

honor his valor and unstinting service to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CREATE EQUITABLE RETIREMENT ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY RESERVE TECHNICIANS

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill that would provide comparable retirement eligibility for Military Reserve Technicians as applies to those on active duty.

For years, Congress has passed legislation on behalf of active duty service members and active duty retirees. Sometimes, full-time military reserve employees enjoy collateral benefits from this legislation. But often, they are not included. We are talking about Guard and Reserve employees who come to work in uniform each day; they are assigned to their military reserve unit and meet all military standards. They perform comparable, usually identical, military functions but in a civil service status. These are the employees that make our Guard and Reserve such a “good deal” for our country. Our reserve units can perform virtually all of the missions as their active duty counterparts at a fraction of the price because these dedicated full-time employees are available to provide continuity between unit training assembly, also known as drill, weekends.

Our Armed Forces are undergoing a thorough analysis and transformation to insure we are able and equipped to meet the evolving national security needs of tomorrow. It is obvious that the Guard and Reserve will continue to have vital missions and roles in this transformation. The Air Force has fully integrated the Guard and Reserve into its Aerospace Expeditionary Forces and cannot perform their scheduled rotations without them. The Army is studying the prospects of involving National Guard components in a more substantial role in Homeland Defense as recommended in the Hart-Rudman study.

Our hometown militia is here to stay, and so we must maintain benefits that will entice new young people to invest their future in the Guard and Reserves. One way to do this is to offer an attractive retirement package, similar to that of active duty members. This bill will do just that. Instead of having to wait until age 55 for a full civil service annuity, full-time military reserve technicians could retire at age 50. Or, once they have served over 20 years in civil service status, the number of years for retirement eligibility on active duty, they can retire at any age without a reduction in annuity.

It will continue to be challenging to recruit and retain young people into the armed forces. These challenges are not lost on the full-time reserve technician workforce. In many ways it will be worse, because the Reserves typically only recruit full-time staff from among

those already in the service. In other words, they have a smaller pool from which to draw. It is our responsibility to make sure the Guard and Reserves remain strong and vital, and one way to do this is to invest in their human capital.

The legislation I am introducing today is important not only to our current military reserve technicians who may meet the new retirement eligibility, but also to those new prospects who are evaluating employment alternatives as they decide with whom to invest their future. Make it a priority today to strengthen our Guard and Reserves of the future.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility and choice, so that no child is left behind:

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Chairman, I support H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act, but I must point out some sections that I believe place students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) at a disadvantage. I have been contacted by several organizations with an extreme interest in these provisions of the legislation, and I would like to point out some of the concerns we share. Hopefully, when Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate meet in Conference, these provisions of this historic legislation can be addressed to ensure complete fairness to all of America's children.

I oppose the requirement in Title I and Title III for parental consent for English Language Instruction. I would like to point out that current law already includes a requirement that schools notify parents about their child's participation in bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. The provision in H.R. 1 goes further and requires every local educational agency (OEA) to obtain written parental consent before LEAs could serve limited English proficient children with appropriate bilingual instruction. In contract, LEAs using English only instruction would not have to seek such consent. In reality, this parental consent requirement would create a disincentive for schools to serve LEP students.

Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act also proposes to consolidate the current Bilingual Education Act (BEA), the Emergency Immigrant Education Program (EIEP), and the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) into one formula driven State grant. Addressing the unique needs of limited English proficiency students has reached critical levels. The approach taken in H.R. 1, consolidating

these three programs, is counterproductive and does nothing to assist LEAs in providing adequate services for LEP and newly arrived immigrant students. I oppose the consolidation of these programs and urge the Conference to maintain each as a separate and distinct entity.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Title III also requires every LEA to design programs that assess LEP students in English who have attended school in the United States for three or more consecutive school years in reading or language arts, and if these students have not reached proficiency in English, the LEA will face economic penalties. Of course, Mr. Speaker, this will lead to LEAs proclaiming proficiency and removing these students from these programs whether they have learned English or not. This imposition of an arbitrary three year instructional time limit is ill advised and intrudes on the LEAs ability to help LEP students succeed. As we all realize, all students, including LEP students, come to school with diverse needs, and at different

In closing, I again want to point out my support for this legislation. However, if we truly do hope to “leave no child behind,” we must look seriously at the provisions dealing with limited English proficiency students. I am hoping and trusting that the Conference will make the right decisions on these important provisions of H.R. 1.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY McCORMICK

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize Mr. Larry McCormick for his 30 years of dedicated service to the people of Los Angeles as a news broadcaster with KTLA-TV.

Truly a multi-faceted, multi-talented, media professional, Larry has worked for over 40 years in the field of broadcasting—33 in television news. Joining KTLA in 1971 as a weatherman, Larry now serves as anchor of the station's “News at Ten Weekend Edition,” and as weekday feature anchor for “News at Ten.” He also co-hosts the highly-regarded “Making It: Minority Success Stories,” seen every Sunday morning.

As the first African American news anchor in Los Angeles, Larry has served as a role-model for a generation of television journalists. His years of experience and reputation for honesty earned him the prestigious “Governor's Award,” the highest honor presented annually by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Over his long journalistic career, he has also been nominated for many Emmy Awards and has been the recipient of a number of Golden Mike Awards for news excellence.

Although very busy with career and family, Larry has always made time to give back to the city that has been the starting point of his success. Every year, this dedicated individual hosts the local United Negro College Fund and Muscular Dystrophy Association telethons and serves as "quiz master" for the Los Angeles Unified School District Academic Decathlon "Superquizzes." Emceeing nearly 2,000 programs in the greater Los Angeles community over the past 30 years, Larry also serves as a member of the board of directors for numerous community, as well as professional organizations. In addition, he has been the recipient of over 100 awards, citations and honors from government, civic and community organizations for his tireless devotion to the people of Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, on May 30, 2001, colleagues, friends and family will gather for a special evening to salute Larry McCormick's 30 years with KTLA. It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring this exceptional individual for his outstanding contributions to the broadcast industry and his ongoing commitment to serve the communities of Greater Los Angeles.

POLITICAL CRISIS IN INDONESIA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, recent political crises in Indonesia underscore the difficult challenges facing the development of democracy in that nation and region. The spectrum of issues includes human rights violations in Aceh, Irian Jaya, Malukus, Poso, and Padang, the Trisakti shooting, corruption cases, mass rapes of Chinese women in May 1998, and the upcoming parliamentary actions against President Wahid. At this moment, democracy in its infancy is being seriously challenged in Indonesia. No great principle or ideology, however, survives without facing serious challenges—challenges that can be surmounted with great sacrifice and leadership. Democracy is a principle for which it is worth fighting. And, I trust that the people of Indonesia and their leaders will continue to make every effort to see that democracy is established firmly so that the Indonesian people will enjoy true prosperity and peace.

Last June I led a delegation to Indonesia and shared with President Wahid deep concern about the presence of Laskar Jihad in the Malukus and the widespread violence and bloodshed perpetrated by this group. The President indicated he had ordered Laskar Jihad to leave and stay out—an encouraging sign for the suffering people in Maluku. Several weeks ago reports detailed the arrest of the leader of Laskar Jihad, Mr. Jafar Umar Thalib. Many hoped that the turmoil and killings in the Malukus would finally come to an end. Important progress has been made among the Moluccans themselves, both the Muslims and the Christians, with reconciliation, rehabilitation and the rebuilding programs for people in the Malukus. This reflects a foundation and strong desire for the Moluccan people to reconcile without interference from militant and extremist groups such as Laskar Jihad.

Unfortunately, continued reports from Indonesia about the arrest and then release of

leaders promoting violence, particularly the release of Mr. Jafar Thalib from police custody, have discouraged many within Indonesia. There are widespread implications of the release of an individual who seems to only promote violence, bloodshed, and division. Mr. Thalib's, and other militant leaders' desires undermine the establishment and continued development of democracy, civil society, freedom, and peace for the people of Indonesia. In addition, the proposals of some groups to impose Sharia law on the entire nation raises great concerns. One is hard-pressed to find a country anywhere in the world in which democracy and Sharia law coexist.

The unrest and strife resulted in \$90 billion in foreign investment leaving Indonesia in the year 2000. Yet, the international business community hopes to return investment to Indonesia and increase business and therefore jobs for local economies. Lack of rule of law and civil society create instability—an environment that threatens any economic growth. Businesses will find other markets in which to grow in Asia.

I, and many other Members of Congress, fully support the establishment and development of democracy in Indonesia. Civil society and stability will create a lasting atmosphere in which the beauty, diversity, and resources of Indonesia and the Indonesian people can grow and be enjoyed in peace and prosperity.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO NAME THE KOKOMO, INDIANA POST OFFICE FOR FORMER CON- GRESSMAN ELWOOD "BUD" HILLIS

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the most distinguished men ever to represent the state of Indiana in the House of Representatives by introducing legislation to name the post office in Kokomo, Indiana for my good friend, former Congressman Bud Hillis.

Bud honorably and effectively served the people of Indiana's 5th District in the House of Representatives from 1971 to 1986. During his time in the Congress he was a reasonable and authoritative voice on matters of national security, trade, and veterans issues. A graduate of Indiana's Culver Military Academy, he enlisted to fight in World War II at the age of 18. He served as an infantryman in the European Theater for 27 months, leaving active duty as a first lieutenant. After the war, Bud attended Indiana University and the Indiana University School of Law. He went on to practice law in Howard County, Indiana, and served as Chairman of the county bar association.

Before his election to Congress in November of 1970, he served two terms in the Indiana House of Representatives. As a Member of the U.S. Congress, Bud was known for a unique combination of genteel civility and firm resolve. During his years in Washington, he was noted for his leadership on several issues of vital importance to Hoosiers and to the nation as a whole.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Bud was instrumental in the develop-

ment and deployment of the M-1 tank and the preservation of Grissom Air Force Reserve Base. He took a serious interest in the automobile industry as a founding member of the Congressional Auto Task Force and was a leading advocate of the rescue of Chrysler. He was also a strong force in the Congressional Steel Caucus as Vice President of the executive committee. Bud also took seriously our nation's commitments to our veterans. As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, he was a leader in caring for our country's veterans, and was instrumental in the construction of the outpatient clinic at Crown Point.

Mr. Speaker, Bud Hillis has a distinguished record of service to his country and to the people he represented here in the House of Representatives. The dedication of the Kokomo post office, would be a fitting tribute for such an honorable and accomplished man.

HONORING LESLIE BELCHER SOWELL

HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my chief of staff, Leslie Belcher Sowell, who is leaving the service of Oklahoma's Third Congressional District this past Thursday, May 24, 2001 after many, many years as a member of my staff. Leslie is a multi-talented young woman whom I have watched grow and mature from a young congressional intern into a true professional as my top congressional advisor and most trusted political assistant.

Leslie grew up in Chandler, Oklahoma, in the Third District. She is a graduate of Chandler High School and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Leslie first joined my staff as a congressional intern. Later, after she graduated from college, Leslie joined my office full-time as a staff assistant and receptionist. It wasn't long before Leslie earned a promotion to legislative assistant, and she eventually became one of my top assistants for the House Appropriations Committee. Her assistance as invaluable to my efforts to help the economic and job growth of the Third District.

When I left Congress after 1990, Leslie returned to OSU where she served on the staff of the university's government relations office. She returned to Capitol Hill a few years later to work as legislative director for my successor in the Third District, Rep. Bill Brewster, D-Oklahoma.

In 1996, when I decided to return to Congress, Leslie again joined me, this time as my chief of staff and top political advisor. In addition, she served as my legislative director and press secretary during the initial period of my first term back in Congress when we were organizing my new staff.

In 1997, during consideration of a major tax bill, Leslie became an underlying catalyst in my efforts to make sure former Native American lands in Oklahoma were eligible for tax incentives created to encourage economic development on Native American reservations. Leslie helped me guide this hallmark legislation through the Ways and Means Committee,