

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1119) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, the amendment to H.R. 1119 that I bring to the desk requires the Defense Department, by January 1, 1998, to submit to Congress a report on the feasibility and desirability of converting active guard reserve (AGR) personnel (active duty reservists who are involved with organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training other reservists) to dual-status technicians.

Mr. Chairman, my involvement in this issue comes from the best example of the democratic process at work; a constituent request. During the 105th Congress, a constituent implored me to look into this program, ask for a study that would hopefully lead to a change in it by converting AGR personnel to dual-status technicians in order to save the tax payer more than 2.61 billion dollars per year. This number has been confirmed by General Accounting Office studies and should not be ignored. Therefore, I ask that Congress require the Secretary of Defense to conduct its own study which I and many others believe, will yield the same evidence from the G.A.O. and Rand Corporation studies.

In the current political climate where Federal governmental agencies and programs like N.E.A. and welfare are being scrutinized for their relevance and cost-effectiveness—Pentagon programs should be subject to the same scrutiny and analysis, DOD should be required to undergo the same type of introspection, study and analysis. My amendment requiring the DOD to undertake this study is non-controversial, pragmatic and necessary if Congress is to gain a full and objective picture of the age—dual status technician issue and its possible reform. I thank you for your consideration of this amendment.

VETERANS' CEMETERY PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee, I know that our military men and women devote years of service to our country. We must honor our commitment to our current military, but must not forget about our veterans. To do so would be to abandon the very things that our veterans have fought so hard to preserve.

The American Government entered into a compact with the men and women who put

their lives on the line for our freedom. We must make sure that the Government lives up to its end of the bargain. We owe our veterans the respect they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women buried at national cemeteries across the country deserve our deepest respect and thanks. Unfortunately, vandals and thieves have made a mockery of their final resting places by desecrating Riverside National Cemetery, which is located just outside of my district in Riverside County, and most recently, the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii.

I applaud my colleague from Riverside for his swift work to introduce and bring to the floor H.R. 1532, the Veterans' Cemetery Protection Act. Ken Calvert recognized that deliberate acts of vandalism against America's fallen comrades must not be tolerated. Demeaning and degrading the final resting place of veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for the Nation strikes at all veterans and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as a former naval officer, these acts of vandalism touch me directly. I firmly believe that criminal penalties for theft and vandalism and National Cemeteries must be imposed. The Veterans' Cemetery Protection Act will do just that. I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to support this important legislation. Our veterans gave their all for our country. We must give them nothing less in return.

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF MISSION SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S GREAT TREASURES

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today is the 200th anniversary of Mission San Juan Bautista, which was founded on June 24, 1797, by Father Fermin Francisco de Lasuen, a Spanish basque Franciscan priest. It was the feast day of Saint John the Baptist.

As we go about our daily business in the Capitol, we frequently see the statue of Junipero Serra, the founder of what became the 21-mission system which begins in the south at San Diego and extends over 600 miles to the north.

Father Serra had the vision of missions that would be the centers of Christian education and practice in their particular area. The missions were ultimately also the educators and the producers and manufacturers of the clothes and food needed in what was to become the State of California in 1850.

In modern management terminology, Father Serra was the visionary chairman of the board/chief executive officer. Father Lasuen was the quietly effective chief operating officer with the talent and organizational skills to carry out the vision. With the death of Serra in 1784, Lasuen soon became his most energetic successor. In 1 year, Lasuen founded four missions including San Juan Bautista. Given the difficulties of transportation and communication that was a remarkable feat.

San Juan Bautista is the largest mission in continuous service since its founding. It is the only mission with three aisles. Some of the

other missions are in ruins. Still others, such as Santa Barbara, have been beautifully restored after an earthquake in 1925. Fortunately, San Juan Bautista is still in its original condition, despite being within a mile of the San Andreas Fault. Eight miles away is Hollister, the county seat of San Benito County. That community of 20,000 is known as "the earthquake capital of California." The Franciscan priests were architects, builders, administrators, and educators, among their numerous roles. With foresight, the mission is constructed of large adobe bricks. They have now withstood the tremors of two centuries.

The bicentennial festivities were spread over the period from Friday, June 20 through Wednesday, June 25. Friday began with a 6:30 p.m. Kiddie Parade.

Sunday was not only a beautiful day to celebrate the continuity provided by the mission but also the first formal recognition of the role of Father Lasuen.

All of us were delighted that a delegation of community leaders from Vitoria, Spain, were able to join us. Father Lasuen grew up in Vitoria, the capital of a largely Basque province. A relative of the distinguished American author of the history of the Basque people read a letter from his uncle, Robert Laxalt, author of the *Sweet Promised Land*. Laxalt described Lasuen as "The Quiet Legend who was seasoned by experience, a wise administrator and a spiritual leader tempered by reality."

Under the dedicated and able leadership of Bicentennial Committee Chairman Leonard Caetano, who with the help of his wife—and my classmate—Rosemary (Mim), and a hard-working group of committee members an amazing array of activities were arranged for the several thousand who participated in this unique celebration.

Some of the Sunday events included:

6:30 a.m.—Re-enactment of the founding of the mission.

7:00 a.m.—Bilingual mass followed by a pancake breakfast.

10:00 a.m.—A parade which included bands, dancers, horses and wagons, one of which was masterfully driven by Romaldo Martin of the M & M Farms who was joined by his friend George Nunes. They ably made it through the streets with this U.S. Representative, who grew up on a ranch five miles from the mission, standing up and waving to a friendly crowd.

11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.—A chicken barbecue.

3:00 p.m.—Dedication of the bronze bust of Father Lasuen.

4:00 p.m.—Grand prize drawing for a pickup truck. This is still farm country.

The dedication was particularly moving. The Native Sons of the Golden West, the Native Daughters of the Golden West, and the Daughters of the American Revolution presented generous checks for the restoration fund. Besides myself, Assemblyman Peter Frusetta made a formal presentation on behalf of the California State Assembly. A representative of State Senator McPherson made a similar presentation on behalf of the State Senate.

The crowd was pleased to hear from the current priest Father Edward Fitz-Henry. His predecessor was Father Maximilian Santa Maria, who inspired the community to celebrate this significant milestone in the history of the mission. His humor was enjoyed by all. He

was the able translator for the guests from Vitoria.

The bust of Father Lasuen by Alberto Forrester was appreciated by all. It contains the likeness that various accounts of the time have noted and as historian Robert Laxalt has summarized: Father Lasuen "was a young man of medium height, a ruddy complexion, a pock-marked face—probably from small pox, a moderate growth of beard, black-eyed and black hair."

The letter from Robert Laxalt and the words from the heart of the delegation from Vitoria were well received.

Throughout the celebration, there was active participation by a number of the Native American tribes such as the Mutsun whose ancestors made San Juan Bautista one of the most prosperous of the 21 missions. Their artistry was in evidence throughout the city.

Mission San Juan Bautista was also a major center for church music. In the early eighteen hundreds, Indiana youth were trained to read music and harmonize by following their colored notes up and down the scale. Their voices filled the air as the chords and bells were heard in the small town that was growing and in the productive green valley that lies below.

Cheryl Miller, a reporter for the Hollister Free Lance interviewed Sonne Reyna, a member of the local American Indian Intertribal Council, who said that "the bicentennial is a time for 'reconciliation' between the Native American and mission communities." Reyna added that the members of "the bicentennial committee have been very sensitive of what we as an Intertribal Council want to do to honor the ancestors."

Other active participants were the California state park rangers who provide interpretation of the history of the area from the Castro House and the Plaza Hotel on the south of the mission plaza and the barn, stable, and houses on the east. There are some fine specimens of equipment and wagons from the latter part of the 19th century.

Eleven miles away is Fremont Peak, named in honor of John Charles Fremont, "the Pathfinder," whose topographic expedition came to the area in the 1840's and raised the American flag over what was then Mexican territory. General Castro looked at the Americans through his spyglass. They looked down at him. No damage was done by either side. After three days, the Fremont expedition headed east to the United States of America whose boundary was still far from the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Speaker, it was a privilege to be asked to speak on this significant occasion. When I was in grammar school at San Juan, my mother, Isabelle McCaffrey Horn, was the speaker at an annual "Peak Day" to celebrate Fremont's raising of the American flag for the first time in California.

Then and now, San Juan is "A City of History" as the banner was inscribed at the western entrance.

For the return of a native son who has never forgotten his roots, it was also an opportunity to see classmates from both elementary and high school and to meet the current community leaders.

If our fellow citizens wish to live for a moment in a proud past, they should visit San Juan, its mission, El Teatro Campesino, its well preserved homes from another century, and meet the dedicated group of those who

deeply care about historic preservation. It would be time well spent.

Mr. Speaker, I have attached some of the newspaper coverage which preceded the celebration. They include the Pinnacle (June 19, 1997), the Hollister Free Lance (June 20, 1997), and the Dispatch, located in Gilroy which is 10 miles north of San Juan.

[From the Pinnacle, June 19, 1997]

SAN JUAN TO CELEBRATE MISSION'S 200TH BIRTHDAY

Beginning tomorrow (Friday) and running through Tuesday, Mission San Juan Bautista will be a beehive of activity as thousands of visitors are expected to help celebrate the mission's bicentennial.

A Kiddie Parade will kick off activities Friday, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, beginning at 8 a.m., there will be a reading of names of individuals buried in the mission cemetery, followed at 10:30 by a Native American blessing.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. the Fiesta, complete with food, games and entertainment, will take place and at 5:30 p.m. there will be a bilingual mass. Crowning of the queen is scheduled for 8 p.m. Saturday on the plaza, followed by two dances at 9, one featuring Mexican music at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall and another, at the Community Center, for the country music crowd.

A full day of activities is slated for Sunday, beginning at 6:30 a.m. with re-enactment of the founding of the mission, at 7 there will be a bilingual mass and pancake breakfast.

The parade through downtown San Juan Bautista will be at 10 a.m. Chairman Leonard Caetano is expecting more than 100 entries in the parade.

A second day of Fiesta activities begins at 11 and continues until 5 p.m. The chicken barbecue will also take place between 11 and 5.

At 3 p.m. Sunday there will be a dedication of the bronze statue of Father Fermin de Lasuen, founder of the mission. At 4 p.m. the grand prize drawing of a pick-up truck will take place.

A bilingual prayer session is set for 6 p.m. on Monday.

On Tuesday, beginning at 10 a.m. a blessing of the chapel service is scheduled. The bicentennial luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by a mass at 3 p.m. and reception at 4:30. The bicentennial dinner dance is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday and is the final activity of the four day event.

[From the Hollister Free Lance, June 20, 1997]

MISSION CELEBRATES 200TH YEAR

(By Cheryl Miller)

A celebration 200 years in the making starts tonight with a parade commemorating Mission San Juan Bautista's bicentennial.

The Kiddie Parade begins at 6:30 p.m. at Mutkelem and Third streets and ends at the corner of Polk and Second. A full slate of ceremonies, games, dances and meals resumes at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

Preparation activities were still under way Thursday afternoon.

"We'll be ready when it gets here," said Leonard Caetano, chairman of the mission bicentennial committee. "We're busy as a bunch of beavers."

The official bicentennial is Tuesday. On that day 200 years ago, Father Fermin de Lasuen, a Franciscan priest, established the mission along what is now known to be the San Andreas Fault.

The mission was one of eight established by de Lasuen and the 15th among 21 founded

by the Franciscans in what was referred to as Alta, California. Thanks to the work of members of various Native American tribes, Mission San Juan Bautista became one of the most prosperous sites in the Franciscan's chain.

The mission today is one of the best preserved sites in the former statewide chain. Its church is the only one with three aisles and officials claim a Mass has been said there every day since its founding.

The mission has had a lasting impact on the city that grew up around it. San Juan Bautista was once an important stopping point for stages that traveled between Northern and Southern California. Tourism remains a top industry today in the town often referred to as the Mission City.

A state park grew up around the mission as well. Today, 40,000 fourth-graders is it the park annually to study the buildings of the people who lived near the mission in its various eras.

The mission itself remains an active Catholic church. The mission hosts regular services for parishioners, weddings and ceremonies for the community. The total theater group, El Teatro Campesino, plays to sold out crowds in the mission every holiday season.

The weekend's activities include a full slate of tributes to the founders, Native Americans, and others who contributed to the mission.

A bronze statue of Father de Lasuen, donated by the residents of his hometown, Vitoria, Spain, will be dedicated in front of the mission Sunday at 3 p.m.

A Native American blessing will be said at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, at the plaza. A roll call of the names of about 200 Mutsun Indians buried in the mission will then be read.

Sonne Reyna, a member of the San Juan American Indian Intertribal Council, said the bicentennial is a time for "reconciliation" between the Native American and mission communities.

"We feel that the padre and the bicentennial committee have been very sensitive of what we as an Intertribal Council want to do to honor the ancestors," Reyna said.

Members of the San Juan Indian Council and an inter-tribal delegation will be participating in various bicentennial events.

A fiesta featuring a barbecue, a raffle, games and music will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Events resume Tuesday when Bishop Sylvester Ryan will bless a newly restored chapel located behind the current church. The tiny chapel was built in 1797 but abandoned by the church in favor of a larger facility.

It was used as a schoolroom and gift shop and then nearly forgotten until restoration work began last year. After the bicentennial celebration, the chapel will likely be opened for regular use, according to church officials.

The weekend's bicentennial celebration is being dedicated to Anthony Botelho, a San Juan resident who was active in both the community and mission life. He died last November at the age of 83.

"He was probably as active as anybody ever was," said Caetano. "He started (working in the mission community) when he was 16 and he was even planning for the bicentennial when he fell ill and passed away."

A ceremony in Botelho's honor is tentatively scheduled between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday at the plaza.

[From the Gilroy, CA Dispatch, June 20, 1997]

CELEBRATION OF MISSION SJ BAUTISTA'S 200TH YEAR

(By Cheryl Miller)

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA.—A celebration 200 years in the making begins tonight in the

Mission City commemorating Mission San Juan Bautista's bicentennial.

"We'll be ready when it gets here," said Leonard Caetano, chairman of the mission bicentennial committee. "We're busy as a bunch of beavers."

A Kiddie Parade begins at 6:30 p.m., and a full slate of ceremonies, games, dances and meals resumes at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

The official bicentennial is Tuesday, and on that 200 years ago, Father Fermin de Lasuen, a Franciscan priest, established the mission along what is now known to be the San Andreas Fault.

The mission was one of eight established by Lausen and the 15th among 21 created by the Franciscans in what was then referred to as Alta California. Thanks to the work of members of various Native American tribes, Mission San Juan Bautista became one of the most prosperous sites in the Franciscan's chain, producing the largest crop among the 21.

The mission today is one of the best preserved sites in the former statewide chain. Its church is the only one with three aisles and church officials claim a mass has been said there every day since its foundation.

The mission has had far-reaching effects on the city that grew up around it as well. San Juan Bautista was once an important shopping point for stages that traveled between Northern and Southern California. And tourism remains a top industry today. The town is often referred to as the Mission City.

A state park grew up around the mission as well. Today, 40,000 fourth-graders visit the park annually to study the buildings of the people who lived near the mission in its various eras.

The mission itself remains an active Catholic Church and hosts daily services for parishioners, weddings and ceremonies for the community.

The weekend's activities include a full slate of tributes to the Spaniards, Native Americans and others who contributed to the mission. A bronze statue of Father de Lasuen, donated by the people of Vitoria, Spain, de Lausen's hometown, will be dedicated in front of the mission Sunday at 3 p.m.

A Native American blessing will be said at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the plaza. A roll call of the names of about 200 Mutsun Indians buried in the mission cemetery will be read.

Sonne Reyna, a member of the San Juan American Indian Intertribal Council, said the bicentennial is a time for "reconciliation" between the Native American and mission communities.

"We feel that the padre and the bicentennial committee have been very sensitive and very supportive of what we as an Intertribal Council want to do to honor the ancestors," Reyna said.

Members of the San Juan Indian Council and inter-tribal delegation will be participating throughout the weekend's events.

A fiesta featuring a barbecue, raffle, games and music will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Events resume Tuesday when Bishop Sylvester Ryan will bless a newly restored chapel, located in back of the current church. The tiny chapel was built in 1797 but abandoned by the church in favor of a larger facility.

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WHERE IS THE SUCCESS IN OUR CURRENT POLICY TOWARD CHINA?

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I have voted against MFN status for China every year since becoming a U.S. Representative in 1993. I will vote against MFN status for China again today.

The economic reforms initiated by the Chinese Government in 1978 have vastly improved the lives of the Chinese people. I understand the argument that this improvement has led to better opportunities for the people of China and I hope that China's economy will keep growing and the lives of its people improve. However, I cannot ignore the fact that this economic liberalization has been carried out under a politically repressive regime that does not respect the basic rights or dignity of its people. Hopefully, in the years to come, more economic freedom will lead to political freedom. But, until that day comes, we cannot close our eyes to the Chinese Government's unpardonable behavior.

The United States has much to gain by engaging the leaders of China on a broad range of issues. Nonetheless, engagement must not become an excuse for a lack of principle or a lack of will on the part of the United States to stand up for American beliefs. Respect for Chinese sovereignty does not mean that the United States must ignore behavior by the Chinese Government that we regard as reprehensible.

For many years, the debate on MFN served as a useful inducement for the Chinese Government to improve its human rights record. There are good people in the United States who believe that the annual debate now does more harm than good. They believe ending China's MFN status would serve no useful purpose. I disagree. One compelling reason the debate carries little weight with the Chinese Government now is that China has come to take annual extension of MFN status for granted. I question whether the leaders of the Chinese regime would treat American concerns so cavalierly if they believed that China would suffer an economic disadvantage because of their behavior.

Since President Clinton delinked human rights from the extension of MFN, China has exported nuclear weapons technology and ballistic missiles in violation of its treaty commitments. It has supported nations hostile to the United States and continues its military threats

against Taiwan. China has also failed to enforce bilateral agreements with the United States on intellectual property which costs American businesses and workers billions of dollars in lost profits and wages.

But even worse, China has imprisoned still more domestic critics and threatened foreign individuals and organizations who rightly criticize the government in Beijing. China increasingly jails those who practice their faith. In short, China has failed to comply with human rights conventions it has agreed to in international treaties and it has flagrantly disregarded attempts by the United States to achieve a better footing for bilateral relations. The delinking of human rights from MFN has caused more harm than the much-needed Congressional debate on Chinese behavior.

Although China does offer an important and growing market for American goods, the American business community has seen minimal gains in many Chinese markets—and suffered in others—as China plays one nation off against another in an attempt to affect policy. I agree that trade with China is a matter of great importance, not only to our trade-based economy and our national security, but also to the future development of China and the rights of its people. But trade, and our overall relationship with China, must be a two-way street. American policy cannot be based on what Beijing wants. Our policy should reflect what is in the long term interest of our fellow citizens.

Soon, Hong Kong will be controlled again by China. What will the United States do if freedom is smothered by the Chinese authorities? What will this House do? The current U.S. position on engaging China is more hope than policy. I applaud the efforts of many of my colleagues—including David Dreier, Chris Cox, Robert Matsui, John Porter, and others—who are working on legislation that will establish a meaningful policy of engagement with China. We need a framework that will propose real actions to engage and respond to China and a policy that China cannot take for granted.

Whether or not the United States and China can coexist peacefully in the next century is one of the great questions we must all consider. If we are to live in peace, how will we establish a relationship to do so? The United States must develop a plan for working realistically and constructively with China to solve the many issues of concern to both countries. The United States and China need to establish a relationship based on mutual trust and respect. Unfortunately, I do not believe such a relationship exists today. I cannot vote to support MFN in good conscience because of the many serious concerns I have stated. However, I strongly support efforts that offer the promise of a real dialogue with China about fundamental American beliefs regarding dignity and fairness. I also strongly support the creation of a relationship in which American concerns are treated with the same sensitivity as America has treated China's concerns.