

104th Congress. In fact, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have talked endlessly about our national responsibility to support and assist veterans in their efforts to obtain employment and training. However, to quote the Bard, their rhetoric is largely "much ado about nothing," and their legislative commitment to veterans in no way matches the passion of their words.

For over 50 years the House of Representatives deemed veterans' issues as near sacred—and far too important for partisan bickering and cynicism. Expecting that this bipartisan tradition would continue, I introduced three bills to protect, strengthen, and expand employment opportunities for our Nation's veterans. Unfortunately, the Republican chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Education, Training, Employment, and Housing, which has jurisdiction over these measures, chose not to act on any of this legislation. H.R. 3538, the Veterans' Job Protection Act, H.R. 3938, the Veterans' Training and Employment Bill of Rights Act of 1996, and H.R. 4080, the Veterans' Entrepreneurship Promotion Act of 1996, are all significant bills that would make significant differences in the lives of thousands of veterans. These bills are serious business—they are not "much ado about nothing"—and I hope that in the 105th Congress they will not fall victim to the hypocrisy surrounding veterans' matters we have experienced this year.

It is important that our veterans fully understand and appreciate what they have lost as a result of the destruction of the historical bipartisan support for veterans. Accordingly, I will briefly describe the bills which the Republican leadership chose not to support. First, I introduced H.R. 3538, the Veterans' Job Protection Act. This measure responded to a recent Supreme Court ruling which inadvertently eliminated job protections for veterans and members of the Selected Reserve whose civilian employment is with a State government. My bill would restore reemployment rights for these individuals. It would clarify that States must abide by the Federal law which requires employers to reestablish veterans in their former jobs when they return from military service. Because H.R. 3538 has not been enacted, members of the Selected Reserve who were activated for service in Bosnia could have problems when they return home and attempt to reclaim their civilian jobs if they are State employees. We hope and expect that the Selected Reservists now in Bosnia will soon return to the United States. It will be a dismal "welcome home" if their civilian jobs are not available to them because some in Congress chose not to protect them.

Under H.R. 3938, the Veterans' Training and Employment Bill of Rights Act of 1996, disabled veterans and veterans who have served in combat areas would have the opportunity, for the first time, for the first time, to fully participate in all federally funded training programs. Too often, veterans have been underserved by these national programs. For example, although veterans accounted for approximately 24 percent of all dislocated workers, only 14 percent of those trained under the Job Training Partnership Act [JTPA] program for dislocated workers were veterans. Veterans' service organizations have told us that some program managers mistakenly assume veterans receive similar services from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and discourage

veterans from taking advantage of JTPA services. Additionally, we are in the midst of a major redesign of our national labor exchange and job training programs. My bill would ensure that our country's long-standing commitment to providing priority services to veterans seeking employment and training assistance would be protected and strengthened. H.R. 3938 would also establish, for the first time, an effective appeals process for veterans who believe their rights have been violated under certain veterans' employment-related programs.

Finally, I introduced H.R. 4080, the Veterans' Entrepreneurship Promotion Act of 1996. The purpose of this measure is to promote and assist the creation, development, and growth of small businesses owned by disabled veterans and other eligible veterans. Under this bill, a Governmentwide procurement program would be established to assist eligible veteran-owned small businesses to receive Federal Government contracts. For the first time, certain veteran-owned small businesses would have a real opportunity to become suppliers of needed goods and services through access to contract award opportunities in the multi-billion dollar Federal market. Additionally, because the availability of adequate capital for business startup and expansion can be an obstacle to the development and growth of veteran-owned small businesses, my bill would establish a guaranteed loan program for these concerns in the Small Business Administration [SBA]. H.R. 4080 would also provide eligible veteran small business owners with entrepreneurial training, counseling, and management assistance. I believe our Government has a responsibility to help the veterans of this country because of the sacrifices they have made in the service of their country. I also believe that the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces are a valuable national resource whose skills and abilities must be absorbed by, and integrated into, the civilian workforce. In order to facilitate this transfer of talent, however, we must provide our service members the tools, training, and job protection they need to reenter the non-military workplace. Finally, I believe veterans are special and unique members of our American family. They have defended us all and have protected the freedoms we all value. I hope that in the next Congress we can work together as Americans, not as Republicans or Democrats, to develop responsible, effective, meaningful policies affecting our Nation's veterans.

FORMER YUGOSLAVIAN REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA: NATION-BUILD- ING IN A HOSTILE NEIGHBOR- HOOD

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as the 104th Congress comes to its conclusion, this Member would take a moment to point out a major, unsung success story in American foreign policy. For 5 years the Former Yugoslav Republic has survived in a fragile and tenuous manner. Surrounded by adversaries and facing an embargo from Greece, the tiny Balkan State of Macedonia, which is formally recognized at

this time in international fora as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [FYROM], has defied the odds and emerged as a viable state. FYROM has a democratically elected government, and with international assistance seems to have avoided much of the turmoil that has afflicted the rest of the former Yugoslavia.

The United States can justifiably take some pride in Macedonia's success. For the past 3 years, American troops have served in the international peacekeeping force that monitors the border with Serbia. Together with Danish and Swedish troops, these forces have served as an important deterrent to ensure that the Bosnian conflict did not migrate into the southern Balkans. American diplomats helped resolve, or at least dramatically reduce, the longstanding differences the Government of Greece has had with the Skopje government. American foreign aid and technical assistance, including assistance provided by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Business Administration, has provided an important catalyst to develop entrepreneurs in Macedonia.

Many obstacles remain. Greeks and Macedonians continue to have a number of differences, including the final name of the country. Ethnic Albanians has serious concerns that their special needs are not always adequately considered. And, there always is the grave risk that a crisis in Kosovo would spill over into Macedonia.

These potential problems notwithstanding, Macedonia rightfully deserves praise. As Cord Meyer noted in a recent editorial, "For the first time in many years, it is possible to look with some optimism at the future of the southern Balkans." This Member would ask that Mr. Meyer's editorial entitled "Achieving Stability Macedonia's Way" from the September 26, 1996, edition of the Washington Times be included in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, Sept. 26, 1996]

ACHIEVING STABILITY MACEDONIA'S WAY

(By Cord Meyer)

On September 8, Macedonia celebrated the fifth anniversary of its vote for an Independent and sovereign Macedonia, as opposed to remaining part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It is the only former member of the Yugoslav Republic that managed to declare independence peacefully and without bloodshed. Even Slovenia had 10 days of war before it broke free.

Having survived an attempt to assassinate him last October, the 79-year-old president, Kiro Gligorov, has made an extraordinary recovery from his serious wounds, is now back in full control of the presidency, and presides over a coalition government. Having survived the glancing blow of United Nations sanctions aimed at Serbia and a year's embargo on its trade with Greece, the Macedonian economy is beginning to feel results from the rigorous privatization program that Mr. Gligorov has insisted upon.

Mr. Gligorov can also claim a large share of the credit for the timely deployment in 1993 of the U.N. peacekeeping forces in Macedonia's Northern border with Serbia. The assignment of 500 U.S. troops and 600 Nordic forces as an effective tripwire to discourage aggression remains a classic example of timely preventive diplomacy. It would be a serious mistake to withdraw these forces prematurely, as some of Congress are urging.

Another example of effective diplomacy was the agreement reached last September by Macedonia with its southern neighbor, Greece. By agreeing to change its flag and

modify its constitution, Macedonia with the help of Cyrus Vance as U.N. negotiator, managed to lift the damaging embargo on trade with Greece. The name issue was set aside for future negotiation and both countries claim to be enjoying profitable and peaceful relations.

Perhaps the most serious and difficult unresolved problem, Macedonia now faces is the status of its 23 percent Albanian minority. In addressing that issue, we are fortunate to have available a number of recommendations made this week by a working group appointed by the Council on Foreign Relations to promote stability in the Southern Balkans. They urge as the first priority maintaining the U.N. force on Macedonia's border with Serbia, as proof of U.S. commitment to Macedonia's territorial integrity and to minimize military expenditures by the Balkan states.

Second, the working group urges support of economic recovery in Macedonia, because no effort to reduce ethnic conflict is likely to succeed if economic conditions deteriorate. They recommend international support for "construction of an East-West transportation corridor that would link Bulgaria to its Adriatic ports via Macedonia." They urge other efforts at economic integration of the region.

Thirdly, the group found two key areas where reforms could make a difference: education and the political system. They urge the Macedonian government to end its opposition to Tetovo University, where the Albanian language is taught, and the expansion of Albanian language instruction at Skopje University. They call on the United States "to accompany efforts to facilitate the satisfaction of Albanian cultural needs with efforts to support Macedonian cultural development."

Finally, the working group heard several conflicting arguments about the ethnic composition of public sector employment with the Albanian minority claiming discrimination. In the long run, the conclusion was that economic progress in Macedonia will depend on the growth of the private sector.

On the issue of electoral reform, they found a consensus that reforms should be designed "to equalize the population of electoral districts and introduce some element of proportionality in the distribution of seats." The hope is that the probable increase in diversification of ethnic Albanian participation in parliament would encourage Albanian participation in coalition politics and legitimate the Macedonian political order in the Albanian community. The group suggested permitting the use of minority languages in the conduct of local business in state offices.

Finally, Macedonia's political stability is to some extent at the mercy of events in Kosovo on its northern border. The 90 percent Albanian majority in Kosov has been kept under a brutal suppression by the 10 percent Serbian minority, and the danger of a violent revolt has been real. However, on Sept. 3 Slobodan Milosevic, the president of Serbia, seems to have reached a deal with Ibrahim Rugova, the longtime leader of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, to end the six-year Albanian boycott of state schools. Motivating Mr. Milosevic may have been the American warning to him that he could not expect to join the International Monetary Fund until he improved his treatment of the Albanian population.

For the first time in many years, it is possible to look with some optimism at the future of the Southern Balkans.

HONORING SAMMY YUKUAN LEE

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sammy Yukuan Lee, a world renowned scholar of Chinese antiquities, who has been a United States citizen since June 28, 1984. Even in his youth Sammy Lee was strongly principled and highly disciplined. Gifted with extraordinary foresight, he was able to take advantage of the many opportunities he encountered. His accomplishments demonstrate that hard work and discipline can be a formula for success.

A native of Da Lao Wa village in Zhaoyuan county of Shandong province, China, Sammy Lee is the youngest of five sons in a rural farming family. Village life offered little chance of obtaining a higher education and few prospects for earning a good livelihood. Armed with a sixth-grade education, Sammy Lee who was then in his teens, was sent by his father, Lee Quande, to Beijing to learn a trade from Mr. Teng, the owner of Ji Zhen Xiang, an antique shop. There, Sammy Lee met a fellow apprentice, David Techun Wang, with whom he developed a life-long partnership and close friendship.

In China in the 1920's, most of the workers were illiterate. Sammy Lee and David Wang, fortunate enough to have a basic education, looked beyond their immediate environment. In Beijing, they saw the need for communicating with the many foreign residents to expand their business. Therefore, besides their daily work activities, they also taught themselves English, German, and Japanese from whatever books or methods they could obtain.

In the early 1930's, through his skill and knowledge in Chinese antiques, Sammy Lee met Dr. Hans Bidder, the First Secretary of the German Embassy; Dr. Grand, Chief of Staff of Peking Union Medical College Hospital; and Drs. Ecket and Huwer, who were on the staff of the German Hospital. They were all very much interested in Chinese antiques including carpets, bronzes, ceramics and furniture. Despite his limited command of foreign languages, Sammy Lee was able to interact well with his customers. He established an enduring friendship with each of them built upon mutual trust. His relationships with Europeans and Americans exposed him to Western culture and opened his mind to new opportunities.

Sammy Lee's quest for knowledge and his desire to satisfy his customers prompted him to travel throughout China in search of sources of antique carpets. In those days, any place outside of Beijing proper was beyond the reach of most Chinese merchants, who maintained a traditionally centric view of China. Sammy Lee endured considerable hardship during these days, but found his travels into adjacent provinces to be rewarding.

The most difficult time for Mr. Lee was probably the years between 1935 and 1938, when he was diagnosed with tuberculosis, a prevalent disease at that time. Before the development of the miracle drug for this infectious disease, most of its victims had little hope of recovery. Sammy Lee, true to his character, was determined to overcome this dreadful obstacle. Under the personal care of Dr. and Mrs.

Grand in their home, he followed Dr. Grand's professional advice to the letter—total rest and inactivity. For an energetic and ambitious young man, the treatment was drastic. Fortunately, he completely recovered and was able to return to work in the antique shop.

After World War II, Sammy Lee and David Wang decided to expand the business to Nanjing and Shanghai; and, of course, Mr. Lee was always ready to take on new challenges. However, because of the political turmoil in China, Mr. Tenberg, a close friend, strongly advised him to leave China. In 1947, the Lee's and the Wang's moved from Shanghai to Hong Kong along with several friends and a few of their employees.

Relying upon their own resilience and determination, Sammy Lee and David Wang capitalized on their knowledge of Chinese art and became partners in a new enterprise, the Sammy Y. Lee and Wang's Company Limited, specializing in Chinese antiques and the manufacture of furniture.

Foreseeing an opportunity for expansion, Sammy Lee ventured to Tokyo, Japan, and established the Oriental House Limited, providing Chinese carpets, furniture, tablecloths, and artifacts to American Armed Forces stationed in Japan. Mr. Lee moved his family to Tokyo, while Mr. Wang and his family remained in Hong Kong to manage Sammy Y. Lee and Wang's Co.

During the mid-1950's, leaving his eldest son, King Tsi, in control of his interests in Tokyo, Sammy Lee eagerly explored new markets in Germany and America. Having a loving wife to take care of their home and four younger sons in Tokyo, Sammy Lee was free to travel throughout the world expanding his business contacts and searching for art objects. In 1957, he organized an exhibition and sale in Lempetz Gallery in Koln. In 1964, Mr. Lee held his first lacquer collection exhibition at the Royal Scottish Museum.

By this time, the Japanese economy was well on its way to recovery, enabling many Japanese to rekindle their love of collecting Chinese works of art. Oriental House was able to thrive by meeting the demands of the Japanese for art objects.

Sammy Lee devotes his spare time to researching and writing about Chinese antiquities. His knowledge of and experience with Chinese lacquer, blue and white porcelain, and carpets have been incorporated into one catalog, four books, and three articles and monographs, some of which are listed below.

Sammy Lee has always emphasized the importance of education because he felt the inadequacy of his own formal training. A forward thinker, he insisted that his children attend American schools. In the late 1980's, to honor their father, his five sons established and endowed the Sammy Yukuan Lee Foundation for the purposes of promoting the study of Chinese culture and providing financial assistance to qualified students of Chinese descent.

Sammy Lee lives in southern California with his youngest son, King Yang (John), near his second son King Hao (Howard), and third son King Sum (Sam). One of Sammy Yukuan Lee's sons, Dr. Sam K. Lee, taught International Relations and Government at Campbell University in North Carolina's Second District, and today works in my office as a foreign policy adviser.

At least twice a year, he travels to Tokyo to see his oldest son, King Tsi, and to Hong