

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A CENTURY OF SERVICE: JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, in 1894, articles appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines portraying Jews as being unpatriotic. In response, Jewish men who had served in the Civil War met at the Lexington Avenue Opera House on 58th Street in New York, on March 15, 1896 and formed a new Jewish veterans organization. They called themselves the Hebrew Union Veterans Association of the Civil War Veterans, and their mission was to fight the vicious anti-Semitic lies.

Amazingly, these 78 Jewish veterans, who have been described as "old and infirmed", not only fought these allegations against Jewish participation in the Civil War, but caused Harper's Weekly to retract its stories, and won an apology from Mark Twain, who had helped promote this lie until presented with the facts.

Over the years, there have been changes in the organization's name to recognize the Jewish soldiers who fought in the Spanish-American War and World War I—then calling themselves the "Hebrew Veterans of the Wars of the Republic", but since that time they have been known as the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America [JWV]. A thread that remains from the past, however, is a continuing dedication toward fighting anti-Semitism. They have worked closely with the Office of Special Investigation in their efforts to prosecute Nazi war criminals living in the United States, and in addition they have a JWV Reward Fund which dispenses money to individuals who help in the arrest and conviction of those responsible for acts of anti-Semitism and racism.

Remembering that their bond and strength is their experience as veterans, the JWV honors their ancestors through the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, located in Washington, DC, the only museum in this country dedicated to chronicling Jewish participation in the defense of this Nation. In addition to the many services they provide for Jewish veterans, the JWV has close ties with Israel and has built a Soldier's "R and R" home in Beersheba. Mindful of the discrimination suffered by others, they were the only veterans' organization to join the Reverend Martin Luther King in his historic March on Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I honor and salute the Jewish War Veterans as they celebrate their 100th birthday. On Veterans Day this November, they will be the host at Arlington National Cemetery. They deserve our respect and congratulations for all they have contributed to our country and I wish them all good wishes for their next 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO ASSEMBLYMAN PHILLIP ISENBERG

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a close friend and dedicated public servant, Hon. Phil Isenberg, who represents Sacramento in the California Assembly.

Phil and I got our starts in politics together as staff members in the assembly, Phil for Willie Brown. An assemblyman himself since 1982, Phil has served as the conscience of that body. He is an unabashed liberal in the best sense of the word—using government to care for people—yet his record for fiscal responsibility in government was unrivaled and broke the mold of traditional liberalism in our State. Now, due to term limits, he is retiring at the end of the year.

In the assembly, Phil authored laws to allow people who have been denied health insurance because of previous medical conditions to buy State-backed coverage, and he wrote the law establishing the toughest smoking prevention programs in the Nation. He was the author of landmark legislation to reform conditions in California nursing homes.

Phil has been a leading advocate of restructuring State and local government to deliver services to citizens more effectively. As chairman of the assembly judiciary committee from 1989 to 1995, he authored landmark legislation mandating efficiencies in court operations, providing State funding for trial courts, and increasing public access.

Phil has long been committed to the protection of the Delta and to the equitable distribution of water for people, farms, and the environment. He authored laws to promote agriculture water conservation, expand wetland areas, and protect Mono Lake.

Phil's election to the California Assembly in 1982 came after years of active service at the local level. He served first as city council member, then two-term mayor for Sacramento, and he, more than anyone, was responsible for putting Sacramento on the map. He was the first mayor to focus on economic development, and his efforts have transformed Sacramento from a small city dominated by State government into one of the fastest-growing and most attractive cities in California and the United States, where high technology companies flourish alongside modern agriculture and manufacturing facilities.

Born in 1939, his family moved to California in 1945. Phil earned a bachelor's degree from Sacramento State University and a law degree from the University of California, Boalt Hall, in Berkeley. He served in the California National Guard and as a civilian employee at McClellan Air Force Base.

I have long admired Phil's contributions and service to his community and to his State. As

he retires from the California Assembly with a record of achievement for his district and his State, I wish him continued success, especially with his art collection, and I extend my congratulations to him and his wife Marilyn.

ACCOUNTABLE PIPELINE SAFETY AND PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a concern that was raised at the last minute that this bill may somehow affect protection for wetlands. Under the current pipeline safety laws, in section 60109 of title 49, the Office of Pipeline Safety at the Department of Transportation is required to identify unusually sensitive environmental areas. Once these areas have been identified, DOT is to promulgate rules to minimize the chances of a liquid pipeline accident in those areas. DOT is currently in the process of implementing these laws.

Currently, subsection (b) of section 60109 does not specify which areas should be identified as unusually environmentally sensitive; rather, it identifies several types of areas that DOT should consider when making its determination. In fact, current law does not even identify wetlands as one of the areas DOT should look at when identifying areas that should be classified as unusually environmentally sensitive. That is why the Congress in S. 1505 directed DOT to include critical wetlands in the types of areas that it should consider when it determines areas that are unusually environmentally sensitive.

Apparently, at the last minute, the use of the term "critical" has raised a question as to whether the Congress is somehow attempting to create a new category of wetlands that might undermine other wetlands protection programs carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Corps of Engineers. This is not true.

The language in S. 1505 that amends section 60109(b) of title 49 is simply intended to give direction to DOT as to what type of areas should be considered when it determines what areas are unusually environmentally sensitive. In no way is this provision intended to have any application or precedent with respect to any other statute or any other Federal agency. This provision is not intended to diminish the role of DOT to protect the environment and the public's safety in and around pipelines. Rather, this language is intended to strengthen the pipeline safety program's protection of people and the environment.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.