

and pass the bill as amended by the managers' amendment.

VETERANS DAY, 1999—HONORING  
THE SERVICE OF VIETNAM AND  
VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 3, 1999*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, in a little more than a week, we will once again observe Veterans Day—the date a grateful Nation sets aside to honor the men and women who have served our nation as members of its military forces.

It is particularly poignant that we observe this occasion. First designated to commemorate Armistice Day and the restoration of peace, Veterans Day today is the occasion on which we appreciate the accomplishments and the sacrifices of untold scores of individuals. It is a day on which we acknowledge the role these individuals played in writing the history of the United States—a history that, in this century alone, has evolved from isolation to world leadership.

Underscoring its importance and the value of the ceremonies we observe today is the fact that a smaller percentage of Americans have now served in the Armed Forces of the United States that at any time in our recent history. This of course, reflects the unprecedented peace the United States has enjoyed. But, it also reminds us not to be lulled into complacency—into believing that future generations will not be called to arms.

Though we pray in our hearts they won't be called, we know in our heads that one day they may.

Like others before us, my generation was also called to arms. Most of us responded, notwithstanding the controversy and turmoil the war caused. The images of Vietnam are still vivid in our individual and collective memories. But, what's most surprising is the passage of time since the war and the fact that next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the departure of the last U.S. servicemen from Vietnam—a departure that closed the Vietnam-era and, for many of us, closed an important chapter in our lives.

Between 1961 and 1975, more than 2,590,000 Americans served in the Armed Forces in Vietnam. Untold thousands served in support roles elsewhere in Southeast Asia. At the same time, millions more protected U.S. national security interests in the other far regions of the world. And let us not forget the millions of civilians who also contributed to our nation's defense at a time tensions were growing between world superpowers.

Recently, the Commander's Council, the Allied Council, and the Administration and staff at the California Veterans Home in Yountville suggested to me that our nation celebrate this year's Veterans Day by marking the service of those who served in and during the Vietnam-era. On the eve of the 25th anniversary of that war's end, such a tribute is indeed appropriate and, as such, I would like to read the text of a resolution the Yountville Veterans Home residents and staff suggested:

RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE AND RECOGNIZE THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THOSE WHO DURING THE VIETNAM ERA SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OR IN CIVILIAN CAPACITIES IN SUPPORT OF UNITED STATES MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

Whereas the United States Armed Forces conducted military operations in Southeast Asia during the period (known as the "Vietnam era") from February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975;

Whereas during the Vietnam era more than 2,590,000 American military personnel served in the Republic of Vietnam or elsewhere in Southeast Asia in support of United States military operations in Vietnam, while millions more provided for the Nation's defense in other parts of the world;

Whereas during the Vietnam era untold numbers of civilian personnel also served in support of United States operations in Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the world;

Whereas May 7, 2000, marks the 25th anniversary of the closing of the period known as the Vietnam era;

Whereas citizens throughout the United States traditionally commemorate the service and sacrifice of the Nation's veterans on November 11th each year, the date designated by law as "Veterans Day", and

Whereas Veterans Day, 1999 would be an appropriate occasion to begin a period for observance of that anniversary and to recognize and appreciate the individuals who served the Nation in Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the world during the Vietnam era: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the American people are encouraged through appropriate ceremonies and activities, to recognize and appreciate the selfless sacrifice of the men and women, both military and civilian, who during the Vietnam era served the Nation in the Republic of Vietnam and elsewhere in Southeast Asia or otherwise served in support of United States operations in Vietnam and in support of United States interests throughout the world.

I commend the resolution to all Americans and thank the individuals at the California Veterans Home in Yountville for proposing it as part of this year's Veterans Day observance.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL J. "DUKE"  
MCVEY

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 3, 1999*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to recognize the outstanding achievements of Daniel J. "Duke" McVey, of Jefferson City, Missouri. McVey, who has been president of the Missouri AFL-CIO since 1982, will retire at the end of the year.

Duke McVey has been a truly outstanding civic leader for the AFL-CIO and for the State of Missouri. McVey has been a Member of Pipefitters Local 562, St. Louis, Missouri, since 1954. In 1978, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Missouri State Labor Council for the AFL-CIO, a position he served until 1982. McVey was then elected President of the Missouri AFL-CIO in 1982. In the 17 years he has headed the Missouri AFL-CIO, he has raised the level of involvement by unions in governmental affairs.

In addition to his service in the AFL-CIO, McVey has been a leader in his community by

serving on various councils and committees. He currently serves on the Missouri Training and Employment Council, and has been a member of Trustees of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Missouri since 1992. McVey serves on the Missouri Business Council, the Missouri Task Force on Workers Compensation, the Commission on Management and Productivity, and the Missouri State Council on Vocational Education. Since 1994, McVey has served on Missourians for Equal Justice, the Governor's partnership on the Transition from School to Work, and Goals 2000 State Panel. McVey served as the Literacy Investment for Tomorrow (LIFT) Board President in 1995, and he is a member of the Missouri Global Partnership, the Children's Trust Fund, and the Commission on the Future of the South.

Duke McVey has been an extraordinary leader for labor, for his community, and for his State. I know the House will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding leader and wishing him and his family—his wife Arlene, and his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren—all the best in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE L.  
PHELPS

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 3, 1999*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading ladies, and distinguished member of the Bayfield School District Board of Education, Katherine L. Phelps. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for many years, has exhibited dedication and experience in the education system of Bayfield, Colorado.

Throughout the course of her distinguished career, Katherine's dedication to our children has been unparalleled. She has consistently worked with the board, the district, and the community to make the Bayfield schools the best they could be.

Aside from her involvement in the school district, she also takes on an active role in the community. She is a member of the School Accountability Committee, the 4-H club, the booster club, and numerous sports programs.

Together with her husband, Arvin, she has five children: Sharla, Rick, Trent, Dion, and Wendy. She also has seven grandchildren and one on the way. Undoubtedly, these fine young people will carry the torch of dedication and leadership that their mother embraces so diligently.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Katherine Phelps for her exceptional service on the Bayfield School District Board of Education. Because of Mrs. Phelps' dedicated service, it is clear that Colorado is a better place. For many years to come, her legacy of hard work and dedication will be remembered. I wish her all the best in her well deserved retirement and in all future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 3, 1999*

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on personal family business on the evening of November 1, 1999, when the vote on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Land Conveyance Act, H.R. 2737, was cast. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this measure.

In addition, I was unavoidably detained on personal family business on the evening of November 1, 1999, when the vote on the FEMA and Civil Defense Monument Act, H.R. 348, was cast. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this measure.

In addition, I was unavoidably detained on personal family business on the evening of November 1, 1999, when the vote on the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, H.R. 1714, was cast. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this measure.

## U.S. POLICY TOWARD NORTH KOREA

**HON. TONY P. HALL**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 3, 1999*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern over some of the findings of the Republican task force formed to examine U.S. policy toward North Korea.

Most troubling to me is its assertion that there have been significant diversions of food aid we have donated in response to that country's famine. All evidence suggests that this is just not true. Moreover, it is clear—to me, to our military stationed in South Korea, to policymakers in Washington, Seoul and Tokyo, and to attentive observers—that U.S. food aid to North Koreans is thawing 50 years of icy hostility toward Americans. Our wheat and corn, and our aid workers, are putting the lie to decades of Pyongyang's propaganda about American intentions. We are proving by our presence to all who see us and our sacks of food that Americans are compassionate people who will not stand by while innocent Koreans starve and suffer.

As you know, I have visited North Korea five times—not out of any particular interest in the country, but because their people are suffering. It is a famine that, I believe, history will mark as one of this decade's worst.

In my trips, I always have brought my own translator as well as a member of our armed forces. Other members of my delegations have included a Marine who served in the Korean War—Congressional medal of honor winner General Ray Davis; a doctor from the Centers for Disease Control; reporters from USA Today and the Washington Post; an agriculture expert; and a Korean-American economist who specializes in humanitarian aid.

During every trip, I have met with Western aid workers working in North Korea. In all, I have spoken with scores of them over the past three years. These are people with expertise on hunger and the diseases that prey

on hungry people—and with experience working in challenging situations. None of them has any cause to lie to me, and every reason to raise concerns that I can use to press North Korea officials on. And yet, in five visits I have not found a single aid worker who said food aid is being diverted from hungry people.

The General Accounting Office report turns up no such diversion either; nor does any other U.S. Government agency. Even counting an incident in early 1998, where food sent to a county that later was closed to monitors, the record in North Korea is well within the two percent average loss rate that the United Nations World Food Programme maintains in its operations worldwide. Compared to other difficult situations—such as in Haiti, where more than 10 percent of food was lost in the last reporting period, or Honduras, where the rate was 6 percent—the 1.7 percent loss rate in North Korea is not bad. That incident should not be dismissed, because it was serious enough to provoke WFP to increase restrictions on its aid. But it should be kept in perspective.

It is not only my own experience, and the experiences of knowledgeable aid workers, that refute the allegation that there have been serious diversions of food. Common sense dictates that such a conclusion is off-base, because North Korea has its own harvest and the considerable gifts it receives from China to draw upon to feed its soldiers and government officials. There simply is no reason for North Korea to raid international aid shipments—and every incentive to see that this food reaches those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I don't doubt the conviction of Members of this task force. Since the United States first began to engage North Korea five years ago, there have been doubts by some in Congress about the wisdom of this initiative. But there is equal conviction by others in Congress and the Administration that engaging North Korea, an approach begun under President Reagan, is the wisest course available to us.

There is also broad support for it among U.S. military leaders, and our South Korean and Japanese allies. And there is support among Korean Americans; I am submitting for inclusion in the RECORD the statement of a group of notable Korean American citizens and organizations whose views have helped to inform our policy and should be respected as we continue to refine it.

The task force's findings on North Korea's involvement in narcotics trafficking, missile proliferation, possible nuclear development in violation of the Agreed Framework, and other activities are serious and deserve our attention. It is tempting to instead focus our attention on concerns about food aid, because that is easier to do something about. But cutting off food aid—whether we do it outright, or by tightening the monitoring requirements so much that the effect is to cut off food aid—would not solve these other problems. All it would do is prevent us from saving millions of lives, and prove to North Korea's people that its government was right about America all along.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe the task force's quarrel over U.S. policy toward North Korea does not center on our efforts to feed its suffering people. At a hearing last week, Chairman GILMAN said, "no one—I repeat no one—wants to cut off food aid to North

Korea." I share his concerns that our food aid be monitored to ensure it reaches those in need, and his read of public support for a humanitarian policy that refuses to use food as a weapon—even against North Koreans.

Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you and others who would like to see it that, after this crisis passes, North Korea's people will overthrow their government. History shows that people who survive a famine sometimes do that, and sometimes do not. But I can guarantee you that Koreans—in North Korea, in South Korea, and in our own country—will remember how we respond in this time of crisis. They will remember who helped those who were suffering; and they will never forget those who found excuses to do too little to save the many who died.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to focus on the serious concerns about North Korea that this task force has highlighted; but to remember as we debate our policy toward North Korea, that—in the words of President Reagan—"a hungry child knows no politics."

Our food aid is making the difference between life and death for hundreds of thousands of children and other vulnerable people in North Korea. The private organization's aid workers, and the staff and leaders of the World Food Programme and other U.N. agencies, are doing everything they can to ensure that our food gets to those in need. We should support their work, and seize the historic opportunity that our humanitarian aid has put within our reach: to end the Cold War in this last, desperate outpost, and to secure a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

## KOREAN AMERICANS WEIGH IN ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD NORTH KOREA

WASHINGTON.—Korean Americans are important stakeholders in U.S. policy toward North Korea because many in our community still have families, relatives, friends and other interests in the Korean peninsula.

We believe that our voices must be considered in the formulating policy toward North Korea, and set forth positions that we believe must be an integral part of the U.S. policy.

## U.S. POLICY MUST FURTHER THE PROSPECT OF LASTING PEACE WHILE AVOIDING THE POSSIBILITY OF ARMED CONFLICT

Korean Americans recognize and appreciate the long history of leadership demonstrated by the United States in tackling difficult foreign policy issues with firm commitment to peace. We first and foremost believe that any U.S. policy on North Korea must be formulated so as to encourage peace and reduce the chance of armed conflicts on the Korean peninsula. Koreans have already experienced decades of devastating losses as a result of military actions on the peninsula. We therefore cannot stand any stronger in opposition to the consideration of military action, no matter how limited in scope, as one of the viable U.S. policy options.

## U.S. POLICY SHOULD SUPPORT MONITORED HUMANITARIAN AID TO NORTH KOREA FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE FAMINE VICTIMS

As we all know, monitoring the distribution of food and medical aid in North Korea is less than satisfactory, due to the unwillingness of North Korean authority to let monitors travel freely. The lack of freedom of travel there, however, is not limited to the monitors but to all people in the country. While it is practically impossible to prove that food aid are not diverted, most documents by U.N. organization and PVOs which provide humanitarian aid report that