

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. JERRY
LINENGER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on January 12, Capt. Jerry Linenger flew into orbit on the space shuttle *Atlantis* to begin a 5-month stay aboard the Russian Space Station Mir. This weekend, more than 130 days later, *Atlantis* is bringing Jerry Linenger home.

It is with no small amount of hometown pride that we note that Captain Linenger was born and raised in Eastpointe, MI, which is split between our two congressional districts. He attended East Detroit High School and went on to receive a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Naval Academy. Thereafter, he earned a number of advanced degrees, including a doctorate in medicine from Wayne State University in Detroit. He joined NASA in 1992 and flew a mission on the space shuttle *Discovery* 2 years later.

Captain Linenger is the fourth U.S. astronaut to live aboard the Mir station. All of these missions are important, both in terms of their contributions to science as well as to the advancement of United States/Russian cooperation in space. This particular mission has resonated with many people because of a series of letters Captain Linenger wrote to his 1-year-old son John, for him to read when he's older. Some of these letters have been published on NASA's Internet site with Captain Linenger's permission so the public could get a feel for his experience.

These letters describe Captain Linenger's day-to-day activities aboard Mir, his early memories of his grandparents and his own experience growing up in Michigan, his fondness for geography, and his enthusiasm concerning the exploration of space. The constant theme through all these letters is his affection for his wife and son. We would like to highlight one of these letters:

DEAR JOHN: Just received a note from Mommy—who said you've really been a great little boy lately. Says that you are at the age where you try to mimic everything anyone does. And that you're laughing lots. And everyone thinks you are so cute. Mommy agrees. Me too. You're the best, John.

But the big news was that you had [your] first trip to the corner park. Mommy says that the rocking horse was your favorite, but you also did okay on your first swing ride.

Alright, John. I can help you some on this. Some tips from your Dad.

Never get on a teeter totter with someone bigger than you.

No matter how hard you try, you will never succeed at doing a loop-the-loop on the swing.

For added speed down the slide, find an old waxed potato chip bag lying around (they are always blown against the fence nearby), sit on the bag, and then slide down. After a few times you'll really be moving, and all the girls will hold you in awe.

And talk about speed—your Daddy was really flying today! Whizzed across Isla de Chiloe, the crest of the Andes (three or four of the taller peaks still snowcapped), across Patagonia and out Golfo San Jorge in two minutes flat. Del Fuego in the distance. Clear. Spectacular.

Maybe someday you'll be a geography nut like your father. For now, just make sure you can find your way home from the park.

And John, pay serious attention to those books Mommy always reads you at night. Keep those eyes open—don't go fading off half way through the story like you usually do. If some day you go on a trip like I'm on, you'll be trying to draw on every bit of information, every bit of training, every morsel of practical stuff you've ever learned in your whole life in order to succeed.

Now that I think about it, they don't make waxed potato chip bags anymore. Scratch that idea, John. Maybe it'll be better to start off slowly and savor the ride all the way down. . . .

Love you John. Tell Mommy that Daddy sure was happy to get her note. And that I'm just fine.

DAD.

The last 5 months have been eventful and challenging ones for the crew of Mir as they have confronted a series of equipment breakdowns aboard the space station, including a fire, high temperatures due to a carbon dioxide removal system that overheated, leaking fumes, and broken oxygen generators. Even so, from these letters, there is little doubt that the biggest challenge Captain Linenger faced was being absent from his 14-month-old son.

We want to congratulate Captain Linenger on the successful completion of his mission and express our best wishes to him and his family.

THE CHINA MARKET ACCESS AND EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES ACT

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a combination of legislation individually sponsored by myself (H.R. 35, the Fair Trade Opportunities Act) and Representative EWING (H.R. 941).

Removes China from the annual Most-Favored Nation [MFN] process when that country accedes to the World Trade Organization under an accession process that is supported by the United States.

After China's accession to the World Trade Organization, the President would no longer have to waive or certify that China meet Jackson-Vanik requirements. China would receive normal tariff status routinely unless either the Congress or the President used other existing authority to raise tariffs on China's goods.

Requires the President to utilize a strategic and flexible "snap-back" tariff if China either denies United States adequate trade benefits or fails to take adequate steps to become a member of the WTO.

On a one-time basis and within 6-months of the enactment of the legislation, the President would be required to determine if China is "not according adequate trade benefits"—defined in existing law—to the United States or if China is not taking adequate steps to become a WTO member. If the President makes such a finding, then the President shall impose snap-back tariffs on China 6-months after that determination. In imposing snap-back tariffs, the President has wide discretion to determine both the amount of the tariff and on which categories of products the snap-back tariffs will

be imposed. However, under no circumstances can the President exceed the legislation's snap-back tariff ceiling which is the pre-Uruguay round MFN tariff rates, for example, the column No. 1 tariff rates in effect on December 31, 1994.

A study by the Congressional Research Service estimates that if the President were to utilize his full snap-back authority, for example, on the top 25 Chinese exports to the United States—based on 1995 figures—an additional \$325 million in tariff revenue would be generated for the United States Treasury.—This estimate is not adjusted to reflect any downward demand for the product due to the increased tariff.

The President would be required to terminate the imposed snap-back tariffs on China on the date China becomes a WTO member or on the date the President determines that China is according adequate trade benefits to the United States or making taking significant steps to become a WTO member, whichever is earlier. The President would also be able to modify the snap-back tariffs for any reason as long as the appropriate congressional commitments are notified.

INTRODUCTION OF TWO ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce two bills, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Accessibility Act of 1997 and a proposal to establish the St. Helena Island National Scenic Area.

It was President John F. Kennedy who had the infinite wisdom to propose legislation to create a land and water conservation fund. In 1964, Congress established, with bipartisan support, the land and water conservation fund [LWCF] for public acquisition of park and recreation lands for recreation planning, acquisition and development.

To assure that the LWCF received sufficient funds to carry out the original intent of the law, in 1968, Congress decided to set aside the revenue received from oil and gas leasing on the outer continental shelf [OCS] to fund conservation efforts. The idea was simple. One resource, oil and gas, would be exploited, but the revenues generated would be invested in another resource, the purchase of lands and waters. Up to \$900 million is collected for the use of the LWCF each year but Congress must first appropriate the money before it can be spent. Funds appropriated for the LWCF have been declining rapidly in recent years, with only \$138 million being spent for the program last year. The State grant portion of the LWCF was not funded at all in fiscal year 1996 or 1997. Furthermore, the House Budget Committee in the last Congress proposed a 5-year moratorium on land acquisition and a phase out of the entire LWCF program.

My legislation, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Accessibility Act, would remedy the funding problem by taking the entire LWCF off-budget thus ensuring that its funds will be spent for the purpose it was created. By doing this, the Federal land agencies would have more funds to better manage fragile habitat and endangered lands. This would

also provide funds for States to improve parks for inter-cities, and other vital recreational areas. Furthermore, I want to point out that this bill leaves intact the current authority of Congress to make funding decisions about LWCF projects, as part of the annual Interior appropriations bill.

Because the appropriations have been dwindling, it has been debated whether the funds from LWCF should be taken from Federal projects and moved to State initiatives. If my bill were passed, we would not have this decade. The LWCF affects every geographic region in America, from a small park or bike trail in Flint, MI, to a wilderness area in northern Michigan. Like myself, the National Audubon Society, the Nation Recreation and Park Association, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Wilderness Society, the Defenders of Wildlife, the Trust for Public Land, the National Parks and Conservation Association, the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers, the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club and many more organizations who represent various interests across our country agree that the real issue here is that we are not spending enough money on the State and Federal level to conserve our Nation's heritage. As the population increases, land is quickly being developed. We must have the foresight, as our predecessors did in 1964, to realize that we must act now so that future generations will also have the opportunity to enjoy our precious public resources.

Mr. Speaker, the second bill I am introducing is the establishment of the St. Helena Island Scenic Area. St. Helena Island is a 241-acre island located in Lake Michigan about 6 miles west of the Mackinac Bridge. The island has been put up for sale by private landowners who are willing to sell it to the Federal Government. The island is contiguous to the Hiawatha National Forest.

For the last 10 years, the Michigan Lighthouse Association and the Boy Scouts of America have been restoring a lighthouse on the island that was originally built in 1873. This beautiful lighthouse and its grounds are the only development on the entire island.

St. Helena Island provides habitat for several endangered plants and animals, including the Pileated Woodpecker and the Bald Eagle. At the western end of the island, there is a 17-acre Great Blue Heron rookery which has been designated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as a refuge.

In designating this island as a National Scenic Area, we will ensure that it is given permanent protection for the enjoyment of future generations. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of these environmental initiatives.

MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the newly formed Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus of which I am a founding member. This caucus was formed in response to the rise of kidnapping and murder of young

children in this country. Each year hundreds of thousands of American families are confronted with this unique tragedy—a missing child. In the last 30 days in Texas alone, four children have been abducted and brutally murdered. This caucus has been organized to increase the awareness of these tragic occurrences and to introduce legislation to combat these heinous crimes.

I became painfully aware of the problem of repeat sex offenders who target children when a tragic situation occurred in Arlington, TX, which is part of my congressional district. On January 13, 1996, little Amber Hagerman, an innocent 9-year-old girl, was abducted and murdered. Amber was bright and pretty and was riding her bike on January 13 when someone came along and took her away.

We don't know who took her, but we do know that a little girl, just a child, was brutally murdered and her body left to be found. This case occurred in my congressional district, but I am sure that events like this have happened—sadly—in every corner of our country, in our cities, and in the heartlands.

Whoever took Amber didn't know and didn't care that she was an honor student who made all A's and B's. They didn't care that she was a Brownie who had lots of friends and who loved her little brother dearly. They didn't care that her whole life was ahead of her and that her parents wanted to watch her grow into the lovely young woman she promised to be.

This tragedy has focused public attention on the need to toughen laws for sex offenders, particularly offenders who victimize young children.

In response to this tragedy, I introduced the Amber Hagerman Protection Act and portions of this bill were attached to the Omnibus Appropriations Act, which was signed into law on September 30, 1996. The Amber Hagerman Child Protection Act expands Federal court jurisdiction over repeat child sex molesters who cross State lines and creates a two-strikes law which mandates life in prison after a second offense. The act also expands the death penalty. Prior to the enactment of the Amber Hagerman Act, Federal law provided for the death penalty on the first offense when a child is killed on Federal property or is kidnapped and taken across State lines. The Amber bill adds the death penalty when the person who murders the child has cross State lines with the intent of committing a sex offense.

I was very pleased that portions of this bill were signed into law last year; however, this is just the beginning. Clearly, the safety of our neighborhoods requires that additional laws be passed by Congress to keep sex offenders off the streets and it is my hope that this new caucus will learn what we can do on a legislative level.

As a caucus, we need to look at where the Justice Department is in terms of implementing a national registry system for sex offenders. Local enforcement agencies tell me that the best help they could get from the Federal Government is a national registry system for sex offenders, and we ought to make sure that this system is up and running in the near future.

Last year, the Pam Lychner Sexual Offender Tracking and Identification Act of 1996 was signed into law. This bill establishes, by law, a national registry system and will improve the minimum system the FBI is now establishing under the President's order. Prior or

the passage of the Pam Lychner Act, the President directed the Justice Department to develop within 60 days a plan for a national sex offender registry. It's imperative that an interim system be operational in the near future in order to assist the local law enforcement agencies.

This coming Sunday, May 25, is National Missing Children's Day. Back in 1983, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed May 25 National Missing Children's Day. And today, all across the country, groups will be holding candlelight vigils, memorials, and other events to increase public understanding and awareness of this national tragedy. We all need to get involved—parents, relatives, politicians, police, and other enforcement agencies—to direct attention to the problem of missing children.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that someday we will not need a National Missing Children's Day or caucus in Congress to combat the growing epidemic of missing and exploited children. It is my hope that someday every child in America will feel safe. It is my hope that someday every child will feel secure while riding his or her bicycle in the neighborhood. It is my hope that someday no parent will ever have to face the tragedy that Amber Hagerman's parents had to face last year. But until that day comes, we need to work together to protect this country's greatest asset—our children.

THE CRISPELL MIDDLE SCHOOL PAYS TRIBUTE AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, next week about 50 students from the Crispell Middle School in Pine Bush, NY, will be touring our Nation's Capital. The high point of their visit will be a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. The three students who will be presenting the wreath were chosen by means of an essay contest.

I found these essays to be so inspirational and informative for all of us that I ask that they be inserted in their entirety at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

(By Cass Bazelow)

"My only goal is when you leave for the highschool, you can pat yourself on the back and say your proud to be in the United States", a teacher said the first day of 8th grade. It totally slipped my mind until The Vietnam War was being discussed and it was said how many men and women gave their lives, for their country. A team. We are all a team and each give our part; some greater than others but all involved, to make us the great nation that we are. Giving one's life is the greatest contribution to any team and it deserves to be honored.

He was young, 18 to 19 years of age. He just got a girl-friend and a car and was planning what to do with the rest of his life. The political parties and situations in Vietnam were of no concern to him. That was the biggest mistake in his life because a few days later, he was drafted to save a country he didn't even live in—South Vietnam. The boy couldn't even vote on righteous things in his