

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the distinguished gentleman from California, Mr. FILNER. I commend my colleague for his tenacious efforts to restore benefits for Filipino veterans and for his steadfast support.

The sacrifices of all veterans during World War II deserve our recognition and respect, and this amendment addresses a group of veterans who fought alongside American soldiers in the Philippines. For almost four years, in the fight to retake the Philippine Islands from Japan, 100,000 Filipino soldiers fought alongside our armed forces. Despite the integral role Filipino soldiers played in the Allied Victory in the Pacific Theater, they were denied benefits under the 79th Congress Rescissions Act of 1946.

Mr. FILNER's amendment would attempt to address this egregious mistake by providing the necessary and deserved reparations to demonstrate the depth of our gratitude and respect for the service of these men in war. The age of the veterans and our country's late acknowledgment of their dedicated service make it imperative that these trusted veterans receive the requested emergency funding.

I support this amendment to add \$35 million to the VA-HUD Appropriations bill, H.R. 4635, so that Filipino Veterans have unrestricted access to Veterans facilities in both the Philippines and the United States, and increase the exchange rate for service-connected disability compensation. It is time we honored these servicemen and provided the benefits and compensation they deserve.

Thank you, Mr. FILNER, for your work on behalf of Filipino veterans. I urge my colleagues to support the Filner amendment.

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SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my distinguished colleague's amendment. Mr. FILNER has shown a great sense of justice by offering this amendment which provides funds for health benefits for Filipino World War II veterans. It also increases service-connected disability benefits to those vets who are living in the United States. Both these provisions will greatly improve the lives of many Filipino veterans who loyally fought with the United States in World War II.

The early months of World War II were a dark time for the United States. Our armed forces were on the defensive everywhere—nowhere more so than in the Philippines. Food, medical supplies and ammunition ran short. With sea and air links severed, there was no hope of resupply, reinforcement or escape.

In that desperate hour, approximately 200,000 Filipino soldiers under the command of General Douglas MacArthur displayed exemplary loyalty and courage in the defense of the Philippines. They fought in every major battle, including the final defense of Bataan and Corregidor. They suffered every privation. They endured every danger. They shed their blood as readily as their American comrades in arms.

Those sacrifices continued even after U.S. forces were driven from the Philippines in 1942. Thousands of courageous Filipinos took up arms as guerillas and fought enormous odds. Their bravery earned the admiration of freedom loving people throughout the world. They provided valuable intelligence to General MacArthur's forces in the Southwest Pacific, rescued downed American airmen, and diverted powerful enemy forces from deployment elsewhere. Through three long, terrible years these Filipino guerilla soldiers kept faith with America.

Now it is time for America to keep faith with Filipino veterans. Despite their equal service, our Filipino veterans do not enjoy equal benefits with the American troops with whom they fought side by side. An estimated 60,000 to 80,000 surviving Filipino veterans are barred from the full range and extent of veterans benefits available to Americans who served

against the same enemy, in the same battles, at the same time. This violates the fundamental concept of fairness, especially for those who put their lives on the line for our country.

Because America stands for justice for all, we cannot turn our backs on these veterans who have been denied their due for so long. We owe equal treatment to all who fought under our flag. America is a great nation, and we must act now to right a great wrong. We can do so by extending recognition for incomparable bravery and loyalty. It is time to offer justice to veterans in need and redeem a debt that has gone unpaid for far too long. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN SULLIVAN

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to celebrate the contributions that Mr. Kevin Sullivan, of Chino, California, has made to his community.

Mr. Sullivan was born in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. His career has been exciting and impressive taking him from a mercantile broker's office and major export company in his native Australia to the Australian Consulate-General's office in New York to numerous European cities as a member of Jack Kramer's world professional tennis tour.

In 1961, Mr. Sullivan came to Southern California when he was appointed General Manager of Jack Kramer's Los Serranos Country Club. Under Mr. Sullivan's leadership, the South Course was initiated and built and a new clubhouse was constructed. Although Mr. Sullivan stepped down from his managerial duties in 1997, he continues to serve as Secretary of the Corporation, Director and Vice President of Special Projects, and as a Trustee of the Profit Sharing Plan.

An active member of the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Sullivan has held the prestigious positions of Director and Second Vice President, President-Elect, and President.

The Chamber's accomplishments under Mr. Sullivan's tenure as President have been numerous and impressive: the Chamber moved its offices to the historic Grey Building, the website has been redesigned and now includes an on-line membership directory, and the Chamber has awarded over \$6,000 in student scholarships and classroom mini-grants for teachers. As a result of Mr. Sullivan's forward-thinking and leadership, Chamber membership has grown to over 600 members and attendance records at Chamber events are being broken.

In addition to his duties as President of the Chamber, Mr. Sullivan is a member of Chino

● 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.

Rotary where he has 37 years of perfect attendance. He also supports City of Hope, Boy's Republic, and the YMCA. Mr. Sullivan's commitment to community service has earned the recognition of his Rotary Club and the City of Councils of Chino and Chino Hills.

Mr. Sullivan has exemplified his theme for the year, "Friendship + Teamwork = Success," and he is deserving of the accolades of this Congress.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COM- MERCE ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Member of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection, and as one of the two Democrats appointed to serve on the conference committee to resolve differences between S. 761, the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, and the House amendments to the bill, I wish to indicate that I concur with the extension of remarks today submitted to the RECORD by the Gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) with respect to this legislation.

I have had an opportunity to review the gentleman from Michigan's extension of remarks concerning certain insertions previously placed into the RECORD by other conferees. I agree with the Gentleman from Michigan's responses to these remarks.

There was no joint explanatory statement prepared in connection with the conference report on S. 761, and the Gentleman from Michigan quite properly notes, certain statements made in the extensions of remarks previously submitted by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) do not accurately reflect the intent or understanding of the conferees. Moreover, some of these statements are simply not correct or conflict with the plain language of the statute.

In addition to the matters discussed in the Gentleman from Michigan's statement, I would also like to mention an additional matter which I believe merits clarification.

I note that Senator ABRAHAM states that the "reference in section 101(a) of the conference agreement to 'any transaction in or affecting interstate commerce' is intended to include electronic records, signatures and agreements governed by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all electronic records, signatures and agreements used in financial planning, income tax preparation and investments." The scope of section 101 is actually narrower; it is limited to "transactions" involving "consumers". For example, the conferees defines transactions to include "an action or set of actions relating to the conduct of business, consumer, or commercial affairs" and consciously rejected including governmental affairs as a whole. The bill does not purport to affect all records, signatures and agreements governed in general by the federal securities laws or "used in financial planning, income tax preparation and investments".

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS TRANSPOR- TATION INSTITUTE AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University to improved safety on our nation's highways. This year marks a historic occasion for the institute as they celebrate their 50th year. Since its inception, the Texas Transportation Institute has conducted applied research in all modes of transportation and transferred the results to the public and private sectors, enhancing transportation safety, efficiency and sustainability, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Herbert H. Richardson and the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI).

Looking back on the history of the Institute gives us an interesting perspective on how far we've come in terms of transportation and technological advances. I was interested to note that some of the earliest safety research performed by TTI was to develop safer roadside structures, including breakaway supports and impact attenuation systems. As you are aware, one of the first real-world tests of a breakaway sign occurred in September 1965 when a driver lost control of his vehicle and skidded into an "EXIT" sign on IH-10 near Beaumont. Less than 24 hours before the accident, the local THD maintenance force had placed the TTI-designed slip base and hinge sign support in place of the old fixed one. In this accident, the driver and passenger escaped uninjured, and the vehicle sustained only minor damage. Less than a year earlier, a driver hit the same sign, then mounted on a standard base, and was killed. Today, highway safety is still an issue of major concern and I am pleased that TTI has continued to develop technological advances, such as the ADIEM crash cushion, to make our nation's roads and highways safer. Many Americans owe their lives to the development of this technology, which is now in use in nearly 40 states. You and the Institute can certainly be proud of the work.

In the 1950's, Dean of the College of Engineering, Fred Benson was quoted in the Daily Eagle as saying "The Institute intends to assemble a group of men at this college with a thorough knowledge of all types of transportation. These men . . . will provide a forum for analyzing and discussing problems [and] will outline and guide our research program and provide high level education to mature students with an interest in transportation." Given the fact that TTI employs about 570 people, is home to four National Research Clearinghouses and eight National Research Centers, and has urban laboratories in every major metropolitan area in the state, I am certain that Dr. Benson would indeed be very proud of the men and women of TTI and their many accomplishments. I extend to them my heartfelt congratulations and best wished for the next 50 years.

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Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the Nadler/Shays/Crowley/Horn amendment to increase HOPWA funding by \$18 million in the FY 2001 VA/HUD appropriations bill. This additional funding will increase the ability of the HOPWA program to meet current needs while bringing additional newly eligible communities into this effective program.

The need for housing assistance among those living with HIV/AIDS is greater now than ever. As new treatments and greater access to HIV/AIDS care through the Ryan White CARE Act allow infected individuals to live longer, new HIV infections are continuing at a steady rate. This means that the overall number of people living with HIV/AIDS has grown to its highest level ever. In addition, the new treatments that are extending so many lives involve a complicated regimen of medications, requiring certain medications to be taken at certain times, certain medications to be taken after eating, and still others on an empty stomach. This makes adherence very difficult, and nearly impossible without stable housing.

As the number of people living with HIV/AIDS increases, so do the number of cities and states qualifying for HOPWA formula grants. At the same time, the rising costs of housing across the country, particularly in urban areas where a large proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS live, make it difficult for HOPWA to maintain current services without funding increases. Despite this increased need HOPWA funding has remained relatively flat over the past 5 years. Increases in the number of eligible jurisdictions means that flat funding is in reality a funding cut for all HOPWA jurisdictions.

More than 200,000 people with HIV/AIDS are currently in need of housing assistance, and 60 percent of those living with this disease will need housing assistance at some point during their illness.

HIV prevalence with the homeless population is estimated to be 10 times greater than infection rates in the general population. In addition, homeless individuals are much less likely to have regular access to health care than the general population and are therefore less likely to be tested for HIV than are people with stable housing. One San Francisco study showed that up to 33 percent of homeless individuals who were living with HIV were unaware of being HIV positive.

HIV/AIDS community policy experts have estimated that unless HOPWA funding is substantially increased, jurisdictions will face decreased service levels and could suffer decreased funding. To avoid these reductions,