

In closing, I would like to thank House and Senate conferees for preserving these important FHA reforms in the final conference report, and look forward to their implementation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD ON THE SUCCESSFUL CROSS-DECKING OF THE CUTTER "DECISIVE" AND THE CUTTER "RESOLUTE"

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, my good friend Maj. F. Andy Messing of the National Defense Council Foundation has asked me to submit these speeches for the RECORD.

Congressman DAN BURTON congratulates the U.S. Coast Guard on the successful cross-decking of the cutter *Decisive* and the cutter *Resolute*. The two speeches herein show the dedicated service to our country. Particularly, they illustrate the antidrug missions, the life-saving actions and environmental deeds done for America.

SPEECH OF CDR. AL J. BERNARD—COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE USCGC "RESOLUTE"

Admiral Barrett, Captain Hested, Capt Hail, Chaplain Michener, other distinguished guests, former *Decisive* Co's and sailors, Team Coast Guard, friends and family of the Coast Guard, Good Morning:

Thank you all for coming today to share in this very special ceremony. For many of us, work is a routine of shuffling paper, long hours in front of a computer screen or toiling through highway congested traffic from home to work and back. It's a far cry from the dreams we had as kids. We day dreamed of being astronauts, explorers, major league baseball players, or even running off to sea. For the men and women you see before you the childhood notion of going to sea is a reality and remains intact. They sail the briny for love of country and for the ideals it represents.

Therefore, a ship carries a very special meaning to a sailor. The ships you see behind me represent work, home, school, family, and church for this crew. It is life personified on a floating hull of steel. It takes on the character of its crew and becomes a sacred and noble entity because these ships are their blood, sweat and tears—the very attributes which bring a ship to life. Today, you have witnessed a transfusion of life from *Decisive* to *Resolute*. *Decisive* will always be a part of us. But now we are *resolute*; and what a desirable trait of human character to be—one especially suited for this crew and her mission. Implied by the word "resolute" are steadfastness, courage, and tenacity of purpose. To be *resolute* is to continue one's task in the face of great obstacles. It is one of the foundations of character. Without this quality, neither man nor nation can survive.

But that's only half of the story. These ships of steel and their crews must endure the hardship and punishment that the sea offers without regard. Since the beginning of time, sailors have relied on the sailmaker, carpenter, ship fitter, and dock yard; these craftsmen ensured that the vessels they built or repaired were reliable and intact. The dock yards kept the mighty triremes, galleons, barks and cutters fit for service so that the crews could serve. They provided the sailor with piece of mind when he set for sea.

Today, you see yet another example of that relationship between sailor and ship

yard. The Coast Guard Yard has delivered another ship of the line in tip top condition from stem to stern, top to bottom, and ready for action. Captain Hested, please accept my sincere thanks from the crew of *Decisive*, and now *Resolute*, for a job well done. Your team has done it again.

Thirty years ago, *Resolute* was launched from this very yard contributing to the Coast Guard's unbroken line of development extending over two centuries. As you look at *Resolute* down the pier, you'll see her clean, sweeping lines, a new look if you will, and a metaphor for the renewed vitality which is surging in our service. This "new cutter" incorporates all the latest advances in naval engineering and demonstrates our commitment to the growing needs of our times. For while I stand here and talk of time honored tradition and service, the Coast Guard recognizes that change is inevitable, if we are to keep up with the demands of progress.

Let me end here by telling you that the crew is ready to begin a new chapter in the rich history of cutter *Resolute*. The American novelist, Arthur Somers Roche, captures the very essence of why these men and women do what they do, and do it so well:

But the men who sail the ocean
In wormy, rotten craft,
With a hell-blown gale baft;
When the mainmast cracks and topples,
And she's lurching in the trough,
Them's the guys that greets the cutter
With smiles that won't come off.

Thank you so much for coming.

SPEECH OF REAR ADM. ED BARNETT, U.S. COAST GUARD

Captain Hested, Captain Hail, Commander Bernard, men and women of *Decisive*, men and women of the yard, family and friends. A special welcome to two former *Decisive* CO's, Capt. Mark Fisher and Capt. Rich Hartman—good morning. It is a pleasure to be here today representing the Commandant as we mark a key transition point for the cutters *Decisive* and *Resolute* and for the one crew which soon will have sailed both of these vessels.

Appropriately, this ceremony is held in Curtis Bay, a city rich in maritime history, and specifically at the Coast Guard yard, a facility which has contributed much to the birth and lifeline of so many Coast Guard vessels.

As you know, there are many significant events in the life of a cutter . . . christening, commissioning, changes of command and finally decommissioning. The Coast Guard cutter *Decisive* was christened here at the CG yard in January 1968, and later commissioned in August 1968 in her first homeport, New Castle, New Hampshire.

Since that time, during the past 28 years, *Decisive* has carved a proud niche in Coast Guard history.

Her missions have been wide ranging. In the forefront are search and rescue and law enforcement operations in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. In carrying out these missions, as well as her other duties, *Decisive* has excelled.

I would like to recap a few of these missions which occurred over the past couple of years.

1. Aug 94 First CTU 44.7.9 for the Florida Straits Cuban Sealift; rescued approximately 500 Cubans from unseaworthy craft; overall in 1994 *Decisive* rescued 1,400 Cuban and Haitian migrants.

2. Nov 95 Sank M/V Juneau Express during t/s Gordon near Florida Keys live coral reef. Fired approx 600 rounds hit 25mm between midnight and 0300 to sink abandoned 200' freighter in high winds/seas and prevent damage to a fragile eco system.

3. Mar-May 95 Coordinated Maritime element for exercise tradewinds 95, a USACOM

sponsored annual nation building effort. Trained police and Coast Guard forces from 13 Caribbean Nations.

4. Nov 95 Interdicted 75' Haitian coastal freighter with 516 Haitian migrants in windward pass. Assisted CGC northland w/safe offload in the vicinity of Cay Sal Bank, w/o injury or loss of life.

Decisive's effort in law enforcement are matched by few Coast Guard cutters . . . she has logged thousands of helicopter landings, seized dozens of vessels, and as evident by the marijuana symbols on the stack. She has seized over 500,000 lbs of marijuana.

To the crew of *Decisive* . . . I'm sure you are or will be experiencing a wide range of feelings as you depart *Decisive* which has been your home, and from which you performed your duties with the highest degree of professionalism.

For CDR Benard, it may occur as you order the OOD to haul down the commissioning pennant.

For the engineers, it may have occurred as you secured the main diesels.

For others, it may be as you finish emptying your lockers and cross the brow for this final mooring.

A lot of memories will surface . . . good times in Caribbean liberty ports, search and rescue cases in rough seas, climbing over the gunwales during fisheries boardings, the thrill of a drug seizure, the watches you've stood . . . and always, the memories of sailors with which you've served.

Don't be surprised if you also have a feeling of emptiness . . . because a part of each of you will remain with *Decisive*. It has been your knowledge, dedication, hard work, and perseverance that have allowed *Decisive* to continue to operate effectively . . . long after she should have entered a major maintenance availability. As a team, you have given *Decisive* your best, and in return she has served you and the Coast Guard well.

Now, on the other hand, you will be surprised at how quickly you will build a similar bond with your new ship . . . *Resolute*. The craftsmen of the Coast Guard yard have once again done a masterful job . . . the 210' MMA program has turned out to be a real success story for the CG . . . with the employees of the yard providing quality products, ahead of schedule and >\$50M under cost. An excellent example of "better Government at less cost." You will acquire from the yard much more than a refurbished ship . . . you will have a new Coast Guard cutter with many modifications designed to both improve operational capability and decrease M/H required for maintenance. The deck department will undoubtedly miss the pleasurable chore of scrubbing *Decisive's* stern. . .

The caretaking of *Resolute's* heritage will soon be passed to you . . . her new crew. You are inheriting a ship that has an equally rich history. As with *Decisive*, *Resolute* was built by the Coast Guard yard. *Resolute's* history began in 1966 in San Francisco, CA, under the command of a young commander named Paul A. Yost, whom would later become our commandant.

Resolute's law enforcement accomplishments are also impressive. She too has seized dozens of ships—but on the "other" coast. And, while not as glamorous as drug seizures, she has admirably performed thousands of fisheries boardings, which have protected our ocean's dwindling fish stocks from exploitation and has provided fishermen with the latest information on F/V safety requirements.

She has served our country with distinction.

And so, through you, *Resolute's* history begins again. In June, you successfully completed her builder's trials. The stage is set. *Resolute* will require your skill and hard

work to complete the on-load and ready for sea processes. Learn your new ship well . . . trace every piping run, exercise every new piece of equipment, note every detail of each new space. Soon you will again feel the salt spray, the excitement of the hunt, and the thrill of the rescue. That close bond between ship and sailor will serve you well as CGC Resolute assumes her position in the forefront of Coast Guard operations.

Capt. Hested, on behalf of the Commandant, I accept Resolute back into the fleet. At the same time I present Decisive—"the queen of the fleet" for her major maintenance availability.

I pass operational control of Resolute to Commander Atlantic Area and administrative control to Commander Maintenance and Logistics Command, Atlantic.

CDR Bernard, I charge you and your crew to be "Semper Paratus" in carrying out your missions. Do this in the same manner in which you, your crew, and Decisive's crews have done in the past. In closing, to the Decisive I say "good job, we'll see you soon plying the Atlantic waters." To the Resolute, welcome back, welcome to the LANT area.

And we wish you the very best in your endeavors.

CDR Bernard, execute your orders.

ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article by John Gurda, an excellent author and historian in Milwaukee. The article appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel earlier this year. This article takes an intriguing look at the issue of English as the official language of the United States. It reminds us that most of us have ancestry which stems from outside the United States. It is with this in mind that I provide the following article. [From the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Apr. 1, 1996]

HOW SOON THE "ENGLISH FIRST" CROWD FORGETS

(By John Gurda)

Their names are Seratti, Skindrud, Zukowski, Ziegelbauer, Gunderson, Goetsch, Buettner, Huebsch and Drzewiecki. They represent some of Wisconsin's leading ethnic groups—German, Norwegian, Polish and Italian—and it is a safe bet that none of their ancestors spoke a word of English when they arrived.

The irony is that the names belong to state legislators who are sponsoring the "English First" bill. Their measure would establish English as the "official language of Wisconsin" and would, with a few carefully worded exceptions, prohibit the use of other languages in "all written expression" by any unit of state or local government.

It seems puzzling, at first, that the bill would get a serious hearing in a state as ethnic as Wisconsin. It seems even stranger that elected officials would deny some current residents a privilege that their own ancestors enjoyed: the right to be addressed in their native tongues.

Linguistic diversity, officially endorsed, is older than the state. When Solomon Juneau became Milwaukee's first mayor in 1846, 1,000 copies of his inaugural address were printed—500 in English and 500 in German. The

same policy was observed when Wisconsin adopted a constitution two years later. In the 1850s and '60s, the state published guidebooks in German, Norwegian, French, Dutch and Swedish, as well as in English, hoping to attract newcomers from Europe.

Immigrants responded by the thousands, making Wisconsin one of the most "foreign" states in the union and dotting the countryside with such settlements as New Glarus, New Holstein, Denmark, Belgium, Poland and Scandinavia. Ethnicity is still one of our hallmarks—a focus of festivals, an anchor of identity and, not least of all, a draw for tourists.

But diversity has always had a dark side as well. Wisconsin has suffered periodic outbreaks of nativism throughout its history; like some modern suburbanites, established residents of every period have tried to pull up the gangplank as soon as they were safely on the boat.

In the 1840s, for instance, when Irish and German immigrants demanded an equal voice in deliberations over statehood, the Milwaukee Sentinel was horrified: "This is going too far. . . . One half of our population consists of foreigners and if this continues they will gain the upper hand and destroy our freedom. This thing is going too far."

Wisconsin's immigrants returned the fire when their rights were threatened. In 1890, a Republican Legislature passed the Bennett Law, making instruction in English compulsory. Supporters of parochial schools were incensed. German, Scandinavian, Irish and Polish voters joined forces at the polls, making George Peck governor; he was the only Democrat to hold the pot between 1876 and 1932.

Intolerance reached a peak of sorts during and just after World War I. Germans were, to put it bluntly, persecuted. Bach, Brahms, and Beethoven were banned from the concert stage. Sauerkraut was rechristened "liberty cabbage." In 1919, the Milwaukee Journal won a Pulitzer Prize for its efforts to root out local Germans who sided with Kaiser Wilhelm.

Soon after the war, nativists broadened their fire to include Poles, Italians, Greeks, Serbs and other "new" immigrants, a group that one bigot dismissed as "historically downtrodden, atavistic and stagnant." Most politicians agreed. In the 1920s, Congress virtually halted the flow of immigration from southern and eastern Europe. The "golden door" lighted by the Statue of Liberty was slammed shut.

Seventy years later, immigrants are once again suspect. The English First campaign of 1996 is only the latest in a long series of attempts to legislate conformity, attempts to legislate conformity, attempts that seem to crest during times of uncertainty. Patriots of every generation have tried, in historian Gerd Korman's choice phrase, "to replace the melting pot with a pressure cooker."

The campaign has been blasted as small-minded, shortsighted and racist by Hispanics, Asians and other language minorities. The English First movement may be all of those things, but it is most of all unnecessary. Anyone who has spent time in the newer ethnic communities will tell you that the pressures to conform are enormous. Through the media, through the schools, through their own children, immigrant families soon learn what America expects of them. If they want a place at the table, if they want even a taste of the American dream, English is mandatory.

Why, then, the current outbreak of nativism? When you cut through all the rhetoric about "uniting" our society, what you sense is fear—fear that America is coming apart at the seams. The country seems to be filling in

with strangers who show no eagerness to join the mainstream. That perception gives rise to a great unspoken question: Why can't they be like us?

It is one of the oldest questions in America. Yankees asked it of the Germans and the Irish, the Germans and Irish asked it of the Poles and Italians, and everyone asks it of Hispanics and Asians. The fact that so many groups once considered "they" have joined the ranks of "us" is, I would suggest, an obvious sign of America's power to absorb differences. But there are always newcomers to question.

And what should they answer? They should, in my opinion, respond that they are challenging the rest of us to live up to an ideal as old as the Republic: a belief that the many can become one without rejecting their ancestors, that unity and diversity can coexist in a creative and energizing tension.

There is only one noun in this country, and that is American. But there are dozens of adjectives: African, Belgian, Croatian, Danish, English, Filipino, German and on down the alphabet. It is our differences, mediated by our essential unity, that give this country its human appeal and its human power.

Those who would stifle diversity are denying themselves an important gift. Those who would insist on "English First" are betraying their own ignorance and their own pettiness, but they display something even more disturbing: a lack of faith in America.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF OUR NATION'S ANIMAL SHELTERS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's animal shelters and the tens of thousands of dedicated individuals who are employed by or volunteer in these facilities certainly deserve recognition for the work they have done in assisting animals. This Member is pleased that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), which has provided training and support to local animal shelters and humane organizations for over 40 years, has declared November 3–9, 1996, as National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week.

The idea for a national day of recognition and appreciation for animal shelters actually started with a humane society in this Member's district, the Capital Humane Society in Lincoln, NE. Bob Downey, the executive director of the Capital Humane Society, contacted the HSUS and suggested that they work together to establish a week intended to recognize the positive roles that animal shelters play in their communities; to recognize the staff and volunteers of shelters; and to educate the general public about animal shelters and the work they do.

The services offered by animal shelters are as varied as the communities they serve. Some handle animal control issues, such as controlling dogs running at large or sheltering unwanted or abandoned animals. Some conduct rescue operations by responding to calls regarding injured animals or animals that have fallen through the ice of a frozen lake or pond. Still others assist families who are considering adding a new four-legged member to the family by providing adoption services.