

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2488, FINANCIAL FREE- DOM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to dispute statements recently made on the House floor by Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi that mischaracterize the record of Republican support for the men and women who serve this country.

First, let me say that the Clinton Administration, not the Republicans, has severely overstretched and underfunded our military. From 1991 to 1998, our military has been deployed 33 times. Compare that with only 10 from 1946 to 1991. The funding increases and commitments needed to sustain these missions abroad has been conspicuously lacking from this Administration.

Let me provide some examples. The defense budget presented by the President fell far short of the quality of life needs that our military had requested. For instance, the Administration disregarded requests for new family housing construction in the Continental United States (CONUS) made by the Army and Navy. That was unwise, given the housing backlog that stretches for ten years, and a real property maintenance backlog of almost \$1 billion.

What's worse, the services provided the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee with an unfunded priority list of over \$11 billion for this year alone, and over \$150 billion over the next five years.

While remaining within the budget caps, the Republican's Fiscal Year 2000 Defense Appropriations bill addresses these shortfalls by providing an extra \$2.8 billion above the Administration's request. Some of the highlights of the bill include: \$300 million above the budget request for pilot bonuses; \$854 million above the budget request for Quality of Life enhancements; \$103 million above the budget request for recruiting; \$2.8 billion above the budget request for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation; and 4.8 percent pay raise (above the budget request).

Moreover, the Administration proposed in its Fiscal 2000 budget request to split-fund military construction needs, overlooking the dire situation facing many military families and personnel. Instead of providing funding up front for new housing, child care, and work facilities, as the House-passed Military Construction bill does, the Administration put budget gimmicks before the needs of the services.

To redress these wrongs, Republicans have provided funding to dramatically improve the quality of life for military families. The House approved by an overwhelming vote of 414 to 4 the Fiscal Year 2000 Military Construction Appropriations bill, which contains several provisions to improve quality of life for our troops.

It includes \$800 million for new housing, \$747 million for new family housing units, and \$2.8 billion for operation and maintenance of existing family housing units.

In the wake of increased single-parent and dual income families within the military, the legislation also provides \$21 million for child development centers. These child development centers will help military families cope with their changing life circumstances.

The Republican record of support for our Armed Forces is strong. While there is more to be done to redress years of downsizing, we have provided for the well-being of our troops and the stability of our national security.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA MEDINA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in tribute to Virginia Medina of Clarksburg, California. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in remembering this remarkable wife, mother, and public servant.

Mrs. Medina passed away on June 27, 1999 following a three-year battle with ovarian cancer. She worked as a law librarian at the California State Department of Water Resources. I salute her professional as well as personal dedication to inspiring others and working hard to make a better life for her family.

State Senator Deborah Ortiz, Mrs. Medina's daughter, described her mother as "my greatest inspiration." Mrs. Medina was a working mother who put herself through secretarial school after surviving an early bout with thyroid cancer.

She had a wonderful reputation throughout her community as a warm, loving woman who never hesitated to help others in need. Mrs. Medina inspired significant legislation in the California State Legislature, authored by her daughter, which provides for annual research funding into gender-based cancers.

At the Department of Water Resources, Mrs. Medina was known as an exceptionally hard worker with a sunny personality. She served the people of California in that agency for over fifteen years.

One of her coworkers told the Sacramento Bee, "Despite all her suffering, she always had time to listen and to encourage others. She didn't complain. She wasn't cynical. She brought a lot of love and light to other peoples' lives."

A native of Lafayette, Colorado, Virginia Medina was born to a family of migrant workers. She moved to the Sacramento area at the age of seven. Although she was a high school dropout who married at 16, she always stressed the importance of education to her own children.

Mrs. Medina not only served as a worthy role model for her daughter, but for her four sons as well. We can all respect the way in

which she raised her family, promoted strong values, and contributed to her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in remembering this strong and vibrant wife, mother, and citizen. As her family and friends endure this great loss, our thoughts are with them during this most difficult of times. Yet the legacy which Mrs. Medina leaves behind will endure for years to come.

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 434) to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 434, the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. I am honored to say that today, the vast majority of American civic, religious, and business leaders strongly support this bill. More important, all 43 nations of sub-Saharan Africa have voiced unanimous support for this bold step toward stronger economic ties between the United States and Africa.

We have also recognized that Africa's fragile democracies cannot sustain themselves without economic prosperity. I am proud to say that our government supported and promoted free and fair elections in every country where leaders were willing to allow liberty to flourish.

Now, we turn our attention toward strengthening Africa economically through US-Africa trade. The globalization of the economy, marked by integration of markets throughout the world, has made Africa the new economic frontier for economic growth. Western Europe and Japan are aggressively pursuing new trade relations with African countries. This vast continent, with its enormous resources and human capacity, may become the world's economic engine well into the 21st Century.

Africa is on the brink of a major economic revival. The United States faces strong competition from the European and Asian economic communities. The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act provides the United States with a mechanism to leverage stronger US-African public and private partnerships while promoting African and American long-term economic interests.

HR 434 is bipartisan, provides a viable framework for modernizing Africa's trade infrastructure, strengthens relations between the African and American private sector, promotes African economic reform, and lays a foundation for future cooperation.

HR 434 is the beginning of an ongoing relationship between the United States and Africa.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

The bill's requirement that the President create and convene regularly a U.S.-Africa Economic Forum means there will be opportunity to revisit and expand the program as trade increases.

Much has been said about the need for debt relief for Africa. Congressman JESSE JACKSON has forcefully brought this point home to all of us. The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act calls for deep debt relief for the poorest countries in Africa. We should keep a discussion alive on this serious matter and seek to address the debt burden in an appropriate manner.

However, today we began to build strong trade relations between the United States and Africa as it is a critical part of Africa's economic recovery and is good for American businesses.

I urge passage of HR 434.

MEMORIAL DAY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor every "Hoosier" who took part in the 1999 Memorial Day activities in Indianapolis. It was one of the most significant weekends in the history of that great city.

As the last days of the 20th century continue to unfold, Memorial Day weekend in the capital of Indiana was one to remember. Nearly 100 Medal of Honor recipients were guests for a series of stirring tributes. These included a solemn Memorial Service; the dedication of the only memorial to recipients of the Medal of Honor; grand marshals in the IPALCO 500 Festival Parade; an outdoor concert by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra; and a parade lap around the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway prior to the start of the race.

As the 20th century draws to a close, many wonder if the Nation has lost sight of the sacrifices which have been made to preserve freedom. After this year's Memorial Day weekend in Indianapolis, my heart remains swollen with pride in our land and my fellow citizens. The reception given these ordinary citizens who did extraordinary things can never be equaled.

I am especially proud of the untold hundreds of volunteers who gave their free time and talent to make these events possible. Memorial Day weekend 1999 did much to convince me that our Nation's spirit of freedom is alive and well. It also underscored the true meaning of "Hoosier Hospitality."

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN MARVEL FOR MAKING THE DURANGO COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the great achievements and outstanding efforts of John Marvel. For many years, Mr. Marvel has been

involved in and contributed much to the Durango community. I wish to commend Mr. Marvel for his efforts and work for the citizens of Durango.

After completing his education at Adams State College, John Marvel began his career in banking. For the last 28 years he has contributed to the banking industry, working in 4 banks and serving as CEO for 3 of those banks. Currently, Mr. Marvel dedicates his energies to First National Bank of Durango where he is Bank President.

John Marvel also designates time to enhancing the town of Durango through various endeavors and leadership roles. Serving as President of the Durango Area Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Marvel was named the DACRA Volunteer of the Year for 1998. He has also been influential in his positions as President of Durango Industrial Development Foundation, Members of the Fort Lewis College Foundation Board, and Member of the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry Board. Because of his dedication and involvement, John Marvel was named the 1998 Recipient of Fort Lewis College Distinguished Service Award.

For his extensive work and service, I commend Mr. John Marvel and thank him for his endeavors. Mr. Marvel is a unique individual and I appreciate his commitment and work ethic.

MILITARY RECRUITMENT THROUGH EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS TO AMERICA'S YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, we know that today our armed forces are facing serious shortfalls in recruitment. Already, these shortfalls are having a dangerous impact on our Nation's military readiness. We will have all the best tools, and no one to fight the war. In part, the problem may be caused by a blessing: America's flourishing economy, which leads our young people to enter a booming job market rather than the rigors of military service. Therefore, it is essential for our national security that our government do all that it can to support our armed forces in effectively communicating to young people of recruitment age the advantages and benefits of service.

Honor, patriotism, and the desire for adventure still engage and motivate America's young men and women. America's armed forces offer the opportunity to be part of something meaningful, to learn self-discipline and sacrifice. For many idealist young people the military offers them an experience unmatchable elsewhere. So we have to get the message out about what service in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines means to their own country, and what opportunities such service entails. And we must recognize that in today's world, we are competing with some of the most effective marketing and recruitment techniques ever devised by U.S. companies, which quite reasonably want to catch as many of the best and the brightest as they can for themselves.

Therefore, it is essential that we convey our message by the most effective means possible, employing language and images engaging to young Americans of recruitment age. Programming messages by the U.S. Navy have scored significant recruiting success in recent months, partially reversing the downward trend of Navy recruitment. Programming directed toward high school students for post-graduation enlistment can be particularly beneficial. For example, Channel One, the in-school news analysis program reaches eight million American students daily. Studies have shown that it is particularly well targeted and unusually effective means of increasing awareness of the military service option and positive attitudes toward it. As a result of this exposure, students in Channel One schools are more likely to consider enlisting.

Mr. Speaker, the use of innovative methods to educate and encourage young people about the benefits of service to their country is essential in today's marketplace. Our national security demands such an effort. At the same time, service in the United States military truly provides young Americans with an opportunity to gain by giving to their country. I intend to work hard to ensure that our government expands its support for our armed forces' efforts in this direction.

THE STATE HORNET

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of The State Hornet, the newspaper of California State University, Sacramento. As the CSUS community celebrates this journalistic milestone, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in honoring the great work of this student newspaper.

Fifty years ago, just four students at the newly established Sacramento State College began The State Hornet newspaper. Their tireless work became the foundation upon which the future successes of the publication would be built.

The State Hornet first appeared on April 14, 1949. Since that first day, the student editors and reporters have worked hard to cover the news stories that most directly affect the everyday lives of its student readership and the Sacramento State community-at-large.

Since its founding, The State Hornet has experienced dramatic growth and change that is not reflected in the mere passage of fifty years. Since 1949, hundreds of talented students and generations of journalists have learned their trade in the offices of The State Hornet.

Today, approximately 75 students and staff work for the newspaper, which makes the State Hornet not only one of Sacramento State's oldest employers, but one of the largest as well. Along the way, the staff has moved from the converted shoe repair shop where the newspaper began into a modern university building.

The State Hornet is the only college newspaper in California with offices designed as a professional newsroom. Its circulation has grown from a few dozen in 1949 to 12,000 copies distributed currently.