

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ALASKA THROUGH A FEDERAL LAND GRANT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide for the continuance of higher education in the State of Alaska by conveying certain public lands in the State to the University of Alaska system.

This bill is not a new idea: it follows on and honors a commitment Congress first made in 1915 when the then-territory was promised a generous land grant for higher education, but due to circumstances outside Alaska's control, was never completed. As a result, the largest state has the second lowest Federal land grant of all land grant institutions nationwide even though Congress intended each state to acquire a large grant for its higher education needs.

The legislation I introduce today rectifies this gross oversight and puts Alaska's premier university on equal footing with other land grant institutions. This is only fair for a State with over 240 million acres of land owned by the Federal Government and most of that locked away from any development.

The history behind this issue begins in 1915 when Congress reserved about 268,000 acres of public domain for the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines (the former name of the University of Alaska). However, barely any land had been surveyed at that time, and only a fraction could be transferred. In 1958, the Alaska Statehood Act eliminated the original 1915 grant, with no clear, historical record explaining why. Alaska's university land grant today stands at only 112,000 acres in total. If the same formula for granting lands were used as in some other states, Alaska could have received five million acres.

A Federal land grant is vital to the future of higher education in Alaska. I believe its most important role is to make a top-tier educational opportunity available to those who otherwise must travel hundreds, even thousands of miles to the lower 48 States for college. I don't want to see this role compromised because the university is not on an equal footing with its competitors in the lower 48 States.

The legislation introduced today will provide to the university system a grant of 250,000 acres of Federal land, and up to 250,000 acres more on an acre-for-acre matching basis with the State. The University may not select lands in national parks, refuges, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, or specific areas of the national forest system. Thus, those lands open to selection are those which Congress, as ANILCA declares, are "necessary and appropriate for more intensive use and disposition . . ."

This bill also benefits the national conservation areas in Alaska. It conditions the Federal

grant on the university's relinquishment of 13,900 acres of inholdings surrounded by national parks, refuges and wildernesses. The relinquished lands will be added to the units in which they are located.

At its core, this is an education bill. By providing a land base with which to derive resources for the future, Alaskans will continue to receive the fruits of our university system without having to travel outside the State to colleges which were granted their full land entitlements.

REPORT FROM PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver my Report from Pennsylvania. Today, I would like to share with my colleagues and the American people the remarkable efforts of an individual in our community.

All across the Lehigh Valley, my wife, Kris, and I meet so many wonderful people. We learn of and hear about amazing individuals who strive day and night to make our communities better places to live.

I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes. Lehigh Valley Heroes make a difference by helping their friends and neighbors.

Today I would like to honor a man whose volunteerism makes a difference in the lives of a number of veterans in our communities. Leonard E. Shupp, a retired Army Colonel, has been giving his time and services to veterans in the Lehigh valley area for the past thirty years.

A veteran of World War II, Mr. Shupp has been decorated with a number of the nation's highest honors—the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star—along with ten other decorations.

Aside from his heroics during the war, today he is still active with a number of veterans' organizations. To name a few, he has been a volunteer chaplain of the Indian Gap National Cemetery Memorial Council for the last thirty years, and has been a volunteer chaplain in the retirement services office of the Tolsylvania Army Depot for the past ten years. Also, over the past decade, he has served as a volunteer consultant to the Director of Veteran's Affairs in Lehigh County.

On top of his numerous volunteer activities in veterans' affairs, Mr. Shupp has been a licensed minister of the United Church of Christ. And has since March 1998, become a member of the Faith Lutheran Church in Whitehall as a volunteer pastor.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I would like to recognize Mr. Leonard Shupp, of Whitehall, Pennsylvania, as a Lehigh Valley Hero. Through his activism, he has truly made a difference in the lives of members of our community, and for this I commend him.

This concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. TERRY A. STRAETER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct honor for me to pay tribute to Dr. Terry A. Straeter, an individual who is universally recognized as one of the most talented and innovative men in the field of defense aerospace and intelligence. Dr. Straeter is retiring following an illustrious career spanning over 30 years. He does so with the gratitude and appreciation of a nation that is more secure as a result of his work. And while the Nation has been fortunate to reap the benefit of Dr. Straeter's work, I have been even more fortunate in being able to call Terry a true friend.

Dr. Straeter's personal and professional accomplishments reflect a selfish dedication to improving the national security of this country. He distinguished himself through his work in a wide range of national intelligence systems. Specifically, Dr. Straeter was instrumental in the development of digital avionics and spacecraft at NASA's Langley Research Center. In addition, he was recognized for the work he did in digital mapping, exploitation, targeting, and archiving systems. While working for the Defense Mapping Agency, Dr. Straeter led an exceptional team of engineers which developed digital production systems which have become the baseline for the evolution of our nation's imagery intelligence capabilities.

Dr. Straeter's leadership and technical expertise were key in the development of the current generation of low-observable aircraft auto-routing systems—a capability which contributed significantly to the development of stealth technology in this country. He later developed a technology which significantly improved both the speed and accuracy of image extraction that directly improved our Government's digital map production. He also developed a commercial version of this solution that is currently used by more than 50 countries around the world.

Dr. Straeter's enormous talent, his keen insight and penchant for creative thinking made him a highly desired advisor. He served as a member of the Senate Select Committee for Intelligence's Technical Advisory Group, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Security Affairs Support Association, an active contributor to the Defense Science Board, as well as a corporate leader of the highest standing. A recipient of the Intelligence Community Seal Medallion, Dr. Straeter is a national asset who is admired and respected by all who know him.

I know I speak for a grateful nation in wishing Dr. Terry Straeter the very best as he begins a new chapter in his long, distinguished career.

● 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.

CHINA NEEDS TO JOIN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, many of us were hoping that progress could be made on a United States-China agreement for China's accession to the World Trade Organization [WTO] at the recent mini-summit meeting between President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang in Auckland, New Zealand. With the new WTO round beginning in Seattle, Washington, at the end of November, the time left to reach an agreement, and for China to join the WTO at the Seattle ministerial meeting, has almost run out. China needs to be in the WTO. And, China's accession to the WTO is in the short and long term interests of the United States and all the developed countries who are members of the WTO. Accordingly, this Member recommends the following editorial from the Wednesday, September 15, 1999, *Journal of Commerce* which comments on the Clinton-Jiang meeting and makes a strong case for China and Taiwan's accession to the WTO.

[From the *Journal of Commerce*, September 15, 1999]

CLINTON AND JIANG MEET

The rhetoric was typically overblown, but the idea that Sino-American relations are moving back to what passes for normal is a cause for some relief.

A minisummit between Presidents Clinton and Jiang "opened up a new chapter for Sino-U.S. relations," enthused one high-ranking U.S. official after their private session during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum gathering in New Zealand last weekend. "The summit is significant," proclaimed Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who had her own session with Chinese Vice Premier (and former foreign minister) Qian Qichen along with Samuel Berger, Clinton's national security adviser.

Relations between the United States and China are important, both for trade and economic reasons and for military and strategic ones. They go through regular if unhelpfully exaggerated turmoil over such things as Taiwan, intellectual property and market access and were badly bruised by the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade.

Chinese outrage was fully understandable and its inherent suspicion of "mistakes" fueled an age-old xenophobia. Nobody benefits from that kind of inward-focused China.

Many of the strains in Sino-American relations arise from the sort of everyday differences that a more mature and confident China would brush off (but keep around as a bargaining chip at some future time, as all powers do). For a country that claims the pioneering role in the art of diplomacy thousands of years ago, its mandarins often seem strangely given to flying off the handle.

In one of the more important unresolved issues—China's membership in the World Trade Organization—both sides are at fault. The Clinton administration muffed a great opportunity during the April visit to the United States of Premier Zhu Rongji, who brought a surprisingly lengthy list of concessions and agreements designed to break the logjam. He was justifiably affronted by the rebuff.

Similarly, China did itself no good by sulking for months after the Belgrade bombing

and then playing coy, suggesting that while it would be nice to join the club China could muddle through perfectly well on the outside.

China patently needs the WTO, and the United States, European Union and the rest of the trading world need it as a member. The talks have dragged on for 13 years.

Foreign investment, the spur to China's remarkable economic growth in recent years, is declining. This is partly due to the economic typhoon that swept Asia the past two years, but also partly due to China's failure to cut red tape sufficiently and to corral provincial and even municipal bureaucracies fond of making their own rules. Investors have plenty of good places to go and will go where they feel most welcome.

China has cut its tariff levels more deeply and widely than any other big trading country, by as much as 50% in some areas; the terms it offered were more generous than those of many existing WTO members, such as India. Beijing still dawdles for spurious reasons on opening financial services fully—especially insurance—but must be given credit for what it has done.

The best way to get closer adherence to global rules is to invite China into the game. The EU, previously also firm in demanding more concessions before entry, long ago accepted that enough was in place that the nitpicking should stop.

Beyond the immediate issue lies that of Taiwan. By common if misguided agreement, the dynamic little island won't be allowed into the WTO until China gains entry. Never mind that Taiwan has gone well beyond China and many other countries in tidying up its trade behavior. Such is realpolitik, but Taiwan deservedly gets a lot of good press.

When Taiwan President Lee Ten-hui spoke of wanting relations between the island and the mainland on a state-to-state basis, he may have been injudicious and he must have known that Beijing would yelp. But the truth is that Taiwan is the world's 14th-largest trading nation, has its third-largest hard currency reserves and few people outside China swallow Beijing's fiction that Taiwan is a wayward province subject for eternity to the risk of Chinese armed intervention.

The think tanks and professors are free to debate the nuances of such things in their ivory towers for as long as it amuses them. The real world needs China and Taiwan in the WTO now. Clinton knows it, and he should make it happen.

HONORING JOHN BOLAND FOR HIS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE QUINEBAUG AND SHETUCKET RIVERS VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Boland of Pomfret, Connecticut for his tireless and successful efforts to develop and grow the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor. As residents across eastern Connecticut mark the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Corridor, John Boland deserves much of the credit for the success we all celebrate.

John was one of the leaders of a small group of citizens from eastern Connecticut who came together in the late 1980s with an

idea to preserve and promote the natural, cultural and historic resources of the region. The group also wanted to follow an approach that would center on the major rivers in the area—the Quinebaug in the east and the Shetucket in the west—because they are intertwined with that history, with a way of life. As an avid canoeist, John also appreciated the recreational potential the rivers offered as well as the many obstacles to public access and greater enjoyment of these resources. After much research and widespread public discussion, the group embraced an innovative and largely experimental concept—the National Heritage Corridor.

In 1988, John and others formed the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor Committee to expand public awareness about the concept and to work in support of formally designating the Corridor. I am proud to have worked with John, who served as Chairman of the Committee, and so many others across the region to develop and introduce legislation in the House to achieve this goal. In the fall of 1994, years of hard work and persistence paid off as Congress passed and the President signed the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act.

Following enactment of the bill, John continued to take a leadership role in transforming the Corridor from a concept into reality. He helped to develop the framework of the non-profit corporation—Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc.—which currently manages the Corridor. He served as first Chairman of its Board of Directors and continues to be actively involved in many Corridor projects.

Mr. Speaker, the success of the Quinebaug and Shetucket National Heritage Corridor is the result of the efforts of countless residents from across eastern Connecticut. However, like so many other successful initiatives, a few people play critical leadership roles. John Boland has been this type of leader. His vision and hard work have been crucial to making the Corridor a reality. I join citizens from across eastern Connecticut in saying—thank you John.

WILLIE MACK (1927-1999)—A LIFE WITH INTENT

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the death of and to celebrate the remarkable life of a personal friend and political ally, Willie Mack. For almost 40 years, "Whisper" as he was affectionately called, was by my side in the many struggles for political equity and a voice in the affairs of governance for the African-American community in St. Louis. In the early days, when I was leading the effort to build an effective political organization, Willie "Whisper" Mack was prominently present. He was my right hand, my trusted confidant in every hard fought, exciting political campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I met "Whisper" one year after my first election to the St. Louis Board of Aldermen in 1959. In 1960, I was campaign manager for Norman Seay who was seeking to be the Democratic committeeman in that