

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RHONDA LEE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker it a great honor to pay tribute to Rhonda Lee, a woman who embodies the spirit of the mountains of Colorado. Rhonda Lee worked for years in the Eagle County Hospital as a hospice nurse helping people and their families to cope with illnesses. Rhonda Lee is now coping with her own disease, thyroid cancer, and her whole community has come out to help her as she has help some many of them. In the face of enormous odds, Rhonda has shown courage and strength with the help of her community.

Rhonda made many sacrifices for her patients as a hospice nurse, often traveling over 2,000 miles in a month. Rhonda gladly gave her time and energy for many years but eleven years ago, someone came into Rhonda's life that needed more of her attention—her daughter. After the birth of her daughter, Matyson, Rhonda became a teacher in Special Education. Rhonda has given countless hours to the Special Education Program and students of Gypsum Creek Elementary School but she says that the rewards of her job are endless. When Rhonda learned of her disease she told her students immediately. The way that she has bravely faced her disease is an example to her student of how to handle their own disabilities.

When her community heard of Rhonda's disease, they rallied together to help this valued member of their area. Almost \$4,000.00 has been raised in Rhonda's name through dances and spaghetti dinners. The Vail Valley Charitable Fund has also helped Rhonda to get through this difficult time. Despite Rhonda's dire challenge, she faces each day with optimism. Rhonda has good reason to look forward to each day in the support of her children Scott, Chad, Tanner, and Matyson—who she calls her best friend.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize the courage and service of Rhonda Lee. Her hard work and dedication to her community are an example to us all. The people of Eagle and Gypsum and the surrounding communities have certainly recognized this and have responded when Rhonda needed their support. Rhonda, you have my admiration and support in your courageous battle against cancer.

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ANTITERRORISM ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3983, Maritime Trans-

portation Antiterrorism Act. Commercial vessels continue to experience an increased threat of criminal attack. Vessels seem to bear the brunt of these attacks which manifest themselves in the form of sea robbery, hijacking, terrorism, and piracy.

A complex set of security issues threaten the maritime industry and the movement of cargo in international trade. Those threats include terrorism, piracy, smuggling of stowaways and drugs, cargo theft and fraud, bribery and extortion. Enacting requisite port security measures and coordination, cooperation, and communication with government and maritime industry components are necessary.

In my home District, the Port of Houston Authority is a dynamic port that has helped to fuel the Houston area's development as a center of international business and trade. Companies that do business internationally also find Houston attractive because of its well-developed industrial and financial infrastructure; skilled work force; and diverse population. Ample space and favorable conditions for industrial development, as well as for cargo handling, makes the Port of Houston an excellent choice location for industry.

Port security is an essential part for a safe, secure, and competitive operation of the maritime transportation system. It promotes the development of commerce and is an essential element in maritime trade competitiveness, which cannot be achieved merely by modernizing port infrastructure and increasing operating productivity.

Consequently, port security can surface as a significant issue in trade negotiations and government and industry courses of action should be coordinated to facilitate effective solutions. Port authorities should develop the means for exchanging current information on port security issues and for the dissemination of intelligence to the commercial industry. We must protect our ports from criminal attacks and allow them to maintain their trade and commerce.

H.R. 3983, Maritime Transportation Antiterrorism Act of 2002 helps to protect our ports, such as the Port of Houston. This bill directs the Secretary of Transportation to (1) assess port vulnerability; (2) prepare a National Maritime Transportation Antiterrorism Plan [the Plan] for deterring catastrophic emergencies; and (3) review and approve Area, vessel, and facility antiterrorism plans.

Further, H.R. 3983 requires that the Plan to (1) coordinate Federal, State, and local efforts, including Coast Guard maritime antiterrorism teams and Federal Maritime Antiterrorism Coordinators; (2) identify security resources; and (3) include a system of surveillance and notice to ensure earliest possible identification of emergencies. The bill requires the Secretary to establish a system of antiterrorism response plans for vessels in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The bill requires that there be transportation security cards for entry to any antiterrorism secure area of a vessel or facility. The bill requires the Under Secretary of Transportation for Se-

curity to develop and maintain an antiterrorism cargo identification and screening system, including performance standards for seals and locks of shipping containers.

Moreover, H.R. 3983 requires that Federal Maritime Antiterrorism Coordinators develop, update, and integrate Area Maritime Transportation Antiterrorism Plans, as needed. The bill also requires owners or operators of vessels or facilities to prepare an antiterrorism plan for deterring a catastrophic emergency, including the identification of the plan implementor, the availability of antiterrorism measures, training and drills.

H.R. 3983 directs the Secretary to establish maritime antiterrorism teams to protect vessels, ports, facilities, and cargo in U.S. waters. Also, H.R. 3983 directs the Secretary to assess the effectiveness of antiterrorism measures maintained at specified foreign ports and make recommendations for improvements, if necessary.

The bill authorizes the Secretary to prescribe conditions of entry for or to deny entry into the United States to vessels arriving from foreign ports with ineffective antiterrorism measures. In addition, H.R. 3983 requires the advance electronic transmission of passenger and crew manifests from commercial vessels arriving in the United States from a foreign port.

The increasing nature and international scope of the maritime security issues, which threatens our port, requires participation and response from all levels of government. The lack of a secure trade corridor can hamper the economic growth of a port and possibly the country itself. A viable maritime security program is good business. A much bigger economic interdependency exists within the entire transportation network. Ports are committed to developing effective maritime security programs based on the recognition of ports as interchange hubs of commerce, critical to international trade. Therefore, I strongly support H.R. 3983. This bill is good for the Port of Houston and good for American ports. Therefore, I strongly urge my fellow members to support this bill.

IN HONOR OF THE HAMTRAMCK ALLIED VETERANS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, every year on Memorial Day, we recognize those who fought for our nation and gave their lives in the name of democracy and freedom. It is a time for us to remember the patriotism they showed as they went into battle, the courage with which they fought, and the ultimate sacrifice they made for our country.

My home state of Michigan has lost many good men and women to war. We lost 18,906 people in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Gulf War. We lost over

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2,600 men and women in Vietnam—more people per capita than any other state in the nation. We understand the honor in answering a nation's call to serve, and we know what it means to lose parents, brothers, sisters, and children to battle. As a Vietnam-era veteran, and the son of a WWII veteran, I know in my heart the value of this service.

Our lost soldiers have earned parades, memorial services, and events in their honor. But they have also earned a commitment from their nation that we will never forget their service and will treat all who fight for our country with dignity and respect. We should remember our lost soldiers not just in words, but deeds. We should honor their sacrifices by providing good health care, benefits, and compensation to our veterans who fought alongside them and the current members of our Armed Forces. We should honor them by fulfilling all the promises that we made to them and their families when they answered the call of duty.

As we observe Memorial Day, let us not be content with honoring our soldiers just this one day each year. Let us remember in our hearts the ultimate gift these men and women gave to us. And let us keep in our prayers those men and women who are serving our nation overseas today. In their courage and strength, they set an example for all of us and remind us of what it means to be an American.

TRIBUTE TO CATO-MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL SUNPACER SOLAR-ELECTRIC CAR TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cato-Meridian High School Sunpacer solar-electric car team for participating in this year's Tour de Sol competition. After a four-day, 350-mile race beginning in Washington, D.C., the Sunpacer team ultimately tied for first place with the Zodiac team from West Irondequoit High School near Rochester, NY.

Special recognition should be given to Cato-Meridian High School teacher Mr. Earl Billings and his team for their determination. The Sunpacer team has won its class several times and has been honored with many awards for efficiency. At this year's competition, the Sunpacer team received a \$250.00 first prize and a first place plaque.

On behalf of the 25th District of New York, it is my honor to congratulate the Sunpacer team for another first place win at the Tour de Sol competition. With these remarks, I would like to recognize the following student participants and staff: Arron Kolb, Ashley Davenport, Amber Ross, Tim Soine, Nick Snow, Nicole Leach and teacher Earl Billings.

Congratulations to all.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HOWARD C. BRUNER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize the hard work and serv-

ice of Howard C. Bruner. For 10 year Howard has dedicated countless hours to the service of his fellow citizens. Howard has served on the Pueblo West Metropolitan District Board of Directors, striving to improve his community and the lives of those who live in it. After providing leadership, dedication and vision for the City of Pueblo for a decade, Howard is retiring from his position. I can think of no better way to thank Howard for his efforts than to acknowledge his contributions.

Howard moved to Pueblo in 1981 and became the manager and operating partner of Southern Colorado Equipment. Howard began serving on the Pueblo West Metropolitan District Board that same year. He has been credited with providing the leadership and focus for the board and has been instrumental as part of the Board in making the changes the board has in order to improve Pueblo West. The board and city will always remember Howard for his objective approach to issues. His colleagues respected him for his ability to make decisions based on what was best for the community.

In addition to his position on the Pueblo West Metropolitan District Board, Howard also dedicates his time to his community through numerous organizations. He is a past board member of the Better Business Bureau of Pueblo, and the Pueblo West Economic Development Committee. President Reagan recognized his leadership and abilities when he was the Colorado Delegate to Reagan's Council on Small Business Affairs. Howard is also very involved in his church. Perhaps most importantly, Howard is a devoted husband to his wife and loving father to his two children.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to bring the accomplishments of Howard C. Bruner to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. I am proud to represent such a dedicated man and his family. Howard's effort to improve the lives of those around him is an example to us all. Thank you Howard for all of your hard work, and good luck in your future endeavors.

MICROENTERPRISE FOR SELF-RELIANCE ACT OF 2000 AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 AMENDMENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to the World Health Organization, over one billion people [one-fifth of the world's population] lives in extreme poverty. They subsist on less than one dollar a day. These families cannot adequately feed themselves or plan for the future, working menial jobs or selling whatever they can to survive one more day. In most Third World countries more than half the people survive by working in small-scale businesses or "microenterprises" outside the traditional economic structures. They are fruit vendors in Haiti; ragpickers in India; basketmakers in Ghana. To climb out of poverty toward self-reliance, access to credit for these people is critical, but hard to come by.

Government credit programs and traditional lending institutions do not offer affordable loans to the poor because they cannot afford

loan fees, offer collateral, or show a credit history. They're viewed as high risks who yield a low return. Though many poor people possess relevant skills and often own necessary tools, without access to credit they cannot establish or expand their business to sustainably support their family. Generation after generation is trapped in poverty.

Microenterprise programs can offer these willing workers the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and improve their families' welfare. Women, especially, could alter the face of global poverty by having an impact not only on family incomes, but also on child nutrition, health and education.

H.R. 4073, Microenterprise and Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 will ensure continued availability of microenterprise services as a key component of U.S. bilateral international development assistance. The bill reauthorize and increases funding for microenterprise assistance programs, expands and focuses microenterprise programs to the very poor, and updates language of both acts concerning rural lending, the provision of financial services, and the development and application of poverty measurement tools.

The Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act institutionalizes that initiative and authorizes support for programs that provide credit, insurance, training and other services to entrepreneurs—50 percent of whom must be very poor or women. Much of the credit for its passage goes to the women themselves—97 percent of whom have repaid their loans in full and on time.

The Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act increases the U.S. government's support for microfinance around the world. The bill will support the institutional development of programs that provide credit, savings facilities, insurance, business training, and other services to microentrepreneurs. At least 50% of resources must go towards programs that serve women and the very poor.

This bill goes beyond helping women develop small businesses. The programs that the bill supports will change the face of foreign aid, expanding access to financial services and making microlending a component of U.S. foreign policy.

Whereas today microcredit is helping more than 20 million creditors, the summit set a new goal five times that number. This bill will go a long way toward helping us meet that goal.

H.R. 4073 also broadens the definition of microenterprise development services in recognition of the importance of delivering both financial and non-financial services to the poor, and emphasizes the importance of providing these services to rural as well as urban areas.

H.R. 4073 expands the definition of the very poor to include those severely poor people living on less than one dollar per day and provides clear guidance to USAID for the development and use of cost-efficient practical poverty measurement tools that can be applied by practitioner organizations.

This change creates substantially greater incentive for USAID to find and support financially-sustainable lines of microenterprise development service that favor the very poor, while allowing up to half of the funding to support other lines of service that serve others who are economically better-off.

Therefore, I strongly urge my fellow members to support H.R. 4073.