

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my fellow Americans to demonstrate my pride in all the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces by observing Veterans Day. Officially designated in 1938 as "A National Day of Remembrance," commemorating the end of World War I, this special day is now deeply embedded in our Nation's tradition and culture. It is a day that generates a myriad of feelings and activities. Many of us will make a special effort to say "thank you" to our fathers and mothers, uncles and aunts, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, friends and colleagues for their service in America's Armed Forces. Others of us will make a sacred pilgrimage to a national cemetery in order to give thanks for the lives of our beloved soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who have died in service to America.

These are appropriate and important ways to recognize Veterans Day—because all of these choices are available to us only because of the commitment and sacrifice of the millions of men and women who have, with great pride and honor, worn the uniform of the United States of America. They, more than any of us, know that they served so that the rest of us can fully enjoy the fruits of their sacrifice and endeavors—so that the rest of us can live and thrive in a country deeply and securely grounded in freedom and liberty.

Americans have traditionally remembered all the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces by building majestic and moving monuments in their honor. These impressive structures stand as strong symbols of our national appreciation for the courage and heroism of our Armed Forces. But these magnificent memorials and statues are not enough to fulfill our Nation's commitment to our veterans. In order to carry out our national responsibility, America has, since the earliest days of our republic, given life to the many impressive memorials by also providing programs and benefits designed to touch and enhance the lives of our veterans.

We remember and honor our veterans when we assist them in their readjustment to the civilian community by offering GI bill education benefits and job-search assistance; when we provide compensation payments to those with service connected disabilities and when we provide health care for sick and injured veterans through the VA medical care system.

These programs and benefits, which give life to our national commitment to veterans, must be maintained and perfected. They are tangible symbols of our respect for, and gratitude to, those who serve on our behalf in the armed services. Accordingly, we must ensure that veterans' programs and benefits continue to effectively fulfill their purposes—and to en-

sure that the funding necessary to accomplish this goal is provided.

Perhaps the best way to show our appreciation to our veterans, who have sustained and protected us during times of both war and peace, is by exercising our most precious freedoms—voting, worshipping, traveling where and when we want, and expressing our opinions freely. We owe all these freedoms to our veterans. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our veterans and encourage the rest of the nation to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO JOE CASTILLO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Joe Castillo of Fort Collins, CO, a Vietnam Veteran who undertook a meaningful journey from August 14 to November 11. He traveled on horseback from Fort Collins to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, in honor of his friends and comrades who lost their lives in Vietnam. He planned his trip for 2 years.

Joe was born on July 14, 1950 in Texas. He enlisted in the Armed Forces and went to Vietnam at the tender age of 18 along with several of his friends. He was the only one of his group to return home.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 8, Joe and his little troupe of horses and friends were stuck in the mountains of West Virginia in a cold downpour. They were running out of trail and the regular roads are too dangerous so they were worried they might not make it to Washington on time after all. Thanks to some members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who are also horse people and who know how to navigate around that area, Joe and company were able to get out of the mountains and hook up with other VFW members in Cumberland, MD.

But Joe and his horse, Indio, were on time and were part of the official Vietnam Memorial ceremonies Tuesday. The Park Service agreed to allow Joe to ride Indio to the Wall and the Vietnam Memorial Foundation allowed Joe to present his flag at the official ceremonies and say a few words. How fitting it was, Mr. Speaker, that Joe Castillo, who has grown into such an outstanding citizen, spoke at this event.

We owe Joe Castillo our encouragement and praise for such a long journey to honor those who died for our country. He has shown greater character, integrity, and selflessness for embarking on this incredible pilgrimage to the Vietnam Wall. The total estimated mileage is 1,986 and 90 days of travel on horseback.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the veterans community in praise of Joe Castillo for the shining example he sets for all Americans.

FAST TRACK—TOO EARLY FOR AN OBITUARY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, is fast track dead? Hardly. This 25-year-old process is ingrained in the political process and will not soon disappear. The imperial presidency is alive and well as Congress continues the process of acceding power to the executive branch through such processes as the line item veto, administrative law, War Powers Act, Executive orders, and trade negotiations. The attempt at devolution, which is now ongoing, does little to attach the ever growing power of the Presidency. As Congress—and especially the House—reneges on its responsibility under the concept of separation of powers, the people suffer by losing their most important conduit to the Federal Government.

Members opposed fast track for various reasons, some sensible, some less so. Serious proponents consistently stated their support came from their convictions regarding free trade. However, political deals, threats and pressure from financial supporters influenced less serious supporters. This process is nothing new, but in the recent efforts to pass fast track, record offers to persuade Members of Congress to change their vote were made on both sides of the debate. The President and the congressional leaders had a lot to offer and the unions and environmentalists were not bashful about their use of intimidation.

In spite of the blatant politics of it all, there were among us principled free traders, true believers in U.S. sovereignty, serious concerns for domestic labor, and environmental laws and dedicated populist protectionists.

And then there were the laissez-faire capitalists, individual liberty, U.S. sovereignty and low tariff proponents, positions held by a scant few. The supporters of fast track cavalierly dismissed all thoughtful opposition. The delivery of power to the Presidency argument was said to be bogus; the treaty versus agreement argument was argued to be nothing more than designed by those wanting to hide behind the Constitution and those concerned about NAFTA boards, world trade organizations, or the multilateral agreement on investments were all just conspiracy nuts the same group of individuals who are concerned about who is flying the unmarked black helicopters around the country. So much for serious debate.

A few points worth noting:

First, most members of the coalition, who pushed fast track, have in the past, promoted war under the U.N. banner, bailouts by the IMF, foreign aid, corporate welfare, secret centralized banking, and World Bank loans? Is there any wonder that a populist backlash, from Nadar to Buchanan, blossomed and actually won this round?

Second, the chief corporate supporters of the fast track process who claimed to be defenders of freedom and free trade have essentially no record of ever promoting free market

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

economics or any organization dedicated to capitalism and sound money. They are all experts in understanding the corporate welfare state and are promoters of the Export/Import Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, foreign aid, the military industrial complex, fractional reserve banking, public housing, all types of government guaranteed loans and much more. So why this sudden loyalty to freedom of trade and low tariff taxes? This is a question worth pondering. Could it possibly be that fast track, NAFTA and the WTO have nothing to do with real free trade? Could it be that corporate America is ensconced in a modern-day corporatism that see fast track as a vehicle toward a managed trade system that serves the powerful at the expense of the weak? Certainly the ready willingness to grant exemptions to various industries and commodities during the negotiations suggests less than a principled effort to promote free and unhampered trade.

Third, this current debate has entirely ignored the nature of modern-day protectionism. Already, in recent years, sanctions have been applied through international governmental bodies 61 times. These originate from complaints from industries that claim they are being subject to unfair competition from those who are selling their products at a lower price. Currently, there are still pending 27 proposals for more sanctions.

Fourth, since the breakdown of the Bretton Woods Agreement, trade has been manipulated by the various countries through competitive currency devaluations. This is ongoing and is currently driving the bailout in Southeast Asia, just as was done 2 years ago in Mexico. All this currency and IMF activity is to promote trade in one direction or another and to bail out the powerful special interests who invested in countries when the times were good but want help once the markets turned against them.

There is no reason why free trade agreements can't be drawn up much more simply and in a bilateral fashion with Congress fully participating. Low tariffs and free trade with any country can be accomplished with an agreement less than one page in length. This whole debate ignores the fact that countries that impose high tariffs on their people suffer much more so than the countries hoping to export products to them.

This whole debate on fast track was designed to obscure the definition and process of real freedom in trade. Fortunately further casual endorsement of this process, first started by Richard Nixon, was met with a setback, temporary as it may be, in the inexorable march toward the NWO and the one world government.

TRIBUTE TO REV. J.A. PANUSKA

HON. JOSEPH M. McDADE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. McDADE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's preeminent educators, Rev. J.A. Panuska, on the occasion of his retirement as president of the University of Scranton in Scranton, PA.

Father Panuska is an extraordinary man who is well respected in the local community,

the academic community, and the spiritual community. He is known for his studies in cryobiology, as well as for his dedication to his true passion—his students. Father Panuska enjoys a hands-on approach in his duties at the university which carries over into his work with many local organizations. His insight has greatly enhanced the activities of these groups as they work toward improving the community.

Founded in 1888, the University of Scranton has been enriched by Father Panuska's leadership over the past 16 years. He guided the university through its largest expansion effort in history, and has brought the school into a period of constant academic recognition and praise. Under Father Panuska's guidance, the university has ranked consistently among the top comprehensive institutions in the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states. It has also become widely recognized for the remarkable record of its graduates receiving Fulbright scholarships.

Mr. Speaker, in 1998, Father Panuska will conclude his 16-year tenure as president of the University of Scranton, the same year he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his entrance into the Society of Jesus. I would like to thank him for his close friendship, which has been dear to me, congratulate him on a remarkable record of achievement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING RECIPIENTS OF HISPANIC INDEPENDENCE AWARDS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Hispanic Independence Awards Ceremony that will be held on Saturday, November 15, 1997, at Mott Community College in my hometown of Flint, MI.

September is National Hispanic Heritage Month and the Hispanic Independence Awards is a special event to celebrate Hispanic culture, ideas, and achievements in Genesee County. The Hispanic community will once again honor individuals who have unselfishly committed themselves to making Flint and Genesee County a better place for all people.

The Pedro Mata Leadership Award is given to a person who has provided leadership, encouragement, and influence in the Hispanic community. Mr. Chris Flores is this year's honoree. The Tano Resendez Community Service Award is being bestowed upon Mr. Pedro Suarez for his dedicated personal efforts to promote civic and cultural activities.

The Joe Benavidez Education Award will be presented to Ms. Marcie Forsleff for her support of educational issues relating to Hispanics of all ages. The Rafael Arceo, Sr. Labor Involvement Award will be given to Ms. Marcie Garcia for her efforts to increase community awareness, improve the quality of life, and open doors for Hispanics.

Ms. Sue Quintanilla will be honored with the Bruno Valdez Arts and Entertainment Award for promoting Hispanic culture through professional and personal activity. The Domingo Berlanga Veterans Award will be given to Mr. Refugio Rodriguez for his honorable service in the U.S. Armed Forces. The final award, the Pedro Mata, Jr. Scholarship Award will be

given to a student that has a commitment to community service and a desire to continue their education.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today and ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of these individuals and the entire Hispanic community. I congratulate the honorees for their compassion and commitment to helping their fellow citizens.

OPPOSITION TO FAST-TRACK LEGISLATION IN CURRENT FORM

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, in light of the recent decision to postpone consideration of the fast-track bill, I would like to make clear my position in opposition to this legislation in its current form. While I believe in the notion of free trade and voted for MFN for China and GATT, I also strongly believe in fair trade and our insistence on trade parity.

I would vote against this bill, but I want to make it clear that I will support free and fair trade in the future. I support expanding U.S. export opportunities and our position as the world's leader in trade. I have consistently supported, as I do now, efforts to expand fair and free trade. For example, I just recently voted for the United States-Caribbean Trade Partnership Act, also known as CBI.

I did not support NAFTA when it was considered by the House of Representatives in 1993, and I am proud of my vote. I believe that this fast-track bill, as written, will only aggravate NAFTA's failed legacy—larger trade deficits, expanding jobs losses, and rapidly declining standards of living. Bad trade deals like NAFTA have destroyed good jobs and go a long way to lure businesses to where it is cheaper to pay their employees and cheaper to meet safety requirements.

Bad trade deals include the 1995 automotive trade agreement with South Korea "Memorandum of Understanding to Increase Market Access for Passenger Vehicles in Korea." South Korea simply failed to abide by the agreement to open up its markets. Bad trade deals like NAFTA are running up our \$114 billion trade deficit. This deficit exacerbates job losses. It is eroding our automotive industry and chipping away at the number of high-paying jobs, including many quality jobs in Indiana's Third Congressional District. Our trade deficit with Mexico and Canada jumped from \$11 billion to \$39 billion after NAFTA passed. We should not agree to all trade deals. And most trade deals need constant vigilance. We must engage in trade but then follow through with verification, implementation, and enforcement.

Despite our healthy economy, there are still too many people in our country earning only \$5 or \$6 per hour, and often working a second job to raise their families. Families are working more hours at more jobs while just keeping pace or sometimes falling behind. Too many families have little or no time to spare for volunteer work or even time to raise their children. This causes social and developmental problems profoundly affecting our schools and communities. We must reach back and bring