

U.S.S. "SAN DIEGO" MEMORIAL

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a great warship that was named for a great maritime city: my hometown of San Diego.

The U.S.S. *San Diego* served our nation with honor and distinction during World War II. The *San Diego* was a light cruiser whose principal purpose was to provide antiaircraft protection to the fast carrier task groups that formed the backbone of the fleet during the war in the Pacific. Commissioned in January 1942, the *San Diego* joined the Pacific Fleet just prior to the Battle of Midway and saw her first action in the Guadalcanal campaign in the summer of 1942. The *San Diego* participated altogether in 42 months of nearly continuous operations, was involved in 34 engagements with enemy forces, earned 18 Battle Stars for her World War II campaigns, and was selected by Admiral Halsey to be the first major U.S. warship to enter Tokyo Bay upon the surrender of Japan.

Though the *San Diego* has been decommissioned and scrapped for many years, she has not been forgotten. The U.S.S. *San Diego* Memorial Association is a nonprofit organization formed with the goal of erecting a permanent memorial in San Diego, its namesake city, to honor the valiant and remarkable services of the cruiser U.S.S. *San Diego* and the men who served aboard her during the tumultuous and historical years of 1941–1945. Association membership includes surviving Navy veterans who served on the *San Diego* during the war. The Port of San Diego has donated a prime waterfront site for the U.S.S. *San Diego* Memorial, and the Memorial Association is raising private funds to construct a beautiful monument.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the U.S.S. *San Diego* Memorial Association and the Port of San Diego for their tremendous efforts to pay tribute to this great ship and her crew. Once again, the people of San Diego are demonstrating their strong support for the United States Navy and its many contributions to our nation's defense.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BONHAM

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Bonham, Texas, in the hometown of the late great Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn. On November 10th, the First Baptist Church will celebrate one hundred and fifty years of worship and service in Bonham and the surrounding community—an expanse of time that reflects the dedication and vitality of the church's pastors, leaders and members over several generations.

First Baptist Church, Bonham, organized in early November 1852, sixteen years after the

founding of Bonham and seven years after the annexation of Texas into the United States. Rev. J.R. Briscoe, a pioneer Baptist preacher, began the church with six charter members. They first met in the Masonic Hall but were soon able to move into their own building, which was also used as a schoolhouse. On January 24, 1855, for the sum of \$50, they purchased the building, and each succeeding building has stood on this same plot of land on the corner of Eighth and Center Streets.

In 1855 a new frame building was constructed. This was used for joint Sunday School services of the Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches. It was also used for special meetings, weddings, and funerals for a wide area around Bonham. By 1915, the church building was no longer adequate for further growth, and despite the scarcity of supplies and the high prices of the World War I years, the congregation was able to construct a new two-story building, including a basement, in 1919 and dedicate it in 1921, free of debt. The services were led by Rev. George W. Truett, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas.

Due to structural problems during the following years, a new building was constructed in 1958 and still stands today. Some of the furnishings that had been in the earlier buildings are part of the new structure—including several magnificent stained glass windows and a scene over the baptistery taken from a photograph of the Jordan River.

First Baptist Church, Bonham, was very much in the news in November 1961 as the place where the funeral service for Speaker Rayburn, beloved citizen of Bonham, was held. Countless numbers of dignitaries were in attendance, including President John F. Kennedy, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, former presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower. A plaque inscribed with their names adorns the pew where they sat.

First Baptist Church, Bonham, is rich in history. It is a shining example of the positive influence that churches make in the lives of our citizens and the fabric of our communities—and a powerful testament to the importance of faith and religious expression in the United States of America. We are, indeed, "one Nation under God." In preparation for its Sesquicentennial Celebration on November 10, a history of the church has been compiled that will honor all those who so diligently worked and sacrificed in their service to their church and their community. This celebration also will inspire current and future generations to carry on the wonderful legacy that was begun one hundred and fifty years ago.

Mr. Speaker, First Baptist Church, Bonham, was built upon the solid rock of Christian faith and service—and upon that rock it will continue to grow. I congratulate the members of First Baptist Church, Bonham, on this important milestone in the history of their church—and I wish them "God speed" as they continue to meet the needs of those in Bonham, the surrounding community, and mission fields around the world.

SUPPORT CONCURRENT RECEIPT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of concurrent receipt.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of legislation that would permit military retirees to concurrently draw their retired pay and disability benefits without an offset to either.

I firmly believe that retired members of the Armed Forces who are eligible for disability compensation should receive both their retirement and disability entitlement.

In fact, military retirees are the only group of federal retirees who must waive retirement pay in order to receive VA disability compensation. That's unfair and it should be corrected.

When asked about concurrent receipt, one combat veteran said it best. He said, "When I was flying combat missions in Korea, I knew there was a possibility of being shot down, captured, and tortured by the enemy. And I was unlucky enough to have that happen. But I never dreamed that Uncle Sam would penalize me by making me pay for my own disability compensation out of the retired pay I was supposed to have earned for my 24 years of military service."

Lt. Col. Norman E. Duquette, the person who said that, is one of nearly 500,000 disabled military retirees penalized by this unfair provisions that stops them from keeping veterans' disability compensation and full military retired pay—even though the two have entirely different purposes.

On February 1, 2002, I joined several of my congressional colleagues in sending a letter to President Bush requesting that he include in his FY 2003 budget request the funds necessary to eliminate the current offset between military retired pay and VA disability compensation. Unfortunately, when President Bush delivered his FY 2003 budget request to Congress on February 4, 2002, funds for implementing concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees were not included in it.

In recent days, President Bush has actually threatened to veto the Defense Authorization bill because he opposes fixing the concurrent receipt problem. That's why this motion is necessary and so important.

New Jersey veterans have heard enough excuses. We owe them this for their service to our Nation, especially now, as our Nation is calling upon the members of the armed forces to defend democracy and freedom.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM CARROLL FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOLANO COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize the Chair of the Solano

County Board of Supervisors, William Carroll, who is retiring this year following a long and distinguished career in local government.

Mr. Carroll served on the Vacaville City Council for 21 years, 18 of them as Mayor, prior to his election to the Board of Supervisors in 1991. While on the Board, he served as Chair for three terms and also served as President of the League of California Cities.

He was instrumental in creating the Rural North Vacaville Water District, which enabled a large segment of the community in the unincorporated area of his supervisorial district to receive water services. Air quality was also one of his primary policy issues. He served on the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District from January 1991 to May 2002 and on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District from January 3, 1995 to May 28, 2002.

Mr. Carroll has been a tireless supporter of Travis Air Force Base and of the United States military presence in Solano County. He recognizes the vital role agriculture plays in Solano County and has been a strong advocate for agricultural interests while in public office. Supervisor Carroll also devoted much of his spare time to assisting the homeless throughout Solano County.

Mr. Speaker, because of William Carroll's many contributions to local government in Solano County and for his commitment to his community, it is proper for us to honor him today.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNICO WATERBURY

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Unico Waterbury on its 80th anniversary this Sunday, October 20, 2002. The Waterbury chapter of Unico National has truly lived up to its motto of "Service Above Self." Through their charitable efforts the members of Unico have made Waterbury a better community in which to live. For those not familiar with the organization, it was founded in 1922 by a group of fifteen men of Italian heritage, united in their commitment to civic service.

The founding Waterbury Unico chapter became the progenitor of more than 150 chapters of Unico in communities nation-wide.

Let me take a moment to recount a few of its many accomplishments. In its early years Unico organized regular social activities for Italian students pursuing higher education. At these dance receptions, awards and scholarships were awarded to young achievers in the community. Soon this model of civic participation spread to other cities, enabling a national convention to be held in New York in 1930.

During World War II, Unico Waterbury achieved the distinction of selling more war bonds in one day than any other local club during a month's competition (\$75,000). In 1977, the club began aiding the Salvation Army to raise funds for its annual Christmas programs. This proud tradition continues to this day.

Today, Unico Waterbury is well served under the leadership of its first Services Committee woman President, Dr. Joane D'Angelo.

Membership stands at 95 strong and Armed Services growing. Its fundraising prowess was recently demonstrated by raising \$3,985 for Unico National's "Campaign Unity" to aid those affected by the September 11 attacks. The chapter continues to excel in public service by providing sizeable scholarships to students in the Waterbury community.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by expressing my personal appreciation for the spirit of civic service so notably demonstrated by Unico Waterbury. On behalf of the citizens of the United States, I thank the members of Unico Waterbury for their tradition of service and look forward to their many civic accomplishments to come in the years ahead.

THE GROWING U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS: STRONG AND BROAD-BASED BILATERAL RELATIONS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, relations between the United States and India continue to grow and prosper in the economic, political, diplomatic, democracy promotion, scientific, and security cooperation areas. During the past year, high-level agreements and substantive exchanges have brought the world's two largest democracies ever closer together; particularly with regard to security cooperation and a partnership in international counter-terrorism efforts.

The September 11 terrorist attacks on America have brought our two countries even closer together—as democracies which have been the victims of terrorism and which stand resolved to combat this scourge on a global basis. Following our President's clear statement that the nations of the world must stand "with us or with the terrorists," India answered the call. India immediately and unhesitatingly expressed full solidarity with our Nation and the American people. The welcome presence of Prime Minister Vajpayee last month at our one-year commemoration ceremony in New York City was but one highly symbolic indication of this sense of solidarity.

"The National Security Strategy of the United States," transmitted by President Bush to Congress last month as a declaration of the Administration's policy, calls India "A growing world power with which we have common strategic interest. The Administration sees India's potential to become one of the great democratic powers of the twenty-first century and accordingly has worked hard to transform our relationship."

Further quoting from the Administration's report:

The United States has undertaken a transformation in its bilateral relationship with India based on a conviction that U.S. interests require a strong relationship with India. We are the two largest democracies, committed to political freedom protected by representative government. India is moving toward greater economic freedom as well. We have a common interest in the free flow of commerce, including through the vital searoutes of the Indian Ocean. Finally, we share an interest in fighting terrorism and in creating a strategically stable Asia.

The pace of our bilateral engagement since President Bush assumed the Presidency has

been unprecedented. At their November 2001 meeting, President Bush and Prime Minister Vajpayee issued a joint statement outlining the broad scope of our bilateral relations. The Prime Minister and the President affirmed their commitment to complete the process of qualitatively transforming bilateral relations in pursuit of their many common goals in Asia and beyond.

The two leaders agreed that the lifting of economic, military and technology restrictions on India provides a further impetus to our bilateral relations. They welcomed the resumption of the bilateral Defense Policy Group as a step toward increasing exchanges and technical cooperation in the defense and security areas. The two leaders also agreed to pursue policies to enhance the mutually beneficial—and growing—economic and commercial ties between our nations. They also agreed to expand the Bilateral Economic Dialogue and to broaden dialogue and cooperation in the areas of energy, the environment, health, space, export controls, science and technology, including biotechnology and information technology. Indeed, the United States is India's largest trading partner and premier export destination. In particular, the President and the Prime Minister agreed that the two sides should discuss ways to stimulate bilateral high technology commerce, and agreed that our two countries should begin a dialogue to evaluate the processes for the transfer of dual-use and military items, with a view towards greater transparency and efficiency.

Moreover, India and the United States have a mutual interest in space exploration, and both countries have active space programs. The two leaders began an ongoing process to initiate discussions on Civil Space cooperation. In addition, private sector contacts, as well as meetings at the academic, cultural, NGO and other levels, continue to expand.

PARTNERS IN BUILDING DEMOCRACY

The U.S. and India, the world's two largest democracies, are partners in the ongoing effort to build a more democratic world. In this regard, India is leading by example, having stuck to the democratic path in the more than 50 years since it gained independence. During September and October, despite the ongoing threat of terrorism originating from outside India's borders, India is holding elections for the state assembly in Jammu and Kashmir. On September 18, after the first of four rounds of voting in the elections, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said:

We do welcome the Indian Government's commitment to holding an election that's free and fair and perceived as such internationally and within India. We have diplomats, and others do as well, up in the area observing the elections. Their findings, combined with the coverage by India's media and the international press will form the basis for an assessment of the election overall, after it's over. And I'm sure it'll be widely reported. And against these kind of sporadic violence and the threats that were issued, we actually applaud the courage of the voters who have chosen to participate in the first round of voting.

U.S.-INDIA COOPERATION ON SECURITY, DEFENSE AND COUNTER TERRORISM ISSUES

In particular, the U.S. and India have moved relations to a new level in terms of security and defense matters, and cooperation on counter terrorism, reflecting the recognition on