loss for her family and our community. I ask my colleagues to join me at this time in paying tribute to her and the life of purpose she led, and extend our deepest of sympathies to Jim and Mandy, to her colleagues and to her community. She made us a better people with her all-too-brief 41 years of life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MERCHANT MARINERS FAIRNESS ACT OF 1995

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to reintroduce, along with our distinguished colleague LANE EVANS, on this first day of the new 104th Congress, the Merchant Mariners Fairness Act.

During the last Congress, this bill received extensive consideration but, regrettably, it was not enacted into law. In fact, it was cosponsored by 241 Members and it was adopted by the House of Representatives on three separate occasions.

The bill I am reintroducing today is the product of that careful consideration. It has been endorsed by many diverse groups, including the largest American Legion post in the United States, the Disabled American Veterans, and the AFL-CIO. It deserves the support of every Member of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, by way of background, my colleagues should know that during World War II, some 17.9 million men and women were inducted into our Armed Forces. Of that figure, 6.3 million volunteered and the remaining 11.6 million were drafted. Of this total, some 6.4 million or 35.8 percent were rejected for active duty because of various physical or mental disabilities.

Furthermore, it is interesting to note that of the nearly 12 million Americans who served in active duty status, 73 percent served overseas and, of these, 38.8 percent had rear echelon assignments. I have presented these figures only to illustrate that millions of uniformed men and women never served outside of the United States. In no way does this denigrate or negate their vital service to this country. It simply means that these individuals were needed here in the United States to train those who did go overseas.

Furthermore, some 270,000 men volunteered for service in the U.S. merchant marine. Many of these men joined the merchant marine because they had physical impairments, such as poor eyesight, or because they were too young to serve in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps. Many of them could have avoided service but instead they chose to serve their country by enlisting in the U.S. merchant marine.

Of the 270,000 that volunteered, 37 died as prisoners of war, 6,507 were killed in action and 4,780 are missing and presumed dead. In addition, some 733 U.S. merchant ships were destroyed. In fact, the casualty rate for the merchant marine was only one-tenth of 1 percent lower than the Marine Corps, which had the highest casualty rate of any branch of service during the war.

In order to man our growing merchant fleet during World War II, the U.S. Maritime Com-

mission established various training camps around the country under the direct supervision of the Coast Guard. After completing basic training, which included both small arms and cannon proficiency, a seaman became an active member of the U.S. merchant marine.

These seamen helped deliver troops and war material to every Allied invasion site from Guadalcanal to Omaha Beach. They also transported troops back home to the United States and, when that task was completed, they carried food and medicine to millions of the world's starving people.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 49 years since the end of World War II. Nevertheless, there are still some Americans who served in that war who have not received the honors, benefits, or rights they deserve. H.R. 44 will correct that injustice by providing veterans status to some 2,500 merchant mariners who have become the forgotten patriots of World War II.

Unlike their brothers in uniform, America's merchant seamen came home to no ticker-tape parades or celebrations. Little, if anything, was said about the contributions they made to defeating the Axis powers or to preserving the freedoms that all Europeans and all Americans cherish. Worse, these merchant seamen came home to none of the veterans benefits enjoyed by other Americans who served their country during the World War II period.

In 1987, after years of litigation and delay, U.S. District Judge Louis S. Oberdorfer ruled that previous decisions by the Air Force rejecting veterans status for World War II merchant seamen were "arbitrary and capricious and not supported * * * by substantial evidence."

Despite the results of this landmark court case, then Air Force Secretary Edward Aldridge unilaterally decided that World War II ended on August 15, 1945, for those who served in the U.S. merchant marine.

Mr. Speaker, clearly, that was a most unfair and unsupportable decision. By establishing this date, the Secretary made a determination that has no basis in law. The August 15, 1945, date does not appear anywhere in the Federal court decision mandating veterans status and, according to the Air Force, there is no documentation, no precedent, and no justification for choosing V-J Day.

Let me briefly describe why the August 15, 1945, date is wrong and why these 2,500 Americans have earned the right to be given veterans status.

First, the Federal War Shipping Administration [WSA] was in control of all ship movements far beyond the date of August 15, 1945. In fact, the WSA did not go out of existence until August 31, 1946. Until that time, merchant mariners traveled under sealed orders on ships which were under the direct military control of the U.S. Navy.

During the hearings on this legislation, we learned that at least 13 U.S. merchant vessels were damaged or sunk after August 15, 1945—a greater number than were lost at Pearl Harbor. One of them was the S/S *Jesse Billingsley*, which was hit by a mine off the coast of Trieste, Yugoslavia, on November 19, 1945. One U.S. merchant mariner lost his life in that explosion.

In addition, we must remember that for the U.S. merchant marine, the war did not end on

August 15, 1945. Defense shipping actually increased after that date to 1,200 sailings in December 1945, as compared to the World War II monthly peak of 800.

Second, while the Japanese indicated their desire to surrender on August 15, 1945, the situation facing the U.S. merchant marine did not radically change on that date. In fact, I have a copy of a telegram sent on August 15, 1945, by the U.S. Naval Pacific Command which states that "for all merchant vessels in the Pacific Ocean areas, Japan has surrendered. Pending further orders, all existing instructions regarding defense, security, and control of merchant shipping are to remain in force. Merchant ships at sea, whether in convoy or sailing independently, are to continue their voyages."

Third, it wasn't until December 31, 1946, that President Harry Truman declared in a press conference that he was issuing Proclamation 2714, which states that "although a state of war still exists, it is at this time possible to declare, and I find it in the public interest to declare, that hostilities have terminated."

And, finally and most importantly, all of our Federal laws that affect those who served during the World War II period use the date December 31, 1946.

There is no arbitrary cutoff date for the Male Civilian Ferry Pilots, the Wake Island Defenders, the Guam Combat Patrol, or the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and there shouldn't be any for our Nation's merchant mariners.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 44 will correct Secretary Aldridge's unfair decision by eliminating the unsupportable date of August 15, 1945. It is a fair solution to this problem because it treats all those who served during the World War II period in exactly the same manner. If an individual was in a Navy boot camp or Army basic training on December 31, 1946, then they have been considered a World War II veteran for the past 49 years.

While the 2,500 Americans affected by H.R. 44 would be eligible for a variety of veterans benefits, in reality the only benefits they are likely to obtain are recognition, the right to have a flag on their coffin, and a headstone.

After all, education benefits have long since expired, people in their late-60's do not buy new homes, and all of these individuals are already eligible for Medicare benefits. In short, it is highly unlikely that any of these individuals will ever obtain care at a VA hospital. In fact, we know that 76,000 merchant mariners have been given veterans status because of the 1988 decision and, of that number, only a handful have received VA hospital benefits.

Mr. Speaker, it is for this reason that the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that H.R. 44 would result in negligible outlays to the Federal Government in fiscal year 1995.

I have been contacted by hundreds of people affected by Secretary Aldridge's unfair decision. Each of these Americans share the common characteristic of love of country and the commitment to serve during one of the most difficult periods in our Nation's history.

Because of their young age or physical impairments, most of these men could have simply chosen to avoid service during World War II. However, they chose not to do so, and we must not, even at this late hour, forget them.

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that we resolve this problem legislatively because the Department of the Air Force seems unwilling to correct it administratively.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of Congressman LANE EVANS. We have stood together on this legislation for a number of years and LANE EVANS is a champion for our Nation's veterans.

I urge the House of Representatives to move H.R. 44 so that we can finally provide these Americans with the recognition which they have long deserved. In my 15 years in Congress, I have never seen an issue, which affects so few people, attract the support of so many Americans. It is time we finally enacted this important legislation into law. These men have waited a lifetime to tell their grandchildren that they are World War II veterans.

SOCIAL SECURITY EARNING TEST REPEAL

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I am reintroducing legislation today to repeal the Social Security earnings test. As many of my colleagues know, the earnings test is one of the most unfair features of the Social Security law—limiting what Social Security recipients may earn and subjecting such recipients to what amounts to effective marginal tax rates of 50 percent or higher.

The earnings test affects only recipients who must work. Those who rely upon investment income to supplement their Social Security are not affected. Only those who choose or are forced to return to the work force face reduction or loss of their benefits.

Mr. Speaker, the work ethic should not end at age 62. Older people who wish to remain self sufficient through their own labors should not have to face a loss of their benefits. Nor should the Nation face the loss of the immeasurable talent and experience older workers bring to the work force. It is past time to repeal the Social Security earnings test.

FOREIGN SUBSIDIARY TAX EQUITY ACT

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, last year I introduced H.R. 1374, the Foreign Subsidiary Tax Equity Act, to discourage domestic corporations from establishing foreign manufacturing subsidiaries in order to avoid Federal taxes. Today, I am reintroducing this bill. American manufacturers for too long have abused the good faith of the American workers by developing manufacturing processes in this country before moving production facilities overseas and handing out pink slips back home. Despite the fact that America possesses the most productive and talented labor force in the world, many United States manufacturers, lured by cheap labor costs and tax holidays, have closed down plants and moved operations to countries like Mexico, Taiwan, and South Korea.

Under my bill, foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies that ship a significant portion of

their products into the United States would be taxed as if that subsidiary were located in the United States. Simply, the intent of my bill is to discourage tax-motivated foreign investment while protecting the jobs of your constituents.

Mr. Speaker, my bill is similar to legislation proposed by President Nixon in 1973, but the issue has been controversial since the inception of the corporate income tax in 1909. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proposed repeal the deferral of overseas investment in developed countries, but Congress did nothing.

My bill would forbid foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies from relocating manufacturing jobs in countries that provide tax holidays and other tax breaks and shipping a significant portion of their products into the United States. A current tax loophole allows these companies to avoid being taxed as if that subsidiary were located in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to losing millions of dollars in income taxes due to this anomaly in our tax code, the United States is losing a major portion of its manufacturing base. Once the manufacturing base is gone, it will be very difficult to get back. Germany and Japan have clearly taken the lead in maintaining a strong and viable manufacturing sector as their economies have continued to outperform ours. Overall, maintaining a productive manufacturing base is the lifeline to a modern, high income, competitive economy.

I have always believed the root of America's social decay is the ill advised trade and tax policies Congress has advocated for the past 25 years. Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to take a closer look at the problem of runaway manufacturing plants and co-sponsor this important legislation. My bill would be the first step in putting an end to this practice and make these companies pay their fair share.

FARM PRICES

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, November 9, 1994, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FARM PRICES

The United States is in the middle of the greatest harvest ever. The corn crop could be 50% higher than last year, and soybean production will exceed the historic 1979 crop with excellent weather across the farm belt. The yields this year are simply phenomenal, as farmers continue to astound us with their productive capacity.

The downside to this record production is lower prices. Steps are being taken, and others are under consideration, to help the farmer. In the long run, exports are the remedy, as consumers around the world demand high-quality American agricultural products. Ultimately, net farm income is projected to grow from \$43 billion in 1993 to as much as \$51 billion this year.

PRICES

Corn prices declined from a nationwide average of \$2.61 per bushel in June to \$2.09 per bushel in September. Some local elevators are currently reporting prices of less than