

pay tribute to Fire Chief Edward R. Oberg of Holden, MA, who is retiring after 40 remarkable years fighting fires and protecting our families.

Over the course of his career, Ed Oberg has put the lives of complete and total strangers before his own. His entire career epitomizes a common hero. He's not on the news, in the papers, or on the radio. Yet, his commitment to public safety will not be forgotten.

Ed began fighting fires in January 1957, and has been rewarded time and again for his remarkable service. In December 1970, he was appointed lieutenant of the fire department, and only 5 years later he was promoted to captain of the department. Three years later, in 1978, he was appointed fire chief. He was also a member of numerous organizations including the Greater Worcester Fire Chiefs Association, where he served a term as president, and the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts, on whose board of directors he served for 10 years.

Mr. Oberg and his wife, Virginia, are the proud parents of three children: Steven, Anthony, and Bianca and three grandchildren: Lynn, Steven, and Kelley. Ed has served the town of Holden with courage, loyalty, and excellence. His service will be sorely missed by those who relied on his tireless dedication to the town of Holden.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ARMS SURPLUS REFORM ACT OF 1997

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Arms Surplus Reform Act of 1997. This legislation will bring much needed reform to the sale of military surplus materiel by the Department of Defense.

If military surplus were simply a matter of combat boots, camouflage, and fatigues, this legislation would not be necessary. But for those in the know, Pentagon surplus can mean a cheap, nearly untraceable supply of weapons and weapons parts that cost the U.S. Government billions of dollars to purchase.

According to the current system, each piece of equipment that the Pentagon designates as surplus is assigned a demilitarization code, or "demil" code. Demilitarization represents the work necessary to make surplus materiel fit for sale to civilians: twisting of gun barrels, mutilation of helicopter frames, removal of explosives from bombs, erasing the memory and software from military application computers, et cetera. Equipment is graded on an alphabetical scale. An "A" code signifies benign materiel when no demilitarization is necessary. A "D" code requires extensive demilitarization before surplus sale.

The problem lies in the execution of the process. Equipment is coded incorrectly and almost always too easily. When Pentagon investigators did a random survey of surplus stock, they found missile simulators, bombs, guidance systems for cruise missiles, fully functional automatic weapons, as well as other potentially deadly materiels. Enforcement of procedure is so lax that an Air Force base in Georgia lost track of \$39 million worth of surplus materiel.

This situation represents more than a fiscal threat to our country. Sophisticated weaponry is finding its way to foreign interests while criminals in the United States rely on military surplus to outfit their operations. A methamphetamine lab run by a national gang was raided by drug enforcement agents in Los Angeles, who found machine guns and flame throwers traceable to arms surplus. One military surplus supplier was outfitting Cobra attack helicopters for resale. According to a story filed in U.S. News and World Report, one such citizen, Ron Garlick of Montana, said, "Mine was fully armed. I had rockets on it and machine guns. I was out there shooting coyotes with them." It's a good thing Mr. Garlick was not shooting at people, the Cobra attack helicopter is one of the deadliest helicopters in the world.

The problem extends beyond domestic purchases. The Chinese are the biggest buyers of sensitive electronic surplus materiel. Among the items recovered from Chinese scrap dealers were encryption devices, submarine parts, radar systems, tubes for Patriot missiles, and parts of the Stealth F-117A fighter. Iran and Iraq are also reported to be large purchasers of military surplus.

As former Secretary of Defense William Taft wrote during the Reagan administration, "... a U.S. Customs investigation has confirmed that the defense surplus system is a source of supply for arms traffickers." The thought of the U.S. Government supplying arms to terrorists, drug runners, and foreign interests is a very disturbing one.

It gets worse. Customs officials examined 240 tons of electronic scrap headed for Hong Kong which originated from the Pentagon Defense Reutilization Marketing Organization [DRMO] base in San Antonio, TX. The officials found massive amounts of sensitive communications and encryption equipment—none of which should have been available for civilian purchase. Thirty-seven internal guidance systems for the Stealth bomber—at an original cost of \$22 million—were headed for Shanghai, without any demilitarization modifications whatsoever.

At Robbins Air Force Base in Macon, GA, the DRMO had adopted a expedited processing program. To speed things up and obtain more sales, a surplus sales manager at Robbins told DRMO investigators she had falsified documents and demilitarization statements, registering weapons and other equipment as scrap that was then made available for sale fully intact.

The Pentagon seems unwilling to correct this problem. Perhaps it is a case of misplaced priorities. An internal e-mail message at the Pentagon laid out the priorities of the surplus program as "1. Profits 2. Profits 3. Profits 4. Profits . . . 6. Accountability"—priority No. 7 was demilitarizing lethal weapons. With the Pentagon unwilling to face the problem, the system needs congressional intervention.

This legislation does not outlaw surplus sales. This bill will not infringe on the rights of collectors or enthusiasts. This bill will absolutely be cost effective because we will no longer be selling Stealth fighter parts at 16 a pound. This legislation simply halts sales and gives the Defense Logistics Agency the time necessary to fix the problems in the program.

The Arms Surplus Reform Act of 1997 will place a moratorium on all surplus arms sales

until the Pentagon gets its house in order. To lift the moratorium, the director of the Defense Logistics Agency must certify to Congress that: the Department of Defense inspector general has completed a full inventory of military surplus stores and stock; the Defense Logistics Agency has reviewed and correctly classified all improper demilitarization codes; and the Comptroller General has reviewed the surplus sales process and made recommendations to the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency concerning improvements to the program.

Currently each service Branch codes its own surplus. The legislation would establish a central coding office within the Defense Logistics Agency which would have oversight over all surplus coding. The central coding office would also oversee the demilitarization of equipment before civilian sale.

To fight abuses of the surplus sale program, the legislation would create a record of sale for military surplus which contains the following: the Department of Defense source of the item, including the military base where it was demilitarized and sold; the degree of demilitarization required and performed; the name of the person purchasing the item and other such information as the Secretary of Defense deems appropriate.

This legislation would also prohibit the Defense Logistics Agency from advertising its available surplus stock on the Internet until the conditions for lifting the moratorium have been met.

I would like to thank my colleagues who have joined me as original cosponsors of this bill. I am grateful to them and share their vision of a more peaceful world. I thank Ms. PELOSI of California, Ms. SLAUGHTER of New York, Mr. LIPINSKI of Illinois, Mr. FILNER of California, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. YATES of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, Mr. SANDERS of Vermont, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN of the Virgin Islands, Mrs. LOWEY of New York, Mr. KUCINICH of Illinois, Mr. MCDERMOTT of Washington, Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. SABO of Minnesota, and Mr. GUTERREZ of Illinois for joining me in this effort.

There is no excuse for the fraud and abuse in this program—especially when these problems lead to deadly consequences. To quote William Portanova, an Assistant U.S. Attorney in California, "On its best day, the military surplus system is morally embarrassing to the government . . . and it never has a best day." Let's change that.

I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ME- MORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN DILLTOWN, PA

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity before my colleagues in the House of Representatives to congratulate and pay tribute to the Memorial Baptist Church of Dilltown, PA, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this month.

It gives me great pride—and at the same time, humility—to be able to stand before you

to tell you about a church that has been part of its community for an entire century. Memorial Baptist, and many other small churches like it, have been quietly going about their work of teaching and strengthening families and communities so long that we hardly realize, until we stop and think about it, to what great extent they form the backbone of our country. A 100-year anniversary gives us this opportunity.

Memorial Baptist Church has been a source of strength to its members and neighbors through many hard times. The church has provided spiritual support through two World Wars, the Great Depression, two more wars, times of social upheaval that tore many communities apart across our country, and the family struggles that come with many years of high unemployment. Dilltown is a very small, close-knit rural community located in southwestern Pennsylvania, a region hard-hit economically by the downsizing of the steel industry some years ago. Were it not for the good works of the small community churches like Memorial Baptist, many families might have been torn apart—many people might have lost their faith and their hope.

But the Memorial Baptist Church has continued on, continued to be there to serve the people of Dilltown, and for that, we should all be humbly grateful.

So again, I congratulate the pastor and members of Memorial Baptist Church on its 100th anniversary of service to God and community. Keep up the good work, and may you be there for 1,000 more years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently missed rollcall vote No. 458 on September 26, 1997. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the Bartlett amendment to strike funding for payments for U.N. international organization arrearages and U.N. international peacekeeping arrearages.

TRIBUTE TO THEODORE W. CHERRY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man whose years of service to South Brunswick, NJ, has made him an icon of the community. Ted Cherry, a former mayor and committeeman of South Brunswick Township was recently honored during a regular meeting of the township committee.

State representatives and members of the committee joined together in honoring Mr. Cherry, South Brunswick's first African-American mayor. Mr. Cherry, the town's mayor in 1979, 1980, and 1982, received a standing ovation while being honored with a resolution passed by both houses of the New Jersey State Legislature. The State honored Mr. Cherry for exemplifying the "true meaning of selfless public service."

Mr. Speaker, Ted Cherry's years of unselfish, dedication to the people of South Brunswick is an example of strong, objective leadership in public service.

"We are here tonight to say we admire you and we feel indebted to you," said State Senator Peter Inverso. This was only one of many kind words that were said about Mr. Cherry. Ted Cherry is an inspiration to us all by the fair and personable way he conducted himself during his tenure as a public official.

As a former local official, I am well aware of the countless hours of hard work that all local officials endure for their fellow residents. I am pleased to join with my fellow elected officials in New Jersey in recognizing the efforts of Ted Cherry.

EQUITY FOR IMMIGRANTS ACT

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, the legislation I am introducing today, the Equity for Immigrants Act, will pay to restore benefits to legal immigrants by cutting corporate subsidies the Federal Government provides to arms merchants for sale of weapons systems to other countries. I am very pleased that 15 other Members are joining me as original cosponsors.

When the welfare reform bill was passed in the summer of last year, I pledged to restore benefits that were denied to legal immigrants. Before then, legal immigrants were eligible for a wide variety of public assistance. I am a legal immigrant and I felt it was extremely unfair to place nearly half the burden of welfare reform squarely on the backs of taxpaying legal immigrants.

Federal spending is all about choices. Earlier this year, this House easily added \$27 billion for B-2 bombers that no one wanted. We can provide benefits for legal immigrants who play by the rules, pay taxes, and carry the same responsibilities as citizens.

The Balanced Budget Act that became law in August restored over half of the benefits that had been denied to legal immigrants. My legislation, the Equity for Immigrants Act, restores the remainder of those benefits at a cost of \$9.5 billion over 5 years and pays for them by eliminating \$9.5 billion in wasteful subsidies provided to U.S. defense contractors.***HD***welfare reform bills

Last year's welfare reform bill established comprehensive new restrictions on the eligibility of legal immigrants for means-tested public assistance. The savings derived from denying benefits to legal immigrants were estimated at \$21 billion over 5 years, accounting for nearly half the savings in the entire welfare reform bill.

The welfare reform bill denied Supplemental Security Income [SSI] and food stamps to most legal immigrants. In addition, it gave States the option of providing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] and Medicaid to legal immigrants. It also barred most legal immigrants arriving after August 22 of last year from receiving Federal means-tested public benefits—TANF, food stamps, Medicaid, and SSI—for 5 years after arrival.***HD***balanced budget act

The Balanced Budget Act was signed into law August 5, 1997. It restored SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants who were here before August 22, 1996. It allowed SSI for those who were here on that date who later become disabled. The Balanced Budget Act also extends the exemption from SSI and Medicaid restrictions for refugees from 5 years to 7 years after entry.

The Balanced Budget Act provided \$11.5 billion in restored benefits for legal immigrants for the period 1998–2002.

BENEFITS RESTORATION TITLE

Title I of my bill restores legal immigrants' eligibility for benefits by repealing title IV of the welfare reform bill. Title IV was the part of last year's welfare bill which eliminated legal immigrants' eligibility for benefits.

The cost over 5 years of restoring those benefits that were not included in the Balanced Budget Act is \$9.5 billion.

Repealing the remainder of title IV as my bill does would accomplish the following:

Food stamp benefits would be restored for legal immigrants who were here August 22, 1996 as well as for future immigrants.

SSI and Medicaid would be provided to all future immigrants regardless of date of entry.

Repealing title IV would also eliminate the State option for providing TANF and Medicaid to legal immigrants. This has a potential magnet effect with differing benefits among States.

Repealing title IV would also eliminate the 5-year bar on assistance for new arrivals before they can receive Federal means-tested public benefits.

WELFARE FOR WEAPONS DEALERS

Title II of my bill reduces arms export subsidies to fund the cost of providing these remaining benefits to legal immigrants. Taxpayers spend billions of dollars annually for Federal subsidies devoted to helping major defense companies market their wares around the world—plying everything from ammunition to high-technology fighter jets, all at a time when the United States is already the world's leading arms exporter.

Uncle Sam is the world's largest arms dealer, employing nearly 6,500 full-time personnel to promote foreign arms sales by U.S. companies. For the sixth consecutive year, the United States led the world in arms deliveries in 1996.

We are militarizing foreign aid. In 1995, subsidies for arms exports accounted for over 50 percent of U.S. bilateral aid.

Major weapons manufacturing firms buy influence by contributing to congressional candidates—\$14.8 million between 1990 and 1994. These firms include Lockheed-Martin, Northrup Grumman, and others.

We are backing losers. The U.S. Government ranks first in the world in subsidizing arms exports. Meanwhile we spend only \$150 million a year to help U.S. firms get a foothold in the expanding international market for environmental technologies. That market is expected to reach \$190 to \$240 billion by the end of this decade. This is at a time that by DOD's own reckoning, the international arms market will likely continue to shrink from its current level of \$32 billion.

There is a boomerang effect to our arms sales. Subsidized arms sales have caused more security problems than they have solved. The last five times the United States has sent troops into conflict situations—in Panama,