

the community as a whole. He supported Fayetteville's law enforcement community because he cared.

Mr. Dawkins's passing has left a great void in the Fayetteville community. Despite our sorrow and loss, we have the opportunity today to celebrate the life and legacy of an exemplary public servant. It is fitting then that we honor him today by naming a post office for J.L. Dawkins in Fayetteville. Mr. Dawkins cared deeply for his city, the constituents he served, and most importantly his family. H.R. 4658 ensures that Mr. Dawkins will forever be remembered for these traits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING WINSTON P.
THOMPSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Winston P. Thompson, a Certified Public Accountant and successful Financial Planner who has been actively involved in providing tax and financial planning services within the Brooklyn Community for the past fifteen years.

Mr. Thompson, a graduate of St. Francis College in Brooklyn, New York, obtained his graduate degree from Pace University in New York. As a young certified public accountant, Mr. Thompson spent two years as an auditing officer with Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, a Wall Street Investment Banking firm. Mr. Thompson also spent five years with Arthur Andersen & Company, an international accounting and consulting firm.

Fifteen years ago, following his tenure with Morgan Guaranty and Arthur Andersen, Winston Thompson founded Thompson & Company, a Certified Public Accounting and Consulting firm. Mr. Thompson currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of this highly respected firm, based in downtown Brooklyn.

In addition to his serving the community through his membership in the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and the Bedford Stuyvesant Real Estate Board, Mr. Thompson is active in various community events.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lifelong efforts of Winston Thompson, and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. COAST
GUARD STATION CHARLEVOIX
ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY AS
A SEARCH AND RESCUE STATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many members of the U.S. Coast Guard who served for the past 100 years in the essential duty of Search and Rescue at Coast Guard Station Charlevoix.

Search and Rescue has been one of the United States Coast Guard's oldest missions. Like many of man's endeavors, Search and Rescue has evolved. Once—and we can all conjure the picture in our heads, Mr. Speaker—search and rescue often involved sending rescuers into the maw of an angry sea. It was an enterprise that required an intuitive understanding of nature, great physical strength, and reserves of energy.

Today the intellect of inventors has sought to expand man's ability to undertake a rescue. As the bestseller "A Perfect Storm" makes clear, however, new generations of technology for locating those in distress or bringing rescuers to the vessel in trouble must still face the elemental forces that can overwhelm our most advanced hardware.

The success of this book—and the new movie based on the book—is certain to make clear that any who ventures on the water, even the most experienced mariner, can be caught unaware by the sudden fury of an unexpected storm.

What was true for the North Atlantic in the story is true in many ways for the Great Lakes—the storms may not be as massive, but they can arise suddenly with strong winds. Shoals and islands present hazards for commercial shipping and private sailors, and tales like the loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald are almost as well known as the story loss of the Titanic.

What was true in the early days of search and rescue remains true today. The men and the women who venture forth on rescue missions must possess one key trait—courage.

It's no wonder, then, Mr. Speaker, that the crew of U.S. Coast Guard Station Charlevoix have an important part in the great tradition of endeavoring to save the lives of men and women in peril on the water.

Their own log records such remarkable moments as bringing 500 people safely to shore in 1906 from a vessel aground off the Lake Michigan shore, searching for the crew of a downed B-52 bomber in the 1970s, and even rushing ashore to treat individuals wounded in a celebration fireworks accident in 1997.

The presence of the Coast Guard throughout my district is extremely important, Mr. Speaker. These brave men and women have my deepest respect and admiration, and strongest support in whatever is needed to permit them to fulfill this essential mission, to keep Search and Rescue units semper paratus—always ready.

Technology may continue to change, but I trust another 100 years will find Coast Guard Station Charlevoix always ready to serve and assist on the Great Lakes.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA MC CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export fi-

nancing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment of my colleague, the Gentledady from California, Ms. LEE, to restore the funding for Global Aids assistance that was cut from the President's request.

This body Mr. Chairman, invariably never ceases to amaze me. Here we are in the middle of a monumental life and family destroying, economy breaking, HIV/AIDS pandemic. Instead of increasing funding to address it, as the situation calls out desperately for us to do, we are codifying restrictions on family planning funding, slashing funding for debt relief to some of the same affected countries and others, and reducing the flow of drastically needed funds for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment to a mere drip. This is a travesty.

A recent UN report revealed that AIDS will cause early death in as many as one-half of the young adults in the hardest hit countries of southern Africa, causing unprecedented populations imbalances. In one country alone, Botswana, it is predicted that two thirds of that country's 15-year-olds will die of AIDS before age 50. But as bad as the impact is now, the full blow is still some years off. This loss at a time when men and women would be at their most productive, in countries that are only now beginning to come out from under the deep effects of colonialism and tyrannical rules, will be devastating.

Our communities here in the U.S. are bleeding, these are hemorrhaging. Both crises need to be appropriately addressed, and addressed now.

We are no longer in a world where any one country, nor even one neighborhood can labor under the impression that they are isolated. The devastation, and the disruptive effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic may be at its very worse in far away, exotic lands, but the dire effects will ripple until they reach our shores. Combined with our domestic HIV/AIDS crisis, which also is not being adequately addressed, the bell will increasingly toll for us.

We have the opportunity today to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in Africa and other countries today, by supporting the Lee amendment. We must also resolve to apply the remedies in the magnitude that is needed here at home as well.

\$100 million is not a large sum. It is merely a drop in the bucket, against the backdrop of the enormity of the pandemic. But it is a start. It is seed money—an incentive for other countries, private corporations and foundations to join this vital effort.

The Congressional Black Caucus and its Health Brain Trust, which I chair, has made HIV/AIDS our chief priority. We began here in this country with the call for a state of emergency and funding which has come to be known as the CBC Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative. But as we got funding and began to apply those dollars to the needs of our communities, we recognized that the problem was far deeper than HIV and AIDS. It was a problem of poor and deficient health infrastructure, it was and is a problem of communities beset with a myriad of social and economic problems.

As we began the work of addressing all of the ills that lay beneath the tip of the AIDS iceberg, we also came face to face with the grim reality that is AIDS in Africa, and AIDS in the Caribbean, as well.

And so, Mr. Chairman, what we want this body and our colleagues to recognize is that HIV and AIDS is a pandemic for people of color, around the world, including here in the United States. Achieving adequate prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS in Africa and other parts of the world, is not that much different from combating it here. The social, economic, and health care infrastructure deficiencies are pretty much the same. And that is a real shame.

So, I am asking this body, to support Congresswoman LEE's efforts, to support the CBC initiative and to fully fund it this year and for several years to come as needed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it was my intention to vote "yea" on rollcall vote No. 324, the H. Amdt. 905 to HR 4690, offered by Representative John Hostetler, but was recorded as voting "nay." The amendment was designed 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.

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution clearly defines the right of Americans to possess firearms. The Second Amendment reads: "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." I firmly believe this provision prohibits the federal government from denying citizens this right.

The agreement reached by the Administration and Smith & Wesson should not be used to coerce other manufacturers into abiding by an agreement of which they are not a party. On June 21, 2000, I voted to limit the repercussions of this Smith & Wesson agreement by supporting two of Representative Hostetler's amendments to the VA-HLD Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2001. It is my intention to vote in favor of similar amendments to future FY 2001 Appropriations bills.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAIL RETIREMENT REFORM

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am very pleased to introduce today H.R. 4844, the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2000, on behalf of myself, the Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. OBERSTAR; the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. ARCHER; the Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. RANGEL; the Chairman of the Ground Transportation Subcommittee, Mr. PETRI; the Ranking Member of the Ground

Transportation Subcommittee, Mr. RAHALL; the Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, Mr. SHAW; and the Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee, Mr. MATSUI.

This is a good bill which deserves the support of the House. The following is a joint statement on behalf of the eight original sponsors.

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE EIGHT ORIGINAL SPONSORS OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT AND SURVIVORS' IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

We are pleased to join together to introduce the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2000. This legislation will make important improvements in the railroad retirement program.

The introduction of this legislation by the bipartisan leadership of the two House committees with jurisdiction over this program represents a significant step toward enactment. We are pleased that Congress continues to have the close working relationship with railroad management and labor groups that has allowed us to come together on this bill today.

This reform legislation makes several improvements in the current benefit structure, especially for widows and widowers. In addition, the legislation modernizes the system's investment practices and strengthens the financing of the program.

This legislation is the product of several years of complex negotiations between rail management and rail labor. These negotiations were also given impetus by the September 1998 hearing held by the Subcommittee on Ground Transportation on benefit reform legislation authored by our colleague JACK QUINN. Although not all representatives of rail labor could support the final compromise signed in January of this year, a significant majority have endorsed the agreement, as have the groups representing rail retirees. We hope that as this bill moves through the legislative process, the full value of the benefits it brings to the system will be carefully assessed, and that it will ultimately receive the support of all groups.

The Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2000 is the end product of a bipartisan collaborative process. It is a bill that each of us supports and is committed to bring to enactment during the remaining days of the 106th Congress. We are pleased to introduce it today.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN WEISS, JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephen Weiss, Jr., a man who has been very instrumental in assisting hundreds of Brooklyn residents in the transition from apartment renters to first time homeowners.

Mr. Weiss, a graduate of Yale University, is an executive with Flintlock Construction Services, LLC, as well as with several other property development companies. Mr. Weiss is also actively involved in the operations of a property management company. Mr. Weiss joined these various firms in 1980, with the goal of using his positions with them to develop and construct primarily affordable housing, both for rental and for sale. Mr. Weiss also used these enterprises to develop much-

needed medical centers, to further benefit the community.

With his partner, DeCosta Headley, Mr. Weiss has developed and built hundreds of affordable apartments in East New York, Brownsville and Bedford Stuyvesant. Many of these homes, built to house working people, were rebuilt out of abandoned shells that used to blight these neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lifelong efforts of Stephen Weiss, Jr., and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER DOUG FEARS, USCG

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Commander Doug Fears, who recently left his position as the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) House liaison officer to attend the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Lieutenant Commander Doug Fears grew up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He enlisted in the USCG in 1982 and served on the Cutter *Taney* (WHEC 37) home ported in Portsmouth, Virginia, and in the precommissioning detail for the Cutter *Tampa* (WMEC 902) in Norfolk, Virginia. He attended the USCG's Electronics Technician "A" school on Governor's Island, New York, and the Navy's Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) Program in San Diego, California, before accepting an appointment to the USCG Academy in 1985.

While at the academy, Lieutenant Commander Fears was active in a number of programs and served as the regimental commander of the Corps of Cadets. He graduated from the academy in May 1989 and subsequently served as Operations Officer and Navigator on the Cutter *Basswood* (WLB 388) in Guam, Marianas Islands.

He was then selected for the USCG/Navy officer exchange program in 1991. He served on the Aegis cruiser, U.S.S. *Vincennes* (CG49), as the Aegis Fire Control Officer. He subsequently served on the Throat Upgrade cruiser U.S.S. *Leahy* (CG 16) as the Combat Information Center Officer. Both ships were home ported in San Diego, California. During his tours, he deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm/Southern Watch in the Northern Arabian (Persian) Gulf, Restore Hope in the Indian Ocean off Somalia, Blue Line in the Eastern Pacific off South America and various bi-lateral exercises in the Sea of Japan and South China Sea.

In July 1993, Lieutenant Commander Fears reported to Seattle, Washington, as a search and rescue controller and command duty officer in the Thirteenth District Command Center. From 1994 to 1996, he served as aide and executive assistant to the Thirteenth District Commander, Rear Admiral John Lockwood.

In June 1996, Lieutenant Commander Fears assumed command of the Cutter *Sitkinak* (WP 1329), home ported in Key West, Florida. During his tour, he was involved in numerous counter-narcotics, alien migrant interdiction and search and rescue operations, including