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YUCCA MOUNTAIN REPOSITORY SITE APPROVAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution to allow nuclear waste to be deposited at Yucca Mountain. And, I commend my colleague, Rep. SHELLEY BERKLEY, for her leadership on this issue.

The nuclear power industry and its White House allies are licking their chops at the prospect that Yucca Mountain will be approved as a dump site. They will try to sell this development as proof that the issue of nuclear waste has been solved. While the industry may claim that nuclear power and its waste are safe, the fact remains that Americans don't agree. They understand that nuclear waste management will continue to be a cause for concern even if the Yucca Mountain site is approved.

Burying radioactive nuclear waste is a bad idea . . . whether in Nevada or somewhere else. Aside from exposing Nevadans to the unknown effects of having radioactive waste in their backyard, the current plan will put our entire country at risk as waste travels through communities to reach the dump site. Accidents happen in every industry, but nowhere else are the consequences so severe, and so far-reaching as in the nuclear industry. The undeniable truth is that transporting waste over road or rail in order to bury it involves great, unjustifiable risks to human health and the environment. Even worse, the risks have only increased since September 11 as no one can deny that a traveling caravan of nuclear waste would be a prime terrorist target.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote against H.J. Res. 87.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF RICHARD REEVES

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding public service of a good friend of mine, Richard Reeves. Richard has served on my hometown of Murfreesboro's City Council for 22 years, the last four years of which he served as mayor. Richard, however, has decided to retire from public service after a long and honorable career.

During his more than two decades on the City Council, Richard has helped guide the

Middle Tennessee city to prominence. Murfreesboro is home to a number of successful industries and one of the best universities in the nation, Middle Tennessee State University, my alma mater. Not only has the university flourished, but so has the city as a whole, with a population that has more than doubled in two decades. Richard can take credit for a lot of that success.

Despite his primary occupation as a successful businessman, Richard found time to serve Murfreesboro with distinction. He put in countless, and often thankless, hours helping city leaders make Murfreesboro a better place to live and work. Murfreesboro's quality of life is second to none. We have excellent schools, great parks—including the Stones River National Battlefield and Greenway—and good-paying jobs.

The people of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, could not have asked for a more dedicated public servant. His leadership and work ethic will be missed at City Hall. I cordially congratulate Richard on his distinguished career as a public servant and wish him well in future endeavors.

HONORING JOHN J. DIETZ OF METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John J. Dietz of the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Public School System. He is leaving his position this month in order to move closer to his family in Michigan.

As Deputy Director and Executive for Business and Auxiliary Services with the school system, Dietz has guided the business and financial matters for the district since 1994.

He is widely known and respected for his honesty, good character, and his careful and conservative fiscal management, as well as his dedication to serving the community and the district's 69,000 students.

Dietz and his wife Wendy have both contributed greatly to the school district—he in administrative services, and she, as a Metro teacher. A history buff, he enjoys reading and researching the Civil War during his leisure time.

He will take a new position next month as business manager for the Rochester, Michigan public schools. Dietz is to be commended for his outstanding efforts on behalf of the citizens of the 5th Congressional District through his professionalism and integrity. May he enjoy success in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING GARY POWERS, JR. FOR HIS DEDICATION TO BRINGING THE COLD WAR MUSEUM TO NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay trib-

ute to Mr. Gary Powers, Jr. for his work and dedication to bringing the Cold War Museum to Northern Virginia. In honor of his father, Mr. Gary Powers, Sr., Powers spent years to not only gain deserved recognition for his father, but for all who defended the United States and her allies during the Cold War.

Powers' father, Mr. Gary Powers, Sr., was a Korean War veteran who, in the 1960s, worked for the Central Intelligence Agency. In 1960, he was shot down over the USSR while piloting a U-2 spy plane and was convicted of spying and confined to a Russian prison until exchanged for a captured Russian spy. He subsequently found employment as a helicopter pilot for television station KNBC in Los Angeles. He died on August 1, 1977 in the crash of his helicopter and was buried in Section 11 of Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1962, espionage became big news as the "U2 Incident" grabbed world headlines. Powers was shot down as he flew the U-2, designed for covert surveillance, over Soviet territory, sparking one of the biggest international crises of the Cold War. The U.S. demanded his safe return. The USSR wanted to know what he was doing up there in the first place.

Shot down on May 1, 1960, Powers was held in prison for 2 years until 1962, when he was exchanged for Soviet Col. Rudolf Abel in the most dramatic East-West spy swap ever to occur in Cold War Berlin. Powers stepped on to the eastern end of the Berlin's Glienicke Bridge spanning the River Havel on February 10, 1962. At the other end of the bridge stood Colonel Rudolf Abel, a heavily muffled Soviet master-spy, seized earlier by U.S. security agents after setting up a Red spy network in New York in the late 1950s.

At a precisely arranged signal, the two men strode on to the bridge, marching purposefully towards one another, Powers heading west, Abel east. In the middle of the bridge they passed each other silently, with barely a nod of their heads. That spy-swap operation was to be the forerunner of many such East-West prisoner exchanges to take place on the Glienicke Bridge over the next 27 years in Berlin.

Criticized when he returned to the United States for not ensuring the revolutionary plane was destroyed or killing himself with poison, Powers was cold-shouldered by his former employers at the Central Intelligence Agency and eventually died in 1977 at the age of 47 when a television news helicopter he was piloting crashed in Los Angeles.

On May 1, 2000, U.S. officials presented Powers' family with the Prisoner-of-War Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the National Defense Service Medal during a ceremony held at the Beale Air Force Base, north of Sacramento, and home to the modern U.S. U-2 force. It marked the 40th anniversary of the incident.

Powers' son, Gary Powers Jr., spent years writing letters and holding meetings with officials to ensure this very deserved recognition took place. He saw the presentation of the medals as an important step in recognizing those who served their country during the Cold War. Powers wanted to make sure that his father was honored with the medals he deserved for being a prisoner of war, while at the same time ensuring those who served along with his father were recognized as well.

Powers, Jr., has devoted much of his time to seeing his father's memory honored, and

has worked endlessly to establish a permanent Cold War Museum to educate the public about the period of US-Soviet rivalry. As a direct result of all of his hard work and dedication, Northern Virginia will be the location for the new Cold War Museum.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to congratulate and honor Mr. Powers, Jr., for his dedication to his father, to all Cold War veterans, to Northern Virginia, and to the nation. He certainly has earned this recognition, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding this remarkable man.

EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor the House of Representatives today in the name of democracy, in the name of hope, and in the name of peace.

As long-standing supporters of Israel, we recognize and respect Israel's unquestioned right to self-defense.

The United States has a long history of promoting and supporting democracies. It has long considered Israel its closest ally in the Middle East, because Israel is a democracy.

It is because of our passion for democracy that we cast votes against the procedural steps needed to bring House Resolution 392 to the floor.

These procedural steps prevented any amendments or any substitute resolutions to be considered by the Congress. We were not permitted to consider or debate either Senator LIEBERMAN'S or Congressman DEFAZIO'S language.

We were not given the opportunity to meet with our constituents and hear their thoughts and concerns on this divisive and complicated matter. Nor were there any hearings on this resolution. This is wrong and does not speak to debate that is central to our democratic process.

While we support House Resolution 392 in its final form, we have concerns that this resolution presents a one-sided view of a many-sided reality.

We cannot ignore the suffering of the Palestinian people and the loss of innocent civilians.

We cannot ignore the economic hardship the Palestinians have endured as they continue their attempts to create their own Democratic nation.

And we cannot ignore the physical damage done to Palestinian infrastructure in Jenin, in Ramallah and other towns in the West Bank.

Even with the Resolution's shortcomings, we believe it is critical to speak out against acts of terrorism that have claimed the lives of thousands of innocent Israeli civilians.

The United States is scarred by its own September 11th experience and we have a new and somber national consciousness of terrorism on our soil.

We continue to hold out hope that the Israelis and the Palestinians will be able to achieve the peace of the brave that has proven so elusive. We are confident that the

United States will be a true partner for peace and help bring a 21st Century Marshall Plan of resources and hope to those who today carry a rage of desperation.

KEN KERSTOCK: HELPING ARENAC COUNTY GROW

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ken Kerstock upon his retirement after 21 years as the Arenac County, Michigan, Extension Director. Ken's exemplary work as an educator on agricultural issues has had a tremendously positive impact on the farming community and the learning seeds he has planted with future farmers will reap benefits for Arenac County for generations. Ken's wife, Kay, their son, Robert, and daughters, Linda and Sandra, also deserve high praise for their unselfish support of Ken's career.

After earning a bachelor's degree in agricultural education and a master's degree in vocational education from Michigan State University, Ken taught high school before beginning his career as an agricultural agent and district farm management agent with the MSU Extension in 1976. In 1981, Ken earned an appointment as the Arenac County Extension Director, a post he held until his retirement this year. Throughout his tenure, Ken used his extensive skills to implement and hone many educational programs for the agricultural community. Ken has consistently gone above and beyond the requirements of his job to reach out to hard-working farm families and others.

Growers often point to the many workshops and studies Ken undertook to improve farming techniques and assist farmers in finding new methods to increase efficiency and productivity. Ken modestly credits others for his success, but he has clearly been the engine that drove the Extension for many years. In particular, he worked with the crops and soil department on a three-year plant food study that demonstrated the effectiveness of fertilizer recommendations based on soil samples. He also organized numerous workshops and co-chaired an agricultural study tour of Mexico.

Ken also has been a sparkplug in the economic growth of the area by training future leaders and encouraging development. He organized and ran several leadership development programs, including one that led to the reactivation of the Arenac County Economic Development Corporation. In addition, he was instrumental in conducting county-wide assessments and he led the Arenac County Strategic Planning process. Ken's dedication and hard work also made a real difference in assisting local businesses in entrepreneurial training.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Ken Kerstock for his distinguished service and in wishing him success in all future endeavors. I am confident that the seeds he sowed on behalf of the agricultural community in Arenac County and throughout the state will continue to bear fruit for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE J. HOMCY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Mr. George J. Homcy, President of the North Jersey Regional Chamber of Commerce. On Wednesday, May 7, 2002 he was honored at a dinner commemorating his career of service.

It is only fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for his steadfast leadership in fostering economic growth in our region.

George Homcy's distinguished professional career began as a reporter with the Paterson Evening News in the late 1940s. He later moved to the American Forces Network as a journalist and broadcaster, covering American troop actions from the ground in Frankfurt, Munich, and Bremerhaven, Germany.

Upon his return home, George began twenty years as a reporter and eventually editor with the Herald News, located in Passaic, New Jersey.

In 1974, George Homcy began his work promoting the interests of the New Jersey business community. From 1974 to 1979, George served as Executive Vice President of the Clifton Chamber of Commerce. In 1980, through the foresight of George and others, the Clifton Chamber merged with the Passaic Area Chamber. As President of this newly formed organization, George continued the Chamber's growth by engineering another merger with the Passaic Valley Chambers of Commerce, forming the North Jersey Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in the chamber knows that small businesses have been the backbone of our nation's economy for over 200 years. George's stewardship of the North Jersey Chamber of Commerce has had an enduring impact on numerous New Jersey small businesses.

George J. Homcy's commitment to improving the lives of those in his community extends far beyond his work with the Chamber of Commerce. A board member with the United Way of Passaic Valley, the Boys' and Girls' Club of Clifton, and Saint Mary's Hospital in Passaic, George has touched countless lives. I am far from the first person to admire George's talent, as the New Jersey Supreme Court appointed him to the Passaic County District XI Ethics Committee.

While his retirement as President of the North Jersey Chamber will cause great sadness, it also is a time for celebration, as all those touched by George will honor him. I can say without hesitation that I am proud to represent George Homcy in Congress, but more importantly, I am honored to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the North Jersey Regional Chamber of Commerce, George's family and friends, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable efforts of George J. Homcy.