

COMMEMORATING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AS AMERICAN HISTORY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on this last day of the month that we commemorate African American history, as I speak to my schools and community groups, I make the argument that we should celebrate and commemorate all of our diversities throughout the year because we all are Americans, and the history of African Americans is just that, the history of America.

□ 1015

I rise today to honor a local hero, Nellye Joyce Punch, who happens to be an African American soldier of good fortune for those who do not have. Nellye Joyce Punch has been someone who has worked in the fifth ward area for a number of years, and she fights against hunger in our community. Last evening, Target Hunger, an organization that she helped found, honored her. Well deserved. Because Nellye Joyce Punch when no one was speaking about the hungry in America, she was on the front line. She was someone who worked with my predecessor Mickey Leland and as well the Honorable Barbara Jordan. She has never left the fifth ward community. She is an educator. She is known as someone whose door is always open. She and her husband are both charitable and wise, and young people always know that when Nellye Joyce Punch is around she is there to be of help.

What a great African American hero. What a great hero of America. What a great person. Nellye Joyce Punch should be honored by all of us not only this month but throughout the year.

UNETHICAL REPORTING BY NPR

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today the Corporation for Public Broadcasting will testify before the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education of the Committee on Appropriations. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting oversees National Public Radio. As we review National Public Radio's budget, I must express my outrage at their unethical report on the anthrax mailings.

On January 22, NPR broadcast a story linking the Traditional Values Coalition to the anthrax mailings here on Capitol Hill. There are no facts and no sources to support this charge of the NPR broadcast. Though they have since issued a correction of the story, there was no apology. I am very concerned that their previously liberal bias has transformed into an all-out attack on conservative and Christian or-

ganizations. Four people died from the anthrax mailings, and it is very serious to accuse people of that crime without any supporting facts.

Andrea Lafferty and Reverend Shelton of the Tradition Values Coalition are good friends and loving people. It is shocking that anybody could consider them capable of such a horrific act. NPR receives Federal funds, and therefore we in Congress have a responsibility to make sure that our constituents' taxpayer dollars are not misused for such malicious and unethical reporting.

COMMENDING THE WORLDCOM CLASSIC

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the charitable efforts of Worldcom Classic, the Heritage of Golf and the Heritage Golf Classic Foundation, a non-profit organization located at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, which sponsors the annual Worldcom Classic Golf Tournament in April of each year and which generates \$56 million for the hospitality industry of Beaufort County and the low country of South Carolina.

Since 1987 the Heritage Classic Foundation, chaired by Joseph B. Fraser, has given over \$8.1 million to numerous charities, including noteworthy organizations such as Volunteers in Medicine of Hilton Head Island, the Shiners Hospital for Crippled Children in Greenville, Boys and Girls Club of Hilton Head Island, The Penn Center and Meals on Wheels. Also, 88 students have benefited from over half a million dollars distributed in scholarships to Beaufort County High School graduates.

Last year they donated a record amount of \$1 million, surpassing the \$2 million total of the prior 7 years, which goes out to the 102 charities and colleges across South Carolina.

I want to thank the tournament director, Steve Wilmot, and all those involved with Worldcom Classic, the Heritage Foundation of Golf, for their tireless efforts to support the low country of South Carolina and congratulate them on being an example to all communities of this Nation of how one group with the determination and desire to reach out and help neighbors can actually change lives and make dreams come true.

IMMORALITY OF CLONING

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the world was amazed a few years ago when scientists in Scotland successfully cloned a sheep. Many of us wondered what was coming next. Well, in November, Ad-

vanced Cell Technology of Massachusetts announced that they had successfully cloned a human embryo. Amazingly, there are people out there who think cloning human beings is perfectly okay. Right now the U.N. is meeting to discuss a ban on what they call "reproductive cloning."

Mr. Speaker, I think we all know what a redundancy is. It means using two words that mean the same thing. Cloning is by definition reproductive. The only question is how long will the clones survive. But the pro-cloning crowd wants to create this false distinction so they can keep on cloning human beings as long as they do not grow up. In other words, they want to clone human beings as long as they are used for experimentation and then destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, this is sick and it needs to stop. The House has passed a cloning ban. America is still waiting for the other body to do the same thing so we can put a stop to this immoral and ethical science.

HONORING AMERICA'S POSTAL WORKERS

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and amazing contributions of United States postal workers who since September 11, since the anthrax scare has continued to do yeoman work in delivering the mail without any sense of stoppage. I just think that these men and women are continuously owed a debt of gratitude, and we say thanks to the American postal workers.

SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to put an end to the claims from opponents of used nuclear fuel disposal who say transporting the material is unsafe. These claims have become louder since President Bush made a decision to move forward with the disposing of nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain. The truth is their concerns are misguided. You cannot argue with the fact that almost 3,000 safe shipments of used nuclear fuel have taken place without any release of radioactive material. That is right. On some 3,000 occasions used fuel has traveled by truck or rail across this country including almost 500 in my home State of Illinois. And the reason you probably have not heard about this is because not one of these shipments has threatened the environment or public safety.

States like Illinois have gone to great lengths to set up a system that

will ensure safe transportation of nuclear waste through the State and across State lines. Transporting spent nuclear fuel is safe. It has been proven to be safe, and there is no reason to doubt that it will remain safe.

HONORING MICHAEL DUNCAN, JR.

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 5 months since the terrible terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. And since that fateful day, thousands of dedicated Americans have united to help build this country. Today I rise, Mr. Speaker, to recognize one of those great Americans, Mr. Michael Duncan, Jr., who was the only Nevadan deployed from the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team, also known as DMORT. DMORT is a Federal-level response team which provides mortuary assistance in cases of mass fatality incidents like September 11.

Unfortunately, due to the heinous acts of the terrorists, our Nation has had to call upon DMORT for assistance at Ground Zero in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I would like today to recognize the efforts of DMORT and specifically of Mr. Michael Duncan. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank him for his dedicated effort to a stressful, tragic and demanding job but a job which has to be done. Mr. Duncan serves as a role model for Nevadans and for all Americans.

STALLING THE FARM BILL

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, several months ago back in October the House of Representatives passed a farm bill. Farm bills are important because in our food service delivery production chain, the government is very involved in the production end on the farm; and farmers cannot make planting decisions until the law for the coming year is stipulated. And one reason they cannot is they cannot borrow money to plant their crops because the banks will not lend money until they know what the farm bill says in it.

Now, because of the House of Representatives return by Republicans is responsible, we passed this many, many months ago. Unfortunately it is across the hall in a body led by the other party, and they are still sitting on it. It is sad when so many people have such a callous disregard for farmers in America and for production agriculture. We need food in this country.

The miracle of our food, to think that less than 2 percent of the population is serving 100 percent plus the world; and yet we cannot get the other

body to pass the farm bill. It is ridiculous. Let us move on for the sake of farmers and for the sake of American consumers and get this thing done.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 3448, PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY AND BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE ACT OF 2001

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3448) to improve the ability of the United States to prevent, prepare for, and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MS. ESHOO

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. ESHOO moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill H.R. 3448 be instructed—

(1) to work diligently to reconcile the differences between the two Houses in order to promote public health security and address potential bioterrorist threats;

(2) to recognize that Federal resources to combat bioterrorism and other public health emergencies have been increased through recent appropriations bills, to enhance preparedness and response to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies for fiscal year 2002, and that the managers on the part of the House should be careful not to disrupt or delay this much needed funding for fiscal year 2002;

(3) to recognize the pressing need to establish a national system for tracking the possession and use of deadly biological agents;

(4) to recognize the need to prioritize Federal and State resources to address potential threats to the food supply;

(5) to acknowledge the need to work with the Administration to ensure feasibility of enhanced food safety regulatory programs; and

(6) to provide for vulnerability assessments, emergency response plans, and other actions with respect to public drinking water supplies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) will be recognized for 30 minutes and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in support of this motion of the House bill and emphasize the need for conferees to address and quickly resolve their differences on the bioterrorism legislation.

We live in unsettling times. Our hope is that we never again experience an act of terrorism, but we have to plan

and prepare to respond to further attacks. The conferees face a complex task. The bills passed by the House and Senate cover many subjects including grants to our first responders, regulation of select agents, protection of our food supply, and protection of our water systems.

The motion recognizes the need for conferees to coordinate the final legislation with ongoing efforts to support existing plans and programs. Bioterrorist threats and public health emergencies can come in many forms, in many places; and the House bill is sensitive to that fact. We want an aggressive response to this problem.

Title I of H.R. 3448 provides a funding structure that focuses resources towards first responders with a minimum of delay and with maximum efficiency. This bill is a down payment, not a full measure of what will be needed for our citizens and our community to prevent, prepare for, and respond to terrorist attacks.

Title III of H.R. 3448, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2001 which we overwhelmingly passed on December 11, 2001, establishes important new regulatory authorities for the protection of our Nation's food supply. These new authorities enable the Food and Drug Administration to allocate its limited inspection resources more effectively where they are needed the most, at the ports of entry into the United States. In addition, the bill authorizes the appropriations of new funds for increased inspections of food, the development of rapid testing technologies, and an assessment of threats for the adulteration of food.

□ 1030

Along with improving FDA's information management systems as they pertain to imported food, the bill mandates that FDA notify relevant States when it has information indicating that a shipment of food presents a threat of serious adverse health consequences and requests that such States take appropriate remedial action.

Mr. Speaker, this is a motion on which I would expect all of my colleagues would agree. The bill passed the House by a vote of 418 to 2, and I believe my colleagues are unified in their desire to pass this legislation as soon as possible, and I urge them to do that.

I would also like to add that, as we have emphasized, a good part of the legislation is built around first responders, that what they will have in their hands, the tools that they will use, represent the best of the biotechnology industry of our country, the technology industry and high technology, both of which find a home in the 14th Congressional District of California. So America's best will be placed in America's best hands as first responders. I am very proud of that, and I know that my colleagues are as well.