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COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOREST SERVICE ORGANIC ACT OF 1897

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, today is the 100th anniversary of the national forests. Since the creation of the forest reserves in 1891 and the Organic Administration Act in June of 1897, we have put more than 190 million acres into the forest system. These lands hold a wealth of resources and are managed by the most sophisticated forest practices and the most strenuous environmental laws in the world. While there are many management successes, there are also urgent problems.

Last week I flew, with two of my colleagues, over 600,000 acres of the Boise National Forest destroyed by fires in the past 5 years. This scenario has been repeated in other forests, and scientists predict that it will occur again and again if we do not act now.

All past and present Forest Service chiefs have advocated active management of our national forests. We must now provide the professional scientists and foresters with the ability to properly manage these lands in order to have a forest legacy left to our grandchildren.

SUPPORT THE COMMANDO FUNDING

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to illustrate the grave implications which resulted from the untimely failure of Congress to approve the supplemental appropriations bill.

Included in the supplemental is \$20 million in payments to former South Vietnamese commandos who were trained by and worked for the U.S. Government during the Vietnam war. The Pentagon failed to carry out the will of the 104th Congress to compensate these brave men for their service to this Nation, especially for their time in captivity.

Tragically, the Pentagon delayed and four commandos perished in the last year. Now, while this body recessed and failed to pass the supplemental appropriations bill, a fifth commando has also perished.

Duong Lang Sang was captured in 1966 by the North Vietnamese Government while working for the United States. After 16 years in hard labor as a prisoner of war he was finally released in 1982. After his release he suffered many illnesses arising from his torture.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Sang passed away in Chicago as a result of those injuries. He has left behind a widow and

two school-aged children. Please join me in asserting that we pass the supplemental appropriations bill so that these soldiers would not have died in vain.

PRESIDENT SHOULD SUPPORT GEKAS-WYNN GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN PREVENTION PROVISION

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, when Congress passed the historic balanced budget agreement by a vote of 333, it set forth a very good tone for Congress and the White House and the Senate to work together to move us toward a balanced budget by the year 2002. And although this resolution is very important, it is only the first step. There will be a lot of skirmishes down the road over taxes, education, Medicare, health care in general, and so forth like that.

One of the things that the Republicans have done, however, to make sure this does not lead us to a gridlock and a Government shutdown is that we have passed the Gekas-Wynn Government shutdown prevention provision. What that says is that if Congress and the President have not agreed on a balanced budget or the appropriations bills by September 30, then the Government would continue at 100 percent of the 1997 funding level and that would prevent a shutdown.

Now, for some reason the President is against this. I hope that he will change his mind and support this so that we will not have the Government shutdown as we did last year.

TRIBUTE TO LT. LEILANI SALAMASINA STROKIN

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, it is not very often that I appear before my colleagues in the well, but today I want to offer a special tribute to a young lady, a great American, with a proud Samoan heritage who just graduated from West Point. While it may be a common occurrence among my colleagues to witness a countless source of our Nation's finest young men and women who are nominated and accepted every year to attend our military academies, it is a very rare occasion for me to celebrate such an event among Samoan Americans, especially when there are only about 150,000 of us throughout the United States.

First, my sincere thanks to the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN], who after evaluating Salamasina Strokin's application, nominated her 4 years ago to attend West Point. Salamasina's father is a retired military officer himself from

Florida, but her mother, Sina, is Samoan, and this is what makes this story special, Mr. Speaker.

Salamasina's mother passed away last year and it was her dream to see that her daughter graduated from West Point. Nevertheless, Salamasina kept on going because she knew her mother would not want her to quit now regardless of what happened. To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, I believe Salamasina Strokin is the only Samoan American who has graduated from West Point, and I pay this special tribute to her late mother, her father, her relatives, and her friends.

This is certainly a proud moment for our Samoan community, and I give all my best to 2d Lt. Leilani Salamasina Strokin.

GOOD NEWS: CONGRESS TAKES IN AN EXTRA \$100 BILLION AND SPENDS LESS THAN PREDICTED

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I think all of us in business know that good news does not necessarily make news and bad news is always on the front page. But I think there is some good news, especially with respect to the budget, and the interesting thing is not only do most Americans not know this, frankly, I do not think most Members of Congress know this.

Back in June 1995, when this House passed its budget resolution, we said that we would spend in fiscal year 1997 \$1624 billion and that we would take in, in revenue, about \$1,451 billion. Well, that is what we said in June 1995. Let us talk about what really has happened.

In fiscal year 1997 we are going to spend \$1,622 billion. In other words, Mr. Speaker, this Congress is going to spend less money in fiscal year 1997 than we said we were going to spend just 2 years ago. And the even better news is, because the economy has been stronger and interest rates have been lower, we have taken in an additional \$100 billion.

Now, when is the last time that Congress took in an extra \$100 billion and actually spent less than they said they were going to spend? I think that is great news for the economy, I think it is great news for the American people but, most important, I think it is great news for our children.

CONGRESS FORMULATES THE UNEQUAL WORKERS POLICY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe that in America we would formulate the unequal workers policy. That is what this House, the Republicans, are beginning to do.

Just this week the Washington Post reports that Congress plans to revisit minimum wage requirements for recipients in public service jobs. Can my colleagues believe it? We argued vigorously on the floor that people should take responsibility for themselves, they should go to work, get off welfare. And yet we want to pay those individuals who get off welfare less than a minimum wage.

There is not an American in America who disagrees that for work, good work, equal work, equal pay, minimum wage. The Lutheran Services in America organization spends \$2.8 billion serving 2 million needy people in over 3,000 locations. They know what poverty is all about. They know what serving the poor is all about. And they want them to be paid minimum wage.

They also know the dignity of being a human being, someone who has pulled themselves up by the boot straps, a welfare mother transitioning from welfare to work. And then we want to denigrate and deny her humanity and pay her below the minimum wage. What a disgrace.

Congress, get in the real world and pay the minimum wage for all working Americans.

CONGRESS SHOULD PASS MEANINGFUL COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM LEGISLATION

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union Address, President Clinton called on the Congress to pass campaign finance reform by July 4 this year. But today, exactly 1 month before the deadline, the majority leadership still has not acted.

Mr. Speaker, on July 4, 1776, the American colonists declared their independence from England's tyranny. It is time now for Congress to declare independence from the tyranny of big money and special interests.

Mr. Speaker, we have 30 days left to prepare for this day. Let us hold hearings, let us write meaningful legislation and pass comprehensive campaign finance reform. Let us truly light a firecracker for democracy on this July 4.

CONGRESS MUST CONSIDER HONG KONG AS IT DEBATES MFN FOR CHINA

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the House has begun this very important debate on whether or not we are going to grant most-favored-nation trading status to the People's Republic of China. The question that we have to ask ourselves is where do the 5.5 million free-

dom loving people of Hong Kong stand on this. Because, frankly, if one is in Hong Kong, this is much more than simply a debating exercise.

Hong Kong is a beacon of hope and prosperity and freedom to Asia. As it is transferred to Chinese control in just a couple of weeks, the five and a half million residents face an uncertain future. We have a moral obligation to consider them as we debate MFN.

One unquestionable fact, Mr. Speaker, regarding this MFN debate is that Hong Kong adamantly opposes the United States' cutting off trade with China. Maintaining MFN bolsters Hong Kong's economic value to China, reinforcing their claim to separate treatment. Maintaining trade will also calm the economic concerns of the Hong Kong people at a time when they are worried about their political freedoms.

Chris Patton said it best, "For the people of Hong Kong there is no comfort to the proposition that if China reduces their freedoms, their jobs will go to the United States."

GOP LEADERSHIP MUST NOT DELAY ONE MINUTE LONGER IN PASSING SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it was January when the Governors of three Midwestern States, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota, declared natural disasters in their States because of heavy snow. Residents of these States first faced the deadly dangers of terrible snowstorms and then tragically lost their homes and possessions to the ensuing floods.

It has been months of pain and suffering for these people in these States and their leadership, who have turned to the Federal Government for the assistance promised in our programs of emergency relief. There remain more than 5,000 citizens who are homeless, without relief, who need financial assistance now.

Why does the GOP leadership continue to play games with the supplemental emergency appropriations bill for even one minute? Apparently, the Republican leadership does not care about these folks. Democrats do care. We support a clean emergency appropriations bill.

To my Republican friends I say let us pass a supplemental emergency appropriations bill without the controversial nonemergency provisions. Let us pass a clean emergency appropriations bill today.

CONGRESS MUST PASS MEANINGFUL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM OR BE EMBARRASSED TO FACE VOTERS IN 1998

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, the 1996 elections involved more money, more TV ads, and more players than ever before. Not just candidates, but political parties and outside groups saturated the airwaves with political ads. What was the result? The lowest turnout in over 70 years.

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We know that 90 percent of the public wants fundamental campaign finance reform. We need to get big money out of campaigns. We need more accurate reporting, more accountability and more restrictions on campaign expenditures.

Loopholes have become highways for moving campaign funds. Outside groups participate in elections without adequate disclosure of their identities or their interests. The gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] and I co-chair a bipartisan freshman task force trying to find common ground on this issue. I hope and believe we will come to a conclusion during this month. Then we must pass meaningful campaign finance reform or be embarrassed to face the voters in the 1998 elections.

THE MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCIAL CRIMES STRATEGY ACT OF 1997

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the explosion of finance crimes, money laundering, credit card fraud and counterfeiting is draining our communities of valuable resources.

For that reason, I introduced H.R. 1756, the Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Strategy Act. Under this bill Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies will at last be able to coordinate their efforts to combat this rising criminal tide.

The effect of this criminal activity is chilling. In my district there is a section of Roosevelt Avenue in Jackson Heights, Queens, that prosecutors and investigators call Ground Zero. That neighborhood is home to many hard-working families. It is also an area where an exploited wire transfer industry sends up to \$1.3 billion in illegal drug money abroad.

My colleagues, the effects of these crimes reach far beyond New York, Texas, California. Yet Congress has done little. As a partner in this war, it is time for Congress to send a clear message to these criminal organizations by cosponsoring H.R. 1756.

PASS A CLEAN DISASTER RELIEF BILL NOW

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)