

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2299,
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2001

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House passed the conference report on H.R. 2299, Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2002. I was pleased to support this legislation and would like to thank the committee for including language which benefits my constituents in the 8th Congressional District of Texas.

First, the committee was kind enough to include report language that encourages the Federal Highway Administration to collaborate with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) at Texas A&M University on their Work Zone Safety proposal. TTI is dedicated to a program of research intended to enhance the overall safety associated with roadways and, at the same time, finding approaches for more efficiently handling the traffic demands.

One important example of TTI's efforts to improve the safety of our roadways is through the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse. The only one of its kind in the United States, the Clearinghouse provides information and referrals to government agencies, public and private organizations, and the general public concerning the safe and effective operation of traffic work zones.

Work zones have always been dangerous places for construction workers and travelers. With more and more highway construction and maintenance under way, most of the time traffic cannot be shut down while work is being done. Highway workers must often perform their jobs with traffic just a few feet away. Unfortunately, this has resulted in more than 20,000 accidents in highway work zones, injuring some 5,000 people and killing 700 more. In my home state of Texas alone, 125 people were killed in a construction or maintenance work zone in 1998.

The National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse housed at TTI is a part of the solution. With a toll-free call, a fax or visit to the Clearinghouse's website, contractors, workers and safety officials now have access to a wide array of information and materials. The Clearinghouse collects, maintains and makes available information on work zone safety, crash statistics, construction standards, worker safety training, safety products and public awareness and law enforcement campaigns. Through these efforts we are seeing progress, but more work needs to be done to help make work zones safer and save more lives.

The continued efforts of TTI and the Clearinghouse are critical to furthering work zone safety. It is my goal to see that important transportation research such as the work zone safety clearinghouse continues to receive the support it deserves.

I would also like to speak today about a provision that represents a good example of community and university partnership in my district. The Conference Report provides funding to Brazos Transit to purchase new buses and

then lease them on a multi-year agreement to Texas A&M University at a nominal yearly fee.

These new buses will help meet the transportation needs of the community by providing students living in the community with safe, efficient and economical transportation to and from campus. This new partnership will benefit Brazos Transit, Texas A&M University and most importantly the students.

IN HONOR OF STAFF SGT. BRIAN CODY PROSSER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Special Forces Staff Sgt. Brian Cody Prosser, a young man who grew up in my Congressional District and who died Monday in Afghanistan fighting terrorism on behalf of all Americans.

Sgt. Prosser hails from Frazier Park, California, a small, tight-knit community in the Los Padres National Forest's high country. He was captain of his high school football team and enlisted in the Army after graduation in 1991. Friends and family have described him as "dedicated," "brave," "tough," and "down-to-earth."

His father, Brian D. Prosser, who is also an Army veteran, called his son a "warrior" and said Sgt. Prosser died doing what he wanted to do.

Sgt. Prosser was proud to be an American, trained hard to become one of America's elite soldiers, and died a hero at age 28 doing his job to rid the world of terrorists and those who harbor them. Our country is saddened by his death and those of his comrades who died with him, Master Sgt. Jefferson Donald Davis, 39, of Watauga, Tennessee, and Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Henry Petithory, 32, of Cheshire, Massachusetts. At the same time we are honored and thankful for their commitment to America and the sacrifice they were willing to risk on our behalf.

Sgt. Prosser is survived by his wife, Shawna; his parents, Brian and Ingrid Prosser; and three brothers, Jarudd, Michael, and Reed.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Sgt. Prosser's sacrifice on behalf of his country and in offering our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends, as well as to the family and friends of Sgt. Davis and Sgt. Petithory.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE JAMES WORTH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a dynamic community leader, a good friend, and a committed protector of his neighborhood, the late James Worth. He will be sorely missed by all of those who knew him.

Over forty years ago, James Worth left his native North Carolina and arrived in Brooklyn. Since that time, he built a fine family with his

wife, Ruth and a legacy of hard work and dedication to his community. Among his many achievements, he started a community garden where people would gather and discuss the issues of the day. That garden remains an oasis in a community that faces its share of difficulties. In addition, he was the long time leader of the Georgia Ave. Block Association. James' commitment to his community extended beyond his civic concerns, as he was involved in the political arena as well. If someone was going to represent James' community, James wanted to be sure to check them out first.

Mr. Speaker, the late James Worth was a hard working community leader, a dedicated political leader and a true friend to all those who knew him. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving this recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly admirable man who will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL A. POLLACK

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a valued constituent, Michael A. Pollack, president and founder of Michael A. Pollack Real Estate Investments in Mesa, Arizona and a man who is devoted to improving the lives of those living in the communities surrounding his housing developments.

Michael Pollack's involvement with the community is well known and the list of causes to which he contributes is lengthy. Operating on the philosophy that corporate philanthropy begins at home, Michael has contributed generously to numerous local causes, including the Chandler Service Club, the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Chandler Regional Hospital, several local high schools, various churches, synagogues and rescue missions, as well as the D.A.R.E. program. He also supports national charities, including Special Olympics, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the American Cancer Society, to name just a few.

Earlier this year, Michael arranged for famed Notre Dame football player Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger, the subject of the 1993 movie Rudy, to deliver an inspirational pep-talk to the Dobson High School football team, which hadn't posted a winning season since 1994. Following Rudy's message and a private viewing of the Rudy film at Michael's Tempe movie theatre, the team went on to win the first four games of the season.

Michael is a business person who leads by example and his personal contributions to the community are many. The end result is that Michael epitomizes the principles that make America great: hard work, integrity and giving back to the community.

I join others, such as former Congressman and current Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta; former State Senator John Huppenthal; Arizona Governor Jane D. Hull; Glendale, Arizona Mayor Elaine Scruggs; Mesa, Arizona Mayor Keno Hawker; Chandler, Arizona Mayor Jay Tibshraeny; Tempe, Arizona Mayor Neil Giuliano; Tucson, Arizona Mayor Robert Walkup and many other city,

county and industry leaders in saluting Michael Pollack for his efforts and his contributions to the business community. I wish him well in the years to come.

MEMORIAL TO JACQUES LESSTRANG

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to honor the memory of Jacques LesStrang, whose lifetime of accomplishments included worldwide recognition as an author and expert on the Great Lakes and the founder of Harbor House Publishers. Mr. LesStrang passed away on December 5, at the age of 75.

Jacques LesStrang was one of the nation's outstanding and most widely quoted authors on the Great Lakes. He wrote six books on subjects ranging from international trade to maritime and political history, to U.S.-Canadian relations. His book "Seaway," which chronicled the history of the St. Lawrence Seaway, was a Book-of-the-Month Club selection. He began publishing the widely respected and internationally distributed maritime journal, Seaway Review, in 1969 and served as Editor-in-Chief for 24 years. He founded the successful regional firm Harbor House Publishers, and served as CEO until 1990. In addition, Mr. LesStrang published economic reports for the U.S. Congress and the Canadian Parliament and wrote the script for the 1993 PBS documentary, "Inward Passage." He was named "Maritime Writer of the Year" by the U.S. Propeller Club and "Great Lakes Man of the Year" by the governors of the eight Great Lakes states and premiers of the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

In recent years, Mr. LesStrang served as the CEO of the LesStrang Group, a Christian publishing and marketing firm in Palm Desert, California. LesStrang was also the former president and creative director of an international advertising and marketing agency with offices in Michigan and London, England. He served as an international marketing consultant to the State of Michigan, heading trade missions to Europe to generate business for the state. In addition, he managed a number of successful state and national political campaigns for congressional and gubernatorial candidates, including former Michigan Governors William Milliken and George Romney. Mr. LesStrang's work on international marketing, government, and the maritime industry has been published in 16 languages.

Born in Pittsburgh, raised by his mother, Ada, LesStrang developed a lifelong love of literature and music, which he shared with his seven children and eleven grandchildren. LesStrang served in the Air Force in World War II and as a military journalist at Scott Field in St. Louis. He received degrees from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and the University of Michigan.

Perhaps Jacques LesStrang's greatest legacy is the family he raised with his wife Barbara. Many of the members of the California Congressional Delegation will attest to the hard work and dedication of his son, Dave LesStrang, who is my deputy chief of staff and

served as the staff member to the California Republican Delegation for many years. In the last days of his life, Jacques LesStrang was joined by Dave and his other children—Michelle Cortright of Boyne City, Michigan; Diane Mathias of Palm Desert, California; Steve Marcks of Carlsbad, California; Paul LesStrang of Ringle, Wisconsin; Linda Keefer of Ridgefield, Connecticut; and Christian LesStrang of San Francisco, California—along with his 11 grandchildren and great-grandson.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending condolences to the family of Jacques LesStrang and in remembering his many achievements.

MARION: A COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, at a time when America has rediscovered the power of traditional virtues, I bring to your attention an inspiring project that students in Marion in the Fourth Congressional District of Ohio have undertaken.

Students at the Elgin Junior and Senior High Schools have embraced President George W. Bush's "Community of Character" initiative. The Elgin Energizer Show Choir, under the direction of Tanyce J. Addison, is highlighting the theme of character during its music programs. The students are performing public concerts, including one entitled "A Concert of Character," that have inspired children and adults alike. These performances are sending a positive message about the importance of good character and moral conduct.

Setting an example for her students, Ms. Addison secured a \$500 "Music With Character" grant that has allowed students to share their musical gifts with the community. Other projects have included a concert with a drug-free message, and a collection of student essays and poetry. According to Ms. Addison, these events "have been tremendously accepted by the students and the community. We have many more activities planned to continue on."

In praise of this project, the principal at Elgin High School, Robert A. Britton, wrote, "We here in the Elgin Local School District are making a serious attempt at instituting the message that President George W. Bush was delivering to an elementary school in Florida on September 11, 2001."

I have informed President Bush that he will find, in Marion, a shining example of a community embracing the values that have kept America strong through every challenge. The students at Elgin are a source of pride for the community, and serve as an example for the nation.

As Marion's representative in Congress, I am pleased to be able to take this opportunity to recognize the work of the students, Ms. Addison, and the Elgin Local School District.

CELEBRATING THE 15 YEARS OF REVEREND DR. KENNY SMITH'S PASTORSHIP

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great citizen of Northern Virginia, Reverend Dr. Kenny Smith. He is currently serving as pastor at the First Baptist Church of Vienna, Virginia. Along with celebrating Rev. Smith's 15 years of service, the Church is celebrating its 134th anniversary of serving the community.

Rev. Kenny Smith is originally from Atlanta, Georgia, and attended the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Howard University, and Virginia Union University.

His resume includes a great deal of other accomplishments. Most recently, he received the Dean's Pastor's Award from the Dean of Howard University's School of Theology and the Outstanding Achievement in Religion Award from the Howard University Alumni Club of Northern Virginia. He is a well traveled man as well. He visited Israel, the seven churches mentioned in Revelation (Turkey), the Isle of Patmos (Greece), as well as 8 other countries.

Reverend Smith currently serves on the General Board of the Baptist General Convention in Richmond, Virginia. He is also on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity. Previously, he held a position with the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP.

Through his leadership, the First Baptist Church has continued its excellence in serving the community. One organization that the church is constantly willing to support is Habitat for Humanity. The members of the church have assisted in building many homes for families in need. The church even helped with the cost of the supplies.

In 1996, members of the church traveled to South Carolina to help in the rebuilding of churches, after several were burned down by acts of arson. And under the guidance of Rev. Smith, members of the church went, along with another local church, to Haiti on a missionary project.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to send my best wishes to Reverend Dr. Kenny Smith for his 15th anniversary with the First Baptist Church of Vienna and wish him the best in his future endeavors. It's been said that a good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit. This is the kind of selfless humility that has characterized Reverend Smith's tenure at his church. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this fine citizen.

IN HONOR OF VERNON K. JONES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Vernon K. Jones in recognition of his remarkable career in business and as an entrepreneur.

Vernon K. Jones is married to Marcella Jones, a dance teacher at JHS 258, in Brooklyn; they have two sons, Vernon Jr. and