

I want to commend Mr. Kojo Badu for his important contributions to the Brooklyn community.

THE DIPLOMATIC FAIRNESS COMPENSATION RESOLUTION, H. CON. RES. 157

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H. Con. Res. 157, a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that neither the United States, nor NATO, should reimburse the Chinese Government for the accidental damage of their embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia unless the United States is reimbursed for the damage of its government facilities in China.

The State Department has sent an official delegation to China to discuss reparation for the accidental bombing by the U.S./NATO forces of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia on May 7, 1999. This is unacceptable. Let us not forget that the Chinese retaliated against our accidental bombing with government sanctioned violent protests against American facilities in China. We should not pay for the damages done to the Chinese embassy in Belgrade unless the Chinese government reimburses us for the damages they have done to our facilities in China, including the United States Embassy in Beijing.

The injustices that occurred in China on May 8–11 as a result of the protests that the Chinese government organized were substantial. The full costs of the damages have not yet been determined. Police officers in Beijing ushered protesters to within 25 feet of the walls of the United States embassy, enabling the protesters to pelt the walls with rocks and pieces of concrete. Our Ambassador, James Sasser, and 13 other staff members were trapped inside the embassy for three days because the Chinese government did not provide enough protection for them to leave the grounds. The Chinese government did not even supply them with food. In addition the Consul-General's residence in Chendu was burned to the ground and the Guangzhou consulate was set on fire.

In light of these unacceptable actions tolerated and promoted by the Government of China, the U.S. should not reimburse the Chinese Government for the accidental bombing of its embassy in Belgrade unless China reciprocates by paying the United States for the damages they inflicted upon our government's property.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 157 to ensure that the United States is treated fairly. I insert the full text of the resolution to be printed at this point in the RECORD.

H. CON. RES. 157

Whereas military forces of the United States acting in conjunction with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) during Operation Allied Force accidentally dropped at least three precision-guided bombs on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, on May 7, 1999;

Whereas on May 8, 1999, a joint statement by the United States Defense Department

and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) stated that NATO hit the Chinese embassy, located 200 yards from the Yugoslav Federal Directorate of Supply and Procurement, a weapons agency, because of errors in detecting the location of the weapons agency;

Whereas on May 11, 1999, the Washington Post cited a United States official who stated that the error of targeting the Chinese embassy went undetected because the address was checked against outdated maps and databases, which showed the location of the Chinese embassy before it moved in 1996;

Whereas apologies by the United States Government for the accidental bombing went unreported in China by the Chinese Government controlled press;

Whereas it is reported in the New York Times that on May 10, 1999, marchers were ushered by Chinese police officers to within 25 feet of the walls of the United States embassy in Beijing;

Whereas protesters pelted the embassy walls with rocks and pieces of concrete pried from the sidewalk of the embassy in full view of Chinese Government security forces;

Whereas demonstrators on May 8 through May 11, 1999, trapped the United States Ambassador, James Sasser, and 13 other staff members inside the United States embassy in Beijing, unable to leave because adequate protection was not provided by the Chinese Government;

Whereas the Chinese Government did not provide food for the ambassador and his staff;

Whereas the embassy building in Beijing was damaged with broken windows, broken signs, and paint-stains and cars on the embassy grounds were damaged;

Whereas 170,000 students demonstrated outside the Consul-General's residence in Chendu;

Whereas the Chinese Government security forces did not prevent the Consul-General's residence from being set afire and burned down;

Whereas the Chinese Government security forces did not prevent the consulate in Guangzhou from being set afire; and

Whereas protesters were not stopped by Chinese authorities from throwing rocks, pieces of pavement, molotov cocktails, gasoline bombs, paint, and other debris at American facilities throughout China: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That neither the United States, nor NATO, should reimburse the Chinese Government for the accidental damage of their embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia unless the United States is reimbursed for the damage of its government facilities in China.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2490) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Chairman, I include the following letter for printing in the RECORD:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,
Washington, DC, July 15, 1999.

Hon. WILLIAM J. COYNE,
Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. COYNE: As the House considers the Fiscal Year 2000 Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations bill, which includes the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) budget, I want to urge your support for full funding for the IRS. Adequate funding for FY 2000 is critical to the success of the Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (RRA), passed almost unanimously a year ago. As you know, that legislation established 71 new taxpayer rights provisions and mandated an entire new direction for the IRS.

I understand that on July 13, 1999, the Full Appropriations Committee approved an amendment to trim approximately \$240 million from the Subcommittee mark, including approximately \$135 million from the IRS (approximately \$139 million from the President's budget request). While I can appreciate the new budget constraints under which the Committee must operate, I am gravely concerned that a cut of \$135 million will seriously jeopardize the IRS's ability to implement its reform effort mandated by the Restructuring Act.

A funding reduction of \$135 million would: Severely restrict, if not completely impair, IRS' ability to deliver on the Restructuring and Reform Act mandated by the Congress in 1998. Every aspect of the agency's commitment to reorganize the organization, improve customer service and taxpayer rights would be in jeopardy.

Constrain the ability to implement the initiatives so critical to changing how IRS delivers on customer service and improves its treatment of taxpayers and focus on taxpayer rights. For example, the cut would result in reduced plans to deliver better telephone service and tax assistance in Spanish.

Require reduced staffing levels in order to free up the funds necessary to implement congressionally mandated RRA requirements. IRS staff has already been reduced 14% (or 15,600 FTE) since FY 1993—thereby continuing the rapid decline in exam, collection and criminal tax compliance operations.

Reduce funding for the Electronic Tax Administration program, thereby jeopardizing the Congressionally mandated goal of 80 percent electronic filing by the year 2007.

Impair the creation of operating units to help specialized groups of taxpayers including small businesses and ordinary wage earners.

Delay implementation of important taxpayer rights initiatives.

I sincerely hope that the \$135 million will be restored so that the IRS and Congress can achieve its mutual goal of meaningful IRS reform. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the rest of the Congress to ensure that the American people have the modernized revenue service that they deserve.

Sincerely,

CHARLES O. ROSSOTTI,
Commissioner.

IN APPRECIATION OF JOSEPH E. CARTER, FEDERAL WORKER AND THOROUGHbred HORSEMAN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Joseph E.

Carter on the fourth anniversary of his death from cancer, which occurred on July 31, 1995, at the age of 34. Mr. Carter was highly esteemed as a federal worker of great integrity while employed as one of the groundskeepers of the U.S. Capitol. He subsequently was a successful Thoroughbred groom and a respected clocker for "The Daily Racing Form," positions which he greatly enjoyed.

As kind and generous as he was physically powerful, Mr. Carter was quick to help anyone in need, without thought of repayment. This outstanding gentleman regularly helped the frail elderly and the widowed with his strenuous manual labor, and he was known to drive 80 miles to obtain a second veterinarian's diagnosis regarding a dying horse, in order to try to save the animal's life.

A typical example of Mr. Carter's warm compassion was evidenced when he once offered to adopt a profoundly retarded boy and to give him a safe, affectionate home when it was no longer possible for the child's loving family to keep the boy with them.

When Mr. Carter learned that he was dying of inoperable cancer, he said quietly, "The Lord gave me 29 good years, and I'm thankful. I'm going to die of cancer, but I'm not going to let it defeat me."

Mr. Carter was a credit to his upbringing who died undefeated by the terrible pain which he endured in his last years. The loving son of Bill and Kathy Carter of Brandywine, Maryland, Mr. Carter died with the same dignity and compassion with which he lived. His calm courage and optimism remain an inspiration to those who knew him.

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO—SHAWN
AND KEVIN KELLY

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my Report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others.

I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today I would like to recognize Kevin and Shawn Kelly of Wilson Borough as Lehigh Valley Heroes. These young boys have truly made a difference in their community.

Kevin, 8, and his brother Shawn, 11, recently extinguished a fire that threatened a nearby home in their community. Recently, they were playing outside when they noticed smoke coming from a grassy area near their neighbor's home. Kevin and Shawn reacted instantly to douse the small fire with water and as a result saved a neighbor's home.

These brave young boys made a difference in Wilson Borough and therefore they are Lehigh Valley Heroes in my book.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

THE AMERICAN MILITARY HEALTH
PROTECTION ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue of vital importance to our men and women in uniform.

Since the end of the Cold War, the Army and Air Force have been reduced by 45 percent, the Navy by 36 percent, and the Marine Corps by 12 percent.

At the same time, our military operations commitments around the world have increased by 300 percent.

The Army alone has participated in 33 separate deployments since 1992, and has troops in over 70 nations.

Our military readiness is stretched thin, our reserves of critical missiles and spare parts have eroded, and our military's quality of life is diminishing.

Retention rates are reaching historic lows and aircraft accidents are climbing.

For too long we have been asking our military to do more with less.

In recent years, this Congress has taken many steps to reverse these trends and provide adequate training and equipment for our Armed Forces personnel. We must continue to do more.

Despite these difficulties, our men and women remain the premier military in the world.

Their devotion and commitment to serve is without question.

Time and again, they risk their lives in the defense of our nation and our interests around the world.

Without their selfless dedication, our nation would not be the great place it remains today.

As such, we in Congress and as a nation, have a responsibility to those military personnel and their families.

We owe them the strongest commitment to their safety and well being we can provide.

However, I am concerned our government may be violating that very principle.

Two years ago the Secretary of Defense announced plans to implement a mandatory anthrax vaccination program for the 2.4 million members of the Armed Forces.

Since that time, I heard from a rapidly growing number of military personnel and family members who believe this vaccine may jeopardize their long-term health and safety as well as that of their families.

The lack of a single, conclusive independent study regarding the long-term health effects of the anthrax vaccine on humans have created additional concerns among our nation's uniformed personnel.

Despite Department of Defense assurances of minimal adverse reactions to the anthrax vaccinations, the standards that the Department uses to determine adverse reactions are insufficient to support their claims.

According to a June 29 article in the San Diego Union-Tribune, Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera acknowledged in a September 1998 memo that the vaccine "involves unusually hazardous risks associated with the potential for adverse reactions in some recipients and the possibility that the desired immunological effect will not be obtained by all recipients."

The article went on to report that the Secretary concluded, there is no certainty that the anthrax used in tests to measure the vaccine's effectiveness "will be sufficiently similar to the pathogen that U.S. forces might encounter" during warfare.

If the Secretary of one of the services raises these concerns, how can we as a nation expect the most junior soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine to accept the vaccine without question?

As a result of the lack of conclusive data on the long-term effects of the anthrax vaccine, many of these military personnel are being forced to make decisions between the safety and security of their families that their dedication and commitment to serving our nation.

In a time when all branches of our military are faced with severe challenges in recruiting and retaining quality military personnel, we should be looking for ways to recruit and retain these men and women.

Instead, over 200 personnel have chosen to resign from the armed services rather than accept the risks associated with a questionable vaccination program.

In one Connecticut Air National Guard Unit alone, eight pilots resigned their commissions because of the mandatory anthrax vaccination. There are growing reports of large numbers of other Guard units whose ranks are shrinking for the same reason.

In my own state of North Carolina, I have heard from numerous active duty and reserve Air Force pilots who have tendered their resignation after many years of service.

However, I am particularly troubled by the recent court-martial of five Marines for their refusal to accept the anthrax vaccination.

As the representative of one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the country, Camp Lejeune, I have learned how much they value their creed: "Corps, God, and then Country."

For the Marines, it is not just a saying; it is a way of life.

Yet, because of the great uncertainty surrounding the anthrax vaccine, a growing number of Marines are also choosing to leave their beloved Corps, their livelihood, to ensure their long-term health and that of their families.

All of these matters have led me to a single conclusion. Until the questions surrounding the anthrax vaccine are answered, I cannot in good conscience support the current mandatory Department of Defense vaccination program.

I feel as though I would be failing in my responsibility if I did not take action to protect the troops who willingly sacrifice their own lives in defense of this nation and its citizens.

As a result, today I am introducing the American Military Health Protection Act.

The legislation is simple.

It would make the current Department of Defense Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program voluntary for all members of the Uniformed Services until either:

1. The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new anthrax vaccination for humans; or

2. The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new, reduced shot course for the anthrax vaccination for humans.

It does not eliminate the program or remove the ability of the Department of Defense to provide anthrax vaccinations. It simply ensures before a member of our military is required to take the vaccine, their questions about its safety and long-term effects are answered.