

that will be bitterly fought—not only on battlefields that will become increasingly more difficult to define, but in the halls of deliberative bodies around the world by those whose love of freedom and whose grasp of the reality of the situation is not yet equal to the task. And this war will produce veterans—men and women who will serve their country and who will bring us the victory that this nation and civilization demands—and who, once victory is assured, will—in the time honored tradition set forth by our first leader, return to private life as citizens.

And today, America honors its veterans, not always understanding what it is that they have accomplished, and not always comprehending how they think. But we know, and that is enough for us. So today—Veterans! Stand proud! For you have served, and today your country honors you. And for those of you who are not veterans, know what it is that these men and women have done. And give them honor, for they have earned it—not merely for their bravery, but for their willingness—indeed their eagerness that once having had power, they wanted only to return to their lives in their offices, their farms, their shops—for they are the quintessential veterans. They are Americans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 5th District of Connecticut and the United States House of Representatives, I commend Rabbi Eric A. Silver for his honorable years of military service, and thank him for his remarks this Veteran's Day.

SELECTIVE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Dean E. Schick of Cheyenne Wells, Colorado; Mr. Leslie M. Rittgers of Eads, Colorado; and Mr. C.P. Bryant, Jr. of Las Animas, Colorado on their appointments to the Selective Service Local Board 025 in Pueblo, Colorado.

Local board members have the distinction of receiving an appointment by the Director of Selective Service in the name of President George W. Bush, and on the recommendation of Governor Bill Owens. Patriotic Americans, these board members serve their country by volunteering their time to assist the government in selecting men suitable for military service in the event of a draft. If a draft commences, these gentlemen would decide who would receive deferments, postponements, or exemption from military service based on the individual registrant's circumstances and beliefs.

The Selective Service System is America's defense manpower "insurance policy" in a still dangerous and uncertain world. The service performed by a Selective Service Board Member provides a vital link between the community and today's military. His hard work helps guarantee claims filed by young men for deferments and exemptions will receive fair and equitable consideration if a future crisis requires reinstatement of a draft.

Congratulations to these dedicated volunteers on their appointments. I ask the House to join me in thanking these three men for their commitment to their country.

HONORING ASHLAND POLICE CHIEF FREDERIC PLEASANTS, JR. FOR HIS ROLE IN THE SNIPER ATTACKS

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ashland Police Chief Frederic Pleasants, Jr. for his role during the sniper attacks that shook Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

After the Ashland, Virginia shooting of October 19th, Chief Pleasants was on the scene in a matter of minutes and helped lead the quick and efficient response that ensued. It is known that Chief Pleasants can always be found hard at work behind the scenes, a characteristic that will certainly benefit the prosecution during the trial of the suspects. In fact, throughout the ordeal, Chief Pleasants and his dedicated staff logged 16-plus-hour days.

Chief Pleasants is an exceptional law enforcement officer who has served the Commonwealth of Virginia with distinction for over 32 years. His humility, professionalism, commitment to his team and community are truly deserving of special recognition. We are fortunate that he serves in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Chief Pleasants.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, on September 11th, 2001, Americans were faced with the horrible reality of that day's heinous attacks.

As we gather here today, in the building that served as our Nation's first Capitol and witnessed the inauguration of our first president, our blessed Nation stands firm and it stands strong.

Over the past year, Americans have shown those who wished to tear our country apart that their cowardly actions only brought our nation closer together. Here in the place where our democracy was born, we say to the world that these states of America remain united. We are united by our values, our communities, and our freedoms. Just as we will never forget what makes this nation great, we will never forget the hardships we have endured. We will always remember September 11th.

Even though America has had a year to mourn our losses, we still weep for the victims of that day. We continue to offer our prayers, our comfort, and our resolve to those who lost loved ones on that day.

Without question, the attacks of September 11th were a strike against all nations that value freedom and democracy. It was an act of war, but we were not to be intimidated. As a Congress, we remain steadfast with our nation in the fight against terrorism. American history has always been defined by the resiliency of our people and I stand here today to repeat our solemn pledge to defend freedom

and liberty and show that we will remain resilient no matter the threat. The freedoms and values our forefathers gathered in this hall to protect are simply too sacrosanct to ever be compromised.

REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF GEORGE O. WITHERS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, this is the time of year that we say farewell to some old friends. That's never easy. But it is even harder when the friend in question spent considerable time and energy helping make us all look good.

George Withers, who is leaving the Armed Services Committee staff at the end of this year, came to Capitol Hill in 1978. He had served his country in the Navy during Vietnam. But he has spent twenty-four years proving that national service doesn't end when you take off the uniform. As legislative director on a personal staff, then press secretary and a professional staff member of the committee, George has made America better every day.

A lot of young go-getters come to work on the Hill, Mr. Speaker. But George proved that you don't have to be obnoxious to get things done. His real sense of decency and values have provided a reference and example for not only the Armed Services Committee staff, but all of us who worked with him.

George has been the conscience of the committee staff. He is a devoted advocate for those Americans who most need and deserve Congress's protection. Discussions of national security can get pretty esoteric, but George makes sure that we keep our focus on people, both those in uniform and those our military exists to protect. As a former enlisted man and NCO, he never lets the former officers on the staff forget who the real troops are.

Mr. Speaker, while our staff works in a non-partisan way, George is a determined, thoroughgoing, old-school Democrat. But look at the pictures on his office walls. Yes, he has photos of himself with our former colleagues Ron Dellums and Silvio Conte. But there's John Kasich, too, and President Bush. All of which speaks to the fairness and openmindedness with which George approached his job. He lets his political beliefs inform his work, but never get in the way of doing what was right for the country.

To my way of thinking, George has only one flaw. The B-2 bomber is the pride of Whiteman Air Force Base, in my district. George led the fight at the staff level against the B-2, and succeeded for quite some time. In gratitude for George's exemplary service, I promise not to have one named for him.

In recent years, George's primary duties have concerned the military construction budget. Every member of this body whose district has received military construction funds—and that's most of us—has George Withers to thank.

But he was also our committee's driving force on policies concerning Latin America. Whether the question was the naval bombing on Vieques or the United States' role in Colombia, George fought for a sensible, humble foreign policy.

George's decency doesn't stop at the Capitol door, either. When he isn't here—during the few hours each year we let the staff out—George actively supports charities. He loves riding his bike, and he loves it even more when he's getting contributions for every mile he rides.

While he will tell you that he loves his work here, just ask him about his children, Sam and Lizzie. You'll see what love really means by the sparkle in his eyes. And we were all thrilled when George married Donna earlier this year. His departure from our little world means that he will have even more opportunities to love and care for them, and even his cat, Tom. But I warn you, George, cats don't always love you back.

I will miss George Withers cheerful counsel personally. The Congress will be poorer for his departure. But the real accolade is that people around the world who will never know his name have better lives today because George Withers was part of this House.

I yield back the balance of my time, noting that the House should be honored that George O. Withers yielded so much of his time to us.

AMENDING TITLE VI OF PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation that amends title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish Federal renewable energy portfolio standard for certain retail electric utilities.

As we in Congress have attempted to develop a national energy policy, some say that a long-term sustainable energy plan is impossible. They say that renewable energy and energy efficiency are pipe dreams, and they say the U.S. will never be able to break its reliance on traditional energy sources like oil and coal. I disagree.

Now, in the post-September 11th world, the renewed conflict in the Middle East shows us that we cannot continue to rely on imported oil from that region. When my father, Stewart Udall, was Secretary of the Interior, the U.S. imported 20% of its oil. My father argued that we shouldn't import more than 20% of our oil on national security grounds. Today, we import 53% of our oil, 47% of which comes from OPEC countries; by 2020, the United States will import 62% of its oil.

Even more frightening, world production is expected to peak some time in the next few decades, possibly as early as 2007. That means that as energy demand increases more and more rapidly, the world's oil supply will be proportionally diminished.

While energy production has brought tremendous prosperity and allowed us to grow our economy at unprecedented rates, non-renewable forms of energy are responsible for many of the greatest environmental threats to America's well-being.

Consider this, less than 2% of this nation's electricity is generated by non-traditional sources of power such as wind, solar, and geothermal energy. During the period from

1973–1991, smart investments were made to develop new technologies that made our energy use more efficient without affecting economic output. These investments curbed the projected growth rates of energy use in the United States by 18% from what they would have been without the investments.

Unfortunately, the U.S. spends only one-half of 1% of its energy bill on research and development. Sixty percent of that money is wasted on the country's failed experiment in nuclear energy. Less than one-third of the nation's tiny research and development budget is spent on renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly interested in Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), which I believe paves the road for the development and investment in clean energy technologies and local economic development. RPS, in my mind, clearly serves as model for tomorrow's small and medium businesses to draw a profit from their own environmental responsibility.

In the Senate version of H.R. 4 there is a provision, which proposes that retail electricity suppliers (except for municipal and cooperative utilities) be required to obtain a minimum percentage of their power production from a portfolio of new renewable energy resources. The minimum energy target or "standard" would start at 1% in 2005, rise at a rate of about 1.2% every two years, and peak at 10% in 2019.

I applaud the Senate for including an RPS provision in the Energy bill, which the House failed to include in our energy package. However, I believe that we are capable of going further than the 10% peak in 2020 and believe we should set the standard higher to around 20%. As I mentioned earlier, less than 2% of this nation's electricity is generated by non-traditional sources of power such as wind, solar, geothermal, etc.

My legislation would add an additional 10% on top of the 10% set to peak in 2020, and would achieve this goal within 5 years. Consequently, 20% of retail electricity supplier's power production would be from a portfolio of new renewable energy sources in 2025.

Consider the following:

Wind farms in the Pacific Northwest are producing energy at a price of 3 cents per kilowatt-hour. This is less than the current price of power from natural gas. With a little encouragement, wind energy could become economically viable around the country, and this means a tremendous level of energy self-sufficiency for the U.S. Using wind as an energy source, twelve Midwest states alone could generate three times the total U.S. electricity consumption.

Solar power, one of the most well known forms of renewable energy, also has potential for the future. The cost of solar energy has dropped by 90% since the early 1970s, and scientists and industry groups predict the price will drop another 66% by 2020. Solar energy, if properly developed, could go a long way towards freeing the U.S. from its dependence on coal. Just 10,000 square miles of solar panels would supply all of the nation's electricity needs.

And just a few weeks ago, the Public Service Company of New Mexico and FPL Energy LLC, based in Florida, signed an agreement to build in my congressional district one of the nation's largest wind generation fields near Fort Sumner in eastern New Mexico. Har-

nessed by 136 twirling turbines, wind will be used to create electricity in the first large-scale renewable energy operation in the state.

Wind will make up less than 4 percent of the power generated by PNM, and this project has the hope of becoming the first of many wind farms in the state and an example of using and developing new technologies for renewable energy use.

A RPS makes good economic sense to help states diversify their energy market, increase their work force, and help revitalize communities who have little to no economic development.

Currently, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission is working on passing a Renewable Portfolio Standard for New Mexico that would require electric utilities to generate 10% of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2007.

Mr. Speaker, our dependence on coal, oil and other traditional energy sources is unsustainable. To protect our environment and our economy, we must turn off the dead end street that our energy non-policy has been leading us down, and start down a path of energy productivity and sustainable, environmentally sound production.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGHLIGHTER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students and staff members involved with Rocky Mountain High School's student newspaper, Highlighter, for winning the 2002 Colorado High School Press Association Newspaper Sweepstakes for the second consecutive year on October 3, 2002.

Under the guidance of Rocky Mountain Highlighter newspaper advisor and language arts teacher Stephen Wahlfeldt, these dedicated and resourceful students worked tirelessly through the school year to create an informative and professional newspaper. The Lobos ultimately achieved victory over 63 other participating schools in the Sweepstakes, and kept the title of "Colorado's best high school newspaper" in Fort Collins for at least another year, through six first-place and three second-place awards.

Crucial wins in the individual categories came from Erin Ortmeier for Critical review writing; Leigh Pogue, Baker Machado, and Ortmeier for Sports Feature story; Joy Bloser and Brett Burnett for Feature Photograph; Kristen Frank and Burnett for Sports Photograph; and Jenny Ackerson, Carolyn Whitten and Burnett for Front Page Layout. The Rocky Mountain Highlighter also proved its superiority in the esteemed General Excellence category. Additionally, Jack Meiter, Kendall Miller and Burnett won second-place for Personal Opinion Column, as did Brent Barentine for Graphic Illustration. The entire staff collaborated to place second the Headlines category.

These journalists involved in Highlighter are commended for their achievements and praised for their pursuit of excellence. These young men and women are primary examples of the vast potential of future generations. Go Lobos!