

RECOGNIZING THE ARIZONA COALITION FOR NEW ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Arizona Coalition for New Energy Technologies. This coalition brings together over three dozen business and non-profit organizations from around Arizona to educate opinion leaders and other key stakeholders about the many benefits of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies.

Since its formation in January of this year, the Arizona Coalition for New Energy Technologies has achieved some important accomplishments. It helped four Arizona state legislators launch a bipartisan Renewables and Energy Efficiency Caucus in the state legislature, modeled on the U.S. House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus of which I am a member. The mission of this state caucus, which has grown to 14 members of both parties, is to educate lawmakers about cutting-edge advances in new energy technologies to market in Arizona, the United States and the world. Under the auspices of this caucus, three member companies of the Arizona Coalition for New Energy Technologies presented a well-received informational briefing in February to state legislators and other interested parties at the state capitol in Phoenix.

Arizona is a national leader in promoting clean new energy technologies through state laws and policies, which is appropriate, given our state's wealth of solar and other renewable resources. I salute the Arizona Coalition for New Energy Technologies and congratulate the Coalition for its leadership in educating key stakeholders on the growing importance of new energy technologies to the energy security of our state and nation.

CONGRATULATING SARA MCKIERNAN

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on January 29, 2002, President Bush called upon every American to volunteer two years to the service of our country. President Bush also called for the United States to renew our commitment to the Peace Corps by doubling the number of volunteers in five years.

This August, Sara McKiernan from Winnetka, Illinois, will return from her two year Peace Corps term in Mongolia. Sara's commitment to her country and compassion to the world is an example for us all. While in Mongolia, Sara taught both young children and adults the English language. But, more importantly, Sara's work was a vehicle in spreading the principles of democracy throughout the world.

As several members of this body know, the job of a Peace Corps volunteer is one of the most challenging in the world. I commend Sara and all the Peace Corps volunteers de-

ployed throughout the world. These past two years have been an even greater challenge being separated from family and loved ones, particularly during these traumatic times. But her work could not be more important. We appreciate Sara's work and dedication, welcome home.

INTRODUCTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND THE NATIONAL MOTTO

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would create a constitutional amendment to protect the Pledge of Allegiance and the National motto. Recently, a federal court in San Francisco ruled that the Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional and cannot be recited in schools.

This is the latest in a rash of stunning decisions that have come from our federal courts. It is an unfortunate assault on America's tradition of recognizing the role of God in our country's life and as the foundation of our liberties.

The order and decision by this court has been suspended, but it is a chilling fact that this decision was ever issued in a U.S. Federal court. An overwhelming majority of Americans were outraged with this decision and are hopeful that it will be overturned—but there is no guarantee. In fact, there have been reports of those wishing to challenge the use of "In God We Trust," the National motto, on our currency.

Unfortunately, there has been a trend in our courts that have sought to remove every vestige of God from our country, while child pornography is protected. The time for action has come. Today, I am introducing legislation that would provide for a constitutional amendment to protect the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the national motto "In God We Trust."

Amending the Constitution is never taken lightly, nor should it be. Yet Congress can no longer sit idly while the courts rewrite our nation's history and traditions. This amendment is very clean, clear, concise, and as unobtrusive as possible. However, it is very effective and the only way to ensure that the Pledge of Allegiance and the national motto are protected and preserved.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and hope that we can begin the process to move it forward.

RECOGNIZING MS. MEGHAN FOSTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ms. Meghan Foster, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in national government.

Meghan is a senior psychology major at Texas Christian University and has distinguished herself as an intern in my Washington Office by serving the great people of the 6th District of Missouri. Meghan joined my staff for the 107th Congress as part of the House of Representatives intern program at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., a program designed to involve students in the legislative process through active participation. Through this program, Meghan has had the opportunity to observe firsthand the inner workings of national government and has gained valuable insight into the process by which laws are made.

During her time as an intern in my office, Meghan has successfully demonstrated her abilities in the performance of such duties as conducting research, helping with constituent services, and assuming various other responsibilities to make the office run as smoothly as possible. Meghan has earned recognition as a valuable asset to the entire U.S. House of Representatives and my office through the application of her knowledge and skills acquired prior to her tenure as an intern and through a variety of new skills she has acquired while serving the people of Missouri and our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ms. Meghan Foster for her many important contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives during the current session, as well as joining with me to extend to her our very best wishes for continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

OPERATION ADOPTED HEROES: THE STRENGTH OF A COMMUNITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Operation Adopted Heroes. This project was started by members of the small community of DuBois, Pennsylvania with the objective of providing relief to the grieving New York firefighters of Engine Company 84 and Ladder Company 34 following the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center. The fire station, located in the Washington Heights section of my congressional district, lost seven current and former members in responding to the attack.

Firefighter Gregg Atlas, Captain Frank Callahan, Firefighter Dana Hannon, Lieutenant Tony Jovic, Firefighter Gerry Nevins, Lieutenant Glenn Perry, and Battalion Chief John Williamson died in the line of duty on September 11th.

Delores "Dee" Matthews, a caring and compassionate neighbor who has served as moderator of the New York Presbyterian Church and lives in the neighborhood of the fire station, wanted to do something to allay the grief of the firefighters. She reached out to her closest friends in her hometown of DuBois, Pennsylvania, Judy Hand and Pat Stewart with the idea of adopting these firefighters. Dozens of community members formed what is now known as Operation Adopted Heroes to organize appreciative events and raise money for the victims' families. With the help of the neighboring townships of Rockton, Union and Sandy Township represented by my colleague

JOHN PETERSON, Operation Adopted Heroes collected over \$10,000 for the widows and children of the fallen firefighters as well as donated 14 wooden chairs and knitted quilts for each bed in the firehouse.

On November 17, 2001, representatives of all four townships drove to New York City to present their gifts to the fire station and the families of the fallen firefighters. This generosity continued through the holiday season with presents for the fallen firefighters' children and on June 14, 2002, twenty firemen with their families traveled to DuBois to participate in the local Community Days weekend extravaganza.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting the members of Operation Adopted Heroes for their civic altruism to the 161st Street Fire Station and its fallen heroes of September 11. I introduce into the RECORD news articles on the relationships developed through Operation Adopted Heroes.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, two years ago, I voted against a so-called "partial birth abortion" ban because I believed it to be unconstitutional. The Supreme Court's 2000 decision in *Stenberg v. Carhart* proved me to be correct. Despite this ruling, the bill before us today corrects none of the flaws that were clearly outlined by the Court. Today's vote is a purely political exercise.

H.R. 4965 does not include an exception to protect the health of the woman, despite clear instructions from the Court, in more than one decision since 1972, that any law restricting abortion must include such an exception. This bill, despite cosmetic changes to the language, is still unconstitutional.

I believe in a woman's right make important decisions regarding her body and health. I also believe that the state can and should regulate abortion after the point of fetal viability. These two principles were codified in the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision.

Mr. Speaker, if Congress truly wishes to ban abortion after the point of fetal viability, we should consider and pass H.R. 2702, the Late Term Abortion Restriction Act. This legislation, which I have cosponsored, would prohibit all late-term abortions, regardless of procedure, with exceptions only to protect the life of the mother and to avert serious adverse health consequences.

The House was not allowed to vote on this bill today, which is a great shame, since it goes to the heart of this issue rather than using it as a campaign message. H.R. 2702 addresses what the American people truly want to stop: the termination of a viable fetus during late stages of a pregnancy.

Today, I will vote against H.R. 4965. I urge my colleagues who truly wish to ban post-viability abortions to consider H.R. 2702 as a real solution to this personal and political issue.

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE'S THIRTY-SEVENTH NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of Singapore on its Thirty-seventh National Day, which will occur on August 9, 2002.

As many Americans know, Singapore's National Day commemorates the date when Singapore became a separate, independent nation in 1965. In its short history as an independent nation, Singapore has achieved phenomenal economic growth. Bilateral trade between Singapore and the U.S. amounted to more than \$42 billion in 2000, making Singapore the United States' tenth largest trading partner. Singapore is home to more than 1,400 U.S. corporations and 50% of all Singapore exports to the United States originate from U.S. companies. At end 2000, the cumulative stock of U.S. Direct Investment in Singapore stood at more than \$23.2 billion.

Since its founding as a free port in 1819 by a British East India Company official named Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, Singapore's free trade status has been a major factor in its success. It has been a firm backer of U.S. international trade policy and, since December 2000, Singapore and the United States have been negotiating a U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA). Nine rounds of negotiations have been concluded. The USSFTA will be the first free trade agreement (FTA) that the United States will sign with an Asian country. Not only will it cement the excellent state of economic relations between our two countries, the USSFTA will also send a strong signal of the strong strategic and defense relations that already exist. When concluded, the FTA will act as an anchor for continued U.S. economic presence in the Asia Pacific region.

In addition to the vitally important trade relationship between the U.S. and Singapore, both nations have increasingly close security ties. Since 1992, U.S. military aircraft and naval vessels have, under the auspices of a 1990 Memorandum of Understanding, been given access to Singapore military facilities. Each year, Singapore plays hosts to numerous routine port calls by U.S. naval vessels and landings by U.S. military aircraft. Since 2001, Singapore's Changi Naval Base has been host to U.S. aircraft carriers, for maintenance and re-supply. The Singapore Navy made provisions to allow the berthing of U.S. aircraft carriers at their own expense, and to U.S. specifications each year. Singapore has been unfailing in its support for the U.S. presence in the region—even at times when it has been unpopular to do so. With its strategic location in the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea, it is hard to understand the significance of this security relationship with a nation in the center of these critically important shipping lanes.

Even in the war on terrorism, Singapore has been steadfast. In December 2001, Singapore arrested 13 terrorists who were targeting various U.S. military, diplomatic and commercial assets. The government of Singapore has also been unwavering in its moral, logistical and financial support for the global war on terrorism.

On a more personal note, I have had the chance to meet with the current Ambassador from Singapore, Ms. Chan Heng Chee. She has ably represented Singapore in Washington since 1996, years in which our trade and security ties with Singapore have grown extensively. The highlight of her service will be the signing of the FTA, which will hopefully be completed soon. I look forward to working with her on this and other issues between our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, given the importance of our relationship with Singapore, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of Singapore on its Thirty-seventh National Day and to urge my colleagues in joining me in my salute to one of our important allies and trading partners.

RECOGNITION OF MR. NILES JAGER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mr. Niles Jager, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in national government.

Niles is a senior economics major at Depauw University and has distinguished himself as an intern in my Washington office by serving the great people of the 6th District of Missouri. Niles joined my staff for the 107th Congress as part of the House of Representatives intern program at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., a program designed to involve students in the legislative process through active participation. Through this program, Niles has had the opportunity to observe firsthand the inner workings of national government and has gained valuable insight into the process by which laws are made.

During his time as an intern in my office, Niles has successfully demonstrated his abilities in the performance of such duties as conducting research, helping with constituent services, and assuming various other responsibilities to make the office run as smoothly as possible. Niles has earned recognition as a valuable asset to the entire U.S. House of Representatives and my office through the application of his knowledge and skills acquired prior to his tenure as an intern and through a variety of new skills he has acquired while serving the people of Missouri and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mr. Niles Jager for his many important contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives during the current session, as well as joining with me to extend to him our very best wishes for continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING RICHARD CHING ON BEING NAMED JA ELEMEN- TARY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a distinguished member