

RESOLVING THE CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article from The Boston Globe on December 23, 1999 for the RECORD. The author of this article, Shri Srithillampalam, is very active in calling for observance of human rights in Sri Lanka and a peaceful settlement to the 17-year conflict. We must encourage the parties involved to stop the terror and negotiate a peaceful end to this war.

[From The Boston Globe, Dec. 23, 1999]
PROMOTING PEACE IN SRI LANKA

Bosnia, Chechnya, Kosovo, East Timor—these are the civil and intercommunal wars that have aroused horror and sympathy in the past few years. But in Sri Lanka there is another internecine conflict no less tragic, a war that has waxed and waned intermittently since 1983, destroying more than 60,000 lives.

Now, with the results in from Tuesday's presidential election and Chandrika Kumaratunga re-elected with a dramatically reduced majority of only 51 percent, the time is ripe for an international peacemaking initiative. All the humanitarian justifications for saving lives in Kosovo, Bosnia, East Timor, and Chechnya apply in the conflict between the Sinhalese majority in Sri Lanka and the Tamil minority. Civilians, conscripts, and victims of terrorist bombings all deserve to be saved from a senseless repetition of murder and mayhem that can be ended only by a negotiated solution. Chandrika, as the president is known to her compatriots, was elected five years ago as the leader who would bring peace to Sri Lanka. But instead of trying to end the killing by granting autonomy to the Tamil areas in the north and east of the country, she yielded to hard-line arguments for a decisive military solution. In turn, the Tamil Tigers have shown no willingness to end their campaign of murder and terror.

In a scorched-earth offensive this year, government troops occupied most of the Tamil homeland. But this fall the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam overran one government outpost after another. It should be clear by now that the government's tactics succeeded only in driving the moderate Tamil population of the north and east into the hands of the Tigers. The war is unwinnable.

The time has come for third-party mediation. Washington is unwilling to play that role, but just as Norway originally midwived the Oslo accords between Israelis and Palestinians, an impartial country could mediate peace talks. Such talks should be preceded by a cease-fire, a withdrawal of government troops, and the provision of food and medical aid to civilians in the north and east. If the principle of an international humanitarian obligation is to have any meaning, it must be applied consistently.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following recorded votes:

On H. Con. Res. 244, authorizing use of the rotunda for a Holocaust memorial introduced by the gentleman from California, Mr. THOMAS, I would have voted "yea."

On H.R. 2130, the Hillory J. Farias Date-Rape Prevention Act introduced by the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. UPTON, I would have voted "yea."

2000 COLORADO BUSINESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE, KATHRYN "KITTY" HACH-DARROW

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an inductee for the 2000 Colorado Business Hall of Fame, Ms. "Kitty" Hach-Darrow.

Jointly produced by the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and Junior Achievement, the Colorado Business Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding Colorado businesses and civic leaders from the past and present, publicizes the contributions of business leaders to our community and promotes the importance and value of the private enterprise system.

One of the leading producers of laboratory and water monitoring equipment in the country, the Hach Chemical Co., as it was known originally, was started in 1948 by Kathryn and Clifford Hach. Kathryn was the first woman director of the American Water Works Association and has served on numerous committees. She was the first woman to serve as director of the First National Bank of Loveland and currently serves on the executive committee of Northwood University. She was named the 1993 Woman of the Year by the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce and is a founding member of the Committee of 200 Executive Women.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Kitty received her pilot's license in 1954 and has been flying ever since. She is a member of the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of licensed women pilots.

Kathryn's legacy will continue to live on in the company she built as well as her unfailing commitment to excellence in her personal and professional lives.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to congratulate "Kitty" on being a 2000 Colorado Business Hall of Fame Inductee. She is an inspiration to many and a great American.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that I greatly admire President Lyndon B. Johnson. Beginning last year, I have submitted, for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, several well written articles regarding the accomplishments of this historic Texan. Even today, his domestic agenda still influences our lives.

On December 31, 1999, the Houston Chronicle published an article written by Stuart Lutz in which he makes the case that President Johnson should be considered the most influential American of the past 50 years. In his article, Mr. Lutz writes that "the 36th president, in his 62-month term, radically advanced civil rights, initiated dozens of progressive federal programs to eradicate poverty and train new workers, expanded a small war in Southeast Asia and caused Americans to question the integrity of the presidency." He concludes by stating that "it is hard, however, to see that anyone has had a greater influence on Americans' everyday lives over the past 50 years than the Texas giant, Lyndon Johnson."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my remarks by including, in its entirety, this very important article

THE CASE FOR A TEXAS GIANT AS MAN OF THE HALF CENTURY

(By Stuart Lutz)

The Great Society, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Gulf of Tonkin, Medicaid, the credibility gap, Vietnam and the War on Poverty. These actions and events are among the most powerful of the second half of the 20th century. They also all have the indelible stamp of Lyndon Baines Johnson, the most influential American of the past 50 years.

The 36th president, in his 62-month term, radically advanced civil rights, initiated dozens of progressive federal programs to eradicate poverty and train new workers, expanded a small war in Southeast Asia and caused Americans to question the integrity of the presidency. His forceful actions that greatly changed America for the better and worse came in four distinct areas: civil rights; Vietnam; governmental lying; and progressive domestic legislation. Let's examine them one by one:

Civil rights. Johnson desperately wanted to be remembered as the president who did more for African-Americans than anyone since Abraham Lincoln. Using his trademark legislative maneuvering in the wake of the Kennedy assassination, he secured passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In a few pen strokes, he outlawed segregation in employment and public accommodations, thus giving Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s goal of racial equality a legislative framework.

To further his commitment to civil rights, LBJ signed the 1965 Voting Rights Act that banned literacy tests, encouraged minority voter registration and empowered the federal government to enforce its provisions. He also appointed Thurgood Marshall as the first African-American Supreme Court justice. Johnson's actions changed voting blocs and paved the way for minority Cabinet members, mayors and governors. Most importantly, to America's youth today, "Colored" signs and segregated accommodations are antiques of the foggy past.

Vietnam. This was the most important and influential American event in the second half of the 20th century. Johnson turned a small conflict into a war involving over 500,000 American troops. After the manufactured Gulf of Tonkin "incident" in August 1964, Johnson secured the right to wage virtually unlimited war on North Vietnam and knowingly lied about the war's failing results. Vietnam assumes such overriding importance in the second half of the century because it is the defining and dividing event for the baby boom generation, since virtually all males needed to decide whether to be drafted, evade the military either legally or illegally, or flee to Canada.

Since Lyndon Johnson's war, the American public has been reluctant to allow presidents

to send troops abroad—whether to Grenada, Iraq or Bosnia. Vietnam caused American foreign policy to become more isolationist and made Americans reconsider Teddy Roosevelt's vision of our role as the world's policeman.

Government lying. When Johnson was inaugurated at Dallas' Love Field following John Kennedy's assassination, Americans respected and generally believed their presidents. By early 1968, LBJ's self-created "credibility gap" forced him to give speeches only at military bases, and he chose not to run for re-election. Johnson's falsehoods about Vietnam led Sen. Robert Kennedy of New York, his challenger for the Democratic nomination, to state that Johnson "tells so many lies that he convinces himself he's telling the truth."

Although Richard Nixon was the only president to resign, LBJ's administration set the stage. Since Johnson's term in office, the American public has never fully believed the statements of succeeding presidents, whether it was Ronald Reagan's poor recollection of the Iran-contra scandal or Bill Clinton's "I didn't inhale" statement.

Progressive legislation. Lyndon Johnson wanted to be best remembered as "the president who educated young children . . . helped to feed the hungry . . . and helped the poor to find their own way." Johnson's progressive domestic legislation, popularly known as the Great Society, included Medicare and Medicaid, the Job Corps, Head Start, the Water Quality Act, the Clean Air Act, the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act and the Highway Safety Act. These laws not only increased the power of the federal government and made it a watchdog for citizens, they provided a safety net for all, particularly the poor, elderly and disadvantaged.

With the exception of Franklin Roosevelt, no other 20th-century president has passed so much influential domestic legislation. Today, Johnson's three-decade-old vision is hotly debated on Capitol Hill as Congress tries to decentralize welfare and keep Medicare afloat.

Many Americans have had a profound effect over the past half century. It is hard, however, to see that anyone has had a greater influence on Americans' everyday lives over the past 50 years than the Texas giant, Lyndon Johnson.

IN HONOR OF ROGER J. SUSTAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Roger J. Sustar who has assumed the role of Chairman of the Board of the National Tooling and Machining Association (NMTA).

Roger J. Sustar's choice for the year 2000 theme, "Training Today for Tomorrow's Workforce," demonstrates his dedication to education and to the skill trades workforce. Mr. Sustar, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, has been involved in the Machine Trades Industry since his first job with Non Ferrous Metals Fabricating in 1965. He has been with Fredon Corporation since 1969 (celebrating its 31st anniversary this year) and in 1985 became the sole owner and President of Fredon. Fredon Corporation became the area's first Boy Scout's of America Explorer Post 2600 to offer an opportunity for students to explore the Machine Trades Industry.

Mr. Sustar is a true believer and promoter of apprenticeship and training programs that advocate Machine Trades Industry and Manufacturing careers. His leadership in organizations such as the National Tooling and Machining Association, both the Cleveland Chapter and the National Association, and the Ohio Tooling and Machining Association, which he co-founded in 1990, show his commitment to the industry.

Mr. Sustar is also an active member of the local community serving on many business advisory councils for educational facilities such as Cuyahoga Community College and Mentor Public Schools. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees for Lakeland Community College for 11 years where he established a Machine Trades Apprenticeship Program.

Roger J. Sustar has been featured in many publications and has been a guest speaker at many business and education lectures where he continues to promote the industry. He has also received many awards and honors for his work in the machine trades industry.

My fellow colleagues, join me in congratulating Roger J. Sustar for his achievements and for assuming the position of Chairman of the Board for the National Tooling and Machining Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I missed two votes on January 31, 2000. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll-call vote No. 2, H. Con. Res. 244, "aye". Roll-call vote No. 3, H.R. 2130, "aye".

HONORING BESSIE CROUSE BOREN MILLER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and remember the life of a woman that always had an open heart and hand to all, Mrs. Bessie Crouse Boren Miller.

Mrs. Miller was born on February 4, 1920, in Montezuma, Kansas, to Joseph Oliver Crouse and Edith Angelique Fincher Crouse. She moved with her family to the Eastern slope of Colorado in a covered wagon. There, in Villgreen, Colorado, she attended school. She was known as a very athletic person and loved to run track.

Mrs. Miller was known for her cooking in all of the local cafes. She was also known for welcoming anyone and doing anything she could to help. Mrs. Miller loved to read and sing old hymns.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to the life of Mrs. Miller, a woman with a heart of gold.

REMARKS ON ALASKA AIRLINES FLIGHT 261 CRASH

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regards to yesterday's crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261. In all, an estimated 88 people lost their lives off the southern coast of California at 4:36 p.m. Unfortunately, it is too early to know the cause of this devastating crash. Our prayers go out to all the family and friends of those who lost their loved ones in the crash.

Among Alaska Airlines Flight 261 were an estimated five Alaskans. Included were Malcolm Branson and his fiancée, Janice Stokes, both of Ketchikan. Also onboard the airplane was Morris Thompson, age 61, his wife Thelma and daughter Sheryl. The Thompsons were returning to Alaska after a family vacation in Mexico.

Morris Thompson, Thelma, Lu and I have been friends for more than 40 years. Thelma, an experienced dog musher and Morris were married a year after Lu and I were married. Morris and I followed each other on similar paths to public office. Oftentimes we spent time together in Juneau, Alaska, when I served in the State Legislature and later in Washington, DC where I served as Congressman and Morris served as commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

After his public service, Morris became president and chief executive officer of Doyon, Ltd., a Native Corporation formed in 1971 as part of the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act. At Doyon, Morris turned an operating loss of \$28 million into \$70.9 million in revenues and the largest private landowning corporation in America. Morris Thompson retired in January and was considered a great Native leader, businessman, and friend. I had a conversation with Morris just last month and he was describing to me the cabin he planned to build on the Yukon River and his optimism for the future.

Morris Thompson, his wife Thelma and daughter Sheryl spent a great deal of time with me and my family. In fact, we rang in the New Millennium with Sheryl. Sheryl Thompson grew up with our daughters and became so close to our family that we considered her part of the family. Morris is survived by two young daughters named Nicole and Allison and two grandsons Christopher and Warren.

I will always have fond memories of the Thompson family. Such as Morris and I duck hunting on the Yukon River, Thelma mushing her dog's, and Sheryl managing the extreme skiing association in Valdez. God Bless the memories we have.

Morris was a good father, leader and friend, as well as being one of the great leaders among the Native community. Lu, and I are in shock over this tragic loss. Our prayers go out to the Alaska Airlines employees and their families, and the families and relatives of the 88 passengers that were lost.