

Hudson River Community Health serves as a vital safety net delivering care to Peekskill patients annually, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay, and contributes to the health and overall economy of the community with health services, jobs, leadership and investment.

Hudson River Community Health promotes 100 percent access and zero health disparities to help achieve primary care for all people.

The people of Peekskill are right to recognize this wonderful asset to our community. Let us applaud their fine work. Our citizens look forward to a better future because of the Hudson River Community Health Centers.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JOHN M. HOLMES, U.S. COAST GUARD, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding officer of the United States Coast Guard. Captain John M. Holmes has devoted almost three decades of his life in service to his country. Captain Holmes has excelled in his many assignments over the years in the Coast Guard, assignments which are as far ranging, varied and contemporary as the Service itself.

Captain Holmes' assignments include: Chief of Operational Intelligence, Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, Florida; Operations Officer, Coast Guard Group, Seattle, Washington; Overseas Inspection Supervisor, Marine Safety Office, Honolulu, Hawaii; Chief of Compliance, Office of Marine Safety, Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C.; and Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Office, St. Louis, Missouri.

The experience, commitment and professionalism which Captain Holmes brought to the Service proved its value in assignments as Coast Guard Liaison to the Governor of American Samoa; staff officer for the United States Ambassador to the Government of Singapore; State Department delegate to the International Maritime Organization, London, England; and as Deputy Chief, Office of Congressional Affairs, Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

It has been under the most demanding circumstances that, as Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Office, Los Angeles-Long Beach, Captain Holmes has demonstrated the finest qualities of a military officer. The events of September 11, 2001, and the aftermath of those attacks on our country, presented Captain Holmes with challenges far beyond those faced by any previous Commanding Officer at this unit. Captain Holmes immediately initiated a series of skillfully coordinated actions in order to establish a robust, comprehensive maritime homeland security presence for this vital port complex, the largest and busiest in our Nation.

Expertly directing port security operations and carefully balancing security and safety with commerce, Captain Holmes achieved an unprecedented level of interagency cooperation with city, county, state and federal agencies that led the Nation in coordinated oper-

ations and planning. Establishing joint agency boarding teams, high-risk vessel water escorts, on-board Sea Marshals of high-risk vessels, and tighter port security boarding procedures, he moved without delay on September 11, 2001 to insure the continuation of maritime commerce and the confidence of the shipping community. Many of Captain Holmes' innovative methods were adopted Pacific-wide by the Coast Guard and will no doubt find their way to ports worldwide as we seek to enhance global maritime security.

This most distinguished Coast Guard officer, with his wife Carol, has two children, Lucas and Ava. They are as proud of him as I, for he has provided all of us a shining example of all that is good and honorable in the American military.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, I have had the distinct pleasure of working directly with Captain Holmes and seeing first-hand his professional expertise, commitment to his personnel, and dedication to his country. His stewardship in serving our Nation will long be remembered, and should serve as a model for all of us in the years to come. As he sets his course for new challenges, I'm sure my colleagues will join me in saluting John Holmes, and thanking him for a "job well done"—for the maritime community, for California, and for America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEEP AMERICA SECURE ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, if we are to maintain the most advanced military force, with the most advanced weaponry, we must have a dedicated stream of domestically produced parts. Regrettably, today this simply is not happening. We can blame it on the reluctance of the Department of Defense to "Buy American" or on the dearth of domestic electronic component producers. Either way, our armed forces dependence on foreign parts has major security ramifications. From missiles to computers, much of our crucial defense and homeland security equipment relies on sophisticated electronic components to function. We must act now to eliminate our reliance on foreign electronic components in our defense systems.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am taking a bold step to keep America secure and rebuild our domestic electronics sector. I am introducing the "Keep America Secure Act," legislation that directs the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purchase electronic components, including computer chips, communications devices, and guidance systems, that are manufactured in the United States. As an active member of the Defense Industrial Base Caucus, I see this bill as the perfect complement to ongoing efforts to enhance the "Buy American" requirement so that at least 65 percent of DoD equipment contains U.S.-made parts. My bill would go even further—requiring all component parts for all DoD and DHS equipment to be Made-In-America.

During the first Gulf War, the United States was forced to turn to Japan—not once, but on

three separate occasions—for essential parts in the production of the Patriot Missile. Similarly, when Operation Iraqi Freedom began in March, a Swiss company stopped shipments of a crucial guidance system component for U.S. smart bombs. Both these incidents could have resulted in U.S. forces being in harm's way without necessary tools to defend themselves. Fortunately, neither incident caused threats to our troops, but they clearly demonstrate the need to protect our production supply lines from being cut, especially in times of war.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, as one who is very concerned about the state of domestic manufacturing, I strongly believe that the Keep America Secure will help re-ignite our high-tech sector. Over the last two years, our economy has lost 2.6 million manufacturing jobs. The Keep America Secure Act would help promote the remaining U.S. high tech firms. We need to rebuild the domestic electronic components industry, and this bill will help us do it.

As our troops continue to rebuild Iraq and our first responders focus on homeland security, Congress must make a commitment to rebuilding our domestic manufacturing base and to ensuring that our courageous defenders continue to have the best equipment available. And as our economy suffers, let us give the manufacturing sector a needed shot in the arm. Unless the Congress stands up and puts a halt to it we will eventually be at the mercy of any adversary who controls the manufacture of our weapons or critical components of our weapons.

Mr. Speaker, in the days to come, I will look to my like-minded friends, on both sides of the aisle, to get action on this vital measure. I say to my colleagues: let's work together to keep America secure.

INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE FAIR TRADE CERTIFIED COFFEE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a group of my colleagues to introduce the Fair Trade Coffee Resolution. This resolution calls on the Legislative Branch and the Executive Agencies of the Federal Government to make fair trade coffee available at their events and food service venues. It also directs the Congress to provide information to the public about Fair Trade coffee. Last year, the House of Representatives passed H. Res 604, recommending that the Congress adopt a global strategy for resolving the coffee crisis. Since then we have not taken any legislative steps to do what we recommended. This small piece of legislation requires very little on our part and yet would promote efforts to give a decent standard of living to small coffee farmers around the world.

The current coffee crisis has driven coffee prices down to a hundred year low. On top of that, small farmers are at the mercy of ruthless middlemen and are not even receiving the fair market price. These middlemen take advantage of small farmers who have no other

way to sell their coffee. Millions of small farmers are cheated out of their fair share of income as they receive as little as 1 percent of the final retail price of their coffee. This meager price is nowhere near enough to support their families and their communities. Instead of having enough money to spend on food, education and health care, coffee farmers are being thrust into a cycle of debt and poverty. The situation is so bad that some farmers have turned to producing cocaine and opium to support their families while others have given up in despair and even committed suicide.

As a major purchaser of coffee, the United States has a responsibility to ensure that small coffee farmers are being adequately compensated for their work. And here in Congress we should do our part to ensure that we pay a fair price for the coffee that is purchased for our own use. If companies like Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts can successfully offer fair trade coffee in their stores, there is absolutely no reason why the federal government cannot do so as well. While fair trade coffee is already served in some of the House of Representatives cafeterias we need to do more to send a signal to the rest of the country.

The fair trade economic model is a unique way of providing small farmers with a living wage that has been proven to work. Coffee is fair trade certified when: (1) Coffee importers agree to purchase from small farmers included on the international trade register; (2) farmers are guaranteed a minimum "fair trade price" of \$1.26 per pound for their coffee; (3) coffee importers provide a certain amount of credit to farmers against future sales to help the farmers stay out of debt to middlemen; (4) importers and roasters agree to develop long term relationships with producer groups that cut out the coffee middlemen.

Small farmers are certified to be producing fair trade coffee if they are organized into democratic cooperatives and use environmentally friendly and sustainable growing methods.

The development of these criteria has made the fair trade economic model a viable solution to the coffee crisis. Both major coffee trade associations, the National Coffee Association of U.S.A. and the Specialty Coffee Association of America have recognized this fact. So have numerous universities around our nation. UC Berkeley, Harvard and many others have already enacted policies promoting the sale of fair trade coffee on their campuses. It is time that Congress recognized that fair trade coffee is one step in solving the humanitarian emergency caused by the coffee crisis.

By providing \$1.26 per pound for coffee, fair trade certification provides small farmers with enough money to sustain their families and be able to contribute to their communities. Furthermore, by cutting out the middlemen, the price of fair trade coffee for consumers is the same as any other specialty brand of coffee. Besides being comparable in cost to other specialty coffee it is also comparable in taste. Fair trade coffees from all over the world have won awards such as Food & Wine Magazine's "Best Coffee" award and 1st place in the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Board's Blind Coffee Tasting for 2002 competition. With comparable cost and taste compared to other coffee, it is hard to justify not purchasing fair trade coffee. Seeing how there is more than 165 million pounds of fair trade coffee being

produced and only 35 million pounds being sold, there is plenty of it. All that needs to be done is to create an awareness of the benefits of fair trade coffee among the public and this resolution does exactly that.

This resolution sends an important message to the American public about the willingness of our Federal Government to aid poverty stricken farmers in other countries. We set an example for the rest of the country to follow by recommending that the Legislative Branch and the Executive Agencies make fair trade coffee available for all events and at all our government food service venues. Taking this small step on our part can go a long way toward helping thousands of small coffee farmers around the world. I urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution.

IRAQ'S WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on April 8, 2003, the Congressional Liaison Office of the United States Marine Corps, came to my office to notify me of the death of First Sergeant Edward Smith, age 38, who was killed in the line of duty while participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On April 4, 2003, 1st Sgt. Smith was shot in the head while engaging with enemy forces in Iraq. He died on April 5, 2003 in Doha, Qatar as a result of his wounds.

My colleagues, Sgt. Edward Smith was not only a soldier, but a father, husband and son. According to the Defense Department, Smith was the ninth soldier from the Illinois area to die in Iraq. Sergeant Smith, a career soldier, was nearing the end of a 20-year military career and was anticipating retirement when he sustained his fatal wound. Born and raised in Chicago, Edward Smith graduated from CVS High School, moved to Anaheim, California in the 1980s, where he married and raised a family. He leaves behind a wife and two sons in California and a mom and dad and friends in the Chicago area. All of our thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Smith's family.

Mr. Speaker, as this House begins a month-long district work period, we are still waiting for the answer to the question: Where are the weapons of mass destruction? Where are the weapons for which 1st Sergeant Edward Smith, and so many others, gave their lives?

With each passing day, the American people and I, continue to wait.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY CLARENCE PARKS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I'm writing to express my condolences on the recent demise of the late Jerry Clarence Parks. Indeed, words are so inadequate at this time to personify my sadness. However, I hope that my humble prayers would somehow assuage the pain that now burdens the Parks family.

Indeed, the passing away of a good and faithful steward who toiled and sacrificed his life for countless people and this grateful community provides us with the sobering thought of the dignity of the human spirit and the fragility of life. Amidst the sorrows, however, let us remind ourselves that it is precisely during times like this that we must find the hope and assurance in Christ's words when He promised us: "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in me, even if he dies, shall live." For those of us bonded together in the Christian Faith, we firmly believe that Jerry's life has not ended; it merely changed for the better.

I pray that the Parks family anchors itself on these words. And while we remember Jerry Parks, his loyalty and commitment to the members of the Bible Baptist Church, the City of Miami Retired Fire and Police Association and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, let us thank God for having let him grace our lives with the full measure of his love and devotion to the ideals of Christian stewardship and caring for the less fortunate members of our society.

May God comfort Beverly Parks, his daughter and his family and loved ones with the blessed assurance of His love and peace in this period of bereavement.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2815, LEGISLATION EXPANDING AND MAKING PERMANENT THE EXPENSING OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION COSTS

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I introduced bipartisan tax legislation with the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. WELLER, and the gentlewoman from Connecticut, Mrs. JOHNSON, to expand and make permanent the expensing of environmental remediation costs of America's brownfields.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines brownfields as abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion, redevelopment or reuse is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Estimates of the number of brownfield sites range from 500,000 to a million. In general, these sites face a paradox: they are generally not eligible for remediation funding under the Superfund program because they pose a relatively low public health risk while, at the same time, developers may avoid them because of significant cleanup costs thereby stalling economic development.

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 included a tax incentive to address this concern and help spur the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields in distressed urban and rural areas. Under the brownfields tax incentive, environmental cleanup costs are fully deductible in the year they are incurred by the developer, rather than having to be capitalized. This incentive has helped to bring thousands of abandoned and under-used industrial sites back into productive use, providing a foundation for neighborhood revitalization, job creation, and the restoration of hope in our nation's cities and distressed rural areas.