

Fairness Act of 2000. This February many of my constituents were placed into a special hazard flood zone, a designation which necessitated the purchase of flood insurance. These residents were not notified that they would be required to purchase flood insurance until two months or less before the maps became effective, even though the law is supposed to give them six months notice. This exacerbated an already difficult situation, as residents who had not seen flooding in decades or a lifetime had little notice to purchase costly insurance.

Several residents who did not believe they were in the flood zone hired a surveyor at their own expense. The data provided by this private surveyor resulted in their homes being removed from the special hazard flood zone. While these residents were not required to purchase flood insurance, they did spend over \$200 each for the surveyor. They were told by FEMA that they were responsible for that expense, even though the mistaken flood zone classification was made by the county engineers.

Clearly the national flood insurance program needs to be revised to give homeowners more notice and due process. That's why I am proposing this legislation.

The National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act of 2000 would do the following: Require the FEMA Director to notify by registered mail the Chief Executive Officer of each community affected by changes in Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The Director will be required to provide a copy of the revised map, along with a statement explaining the process of appeal. The director will also provide the affected community sufficient information to identify which homes are affected. Require the Director to notify by registered mail the Chief Executive Officer of each community of FEMA's response to the community's appeal of the flood insurance rate maps. Require the Director to notify by first class mail each owner of property affected by the changes in the flood insurance rate maps. Require FEMA to reimburse a resident for reasonable costs incurred in connection with a surveyor or engineer for an appeal to the Director which is successful. This does not include legal services incurred by the resident.

It is my hope that the legislation will allow communities to better work with FEMA to ensure that residents are given sufficient, fair, and timely notice if they will be required to purchase flood insurance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, during the consideration of H.R. 4762, legislation to require Section 527 disclosure, my vote was not recorded on final passage.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall 341. I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD after Rollcall Vote 341.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SERVICE-MEN OF USAAF B-17 40-2072

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor forty American soldiers killed over fifty-seven years ago in a terrible aviation accident. This mishap occurred in Bakers Creek, Queensland, Australia on 14 June 1943. At the time, it was not only the worst aviation accident in Australia, but also the worst aviation accident of World War II.

The aircraft was operated by the United States Army Air Force 46th Transport Carrier Squadron, 317th Troop Carrier Group (46TCG) of the 5th Air Force, United States Army Air Force, and was one of many B-17 aircraft removed and converted from combat status and placed with the 46th as a transport aircraft. Shortly after takeoff from the Mackay airport in Bakers Creek, Australia, their B-17 flying Fortress lost altitude, falling to the earth in a slow and steady bank and crashed in a ball of flames. In addition to the six crew members, thirty-five soldiers were on board, returning to their posts after being on leave in Mackay. Their names, rank, and units follow:

Crew: 1/Lt. Vern J. Gidcumb, Pilot, 317th Troop Carrier Group, 46th Troop Carrier Squadron; F/O William C. Erb, Co-Pilot, 317th Troop Carrier Group, 46th Troop Carrier Squadron; 2/Lt. Jack A. Ogren, Navigator, 317th Troop Carrier Group, 46th Troop Carrier Squadron; S/Sgt. Lovell Dale Curtis, Crew Chief, 317th Troop Carrier Group, 46th Troop Carrier Squadron; S/Sgt. Frank E. Whelchel, Crew Chief, 374th Troop Carrier Group, 22nd Troop Carrier Squadron; Sgt. David E. Tileston, Radio Operator, 317th Troop Carrier Group, 46th Troop Carrier Squadron.

Passengers: Pfc. Arnold Seidel, 5th Air Force, 415th Signal Company; Pvt. Ruben L. Vaughn, 5th Fighter Command, HQ Squadron; T/5 George A. Ehrman, 5th fighter Command, Signal HQ Company; S/Sgt. Roy A. Hatlen, 35th Fighter Group, 40th Fighter Squadron; S/Sgt. John W. Hilsheimer, 35th Fighter Group, 40th Fighter Squadron; Sgt. Dean H. Busse, 35th Fighter Group, 40th Fighter Squadron; Cpl. Raymond H. Smith, 35th Fighter Group, 40th Fighter Squadron; Maj. George N. Powell, 49th Fighter Group, HQ Squadron; Pfc. Jerome Abraham, 49th Fighter Group, Hq Squadron; Pvt. Charles, D. Montgomery, 49th Fighter Group, 7th Fighter Squadron; Capt. John O. Berthold, 49th Fighter Group, 8th Fighter Squadron; Sgt. Carl A. Cunningham, 49th Fighter Group, 8th Fighter Squadron.

Sgt. Charlie O. LaRue, 49th Fighter Group, 8th Fighter Squadron; Sgt. Leo. E. Fletcher, 38th Bombardment Group, 405th Bombardment Squadron; Sgt. Donald B. Kyper, 38th Bombardment Group, 405th Bombardment Squadron; Cpl. Franklin F. Smith, 38th Bombardment Group, 405th Bombardment Squadron; T/Sgt. James A. Copeland, 8th Service Group, HQ Squadron; Cpl. Charles W. Sampson, 8th Service Group, 11th Service Squadron; Pfc. Dale Van Fosson, 8th Service Group, 1160th Quartermaster Company; Pfc. Kenneth W. Mann, 36th Service Group, 374th Service Squadron; Pfc. Charles M. Williams, 455th Service Squadron; T/5 William A. Briggs,

478th Service Squadron, 1037th Signals; Cpl. Edward Tenny, 479th Service Squadron.

Pfc. Norman J. Goetz, 480th Service Squadron; Pfc. Frederick C. Sweet, 481st Service Squadron, 46th Ordnance Company; T/Sgt. Alfred H. Frezza, 27th Depot Repair Squadron; Cpl. Jacob O. Skaggs, Jr., 27th Depot Repair Squadron; Pvt. James E. Finney, 27th Depot Repair Squadron; Pvt. Raymond D. Longabaugh, 842nd Aviation Engineer Battalion; Cpl. Marlin D. Metzger, 374th Troop Carrier Group, 6th Troop Carrier Squadron; Pfc. Frank S. Penska, 374th Troop Carrier Group, 6th Troop Carrier Squadron; Sgt. Anthony Rudnick, 565th Signal Battalion, Company A; Pfc. Vernon Johnson, 440th Signal Battalion, Company A; Pfc. John W. Parker, 809th Chemical Company.

Mr. Speaker, although these men came from twenty different states, were from many different walks of life, and served in many different units, their common purpose was one: service to our nation. Until recently, the details of this mishap were classified by the Air Force, but now that the incident is available for public attention, I desire to honor the memory of these fine young men.

I applaud the efforts of people like Mr. Colin Benson, who is a historian for the Mackay chapter of the Returned and Service League (RSL) of Australia. Mr. Benson's devotion to obtaining the records of the incident and seeking recognition for these men has been long and arduous. As an Australian, Mr. Benson's dedication to our American soldiers is commendable. Rarely does a foreign country applaud the efforts and sacrifices of another, and strive so hard to honor their dead. I also applaud Mr. Eugene D. Rossel's commitment and dedication to the disclosure of this terrible mishap. He is that type of American who will not rest until heroes like the men I listed above are recognized for their personal sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we give thanks to all our veterans for the sacrifices they made for our great nation. Unfortunately, we must also live with the knowledge that some of our servicemen and women do not live long enough to become veterans. They give their lives so that ours might be better, and the men of B-17 40-2071 did no less. May we continue to recognize and memorialize our fallen servicemen and women, long into the future.

CONGRATULATING 30 SIXTH GRADERS OF SHADY LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a great day, on which 30 sixth grade students from Shady Lane Elementary School reached all of the appropriate levels on their Terra Nova test. Ms. Pat Campanile's sixth grade class is an outstanding group of young people. I wish the best of luck to the following group of sixth graders: Pedro Alvarez, Angelica Beltran, Jeffrey Clement, Da Juane Collins, Shannon Costro, Casaundra Davis, Erin Feeney, Julia Fluke, Kalem Francis, Lacey Hall, Matthew Hanratty, Gina Hinchliffe, Darrell Jenkins, Sachi Jonas,

Lauren Jordan, Debbie King, Jonathan Lawrence, Robert Murningham, Brittney Nock, Christopher Perez, Jenna Perez, Andre Robinson, Charmel Sippio, Amanda Smith, Krystle Snyder, Michael Solvibile, Patricia Stout, Prunell Thurman, Philip Washington.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday evening, June 26, 2000, there was a series of votes called for the bill providing appropriations for the departments of Commerce, Justice and State, and the Judiciary—H.R. 4690. I was unavoidably delayed due to mechanical problems and personnel issues with not one, but two different, airlines. Consequently, I was delayed to the point of missing several votes.

Had I been present for roll call vote 322, the Sanford Amendment numbered 33 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to strike the \$8.2 million appropriation for the Asia Foundation in the Department of State, I would have voted Aye.

Had I been present for roll call vote 323, the Olver Amendment numbered 72 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to add a new proviso into the bill (relating to the Kyoto Protocols) which clarifies that the limitations on funds shall not apply to activities which are otherwise authorized by law, I would have voted Nay.

Had I been present for roll call vote 324, the Hostettler Amendment numbered 23 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to add a new section which provides that no funds in the bill may be used to enforce, implement, or administer the provisions of the settlement document dated March 17, 2000, between Smith and Wesson and the Department of the Treasury, I would have voted Aye.

Had I been present for roll call vote 325, the Vitte amendment numbered 77 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to add language to the bill prohibiting the use of funds by the State Department to approve the purchase of property in Arlington, Virginia by the Xinhua News Agency, I would have voted Aye.

Finally, had I been present for roll call 326, final passage for the bill, H.R. 4690, I would have voted Aye.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Rollcall vote No. 319.

Had I been present, I would have voted nay on rollcall No. 319, the Waxman amendment to H.R. 4690—Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations.

HONORING THE CAREER OF SHIRLEY FEIRER, PRESIDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the years of dedication and service of Shirley Feirer to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. Ms. Feirer will be concluding her year of outstanding service as President of the Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary on July 1, 2000 at the Department Convention in Dearborn, Michigan.

President Feirer first joined the Auxiliary in October 1983 with her husband Joseph, who served in World War II in Europe. In 1990 she was appointed as District 10 President, which she performed simultaneously with her newly elected position as Washington Township Supervisor. In 1997, she was chosen to serve as all State President. Elected as a Guard with the Department of Michigan in 1994, Ms. Feirer proceeded through the chairs to become State President in 1999.

Over the past year, Shirley has logged many miles to visit the 279 VFW auxiliaries that make up the Michigan Department. She has not only traveled the state of Michigan, she has represented the over 3,000 Michigan auxiliary members at national conventions. She has balanced all of this with her role as Washington Township Supervisor, Mother of three sons, five step-children, twelve grandchildren, one great grandchild and caretaker of her mother.

Today I would like to thank Shirley for her years of service and her dedication to the veterans who have so nobly served our country. The foundation that Ms. Feirer helped to build will remain for future generations. I wish her the very best as she steps down as President. I am sure she will continue to be a valuable asset to the VFW Auxiliary in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 28, I missed a series of votes due to the death of my father. Had I been here, I would

have voted as follows: Rollcall #352—yes, Rollcall #353—yes, Rollcall #354—yes, Rollcall #355—no, Rollcall #356—yes, Rollcall #357—no.

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE AND COMMUNITY FREEDOM FEST COMMEMORATION

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the contributions of the men and women who have served America while stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas and members of the community during their Independence Day celebration.

The Sheppard Air Force Base July 4th, 2000 Freedom Fest is a celebration of freedom recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of patriots in the past and celebrating the promise of America's future. In honor of this event and these contributions, I enter the following proclamation into the official record of today.

Whereas the friendship and understanding between the men and women of Sheppard Air Force Base and Wichita Falls, Burkburnett, Iowa Park, and other North Texas communities are indicative of the strong civil-military support so essential to America's strength;

Whereas since its beginnings in 1941 as a training base for B-25 and B-26 aircraft mechanics, Sheppard Air Force Base has continued to play an essential role in training so many of America's sons and daughters in critical skills that enabled us to win the Cold War;

Whereas it should be acknowledged the men and women of Sheppard Air Force Base host Freedom Fest—a day of family fun—in appreciation and gratitude of the military and civilian patriots of the past and present so committed to the preservation of freedom;

Therefore, let it be known that the Sheppard Air Force Base Freedom Fest celebration is a commendable event celebrating freedom, liberty, community support, and friendship.