

TRIBUTE TO BOB JEFFRIES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my good friend, Bob Jeffries.

Born in Birmingham, AL, the grandson of slaves, in 1907, Bob learned to cook at an early age, using as he said, from food products grown on the farm. During his career, he worked as a musician, a chef in Harlem nightclubs, and in restaurants around the New York area.

During the late 70's he cooked for a Member of Congress, and fed most of the Washington community. Now retired, and living at a Brooklyn Heights senior citizen residence operated by the Brooklyn Catholic Charities, Bob continues to cook for his many friends throughout the city. He is active and busy every day, visiting friends in need, continuing to enjoy the city and sharing his good humor and kindness with his large extended family.

His 90th birthday was celebrated by 80 members of his "family" at the home of Rita and Allen Schwartz in Brooklyn Heights. Bob insisted on cooking for the family and we were all thankful the good food and fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr. Bob Jeffries a warm and heartfelt 90th birthday.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO REFORM CONGRESSIONAL
PENSIONS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, calls for reduced Government spending have echoed throughout this great Nation of ours. Unfortunately, all too often the voices of the people have not been heard by this Chamber. When these cries have been heard, the response has simply been to shift the burden of budget cuts. I believe the time has come for the Members of Congress to lead by example.

Today, I have introduced legislation that demonstrates to the American people the steadfast commitment of this Congress to fight against excessive spending by tackling the largest perk in Government—congressional pension plans.

Our retirement benefits are ridiculously more lucrative than those of many private sector and all Federal employees. Some Members of Congress make more in retirement than most Americans could hope to make in a lifetime. My legislation will slam shut the doors of this congressional pension millionaires club.

The bill I have sponsored recalibrates the formula used to calculate Members' pension. It changes the equation so that our pension plan is the same as that of any other Federal employee. It also increased the age at which a former member may begin to collect their benefits from age 50 to age 55.

The time has come for us to address the gross disparities between congressional retirement benefits and those of the average Amer-

ica. The era of governmental abuse has come to a close and the buck stops with us. I urge my fellow Members to hear the calls of the American people, and demonstrate your leadership by setting the example and cosponsoring this legislation.

VIETNAM VETERAN DREW PETERSON
RETIRES FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Drew Peterson graduated from high school in South Haven, MI, in 1967, and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served two voluntary tours of duty in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division, where he was wounded during a Communist rocket and ground attack and later received the Bronze Star Medal. Drew then served with the Indiana National Guard where he rose to the commissioned officer rank of captain, having served in the intelligence and the security-counterterrorism training field.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the regular Army in 1970, Drew attended college and continued his public service career by becoming a Michigan certified deputy sheriff and later served with the Michigan State Police.

In 1983, Drew accepted a position with the Department of Defense in Indianapolis as a security-specialist at Fort Benjamin Harrison. During this time, he represented DOD as a member of the Law Enforcement Committee on Crime Prevention for the 1987 Pan American Games held in Indianapolis.

In 1987, Drew transferred to GSA's U.S. Federal Protective Service as a Federal law enforcement agent specializing in security. During his tenure with FPS, Drew served as the acting district director in charge of the security and law enforcement staff and functions in four States.

With FPS, Drew also served as a criminal investigator and security specialist, where among his accomplishments was to conduct security surveys for the Office of the Vice President of the United States and Congressmen, plus counterterrorism surveys of Federal courthouses and the Army Finance and Accounting Center in Indianapolis.

In 1995, Drew was involved with the President's requested Department of Justice review of the security for major Federal facilities and courthouses following the terrorist bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. His counterterrorism recommendations to enhance security were adopted by Government agencies.

During Drew's tenure with the Federal Government, in addition to completing training in management and law enforcement, he completed his bachelor of science degree in criminal justice and a master of arts degree in executive development for public service from Ball State University.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Drew Peterson for his many accomplishments and his devotion and service to our country.

MICROCREDITS ARE ABOUT
EMPOWERMENT

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the privilege of participating in the microcredit summit held here in Washington. I wanted to take time to introduce this worthwhile program to you.

Poverty—be it in rich or poor nations—makes not just affected families and their surrounding communities vulnerable, it erodes the fabric of the nations in which they live.

One of the best and most effective uses of American foreign aid to combat poverty is through microcredits, the loaning of small amounts of capital, usually around \$150, to indigent entrepreneurs to start their own small businesses.

What are microcredits about? They are about empowerment. The beneficiaries of this aid tend to be predominately women. The program has an astounding rate of success; 98 percent of loans are repaid on time and, in fact, many of the banks set up to disburse microcredit loans have gone on to become successful full-service banks.

The goal of the recently held summit was to begin the process of assisting 100 million of the globe's poorest families work their way out of poverty by the year 2005. These budding entrepreneurs will use this money as an investment. The more money invested in this fashion will decrease traditional foreign aid handouts in the long run.

I would like to commend microcredit experts who have shown what creative thinking can accomplish, even when applied to an entrenched and stubborn problem such as poverty. This solution holds real promise, not only around the globe, but here in the United States as well. I encourage all my colleagues to investigate this program and to lend your support.

TRIBUTE TO THE 13TH COAST
GUARD DISTRICT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave men and women who serve in the U.S. Coast Guard. I extend special recognition to the members of the 13th Coast Guard District who so capably serve my home district and the people of the Pacific Northwest region of our country.

The beauty and grandeur of the waterways of the Northwest are paralleled by the dangerous and unpredictable situations they sometimes present. On February 12, 1997, violent weather off the coast of the Olympic Peninsula threatened the safety of a sailboat and its passengers. In the middle of the night the Coast Guard responded to the distress call and saved the passengers. Unfortunately, one of the two Coast Guard rescue boats from the Quillayute River Station capsized in the strong winds and high waves of the Pacific Ocean. Three crewmembers were lost; the fourth survived.

On behalf of the people of the 7th Congressional District of Washington, I extend sincere sympathy to the family and friends of PO 2d Class David Bosley of San Mateo, CA, PO 3d Class Matthew Schlimme of Whitewater, MO, and Seaman Clinton Miniken of Snohomish, WA. We extend our best wishes for a rapid and complete recovery to Seaman Apprentice Benjamin Wingo of Bremerton, WA.

To Adm. David Spade, Commander, and all members of the 13th Coast Guard District, we extend deep appreciation for the professional accomplishment of your mission of search and rescue, vessel traffic safety, and marine environmental protection. We too frequently take for granted that the Coast Guard is always prepared for an emergency and we fail to recognize the vital contribution of your entire command in support of economic prosperity and the enjoyment we derive from our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD this tribute from the editors of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer printed on February 19, 1997, the date of the memorial services:

HONORING HEROES OF THE SEA

The 23rd verse of the 107th Psalm speaks of "they that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters."

The members of the U.S. Coast Guard daily do business in great waters. Often it is the business of saving lives. Sometimes the cost of doing business is the loss of their own lives.

So the mourning bells will ring today in Seattle and LaPush for three District 13 Coast Guardsmen who died exactly one week ago during the rescue of a couple on a damaged sailboat off the mouth of the Quillayute River. The couple survived, rescued by a Coast Guard helicopter out of Port Angeles. One member of the guard's 44-foot motor lifeboat, Benjamin Wingo, 19, of Bremerton, also survived.

The rest of the crew did not. Killed were Petty Officer 2nd Class David Bosley, 36; Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew Schlimme, 24, and Seaman Clinton Miniken, 22. They died when the lifeboat, a Coast Guard workhorse for 35 years, was repeatedly overturned by 25-foot seas and winds as high as 45 knots crossing the Quillayute bar.

That bar already had a reputation as a killer, claiming the lives of seven crewmembers of the fishing boat Gambler in 1990.

The last time a Coast Guardsman was killed in the line of duty anywhere in the Northwest was in 1991 during the rescue of a capsized fishing boat off the Columbia River.

During 1996, the 13th Coast Guard District, which includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, was credited with coming to the aid of more than 8,000 individuals, saving 381 lives and rescuing nearly \$267 million in property.

The Psalm's story has a happy ending. After its sailors ride stormy seas on which they "mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths . . . and are at their wit's end," God calms the seas and "bringeth them unto their desired haven."

A week ago the seas were not calmed and the three Coast Guardsmen failed to reach safe haven.

"He was my hero," said Sandi Bosley of her husband David Bosley, the coxswain of the ill-fated vessel.

Today we join family and friends in mourning the deaths, and celebrating the lives, of all these heroes.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill that would grant permanent most-favored-nation status to the People's Republic of China upon its entry into the World Trade Organization. Under the rules of the WTO, each member country must grant permanent MFN to all other member countries. As the administration moves forward in its WTO talks with the Chinese, it is imperative that commercially viable terms of entry are negotiated. The WTO is America's best weapon against the forces of protectionism and predatory mercantilism. China's entry into the WTO is in America's national interest. First, entry into the WTO will require China to further liberalize its trade regime by lowering tariffs and eliminating many nontariff barriers that American goods face. Second, the WTO provides a more useful forum for resolution of trade disputes than the bilateral approach now in place with China. It is important to note that WTO membership is not a gift to China. The administration is negotiating tough commercial terms upon which China will enter and these terms will define United States-China trade in the future.

Perhaps the most important reason that we should be pushing for China's accession to the WTO is the level playing field that this membership would provide for United States exporters. Currently, exporting to China can be a very costly and timeconsuming endeavor for American producers. There are many nontariff barriers that, intentionally or not, impede market access. There is a certain amount of discriminatory treatment of products that will be difficult for the Chinese to continue when under the jurisdiction of the WTO. Transparency is also a big problem in China. It is difficult to find out which laws and regulations apply to which products and when do they apply. As a WTO member China's import policies will have to become more transparent and more defined. This will allow American exporters to conduct business in China by following internationally recognized trade practices. China's trade regime will have to conform to these international principles.

The United States exports less, as a percentage of GDP, than any other industrialized nation. Enhancing and increasing U.S. export performance will be essential as we search for ways to improve and increase economic growth in the U.S. economy. China's vast market potential, combined with the discipline of market forces and liberalized trade policies, are a positive step toward increasing market access for American exports.

AID TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue which disturbs me to no end. Just last week, I introduced a bill, H.R. 849, to close a loophole that allowed an illegal immigrant to obtain \$12,000 in Federal housing assistance.

One week ago, I sent letters to INS Director Doris Meissner and HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo to find out just how this could have happened. Why did HUD not immediately contact the INS to report an illegal alien residing in this country? And why has INS still done nothing to address the situation? Mr. Speaker, this begs the question, what good are laws if our Federal agencies do nothing to enforce them?

People write and call my office every day for an explanation. And it's not just my constituents. Word of this unbelievable act has spread from my hometown in southern California clear across the country. Hardworking Americans who know the value of citizenship want to know why their tax dollars continue to be given away to illegal immigrants.

I urge my colleagues to support my legislation, H.R. 849, and to join in the call for an explanation of why this is still occurring. Mr. Speaker, the people want an answer.

INDIA DETAINS HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST KUMAR

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, last year Members received from the Council of Khalistan an excellent video entitled "Disappearances in Punjab," an expose of the massive human rights abuse in Punjab, Khalistan under Indian rule. Now I have been informed that last month the Indian regime briefly detained the maker of that film, Ram Narayan Kumar. Mr. Kumar is a Hindu and a human rights activist.

According to a letter Mr. Kumar wrote to the Indian Home Minister, he was illegally detained and interrogated at the Delhi airport on the night of January 19-20 as he was leaving the country to return to his home in Austria. Mr. Kumar has written a book on the situation in Punjab, Khalistan which the regime apparently does not like.

Mr. Kumar was detained for 19 months in the 1970's because he criticized the dictatorial measures of Indira Gandhi. He was incarcerated again in 1982 for leading a strike. As a member of the Committee for Information and Initiative on Punjab, Mr. Kumar has been actively involved in documenting and exposing human rights violations in Punjab, Khalistan.

Like Jaswant Singh Khaira, who remains in the bowels of the Indian system after 17 months, Mr. Kumar ran afoul of the Indian state for exposing the truth about Indian "democracy." Clearly, the regime's fear of exposure is growing. Why would a Democratic country be afraid of the truth?

Maybe it's because they are afraid that the inevitable collapse of India is on the horizon. With a 13-party coalition running the central government, it is inherently unstable. According to a letter that appeared in the Washington Post on January 26, there are 17 insurgencies going on in India. That is no surprise. The regime has murdered tens of thousands of Sikhs, Christians in Nagaland, Muslims in Kashmir, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits—black untouchables, and others. In this light, is it any wonder that so many countries are trying to free themselves from Indian rule?

The illegal detention of Mr. Kumar merely advertises to the world the fact that India is