

good intentions are involved on differing sides of an issue. I thank God that in America we have the freedom to debate this issue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 11 and Thursday, June 12, I appreciated being granted an excused absence due to a serious illness in my family. Due to that absence, I missed several rollcall votes.

Had I not been unavoidably absent on June 11, I would have voted in the following manner pertaining to amendments to H.R. 1757, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 201, an amendment to express the sense of Congress condemning the policy of Palestinian policy of imposing the death penalty for any Palestinian who sells land to a Jew.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 200, an amendment to prohibit funds made available under the Foreign Assistance Act for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the Russian Federation if that country transfers an SS-N-22 missile system to the People's Republic of China.

"Aye" on Rollcall vote No. 199, an amendment to prohibit foreign assistance to any country that assists the Libyan Government in circumventing United Nations sanctions. On May 8, Muammar Qadhafi defied the United Nations ban and flew to two neighbors countries.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 198, an amendment expressing the sense of Congress that Romania should be considered eligible for assistance under the provisions of the NATO Participation Act of 1984.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 197, an amendment expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Government should not prohibit the importation, sale, or distribution of Cuban cigars in the United States, or cigars that are the product of Cuba, at such time as the Government of Cuba has (1) freed all political prisoners, (2) legalized all political activities, and (3) agreed to hold free and fair elections.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 196, an amendment to express the sense of Congress that the militant organization Al-Faran should (1) release Donald Hutchings and four western Europeans from captivity; (2) cease and desist from all acts of hostage-taking and other violent acts within the state of Jammu and Kashmir in India.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 195, an amendment to require the President to impose financial transaction restrictions on the Government of Sudan and to express that it is the sense of Congress that the religious persecution and support of terrorism by the Government of Sudan is unacceptable.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 194, an amendment to restrict assistance to foreign organizations that perform or actively promote abortions and prohibiting the use of any funds authorized in the bill to be made available for the United Nations Population Fund in any fiscal year unless the President certifies that UNFPA has terminated all activities in the People's Republic of China, and during the 12 months

preceding such certification there have been no abortions as the result of coercion associated with the family planning policies of the national government or other governmental entities.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 193, an amendment to prohibit payment of U.S. arrearages to the U.N. until the U.N. complies with requirements that U.N. employees comply with child and spousal support orders issued by the U.S. courts.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 192, an amendment expressing the sense of Congress that the government of the Ukraine should be commended for their decision to relinquish the nuclear weapons in its possession after the demise of the Soviet Union, for declining to participate in the construction of nuclear reactors in Iran, and for taking a positive and cooperative position with regard to admission into NATO.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 191, an amendment requiring the Secretary of State to report to Congress every 3 months listing all complaints by the Government of Cuba to departments and agencies of the United States concerning actions taken by U.S. citizens or the U.S. Government.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 190, an amendment to require the President to report to Congress on any border closures or the use of an economic or commercial blockade by or against any of the new independent states of the former Soviet Union against any other country.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 189, an en bloc amendment consisting of several amendments: (1) expressing the sense of Congress that Peru should respect the rights of prisoners to timely legal procedures; (2) directing the State Department to monitor human rights progress in Ethiopia; (3) establishing special envoys to promote mutual disarmament; (4) expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should reconsider its proposed deal to transfer low-level nuclear waste to North Korea; (5) expressing the sense of Congress that the administration should support the Prime Minister of India in strengthening ties with the United States and that the President and Secretary of State should call on the President of Belarussia to defend and protect the sovereignty of Belarussia, (6) authorizing a congressional statement in support of Taiwan's efforts to be admitted to the World Trade Organization; (7) requiring the State Department to report to Congress on allegations of persecution of Hmong and Laotian refugees repatriated to Laos; (8) instituting "buy American" requirements; and (9) calling for the withholding of assistance to countries that provide nuclear fuel to Cuba.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 188, an amendment to prohibit funding for UNESCO World Heritage and Man and Biosphere programs.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 187, an amendment to strike the bill's provisions which establish new responsibilities for the office of inspector general at the State Department.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 186, an en bloc amendment consisting of several provisions: (1) allow non-Foreign Service Government employees to perform consular functions; (2) specify qualifications for the position of Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security; (3) change the authorized strength of the Foreign Service; (4) change the provisions of the bill concerning return of persons to countries

where they may be subject to torture; and (5) a technical amendment regarding the ecclesiastical patriarchy in Istanbul, Turkey.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 185, an amendment to require the State Department to report to Congress by March 1 of each year a listing of overseas U.S. surplus properties for sale and require the amounts received from such sales to be used for deficit reduction.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 184, an amendment to require the State Department to maintain records on each incident in which an individual with diplomatic immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the United States under the Vienna Convention committed a serious criminal offense within the United States.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 183, an amendment to end funds for continued TV Marti broadcasts to Cuba at the end of the current fiscal year if the President certifies that continued funding is not in the national interest of the United States.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 182, an amendment to express the sense of the Congress that the United States broadcasting through Radio Free Asia and Voice of America increase to continuous, 24-hour broadcasting in Mandarin, Cantonese, Tibetan, and that broadcasting in additional Chinese dialects be increased.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 181, an amendment, consisting of several amendments offered en bloc to strike the provisions of the bill allowing the State Department to retain for operating expenses up to \$500 million in immigration, passport, and other fees. The amendment would raise authorized funding levels in the bill to compensate for the loss in operation funding.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 180, an amendment to modify the bill's provisions to consolidate certain foreign affairs agencies into the State Department.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 179, an amendment to reduce the authorized spending levels in the bill for fiscal year 1998 and fiscal year 1999 to the amount appropriated in fiscal year 1997.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 178, an amendment to prohibit funds made available under the Foreign Assistance Act for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the Russian Federation if that country transfers an SS-N-22 missile system to the People's Republic of China.

Had I not been unavoidably absent on June 12, I would have voted:

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 203, making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, including those in Bosnia, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997.

"Aye" on rollcall vote No. 202, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

AMENDING IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT, H.R. 1961

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 1961, a bill which would amend

the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize the Attorney General to continue to treat certain petitions approved under section 204 of the act as valid, notwithstanding the death of the petitioner or beneficiary.

In the past, circumstances have arisen where a family has been petitioned for the right to immigrate to the United States. In these cases, the papers were in order and preliminary approval was granted. However, before final approval was given, either the head of the family or the family's petitioner died unexpectedly. As a result, under current law, when the beneficiary died, the surviving spouse and children are unable to immigrate and must begin the process again. In cases where the petitioner died, the family wishing to immigrate must likewise restart the application process.

This legislation would allow the Attorney General, acting for humanitarian reasons, to disregard such a death in applying the provisions of this act to either the surviving spouse and children, in the case of a beneficiary's death, or to the beneficiary and family in the case of a petitioner's death.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation which will correct an unforeseen, yet unfortunate injustice in our Nation's immigration laws.

H.R. 1961

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TREATMENT OF CLASSIFICATION PETITIONS UPON DEATH OF PETITIONER OR BENEFICIARY.

Section 205 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1155) is amended—

(1) by striking "The Attorney General" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Attorney General"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) EFFECT OF DEATH ON CERTAIN PETITIONS.—

"(1) DEATH OF PETITIONER.—In any case in which a person who has filed a petition under section 204 on behalf of a beneficiary dies after the approval of the petition, the Attorney General may, for humanitarian reasons, disregard such death in applying the provisions of this Act to the beneficiary and any spouse or child of the beneficiary.

"(2) DEATH OF BENEFICIARY.—In any case in which a beneficiary of a petition filed under section 204 dies after the approval of the petition, the Attorney General may, for humanitarian reasons, disregard such death in applying the provisions of this Act to any spouse or child of the beneficiary."

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 437) to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes:

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 437, to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program. The

Sea Grant program is one of the few Federal programs that attempts to address specific public needs while simultaneously conducting innovative research through academic institutions.

The program has made measurable contributions in aquatic resource management and sustainable economic development while working for the protection and maintenance of marine and costal resources. As we continue to develop our costal areas, the need for sound marine science as a guide for wise and sustainable growth becomes increasingly vital.

In addition to conducting solid and applicable research, Sea Grant also works to train students for related careers. Many of the students who work with Sea Grant today will be the marine scientists and resource management experts of tomorrow. This investment in costal development and preservation will have tremendous future value.

The Sea Grant program supports research in over 200 participating universities throughout the United States and Territories. But Sea Grant is not just about research, it is about scientifically sound public policy. Through partnerships between academic, government, and business entities, Sea Grant research impacts decisions that effect our costal environments and the people that live there. This is especially important for an island community such as Guam.

Currently, the University of Guam works in collaboration with the University of Hawaii through their Sea Grant program. However, Guam looks forward to having separate Sea Grant status at some point in time.

I urge my colleagues to support this investment in the future of our costal communities. Sea Grant is good for our economy, good for our environment, and good for our students.

IN CELEBRATION OF HAROLD AND MALKAH SCHULWEIS 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th wedding anniversary of Rabbi Harold and Malkah Schulweis.

Harold and Malkah were introduced at a seminary prom. Harold was so captivated, he immediately pursued her. A short time later they had their first date and on the second date he asked her to marry him. She said no, but a year later they were happily engaged to be married on June 22, 1947.

Their life together began in a tiny New York apartment. The war had just ended and they were beginning their lives together with nothing but the desire to build a life of love and dedication to one another. It is for this dedication which I honor them today.

When Malkah became pregnant with their first born, Seth, they decided it was time for a change and they moved to Oakland, CA. Eleven months later their second child, Ethan, was born, followed by their only daughter Alisa. Today, they are the proud grandparents of 12 wonderful grandchildren.

Their children recall great memories which illustrate the love which Harold and Malkah

share. She has opened the aesthetic world of art and music for him, while he has broadened her spiritual horizons—they complete each other.

Few words come close to describing the love that Harold and Malkah share, but I think Robert Frost said it best when he said "Love at the lips was touch, as sweet as I could bear; and once that seemed too much; I lived on air."

It is an honor to join the family and friends of Harold and Malkah Schulweis as they reach this milestone and celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO MARY STRASSMEYER

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Mary Strassmeyer, an outstanding member of the journalistic community and columnist for the Plain Dealer newspaper. After more than 40 years as a journalist, Mary is retiring from the trade. On June 23, 1997, colleagues and friends will gather for a special retirement party in Mary's honor. I take pride in recognizing Mary Strassmeyer for her many achievements, and wishing her well as she brings to a close this chapter of her life.

Mary Strassmeyer is a graduate of Notre Dame College, as well as Cleveland State University's Cleveland-Marshall School of Law. She is a member of the Ohio State Bar and maintains her own law practice. Ms. Strassmeyer joined the Plain Dealer newspaper in 1960 as a feature writer. In the years before she was named society editor in 1965, she also served as beauty editor, assistant travel editor, and interim fashion editor.

Mr. Speaker, readers of the Plain Dealer are the beneficiaries of Mary Strassmeyer's talents as an adept and skilled writer. She has charmed the public with her columns in the newspaper, including her current column, "Mary, Mary." Like many readers, I enjoy the information, insight, and entertainment provided by "Mary, Mary." From society parties to current events, Mary Strassmeyer has covered it all, and with a special flair that she alone possesses. One of the highlights of her career came in 1994 when Mary was inducted into the press club of Cleveland's Journalism Hall of Fame. It is just one of the many honors which have been accorded her during a very distinguished career.

The departure of Mary Strassmeyer from the Plain Dealer also brings to mind the friendship that I have shared with her over the years. Mary Strassmeyer is a woman whom I admire and respect. She is also a person of the highest caliber and integrity. I am grateful for her friendship, and I join her friends and colleagues in wishing her much continued success.