

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS TO ENSURE PAYMENTS OF VETERANS BENEFITS

SPEECH OF

HON. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, tonight we consider a bill that is vital to protect our veterans during this Christmas season. As you know, the current Government shutdown means that veterans' checks will be delayed if we do not pass a "rifle-shot" continuing resolution to allow the checks to be sent. I applaud the efforts of my fellow Arkansan, Mr. HUTCHINSON, chairman of the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, for his effort to get this bill to the floor so that we can protect the benefits of those who have served our country.

I strongly feel that each of us is forever in debt to our fellow Americans who risked their lives to protect our freedoms. I believe that after a person has served in the military, like my father did and his father before him, we should make every effort as a country to care for them, especially if they were injured in the line of duty. I want to ensure that veterans benefits receive fair treatment during the current budget negotiations. The current budget debate should not cloud our country's responsibilities and obligations to her veterans and this bill safeguards that obligation.

As important as this bill is, it should not be necessary. There is no excuse for holding any of our citizens hostage to the partisan bickering which has led to the current government shutdown. Although this bill will protect our veterans throughout the rest of the budget debate, we still have millions of other citizens who are not protected from the ill effects of this ideological impasse. For example, many hunters in Arkansas have been turned away from our wildlife refuges at the height of hunting season, even though they played by the rules and purchased their permits.

Since the principal parties have agreed to balance the budget in 7 years, let's end this partisan bickering and accomplish our stated goal. No group, especially our veterans who selflessly served to protect our liberty and freedom, should be pawns in our political games. I strongly support this legislation because it protects our veterans from being used again. However, we should do the same for our hunters and all Americans. The coalition budget proves that a reasonable compromise is possible. Let's stop this demagoguery and get down to the heavy lifting we were sent here to do.

PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in a belated tribute to a great victory in the pro-life movement. While the pro-life movement always has proclaimed the sanctity of human life, pro-life supporters and others touched by abortions have been without a place where they can gather to mourn those lost to abor-

tion or to reconcile the pain of that tragic decision. But that changed in 1993 when a pro-life group in Chattanooga, TN, peacefully brought about the closing of the city's only abortion clinic. This is an incredible story, which I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the House.

In April 1993, the Pro-life Majority Coalition of Chattanooga [ProMaCC] learned of the pending sale of a building that for 18 years housed the Chattanooga Women's Clinic. The abortionist who was leasing the building agreed to purchase the property from the bankrupt landlord for \$254,000. Within 7 days, ProMaCC raised over \$300,000 from local pro-life supporters who wanted the facility closed. When the building was auctioned in bankruptcy court, ProMaCC outbid the abortionist and purchased the building for \$294,000. Faced with the loss of this facility, the owner of the abortion clinic sold all assets and dissolved the corporation.

But the story doesn't end here. After the building was acquired, the question arose of what to do with it. ProMaCC formed a new organization called the Imago Dei—Latin for Image of God—Foundation to decide the future of the 8,600 square foot building. The foundation sold part of the former clinic to AAA Women's Services, a pregnancy center which provides counseling, abstinence training, and infant care instruction and which distributes food, clothing, and other needs for babies.

The remainder of the building will be dedicated as a memorial to the victims of abortion—the National Memorial for the Unborn. Most of the existing building structure will be torn down. The abortion procedure room and waiting area, however, will remain standing to house the central feature of the memorial, the Wall of Names. The wall, which is modeled after the Vietnam War Memorial, will hold name plaques, each one dedicated to the memory of an aborted child by those who mourn the loss. A black wrought iron fence will be constructed over the building's footings to mark the perimeter of the former clinic. Connecting the fence to the Wall of Names is a stone path which winds past meditative gardens and a pool of tears. With both the AAA Women's Service and the National Memorial for the Unborn, an effigy of despair has been transformed, in a real way, into a monument of hope which encourages, supports, and nurtures life, both physically and spiritually.

Abortion is an emotional issue which has deeply divided our Republic since the Supreme Court handed down the Roe versus Wade decision. But I hope that everyone will join me in applauding the efforts of the Imago Dei Foundation to provide a memorial for the unborn where the healing of millions of Americans touched by the scar of abortion may begin.

Besides healing individuals, the National Memorial for the Unborn begins the process of healing a nation. The memorial brings us one step closer to the day when we have mercy for all and malice toward none. Brochures at the memorial read:

On the site where over 35,000 babies were aborted, the National Memorial for the Unborn is a powerful witness to God's redemption and healing for all the victims of abortion and for our Nation.

Indeed it is, Mr. Speaker.

The National Memorial to the Unborn was dedicated on January 23, 1994, and will be

open to the public in January 1996. I commend everyone involved in this project, and I look forward to the day when we as a nation will have a place to mourn individually and corporately the loss of children by abortion.

The following Members of Congress join me in these remarks: Representative ZACH WAMP, Representative CHARLES CANADY, Representative TODD TIAHRT, Representative BOB INGLIS, Representative RON LEWIS, Representative STEVE LARGENT, Representative WILLIAM LIPINSKI, Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH, Representative BILL EMERSON, Representative DAVE WELDON, Representative TIM HUTCHISON, Representative JOE BARTON, Representative NICK RAHALL, Representative JAMES BARCIA, Representative MEL HANCOCK, Representative TOM COBURN, Representative WES COOLEY.

RETIREMENT OF HAROLD T. BUSHEY

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Harold T. Bushey, who will retire next month after 54 years of dedicated service to the Federal Government.

Most of Mr. Bushey's career in the Federal Government has consisted of serving our Nation's veterans. He has been with the Veterans' Administration [VA] since March 1946. A decorated veteran of World War II and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Mr. Bushey has been the Director of the Pittsburgh Veterans Affairs Regional Office since July 1, 1971. In this capacity, Mr. Bushey has worked closely with my office to meet the needs of veterans in the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Under Mr. Bushey's capable leadership, the local VA personnel has promptly and efficiently responded to requests from my office for assistance with health care, pensions, and other veterans' benefits. Prior to his appointment as Director of the Pittsburgh regional office, Mr. Bushey served as Assistant Director and Personnel Director of this office.

His dedication, competence, and professionalism are unsurpassed, and they have been recognized by a number of awards over the past decades. He has served the public and the VA in a number of different capacities. He has served on a number of prestigious VA committees and task forces assigned the responsibility for such diverse missions as improving benefit management and training personnel. In addition, he has held positions of leadership on the Pittsburgh Federal Executive Board and its Minority Business Opportunity Committee. He has been recognized for his efforts to recruit veterans, minorities, and women for the Veterans' Administration in the 1960's, as well as for helping to recruit personnel for service overseas with the Agency for International Development. In 1988, he spearheaded the first VA pilot project to provide housing and other assistance for homeless veterans.

Mr. Bushey has been involved in community activity and in promoting local charitable efforts as well. He has served as the Chairman

of the Government Services Division of the United Way of Allegheny County, he served on the Executive Board of the American Red Cross, and he currently serves on the boards of the local Salvation Army, the Health Education Center, and the Pittsburgh Resource Center.

I want to thank Harold Bushey for 54 years of distinguished service to our country and our community. I salute him for his commitment to our country's veterans and their families. I congratulate him for a job well done on the occasion of his retirement and wish him much success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ERIK JONSSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of a great man and a friend to everyone in Dallas, Mr. Erik Jonsson. Mr. Jonsson passed away on August 31, 1995, and I will miss him dearly.

Mr. Jonsson was a product of the American dream. He was the son of immigrant parents who found within himself the attributes necessary to make all of his dreams come true—and he did. He worked his way to the top of one of America's biggest corporations as president and cofounder of Texas Instruments, Inc. He was mayor of Dallas from 1964 to 1971 and was the driving force behind establishing the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, he served as the first chairman of its board.

He was admired by his colleagues and friends for always thinking of the big picture and never taking his eyes off the prize—working to make Dallas the great city that it is.

RUSSIAN JEWISH CONGRESS TO CONVENE IN MOSCOW IN JANUARY 1996

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, next month in Russia, an event will take place that marks an important milestone in that country's long and difficult road toward democracy, freedom, and the development of an open and pluralistic society. Due in large part to the efforts of one of the leading entrepreneurs of Russia, Mr. Vladimir Goussinsky, the Uniting Convention of the Russian Jewish Congress will convene in Moscow in early January to bring together the religious and secular Jewish communities of Russia on the basis of their common ethnic and spiritual heritage. Mr. Speaker, this historic event marks the beginning of the Jewish community coming into its own in the new post-Communist Russia, and it reflects the establishment of the Jewish community as a full-fledged and coequal member of Russian religious life.

The Russian Jewish Congress, with the assistance and support of the World Jewish Congress, will give a unified voice to the important Jewish community of Russia, which has long been without such an organization to

represent the broad concerns of its Jewish community. The aim of this organization is to unite the religious and secular Jewish communities of Russia in order to develop and finance programs to revive Jewish language and cultural traditions, establish national schools, restore synagogue buildings, and assist disadvantaged and needy members of the Jewish Community.

Mr. Speaker, under the outstanding leadership of Vladimir Goussinsky, there is no doubt in my mind that this organization will succeed in its worthy goals. Mr. Goussinsky is known internationally as a champion of free enterprise and freedom of the press in Russia, and now he has established himself as a leader of the resurgent Jewish community by convening this Uniting Convention of the Russian Jewish Congress. He has done a great service to his country by leading the way toward a pluralistic society that honors and respects the diverse cultures and religious communities that are contained within its borders.

Mr. Goussinsky is director general of the Most Group of Companies, one of Russia's largest and most productive private enterprises. He was a theater director who drove a gypsy cab on the side to supplement his income under the Communist regime. In 1986, just 5 days after Soviet President Michael Gorbachev legalized private commercial activities, Mr. Goussinsky established his first company. He later created one of the first Russian-American joint ventures, which became the foundation for the Most Group.

The Most Group now includes a diverse portfolio of some of the most visible and successful businesses in Russia, employing over 12,000 people and now with assets of nearly \$500 million. These include Most Development, a real estate and construction division which has spearheaded the rebuilding and reconstruction of key areas of Moscow; Most Bank, one of the largest banks in Russia; Segodnya, one of Moscow's most popular daily newspapers; and NTV, Russia's only independent television network.

Mr. Goussinsky has led the fight for freedom of the press in Russia. Segodnya and NTV are regarded worldwide as being the most independent and honest media outlets in Russia. Mr. Goussinsky has repeatedly continued to report objectively—and in many cases critically—regarding government policies and Russian domestic and international politics. This commitment to freedom of the press has been pursued despite enormous political pressure from the government and other forces in Russia.

The Russian people and the Russian Jewish community are fortunate indeed to enjoy Mr. Goussinsky's heroic efforts to bring Russia out of this extremely difficult time and encourage the transition to a free market and to an open and pluralistic democracy. I invite my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. Goussinsky for his efforts in convening the Uniting Convention of the Russian Jewish Congress and in fostering freedom and democratic progress in Russia.

TRIBUTE TO REV. CORA PALMER

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Cora Lee Palmer, pastor of St. John A.M.E. Church of Conshohocken who died on November 9 in Misericordia Hospital in Philadelphia.

Reverend Palmer was both a spiritual and community leader in my home district of Montgomery County, PA, where she was a member of the A.M.E. Preachers Association and the Conshohocken Ministerium.

Born in Clinton, SC, Reverend Palmer lived in the city of Philadelphia for more than 50 years. She attended Eastern College in St. David's, PA. Reverend Palmer's leadership and spiritual guidance extended beyond the boundaries of her church and were a beacon to many in the borough of Conshohocken. I was proud to have known her and was thrilled when she invited me to her church to meet those congregants who look up to her and counted on her for counsel.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Palmer is survived by her husband, James; her two sons, Dennis McDuffy of Willingboro, NJ, and Rev. Eugene McDuffy of Thorndale, PA. She is also survived by a daughter, Carol McDuffy Kimble of Philadelphia; her father, Thomas Fant of Chicago, IL; a half brother, Thomas Fant, Jr., of Great Neck, NY, as well as 17 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Her passing has left a void in the hearts of many in Conshohocken and throughout the Delaware Valley region. We will all miss her powerful leadership, her dedication to faith, and her belief in the goodness in people. Mr. Speaker, Montgomery County is a little poorer because of her loss but we are grateful to have had her among us for so many years.

STOP THE BUDGET IMPASSE: PROTECT MEDICARE AND MEDICAID—REOPEN GOVERNMENT

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 22, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of Christmas and the holiday season, I rise in strong opposition to the Republicans' drastic cuts in health care services for the most vulnerable in our society, and to their politically contrived forced shutdown of the Federal Government. Under the Republicans' budget, there would no longer be a holiday season for the vulnerable.

While the Republicans are busy repealing Medicaid, have they stopped to comprehend the fact that 90 percent of children with AIDS receive the critical health care services they need through Medicaid. In addition, health care coverage will be denied to nearly 4 million children, and over 300,000 seniors could be denied nursing home care.

Mr. Speaker, who would have thought that we would have ever reached the point where the Republicans would feel comfortable in holding the American people and the country hostage, because the President will not agree