

COMMENDING THE TROOPS AT U.S. NAVAL BASE GUANTANAMO BAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotism of 100 of my fellow Rhode Islanders, who are members of the 43rd Military Police Brigade of the Rhode Island Army National Guard. As I speak, these fine men and women are deployed to U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, where they are part of Joint Task Force-160. The mission of Joint Task Force-160 is to oversee the care, custody and control of the detainees who have been apprehended by United States and international forces in the global war on terrorism. The 43rd Military Police Brigade is serving as the core staff and headquarters for the entire Joint Task Force, as well as providing critical security requirements for Camp Delta, where the detainees are being held. Additionally, they support the efforts of Joint Task Force-170, which includes both the FBI and the CfA, who are handling interrogation of the detainees. In deploying to Guantanamo Bay, they have been reunited with their commander and fellow Rhode Island Guardsman, Brigadier General Rick Backus, who became the Task Force Commander in March of this year.

U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay is over 45 square miles and is not only the oldest U.S. base overseas but it is also the only one in a Communist country. It is located on the southeast corner of Cuba, and is about 400 air miles from Miami, Florida. For these Guard members it is home because it is where their country needs them to be. They are an integral part of the 1,700 members of Joint Task Force-160, made up of servicemen and women from the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, and they are all unsung heroes of the war on terrorism.

The 43rd Military Police is a mobilized National Guard unit from my hometown of Warwick, Rhode Island. They recently made history when, on May 20, 2002, they became the first National Guard unit to assume the role of a joint task force command. Clearly this demonstrates the ability of the National Guard to seamlessly transition into an active duty command. This complete integration of a National Guard Unit into a Joint Task Force is a tribute to both the National Guard Bureau and the U.S. Army.

A member of my staff recently had the privilege of visiting these Guard members at Guantanamo. He told me that it was impossible not to be struck by the professionalism and dedication of these men and women. Their morale is excellent, despite the incredibly stressful task they have. They make every daily decision, which affects the lives of 1,700 troops and 564 detainees, and they are our next-door neighbors. They are accomplishing something they have constantly prepared for but never imagined would become reality in this way. They have been assigned an awesome challenge and have risen to the occasion.

In recognizing these members of the Rhode Island National Guard, I also want to acknowledge the outstanding support that they receive from their families and their employers. Most of these Guard members are traditional mem-

bers, or “weekend warriors”, as they are often known. Many are self-employed or hold critical positions in their companies. The extremely unique demand of this war on terrorism is a duty that is shared by employers and employees alike. Many Guard members expect to be away from their families and jobs for four months, which could impose a significant financial and psychological burden on members at a time when they need to be functioning at 100 percent. The support they receive is critical to the success of their mission.

I am proud as an American and a Rhode Islander to recognize this partnership in patriotism displayed by the guardsmen of the 43rd Military Police Brigade, their families and their employers in their deployment as part of Joint Task Force 160.

LEAP AWARD WINNERS IN
ORANGE COUNTY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, Today I rise to honor Chongge Vang and Debbie Barba for their leadership and dedication to the Asian community of Orange County.

Debbie, a third generation Japanese-American, worked her way up from telephone operator to Vice President of Local Operations for Pacific Bell. During her tenure, she provided a wonderful example to others in our community by returning to school and working to obtain her undergraduate degree from the University of Redlands.

Chongge Vang fled Laos in the late 1970's after fighting alongside the American CIA in a secret war. Since his arrival in Orange County, he has helped countless members of the Hmong community to become U.S. citizens and receive health care and other social-service support.

A modest man, Vang considers himself more of a helper than a leader. He stated that he became a leader only because others did not answer the call.

The Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics organization has recognized these two leaders. I would like to personally thank them for their hard work and the positive example they set for others in my district.

KEEPING CANADIAN TRASH OUT
OF MICHIGAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, our state is a cathedral—not a dumping ground for Canadian trash.

For nearly 30 years, those of us in Michigan have taken responsibility for our own trash.

In the early 1970s, I worked with my colleagues in the State Legislature and the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) to make Michigan the first industrial state in the nation to enact a bottle bill.

Michigan families wait in line to return their bottles and cans, meanwhile people in Can-

ada and other states throw them in the garbage and truck them into our state. It is long past time to enact a ban on imported trash.

I introduced the first bill to allow local communities the ability to say “no” to out-of-state and Canadian trash in 1989 and passed it through the House in 1994—only to have Republicans block it in the Senate.

Today, Representative ROGERS offers an approach that many of us have been talking about for some time. We need to stop these trash trucks at our bridges and make it as difficult as possible for them to do business in Michigan.

Ensuring our border agents do not use their scarce resources to facilitate the flow of trash from Canada is a good first step, but we need to do more. We need to enact the Bonior-Dingell-Doyle-Greenwood-Upton legislation, which would allow local communities to ban out-of-state and Canadian trash.

I commend Representative ROGERS for drawing attention to this critically important issue for Michigan's families and look forward to working with him to enact a permanent ban on imported trash.

TRIBUTE TO ANN MORGAN, U.S.
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S
COLORADO STATE DIRECTOR

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Ann Morgan, the State Director of the Colorado Office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management—the BLM. Ann will be leaving this position this week, after nearly five years of distinguished service in that demanding job.

Ann started as Colorado State Director of the BLM in October 1997. In our state, the BLM manages 8.4 million acres that include the full range of Colorado's diverse land forms, from forested areas, to river corridors, to red rock plateaus and open range expanses along the western slope. Managing these varied landscapes presents many challenges. Important balances must be struck between those that wish to use these lands for wildlife protection, open space, recreation, mineral development, grazing, timbering and oil and gas extraction.

As State Director, Ann had to work with the diverse interests to strike that balance. Her approach was to work for the kind of community-based partnerships that are so important for true multiple-use management. An example of this is the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, where Ann was an active member. She also served as a co-chair of the Colorado Environmental Partnership, and has been an advisor to the University of Colorado Natural Resources Law Center. She also encouraged BLM to work across jurisdictional lines with the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado State Parks to better manage these lands and serve the public.

Ann recognized the value in conserving landscapes so that today's and future generations of visitors can enjoy the beauty and recreational potential of these public lands. To that end, she has helped build support for and

increased the size of National Landscape Conservation System units. Working with the Colorado Congressional delegation, she was instrumental in the designation of the Gunnison Gorge and Colorado Canyons National Conservation Areas and the designation of wilderness areas within those NCAs.

Through her leadership and the good work of the BLM employees, important guidelines are in place to make sure that recreation, grazing and other uses do not negatively impact our public lands. These guidelines help underscore that the environment can be protected in concert with economic benefits that inure to communities by these resources and activities.

She also helped BLM make important strides toward integrating fire into overall land management. Today, the Colorado BLM has in place state-of-the-art Fire Management Plans, which utilizes naturally ignited fires to meet resource objectives. She has also helped create local community support for the BLM's fire program, and helped local communities develop fire management plans.

She has also been helpful on wilderness protection. She demonstrated strong leadership when she agreed to re-evaluate areas that contained wilderness characteristics to determine if the management of these areas should be revised to protect their wilderness values. She also was a supporter of the BLM's Colorado policy of providing interim protection of areas that have been proposed for wilderness in order to give Congress the flexibility to determine this ultimate disposition of these lands.

Before coming to Colorado, Ann served three years as BLM's State Director in Nevada, where she concentrated on developing standards and guidelines for rangeland health, improving the quality and timeliness of hardrock mining environmental analysis, and securing strong working relationships with local governments in a state where the BLM manages 67 percent of the land.

Before embarking on her BLM career, Ann was manager of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Lands. There she was responsible for the multiple use management of more than 2 million acres of state public lands. She directed leasing, resource inventories and harvesting, public access and recreation, habitat protection and restoration, and statewide aquatic lands enhancement programs. Prior to that she managed engineering and construction projects for geothermal power plants for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Ann will be moving on to work on public land and environmental issues with, the Natural Resources Law Center at the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder, Colorado. She also will be working with the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution on special projects. At these positions, I know that she will have an opportunity to continue to make important contributions to public lands management. Her experience and expertise will help these organizations better understand and respond to natural resource issues.

I wish her well in these endeavors and ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her dedicated public service to Colorado and the nation.

SALE OF ISRAELI ARROW WEAPON SYSTEM TO INDIA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the House floor this evening to discuss the sale of the Israeli Arrow Weapon System to India.

According to several reports, Mr. Speaker, there is support within the Pentagon and support from Israel to make the sale of the Arrow Weapon System a reality. However, Secretary Powell and the State Department are preparing to express objection to India's purchase of this missile defense system from Israel, due to the current military standoff between India and Pakistan.

I sent a letter today to Secretary Powell, requesting that the Secretary not delay or oppose India's purchase of this missile defense system from Israel.

I strongly believe that the State Department's support for the Arrow Weapon System sale to India would further solidify the new defense relationship between the United States and India. For the past several months, the U.S. and India have participated in numerous joint military exercises which have fostered a strong defense relationship between the two countries, which share democratic interests and have been working together well against global terrorism.

In addition, the Arrow Weapon System was created to defend against short-range and medium-range ballistic missiles. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, India's interest in the Arrow Weapon System is to improve missile defense, not offense, which is a key factor regarding this sale that needs to be considered.

There have also been reports that indicate that India is preparing to buy parts from the United States for military equipment such as helicopters, jets and radar systems. The sale of this equipment was initially delayed due to sanctions imposed on India in May 1998. Those sanctions have been lifted for nearly one year and I requested that the sale of this equipment not be delayed as well due to the current situation between India and Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that during Secretary Powell's trip to India this week, he will voice approval of this Israeli sale to India. This is a positive step for U.S.-India relations and because of the defensive nature of this defense system, the U.S. should not delay this sale due to the conflict between India and Pakistan.

JULY 23, 2002.

Hon. COLIN POWELL,
Secretary, U.S. Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I am writing today to urge you not to delay the sale of the Israeli Arrow Weapon System to India.

According to several reports, there is support within the Pentagon and support from Israel to make this sale a reality. However, I understand that during your upcoming trip to India, you are preparing to express your objection to India's purchase of this missile defense system from Israel, due to the current military standoff between India and Pakistan.

I strongly believe that the State Department's support for the Arrow Weapon System sale to India would further solidify the new defense relationship between the United

States and India. For the past several months, the US and India have participated in numerous joint military exercises which have fostered a strong defense relationship between the two countries, which share democratic interests and have been working together well against global terrorism.

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I am hoping that during your trip this week, you will voice approval of this Israeli sale to India and I thank you for taking my views into consideration.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF BOBBY LEE THOMPSON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of Bobby Lee Thompson, who recently retired as the United Auto Workers Region 8 director. Bobby Lee served as the Region 8 director for more than 11 years and served the UAW for 48 years.

Bobby Lee began his nearly five decades of service to the UAW when he was hired as an assembler at the General Motors assembly plant in Wilmington, Delaware, on January 11, 1954. He served in numerous capacities with the union, including president of UAW Local 435 and as an international representative.

Bobby Lee has been a tremendous advocate for the working man and woman in the auto industry. His hard work and dedication to the UAW has earned him many accolades. He has even earned international recognition as an advocate for workers in the field of independent arbitration. Bobby Lee has also taken an active and appreciated role in numerous Middle Tennessee community organizations and boards.

His leadership and vision at the UAW will be sorely missed. I congratulate Bobby Lee on his outstanding career and wish him well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. DOUGHERTY, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and acknowledge the