

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FLAG DAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today on Flag Day to extend my appreciation to our veterans and the men and women in our Armed Forces for their service and protection in both peace and war.

I am honored to attend the 13th Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony on Saturday, June 16, 2001, hosted by the American Legion Stanley Pack Post #499, in Blue Springs, Missouri. American Legion Post #499 has a long history of providing a ceremony to lie to rest our colors. The members of the American Legion Post #499 have tirelessly dedicated their time to honor our nation's flag and share with our citizens, both young and old, their respect and admiration for the flag and all that it represents.

As American Legion Post #499 lays these tired flags to rest, we are mindful of the glory of our nation and the rights and freedoms that we share. The 13 red and white stripes not only represent our humble beginnings as 13 British colonies who fought bravely to gain us freedom but also the purity of our national purpose and the blood of our brave men and women in uniform who selflessly stand ready to defend our nation.

There is no better symbol of our country's values and traditions than the flag of the United States of America. It continues to exemplify the profound commitment that our founders made to freedom, equality, and opportunity more than two centuries ago. The flag flies with magnificent glory from public buildings, covers hero's tombs as a remembrance of their bravery, and serves as a daily reminder to all of us that the blessing of democracy and peace should not be taken for granted.

It is important that we teach our children the significance of our flag. Today, our nation renews its allegiance to our flag. Together, we stand collectively to honor its glory as its vibrant colors continue to wave through the skies that blanket the dreams and hopes of our beloved America. This truly is the land of the free and the home of the brave, and I am honored that we can share and enjoy the peace and the prosperity of this great nation.

H. CON. RES. REGARDING OIL AND GAS PIPELINE ROUTES THROUGH THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Congressman JOSEPH KNOLLENBERG, Congressman FRANK PALLONE,

and Congressman JOHN SWEENEY, in offering this House Concurrent Resolution. This resolution seeks to ensure a just and equitable regional arrangement that will strengthen political, economic and security ties among all the nations of the South Caucasus.

Mr. Speaker, I am greatly concerned by the National Energy Policy Development (NEPD) (Group recommendation to support the Baku-Ceyhan (SAY-han) pipeline. Along with my colleagues, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. PALLONE and Mr. SWEENEY, I will be sending a letter to the President urging him to reexamine the NEPD Group recommendations regarding the Caucasus. I am also asking that he review all current and future oil and gas pipeline routes to ensure that all countries of the South Caucasus are included.

The proposed Baku-Ceyhan pipeline route originating in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku and terminating at the Turkish port of Ceyhan via Georgia, explicitly bypasses Armenia at the insistence of Azerbaijan. The demands by Azerbaijan to bypass Armenia come despite the knowledge that a trans-Armenia route is the most reliable, direct and cost-effective route, and certainly one of the most tangible actions in support of regional integration and cooperation.

Armenia's exclusion from regional economic and commercial undertakings in the South Caucasus hinders U.S. policy goals of promoting regional stability based upon the development of strong political, economic and security ties among all countries of the Caucasus and the United States. Exclusion of one country in regional projects only fosters instability.

Armenia must be included in regional and trans-regional economic plans and projects. Only then can stability in the Caucasus be fostered. Encouragement of open market economies, increased trade and international private investment will lead to regional prosperity for all the countries involved. No one country should be excluded. Moreover, it simply does not make sense to choose a far more costly option that excludes Armenia, because of political considerations that do not benefit either the countries of the region nor the U.S. The proposed Baku-Ceyhan pipeline is estimated to cost more than \$2.7 billion. A pipeline that includes Armenia, a route that is more direct would reduce the pipeline costs by a minimum of \$6 million. That is a significant savings. That is a cost savings not only for the region, but for U.S. taxpayers who are helping to fund planning and implementation of the South Caucasus pipeline projects.

Finally, I should note that Armenia has been a strong ally of the U.S. in the region. With a well-educated and highly skilled population, it is a country moving towards democracy and an open economy. We simply cannot afford to alienate a proven friend and ally in the region.

In closing, I want to urge the President to give additional thought to the proposed Baku-Ceyhan pipeline and to have the foresight to include Armenia in that project, both for the good of the region, and for the good of U.S. policy in the region.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND DEDICATED WORK OF SHIRLEY ANITA CHISHOLM

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to join with my colleagues in honoring one of the most dedicated and respected legislators of our time—former Congresswoman and civil rights leader Shirley Anita Chisholm.

It is said of Shirley Chisholm that she was a passionate and effective advocate for the needs of minorities, women, and children and that she truly changed the nation's perception about the capabilities of women and African-Americans. Well, while that may well be true, Shirley Chisholm was that and so much more.

I had the distinction and pleasure of serving with Shirley Chisholm in the New York State Assembly in the mid 1960's and later here in the Congress where she was the first African-American woman elected to Congress, and witnessed firsthand just how much of a pioneer and visionary she was. She didn't fear entering the male-dominated Brooklyn political arena, nor the New York State Legislature, nor this Congress, and she did it with the ebullient style and determination that was Shirley.

Her enduring spirit and foresight, lead her to take the biggest step of all when she ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972, only seven years after Blacks were given the right to vote. It was through this venue, that Shirley Chisholm was able to focus national attention on the issues that mattered most to her. She became a powerful spokesperson for the Democratic Party. Though she was not successful in her bid, her running was symbolic. It encouraged other Blacks and women to participate in politics; it opened the door to later campaigns, and it sent the message that Black politicians had arrived.

For many years, Shirley Chisholm has given leadership to the struggle for equality and human rights for all people. Her life exemplifies her passionate commitment for a just society and her vision for a better world. Throughout her political career, her tireless efforts lead her to take on such issues as women's rights, funding for day care, job training, fair housing, and environmental protection just to name a few. She also fought against credits to defray the cost of going to private schools fearing it would diminish the quality of public schools.

Shirley Chisholm was an outspoken leader. She worked for the reform of U.S. political parties and legislatures in order to meet the needs of more citizens. She was a severe critic of the seniority system in Congress and protested her 1969 assignment to the House Agriculture Committee. She soon won reassignment to a committee on which she felt she could be of greater service to her district.

● 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.

Shirley once said, "We must build new institutions or reform old ones so that there are avenues of upward mobility and achievement that will allow all citizens, black and white, to maintain creative tensions between themselves. If we fail, this nation will be poorer for it and if we succeed, it will be richer indeed."

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague Representative BARBARA LEE, for affording Members the opportunity to mark this occasion recognizing Shirley Chisholm who is a true public servant, a champion for all people, and a woman whom I am proud and honored to call my friend.

A TRIBUTE FOR FATHER'S DAY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that this Sunday is Father's Day, I would like to share with you a letter sent to me by the stepson of a dear friend of mine. I believe it captures the essence of this important holiday for Dads, like myself, all around the country.

DEAR MR. HONDA: While my name may not be familiar to many in Washington, D.C., I'm sure that the name of my stepfather will—Norm Mineta.

This past year has been an amazing journey for my family—and for my family, that's really saying something. My stepfather's life reads like a story one would learn about in a history book or a novel. At the age of twelve, he was taken from his house and detained in an internment camp along with 120,000 others in this nation who happened to be of Japanese ancestry.

After the Second World War ended, he and his family returned to San Jose and he attended and graduated from the University of California Berkley. Later, during the Korean War, he joined the Army where he served as an intelligence officer. After his military service he worked in the family business at the Mineta insurance company until once more he answered the call to public service. Norm served in the San Jose City Council, as the Mayor of San Jose, and 21 years as the Representative for the 15th Congressional District of California.

After he left the Congress, he worked for Lockheed Martin as senior vice president for almost five years until President Clinton tapped him for the position of Commerce Secretary. After the 2000 election, President Bush chose him to serve America once more as the Transportation Secretary.

Norm's list of firsts is beyond impressive—it's amazing. He was the first American of Japanese descent to serve as a Mayor of a major city in the continental United States. As the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, he was the first Asian Pacific American to serve as Chairman of a full Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives (Chairman of the transportation committee). He was also the first Asian Pacific American to serve on any President's Cabinet, and the first Cabinet member to serve in successive administrations for two different political parties. And this only scratches the surface. You could fill volumes with all of my stepfather's achievements. In fact, someday, I'm certain they will. But there is a deeper reason why I am writing this letter.

As I witnessed all of the events taking place in my family's life over the past year, and I read all of the articles and stories

about my step dad's life, and I heard all of the speeches, I noticed that something was missing—the most important something. Who Norman Y. Mineta really is, not just what he has done in public life.

Norm is one of the kindest, most decent man I have ever been privileged to know. He embodies what the Founding Fathers envisioned when they set up our system of government. He is a man who truly cares more about others than he does of himself. He does not seek glory, but rather takes pride in bettering the lives of others. Most importantly, he is humble.

As a Member of Congress, Norm would go to events at the White House, as other important people did. He would stand in the receiving line to meet the President and when his time would come he would shake the President's hand saying, "Hello Mr. President. I'm Norm Mineta from California." To which every President would respond, "Norm, I know who you are." Later he would say to my mom, with wonder in his eyes. "The President said he knows who I am!"

Norm Mineta is a man who puts family above all else. His biography in "Who's Who in America" does not describe how he canceled all of his plans the day my family's dog, Tribble, died. His resume does not reflect the pride he felt when my stepbrother, Dave Mineta, was elected to the school board of Pacifica, California. Nor do the official records of the Congress contain the fact that he cried when Dave asked his father to swear him into his new position on the school board. Norm was so excited when my brother Mark and his wife called home to tell the news that they were pregnant with their first child. As a father, he took as much pride in the fact that in my stepbrother, Stu Mineta, was hired at a regional airline as a pilot as he did in his own appointment to the Cabinet.

After coming home from a long day at the office, Norm would always take times, and considerable joy, in playing with his two dogs. Norm has been known to fall asleep whenever the family comes together to watch a movie. Watching a movie on video with Norm often involves constantly prodding him to make sure he is still awake. Often times he will fall asleep, but deny this to us when we call him on it. Norm has been a wonderful husband to my mother in more ways than I could ever begin to describe. He refers to my mother as "honey" and "dear" in public, but in private, he calls her "pal," and that is what they truly are—the best of friends.

My life with Norm has been a wonderful blessing. Life doesn't always happen the way you plan and sometimes people get divorced. Such was the case with my mother and father. And to this day, I love my father very much. I have been blessed twice, for God brought into my life Norman Mineta. A man whom history will remember much longer than it will remember most of us. I am also very fortunate because Norm is a man that I will remember in ways that the history books will never be able to capture. Our nation will remember Norm as many great things, veteran, Mayor, Congressional leader, two-time Cabinet Secretary, but the greatest of these titles and accolades to me, will always be "Dad."

Sincerely,

BOB BRANTER.

RECOGNIZING VALLEY HOSPITAL
IN RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. From a small and difficult beginning, the Valley Hospital has become a premier example of quality and commitment to medical excellence. This weekend, the Valley Hospital will be honored as a Hermitage Pioneer Corporation at the Hermitage Rose Ball in Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey. It is an honor to recognize this hospital for their service to northern New Jersey.

The Valley Hospital opened its doors in 1951 with 108 beds, 22 bassinets and 268 physicians and employees. Over 4,700 patients were admitted and served by the hospital. Through their exceptional leadership and vision, Valley has expanded and continually met the changing healthcare needs of the ever-growing community. I am proud to say that Valley now has over 600 physicians and 3,000 employees. Last year the hospital served 42,540 patients and welcomed 3,221 babies. Under Mike Azzara's guidance as Chairman of Valley Health Systems, and Audrey Meyer's leadership as President and CEO of the Valley Hospital, the hospital has entered the 21st century as a premier provider of health care in not only New Jersey but the entire Northeast United States.

This achievement has not come without a struggle. Plans to open a hospital in northwest New Jersey began nearly forty years before ground was broken. Community groups gathered to raise money for a hospital, however, the stock market crash and the Great Depression stalled their attempts. Under the leadership of the Women's Auxiliary in 1944, local residents donated almost \$1,000,000 to break ground in 1949.

The Valley Hospital exists because of a determined group of local citizens who very early on saw a need and overcame the odds to make this into a reality. This is the classic American dream. Such outstanding dedication is still visible in the hospital today as the Valley Hospital looks forward to the needs of the next fifty years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commending the Valley Hospital for its service to the community, and recognizing those committed to continuing its tradition of excellence.

HONORING PAUL WENDLER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and express gratitude to my good friend Paul Wendl for his many years of service and for his significant contributions to the conservation of wildlife and natural resources in Michigan and the entire Great Lakes region.

Paul has dedicated his life to making his community a better place to live for all citizens