

record to reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 295, 296, 297, and 298.

Further, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on Monday, July 22, 2002 and I would like the record to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 324 and 325.

I was also unavoidably delayed on Thursday, July 25, 2002. I would like the record to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 347.

TRIBUTE TO TEXICO, NEW MEXICO ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Texico, New Mexico, as its citizens celebrate their centennial anniversary this month. Texico is a small community on the New Mexico-Texas border. It is known for its rich history and abounding sense of community, which has, over the years, sustained the town's traditional values, superb educational standards, intellectual strengths and high quality of life in Curry County.

I want to offer my sincere congratulations to Mayor Jerry Cunningham and all the residents of Texico on this happy occasion. On Saturday, July 27th, 2002, Texico, New Mexico, will celebrate its 100th anniversary. A parade beginning in Texico and ending in Farwell, Texas, its twin city, will lead citizens to Farwell Park, where craft shows, food booths, and class reunions will commemorate "Border Town Days." I know how excited everyone is about this special event.

Texico is located in what has been described as the "Golden Spread." This southwestern edge of the Great Plains is filled with the spirit of pioneers, who faced excitement, adventure, hardship, hope, fulfillment, disappointment, sadness and happiness as they moved West. Those that chose to found Texico gave the town the distinction of being the oldest community in Curry County.

In 1902, settlers moved into the area after railroad officials were considering Texico as a possible site for a railroad cutoff to Belen. The federal government and the New Mexico territorial government passed homestead laws in an effort to settle the eastern region of New Mexico. Soon settlers swarmed the area, and on either side of a muddy street, buildings soon formed a line of merchant shops and pioneer stops. Rooms for over-night visitors were quite reasonable—only twenty-five cents per night or \$1.40 per week. Harry's Café offered the best steaks, lamb-chops, fresh oysters, and eggs in town, and after dinner the dancing hall offered entertainment.

The bank ranked as the most important institution, but close behind was the Cozy Cottage Hotel. The hotel served as Texico's only two-story building, which was very distinct. A church was later built, along with a one-room schoolhouse, to which students would ride their mules every morning. By 1925, the graduating class had increased to nine students.

Today, Mayor Jerry Cunningham governs a total of about 1,065 citizens. The true charm of Texico is the fact that not much has

changed in its 100-year existence. People have come and gone and businesses have opened and closed; but the warmth, friendliness and character have remained intact. Agriculture and its support services have always been the backbone of the community, and the wholesome rural nature has been preserved. The citizens of Texico, and Curry County in general, should be very proud of that status.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, with all the historical grandeur Texico boasts, we have great reason to celebrate today. Accordingly, I extend my warmest congratulations to my friends in Texico on its 100th Anniversary. Texico most certainly has distinguished itself through its historical and social presence, and I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding 100 years of excellence.

RECOGNIZING DAVID C. DARLING FOR HIS THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David C. Darling as he retires from the St. Helena Police Department. Officer Darling has spent the last thirty-one years of his career serving the people of St. Helena, California.

As a native of St. Helena, I can attest to the strong embodiment of law enforcement, that David provides on a daily basis. His dynamic experience also includes stints as a Campus Police Officer at Napa College and a Police Reserve Officer for the City of Calistoga. As an officer for the St. Helena Police Department, he was recognized as St. Helena's Police Officer of the Year in 1987. David has served as the President of the St. Helena Police Officers Association for more than ten years and also served as the President of the Napa County Peace Officers Association.

In addition to these many accomplishments, Officer David Darling has built a reputation as being reliable and truly dedicated to his work. He often served as acting sergeant and shift supervisor. Officer Darling could be called on for any assignment. He made a name for himself in his relentless and noble campaign against drunk driving. For many years Officer David Darling was the uncontested champion of removing drunk drivers from our streets and securing their convictions. He was dedicated to the cause well before it was taken up as a public campaign.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize David C. Darling for his tremendous work for the people of the Napa Valley. He is a true asset to our community, and I speak on behalf of the people of St. Helena when I thank Officer David C. Darling for his service.

LEGISLATION TO CREATE A 2,800- ACRE PARK IN JOHNSON COUNTY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on April 22, 2002, I introduced legislation in celebration of

Earth Day that would create a 2,800-acre park in Johnson County on the former site of the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant. Senator PAT ROBERTS has truly been a leader on this issue by inserting the language from our bills (S. 2107/H.R. 4544) into the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003. As the House and Senate go to conference to mitigate the differences between our two bills, I would like to strongly encourage the conferees to keep this important language in the final authorization bill.

I have been working on this issue since I was sworn into office in January 1999. Johnson County has experienced rapid growth in recent years making it even more important that we set aside areas for parks and nature preserves now, before they are developed. The transfer would expand the borders of the 850-acre Kill Creek Park in Olathe, which opened last year.

The greatest gift we can give to future generations is acres and acres of local parks and nature trails. I have four grandchildren; I would love nothing more than to be able to take them to play in the parks like the one this authorization language would create. By transferring this land from the federal government to local control, we'll continue to add to our local system of parks and recreation areas.

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. P.K. CARLTON UPON HIS RETIRE- MENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Paul K. Carlton, Jr., Surgeon General of the Air Force, on the occasion of his retirement.

On December 1, 2002, General Carlton will end 37 years of extraordinary military service. A distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1969, General Carlton completed medical school at the University of Colorado and launched a spectacular career as an Air Force surgeon.

I have personally come to know General Carlton since he was commander of Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Then, as now, Wilford Hall Medical Center is a major presence in our community. Under his leadership and support, the 311th Medical Systems Wing at Brooks AFB has become a worldwide leader in research, development and training for bioterrorism surveillance, detection, and response. The Air Force medical professionals in San Antonio have been active leaders in that city's remarkable successes in developing a disaster response plan.

Over the last 2 years as Surgeon General, General Carlton has revolutionized the Air Force Medical Service's readiness mission to fully reflect the Air Force doctrine of shape, respond, and prepare. This has not been an easy undertaking—as with any change, it means upsetting the status quo. General Carlton's leadership and perseverance has prevailed, giving the United States Air Force, and this country, a medical response second to none. The light, lean, mobile medical capability that General Carlton championed has literally brought state-of-the-art medical care to

our forward-deployed troops. This approach to responsive medical capability has much to offer our nation as we address homeland security issues.

We are privileged in this country to have patriots like General Carlton who devote their lives to the defense and betterment of this country. On behalf of the state of Texas and this nation, I extend to General Carlton our gratitude and sincerest best wishes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 351, passage of H.R. 4946, Improving Access to Long-Term Care—because of a family emergency I was not present to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "No."

VELÁZQUEZ-ISSA-WILSON AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5005

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for the Velázquez-Issa-Wilson amendment. I would like to thank the gentlewomen from New York and New Mexico for joining me in introducing this amendment that is so important to America's small businesses.

Small businesses are the backbone of our nation's economy. They represent over 99% of all companies in the United States and employ over half of the nation's workforce. The Department of Homeland Security should facilitate a competitive purchasing atmosphere where high quality goods provided by small businesses can assist in the critical mission of this new agency.

The Velázquez-Issa-Wilson amendment will require the Department of Homeland Security to adhere to the same minimum procurement goals as other federal agencies. Additionally, the amendment puts accountability into the hands of procurement officials by making goal attainment an element of worker performance evaluations.

It is critical that government support American small businesses, which is why Congress created statutory goals for small business procurement.

Support the Velázquez-Issa-Wilson amendment and let us secure a place for small businesses in Homeland Security's procurement market.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3763, SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, no one in the corporate world should ever believe that their

position puts them above the law or outside the bounds of ethical responsibility. Those who do should be held accountable, those who break the law should go to Jail.

Today, the House will vote for the third time this year to hold corporate America to the highest of standards. Our action today will inform executives that their actions will be scrutinized, with the threat of real penalties for violations of their legal responsibilities to shareholders and the public.

The citizens of my state, and indeed all Americans, have watched the stock market tumble as accounting scandals have shaken investor confidence. Investors have watched as the values of their portfolios have fallen. They want—and deserve—tough action against fraud and malfeasance. In short, they want Wall Street to abide by the common sense principles that guide Main Street, and the public deserves nothing less.

This conference report, which I am proud to support, includes key provisions from our House-passed legislation that will improve disclosure, impose tougher penalties, and better protect investors in such cases of fraud.

By establishing for the first time a requirement for real-time corporate disclosure, the bill will better protect investors. Companies will now have to disclose any information that would materially affect the company's financial health. That is the kind of information that can never be—and should never be—withheld from the public. Accurate and clear financial disclosure will enable better investment decisions to be made based on a company's true financial performance.

Second, by strengthening the penalties for corporate fraud, the bill will act as a better deterrent to those seeking to stretch or test the boundaries of the law. This conference report provides double the jail time that was included in the Senate bill—up to 20 years—for corporate criminals who defraud the public, destroy documents or obstruct justice.

Finally, the investor restitution provision in this bill will enable investors who lose money in the markets as a result of corporate malfeasance to reclaim the gains of corporate criminals. Under the FAIR provision, a fund will be established to collect civil penalties and other funds from executives who violate the laws and defraud investors.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the conferees for working quickly to develop a bill that can win bipartisan support. I am confident that passage of this conference report will send a clear message to the corporate world that Congress and the American people expect them to play by the rules or face the consequences.

NURSE REINVESTMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bipartisan Nurse Reinvestment Act. I applaud the hard work of Congresswoman Capps and thank her for her dedication to this important public health issue.

Today's nurses are overworked, period. And despite their best efforts, the nursing shortage is impacting patient care.

Included in this bill's many worthy provisions, are measures to provide incentives for young Americans to decide to become nurses. Keeping our nurses in the workforce, while recruiting new staff will be critical to reversing these startling shortages.

Our nation's nurses are stressed and overworked. More and more, the stress and the work conditions have caused many nurses to stop practicing. According to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report, 19 percent of New York's registered nurses were not practicing in 2000, up 4 percent since 1996.

Worse yet, three quarters of nurses feel the quality of nursing care at the medical facility at which they work has decreased over the last two years, in large part do to under staffing. In New York, the nurse patient ratio violations have become so frequent that the New York Professional Nurses Union has put the hotline to report these violations on the front of their webpage, right next to instructions on how to take a sick day, or a vacation day. When nurse patient ratio violations are as common as a sick day, health care is clearly hurting.

Again, I applaud the hard work of Mrs. Capps and her colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO LONG-TERM CARE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Improving Access to Long-Term Care Act because it is an important first step in encouraging personal responsibility for planning for and financing one's own LTC needs. Nearly 40% of us will need some form of LTC during our lives, but few of us plan for its costs. If we are going to slow the growth of Medicaid spending—currently, the primary payor of LTC expenses—and ease the burden of government on our children's generation, we must focus on developing sound private insurance products so families can provide for their own futures by protecting their assets to support them and giving them choices in LTC services.

This bill will encourage the expansion of the LTC insurance market and strengthen consumer protections in LTC insurance policies. The market in this area is not mature, and these protections are extremely important to its development. Qualified LTC policies will have to meet requirements designed to protect purchasers, particularly seniors. Suitability standards, for example, attempt to assure that policies are suited to the purchaser's resources and needs.

One aspect of this bill caused me concern and it is my hope that we will be able to re-evaluate the income guidelines for claiming the deduction and the limits on the deduction amount. For example, when this bill is fully phased in, a person with \$20,000 income will get 7.5 cents in subsidy for every premium dollar spent on LTC insurance. That's assuming they meet the asset test under the suitability requirements and that—at \$20,000 income—they have sufficient tax liability for a deduction to matter.