

REMEMBRANCE OF FALLEN
TULARE COUNTY PEACE OFFICERS

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join the people of Tulare County and the United States of America as they give thanks to those peace officers who have made the supreme sacrifice while working to enforce our laws, protect our homes, and guard our lives. Events of the past year have served as a poignant reminder of the selfless dedication to duty that peace officers demonstrate every day, and those of us who served in the 105th Congress were the direct beneficiaries of this devotion, when two Capitol Hill Police Officers fell in the line of duty.

The Tulare County Sheriff's Department's Peace Officer Memorial Service and dedication of the Peace Officer Memorial will be held today, May 15, 2002, in Visalia, California. This monument pays tribute to the nineteen Tulare County peace officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. To honor their noble sacrifices, the people of Tulare County have come together to donate the funds needed to make this lasting tribute to these brave individuals a reality.

This monument honors eight members of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department, three members of the California Highway Patrol, and eight members of various other law enforcement agencies located in Tulare County, including one federal officer from the National Parks Service. The Tulare County peace officers who have been killed in the line of duty are: Deputy John N. Wren, Deputy Oscar A. Beaver, Constable Robert A. Carter, Officer George Owen Barlow, Officer Norman A. Kessler, Officer Richard L. Simpson, Sergeant Charles Garrison, Officer Richard W. Smith, Deputy Ross C. Cochran, Officer John R. Ellis, Deputy Vernon L. Cox, Deputy Carlos Magana, Officer Thomas J. Schroth, Detective Monty L. Conley, Detective Joe R. Landin, Deputy Michael R. Egan, Reserve Officer Ronald Hills, Ranger James Randall Morgenson, and Officer James J. Rapozo.

In closing, I thank these and every other law enforcement officer for their sacrifices made to protect and serve their fellow citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Bureau of Reclamation and congratulate all of its employees and supporters on reaching an extraordinary milestone. As the bureau celebrates its 100th anniversary, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate each and every employee on many years of excellence in serving the Western United States and, indeed, the entire nation. The efforts put forth by this organization are truly appreciated by everyone who lives in the seventeen Western states that it serves, and I am honored to stand before you

today and bring its many accomplishments to the attention of this body of Congress. For 100 years, this agency has worked diligently to make the Western United States livable, and I, along with the many residents that have benefited from their efforts, am proud and thankful for what you have accomplished.

Started in 1902 by President Theodore Roosevelt in order to permit "homemaking" in the Western states, the Bureau and its employees have long been a vital part of Western life. Colorado could not be the vibrant and majestic state it is today without the hard work and dedication of each and every employee in the hundred year history of the Bureau. From the early beginnings, the employees have been the heart of the agency, involved in numerous projects not only in the administration of the program but assisted in the construction of the dams and canals as well. Today, the Bureau has twenty-two offices that oversee 180 projects and the employees still remain the core of the operation. In addition to the commitment of the supporters and employees of the Bureau of Reclamation, this vision and foresight of the agency have been vital to Colorado and the West.

This agency has long recognized the thoughtfulness and forbearance of our early Colorado settlers. As this country was expanding, the need to create abundant and rich soil became a backbone to ensuring the settlement of Western lands. The Bureau of Reclamation has helped our forefathers build several reservoirs and canals to gather and transfer water that would be used to irrigate otherwise fruitless soil. As a result, the efforts of the Bureau have helped aspiring farmers to reap the benefits of an otherwise desolate landscape. This was a remarkable accomplishment for those early times in our history and I am thankful for the role that the Bureau of Reclamation played in assistance to our early pioneers.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to be able to congratulate each and every employee and supporter of the Bureau of Reclamation on this historic occasion, and wish each of them all the best in the next one hundred years. I commend each of you for your work in ensuring that the water needs of all of the residents of the Western States, from the early homesteaders to today's modern users, are addressed. I also would like to recognize the successful vision of the agency and I know that the Bureau will continue to provide that vision to take us into the twenty-first century. I am delighted to bring the efforts of such an extraordinary agency to the attention of this body of Congress. Keep up the great work; I look forward to the years to come!

BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-
CAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4546) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense,

and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2003. This bill provides appropriations for an increase in pay for our armed services personnel, which I believe is very important for the security of our great nation. The authorization provides an across-the-board 4.1 percent pay increase for military personnel. The across-the-board and targeted raises would be the equivalent of a 4.7 percent across-the-board raise and will reduce the pay gap between the military and private sector from 7.5 percent to 6.4 percent. Our service men and women work very hard to protect this country and its way of life. Therefore, I believe that by raising their pay and giving more than a billion dollars more than the President requested, this will increase morale, which is very important.

On the other hand, this Authorization provides funds for flawed defense items. First, the Air Force's controversial F-22 Raptor Fighter, the next-generation premier fighter, which is intended to replace the F-15 and F-16. It is designed to have both air-to-air and air-to-ground fighter capabilities. This aircraft is plagued by cost overruns, technical problems and questions over whether the Air Force should direct its resources to expensive manned aircraft when newer technologies and strategies are more effective and less costly. The bill authorizes \$1 billion for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) procurement and research and development. UAV's have the ability to provide first-hand reconnaissance of opposition forces without placing lives at risk. Moreover, UAV's have proven particularly valuable in Afghanistan by identifying and tracking enemy targets, and conducting missions too dangerous for manned aircraft. By canceling the F-22, the Air Force can free up substantial funding that can be used to more aggressively pursue programs such as long range bombers. Yet, we fund this flawed and expensive jet fighter.

Another flawed item is the controversial Crusader artillery system. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld signaled his intent to cancel the Crusader program, and to divert the \$475 million in research and development funds earmarked for the program to another system. In addition, the President asked this Congress not to revive the \$11 billion program, because he fully supported Secretary Rumsfeld's decision to scrap the artillery system and seek alternatives more in keeping with the current threat facing the United States. The Congress ignores the President's request and still proposes funds for this flawed and unwanted item.

Along with these flawed programs, this Authorization will also relax environmental laws. Although, the bill authorizes the President's request for the Energy Department's environmental restoration and cleanup programs. The Defense Department environmental programs, relaxes some current requirements under our environmental laws which protects wildlife habitats on military installations. Here again, the Administration is trying to disrupt our delicate wildlife habitats to benefit its friends.

However, the most problematic item within the authorization is the \$7.8 billion ballistic missile defense. The reality with a ballistic missile defense system is that if a country is

capable of building a long-range missile, and has the motivation to launch a missile against the United States, it has the capability and motivation to build effective countermeasures to any anti-ballistic missile defense system.

Furthermore, the difficulty in developing a feasible ballistic missile defense system is not getting complex hardware to work as intended. It is that the defense system has to work against an enemy who is trying to thwart the system. Moreover, the attacking country can do so with technology much simpler than the technology needed for the defense system. This means that the attacker has the advantage, despite our technological edge.

A year long study was conducted, that examined, in detail, what countermeasures an emerging missile state could take to defeat the missile defense system the United States is planning. The study showed that effective countermeasures required technology much less sophisticated than is needed to build a long-range ballistic missile. In addition, a high-level commission convened by Congress to assess the ballistic missile threat to the United States, noted that potential attackers could build such bomblets.

I ask "how is it possible that this problem is being ignored?" The Pentagon is balking on how to proceed. It has divided the missile defense problem into two parts: (1) getting the system to work against missiles without realistic countermeasures and (2) getting the defense to work against countermeasures. Few doubt the first step could eventually be done.

The Defense Department has tested and retested this ballistic missile defense system, and each time results have not achieved their desired intentions. But yet, the President wants to continue funding this flawed policy. In almost every case, post-test doubts have been raised. Critics have charged that test results over the past two decades have been exaggerated by false claims of success and promises of performance that later proved false. Many tests were proven to have had their targets significantly enhanced to ensure the likelihood of success. Furthermore, kinetic kill as a concept for destroying long-range ballistic missiles is even more problematic at this stage.

There is no empirical evidence to support the contention that kinetic kill for ICBM defense will work. Despite the prowess of American technology, there are no quick, cheap or easy solutions in missile defense. Therefore, we should allocate funds for more pressing defense needs and spend our funds on systems that work and will enhance real security for all Americans. To assume otherwise is to base defense planning on wishful thinking. An effective defense is based on preparing for credible threats with workable systems. Not funding systems that have failed in tests as the Republicans have done in this bill.

THE TANF REAUTHORIZATION

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the children and families of Puerto Rican and Hispanic families, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Democratic proposal.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has successfully implemented TANF. We have met all of the requirements of the Act. We have been successful in reducing our welfare rolls from 55,000 to 21,000.

Puerto Rico has accomplished these goals in an environment of high unemployment. Our unemployment is double that of the mainland. Yet, we still met all of the requirements of TANF.

The Democratic substitute continues to require Puerto Rico to meet all of the same mandates as the states. However, it authorizes Puerto Rico to have access to the same tools as the states. These programs include mandatory daycare funding, supplemental grants, and the contingency funds.

If the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is expected to succeed in meeting the requirements of TANF, we need access to the same programs that states are provided. We are dedicated to moving families from welfare to work; we are dedicated to reducing our welfare rolls. In order to do so, we need the tools to implement these programs.

Anything short of the Democratic substitute creates additional barriers limiting the ability of Puerto Rican and Hispanic families to make a successful transition from welfare to work.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to enter into the record a letter from the Chair of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda endorsing the principles I have just outlined.

Additionally, the National Conference of State Legislators, a Non-partisan organization, recently acknowledged that the circumstances in Puerto Rico and the territories are unique and need to be addressed. Voting in favor of the Democratic substitute is a step in the right direction.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote for the Democratic substitute to insure that no families or children living under our flag are left without the necessary tools to end the cycle of poverty.

NATIONAL HISPANIC LEADERSHIP

AGENDA,

Washington, DC, May 6, 2002.

Hon. TOMMY G. THOMPSON,

Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY THOMPSON: On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of national Hispanic civil rights and public policy organizations, I would like to thank you for meeting with us today and for your expressed interest in addressing funding disparities for federal programs in Puerto Rico. Your support and leadership would significantly assist us in our efforts to ensure the needy families and children residing in Puerto Rico have equal access to essential federal programs that are currently underfunded.

All U.S. citizens should have equal access to the tools necessary to exit poverty as they move from welfare to work. Child care, health care, and employment assistance are critical supports that do not only ensure a successful transition to self sufficiency, but also guarantee the continued health and well-being of vulnerable families. Regrettably, needy U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico do not share in these benefits equitably.

Welfare spending on the Island stands at \$34.78 per poor person compared to the national average of \$533.97. With funding limitations on federal child care programs, health insurance programs such as Medicaid, SCHIP and Medicare, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) the obstacles to self-sufficiency are considerable in an

economy that already suffers from an unemployment rate that is twice the national average and where the poverty rate is nearly 60 percent.

Given these realities, NHLA believes that the following changes are required to address funding disparities for Puerto Rico:

Removing barriers that exclude Puerto Rico from the TANF Supplementary Grant program and once barriers are removed exclude Supplementary Grants from the current TANF cap;

Removing IV-E Foster Care from the TANF cap;

Removing barriers that exclude Puerto Rico from the Child Care and Development Fund—Mandatory Grant (93.596(a)) and exclude from the cap the Child Care and Development Fund—Matching Grant (93.596(b));

Reimbursing Puerto Rico for providing Transitional Medical Assistance to TANF leavers outside the Medicaid cap imposed on the Island.

We urge you to support legislative proposals that will address the current disparities in poverty assistance programs, and ensure that critical health care and self-sufficiency programs are made available to the U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico.

Low-income families deserve to have the full commitment and assistance of our federal government, if they are to succeed in becoming self-sufficient—regardless of where they may reside in America.

Sincerely,

MANUEL MIRABAL,
Chair.

HONORING RAYMOND BRAUER,
M.D.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Raymond Brauer, who will be honored by The Houston Society of Plastic Surgeons as its first recipient of the "Distinguished Plastic Surgeon Award" 2002. His colleagues, friends and family will honor him at the Society's meeting being held on May 16, 2002, in Houston Texas.

The Houston Society of Plastic Surgeons was established to promote high ideals of plastic surgery and to improve scientific knowledge in the field of plastic surgery. This organization is composed of practicing plastic surgeons of high moral standing, who exhibit a certain level of professionalism and are actively engaged in the Greater Houston Metropolitan Area for at least two years.

Born on March 3, 1916 in Fresno, California, Dr. Brauer has dedicated his life to the advancement of plastic surgical medicine. He graduated from Pacific Union College in 1941 and obtained his medical degree in 1943 from the College of Medical Evangelists in Los Angeles. Dr. Brauer interned at Santa Clara County Hospital in 1942 and soon after fulfilled his residency training at the St. Francis Hospital in 1944. Being a man of great conviction and devotion to his country, Dr. Brauer joined the Army in 1944, to fight in what has been described as the greatest and most destructive war in history, World War II. More than 17 million members of the armed forces of the various countries perished during the conflict. Upon completion of duty in 1948, Dr. Brauer, relocated to Houston to begin a private practice with a fellow plastic surgeon.