

EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

SPEECH OF

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, some may think that my vote of "present" on this Resolution is a cowardly way out. In fact, a vote of "present" seems to me to be the only reasonable and logical vote to cast for the following reasons: I dare not vote "no" and express opposition to the two parts of the Resolution I so strongly support. Those two parts of the Resolution put Congress on record to express the "unequivocal support and appreciation of the Nation to the members of the United States Armed Forces serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, who are carrying out their missions with excellence, patriotism, and bravery; and to the families of the United States military personnel serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, who are providing support and prayers for their loved ones currently engaged in military operations in Iraq." If the Resolution limited itself to these two parts, the Resolution would no doubt enjoy the unanimous support of the Congress.

On the other hand, I cannot in good conscience vote "yes" for the part of the Resolution that "expresses the unequivocal support and appreciation of the Nation to the President as Commander-in-Chief for his firm leadership and decisive action in the conduct of military operations in Iraq as part of the ongoing Global War on Terrorism." I have previously stated that I do not support the President's decision to pursue this war without having exhausted every possible alternative short of war. I have also expressed my firm belief that pursuing war to enforce a United Nations Resolution without having even majority support of the members of the United Nations and the UN Security Council will undoubtedly feed the perception of U.S. arrogance around the world and increase the prospect of terrorism domestically and internationally. While our military superiority will no doubt assure our military victory in the war against Iraq, we have no effective way to defend ourselves and innocent people against individual acts of terror. For me to express "unequivocal support" for the President to follow a course of action I believe is misguided would be both contrary to my own beliefs and contrary to the overwhelming sentiments I have heard and continue to hear from my constituents on a daily basis.

I applaud the efforts of those who sought to craft a Resolution supporting our troops and their families. I am in full support of their efforts and those parts of this Resolution. While I do not agree with them, I also respect the opinions of those who believe, in good faith, that the President's actions deserve "unequivocal support." I resoundingly reject the efforts of those who would use this resolution as a means of dividing Congress at this critically important time, especially those who would do so for political reasons or to make themselves appear more patriotic than those who intend to vote "no." I do not feel obliged to be put to such a choice on a Resolution that has no substantive or binding effect. Con-

sequently, having made this explanation, I am content to vote "present."

FLOYD SPENCE POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I loved Floyd Spence like a brother and he would be honored by the fact the House is honoring him in Lexington, South Carolina, by naming a post office to commemorate his life and service to the United States. He was a dear friend, a colleague, and a stalwart for our nation's armed services and the country.

In addition to his zeal and dedication on behalf of his constituents in South Carolina, I admired his outlook on life. Floyd was determined to squeeze every drop of life he could from his time on this earth . . . and he succeeded.

He was supremely dedicated to his duty to South Carolina, to our armed services, and to the United States of America. I know this because I traveled with Floyd to places on every part of the planet to inspect our military bases. Wherever we went, he and I were the ones who insisted we talk to the enlisted men, not just the generals. Floyd served in the military; he and I were among the few Members of this House who served in uniform.

Floyd was a great hero, and a great friend to thousands of people here on Capitol Hill, in the Pentagon, throughout the services, and in his beloved South Carolina. I still miss that giant of a man with the funny laugh he was quick to share.

The camaraderie often noted as now missing in the House of Representatives has led our critics, and ourselves, to say that we lack either bi-partisanship or simple human trust. But because of my friendships with so many of my Republican colleagues, most notably my friend Floyd Spence, I know the trust we engender here is real and it works on behalf of the American people.

I thank the committee for honoring my friend, our colleague in this momentous way. Floyd would be so proud. I am proud for him and his family.

THANK YOU MR. ANTHONY MEYER

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Anthony Meyer for his volunteer service to the Center of Outreach and Services for the Autism Community and congratulate him for his receipt of the NFL Community Quarterback Award.

Twice a week for the past five years Mr. Meyers has volunteered at the office of the Center of Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, COSAC, in Central New Jersey. His primary responsibility has been to create, then send autism information packets to the approximately 6,000 individuals who

contact the Center annually. Many who call are parents who have just received the devastating news that their child has autism. Through Tony's efforts, parents receive valuable information in a timely manner that short-cuts their delay in seeking necessary services for a son or daughter.

An addition, on a regular basis, Tony donates an evening for group work with autistic adults. He provides support for their job crises, he coaches them on searching for employment and he provides a social outlet for people who are sometimes branded as different. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for COSAC where he provides advice on all issues pertaining to autism, particularly on the needs of the adults with whom he has recently worked.

What makes this effort particularly remarkable is that Tony Meyer is himself autistic. He did fairly well in school, but never made friends. He held several jobs, but most were minimum wage positions that did not take advantage of his intellect or potential. It was not until Tony decided to turn his efforts toward volunteer work at COSAC that he discovered a place that appreciated his skill, needed his work and valued his perspective. As a result of their appreciation and respect, they nominated Anthony Myers for the prestigious NFL award.

I ask that all the Members join me in congratulating Tony as one of the ten recipients of the NY Giants Community Quarterback Award for making a significant volunteer contribution to a non-profit organization.

INTRODUCING THE AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CONSISTENCY ACT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important piece of legislation that will assist not only amateur radio operators, but society as a whole.

Organized amateur radio operators, or "hams," regularly provide emergency communication when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster. Hams have formal agreements with federal agencies such as FEMA and private relief organizations like the Red Cross. Hams are federally licensed volunteers and provide a variety of important communications services that protect lives while using their own equipment without compensation.

With the growth of developed communities, amateur radio operators have begun to fall under an array of inconsistent regulations, making it increasingly difficult for them to operate. Burdensome regulations are imposed on amateur radio operators making it difficult, and in some cases impossible, for them to erect antenna vital to their communications capabilities. We should remember that many of these antennas are stealth in nature. Hams can place antennas behind drainpipes or attach flexible antennas along the gutters of their own home. In some cases, when the homeowners associations have found these antennas, the Hams were forced to take it down.

Amateur Radio operators, who work with local disaster communication groups, are finding it more difficult to erect antennas. Sometimes homeowner associations arbitrarily forbid installation of any kind of antenna. It is especially important to keep in mind that most homeowners associations are not elected, and most Hams have no recourse or appeal process to pursue.

This is particularly troubling given the role that Hams have played in communications during emergency and catastrophic situations in the past. Not allowing Hams the equipment they need could restrict communication to the local community in similar situations in the future.

To remedy this situation, we have introduced legislation, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, which seeks to ensure the continued viability of amateur radio through consistent application of federal regulations.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act is based upon a 1985 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulation that required state and local authorities to "reasonably accommodate" amateur radio antennas. This ruling failed, however, to address situations affecting private land developments.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act will include homeowner associations and other land use regulators in the regulation. This bill would grant the FCC the authority to consistently apply the 1985 ruling to all homeowners, regardless of whether they are petitioning state or local authorities, or public land-use regulators or homeowners' associations. This simply means that these organizations will be required to work with homeowners to achieve a "reasonable accommodation" when homeowners seek to install an antenna on their own property.

The FCC recognizes the invaluable service amateur radio operators provide to our nation. Congress also recognizes the contribution that Hams make. These good faith negotiations will help ensure that amateur radio operators' technical needs and the public service they provide are met while preserving the general welfare of the community.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO GIVE GREATER CHOICE TO THOSE WORKING TO HELP THEIR FAMILIES

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation addressing the issue of remittances. This is a simple bill aimed at an increasingly complex issue: how recent immigrants and New Americans send support to their families "back home."

People come from around the world to the United States, seeking not just to live the American Dream, but also to help support their families in their native lands. New Americans have a history of supporting those without the same opportunities, whether it is the Mexican farm worker helping his family today or the Irish settler who helped keep his family during the potato famine more than 100 years

ago, Americans never forget where they come from.

Today, getting the money earned in the United States to one's family is easier than ever. Large money-transfer companies can send money almost anywhere in the world in an instant. More and more banks and other financial institutions are also providing these services.

But one group of institutions, often heavily involved in local and immigrant community projects, is limited in their activity. To use a local credit union for check cashing and wire transfer services, you must be a member.

Many in the immigrant community do not realize the benefits of credit union membership and see this is a barrier. They would rather pay higher prices for the service than go through the paperwork involved in joining—even though they are fully eligible to be a member of a specific credit union. It is, in effect, a barrier for them to take advantage of another member of the marketplace.

This bill, which I am pleased to introduce with my colleagues Mr. GONZALEZ, Dr. PAUL, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LATOURRETTE and Mr. SHERMAN, would simply allow credit unions to provide these services to people who would be eligible to join that credit union, but for whatever reason choose not to do so.

The marketplace thrives on competition. In a recent study by the Greenlining Institute, an organization dedicated to expanding access to financial services for disadvantaged communities, the credit union had one of the lowest fees and best exchange rates for those seeking to send money overseas. Everyone should have the opportunity to take advantage of this service.

There are still many issues that need to be addressed on the issue of sending support back to one's family. In my own district, not only do Latin American immigrants continue to support those overseas, but also many from Asia, India and even the Ukraine. We need to make sure that they have access to good services and are not taken advantage of by a few less-scrupulous businesses.

An open market, with true competition will help us improve the costs and other burdens associated with this industry.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE AND EMILY BENEDICK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mike and Emily Benedick of Yampa, Colorado for the generosity and dedication to their community that they exhibited throughout their lives. Mike and Emily sadly passed away within a week of each other recently and I join their friends and family in mourning this tremendous loss. It is truly an honor to recognize their lives before this body of Congress and this nation.

Mike and Emily were married on June 30, 1928 while Mike was a coal miner in Oak Creek. An avid card player, he spent a great deal of time at his brother-in-law's saloon, The Antlers. Five years later, Mike and Emily were both working at The Antlers, which the couple

eventually purchased in 1937. Mike and Emily ran the Antlers Café and Bar in Yampa, Colorado for nearly sixty years and saw the Yampa community through the momentous changes of the twentieth century, always providing a comfortable meeting place for the miners and ranchers of the area. The Antlers changed with the times, too, becoming a pool hall during prohibition, and later adding food to the menu.

The Antlers was always a place to visit, and any customer knew they would receive a friendly welcome from Mike and Emily. Despite many hardships after World War II in the 1950s and 1960s, Mike and Emily stayed open for business. In 1996, Mike and Emily closed the bar, and it was sold shortly thereafter. However, customers and community members alike recall Mike and Emily as welcoming and warm-hearted people, who were always stern in their ways.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Mike and Emily Benedick. Their genuine concern and care towards others have truly made a difference in the lives of their family, friends, and community, and they will be greatly missed.

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the state of Minnesota lost a friend in February.

Born in 1918, Orville L. Freeman grew up in south Minneapolis, where his father owned a men's clothing shop. Graduating from Central High School at the height of the Depression, he attended the University of Minnesota because, as he stated, it "was convenient and affordable."

For 25 cents an hour, Freeman scrubbed walls at the University Hospital to help pay for his college tuition. As a summer job, he watered grass at Memorial Stadium and harvested grain with crews in Minnesota and North Dakota.

And somewhere in between, he made time to play quarterback for the University of Minnesota Gophers football team.

He received his diploma from the University of Minnesota magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1940 and began law school in 1941. But, Freeman's law school career was cut short with the bombing at Pearl Harbor that same year.

The day after the attack, Freeman volunteered for the Marines. During World War II, as a Second Lieutenant, Orville L. Freeman led his combat patrol behind enemy lines on the island of Bougainville in the South Pacific in 1943. He was hit in the jaw by a bullet but managed to successfully lead his men to safety. Second Lieutenant Freeman spent 8 months in a military hospital, overcame partial paralysis, learned to speak again and was eventually awarded a Purple Heart before he was discharged as a Major.

Upon returning to Minnesota, Orville completed law school at the University of Minnesota, married his college sweetheart Jane Shields and had two children, Constance and Michael.

Mr. Freeman's interest and involvement in politics began as a college student at the University of Minnesota where he befriended