

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DEERE & COMPANY IN RECOGNITION OF THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF JOHN DEERE

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deere & Company on the 200th anniversary of founder John Deere's birth.

John Deere, who developed the world's first commercially successful, self-scouring steel plow, thereby opening the West to farming, was born on February 7, 1804. John Deere emigrated to the western Illinois settlement of Grand Detour in 1837 and set up a blacksmith shop near the Rock River. After fashioning the first self-scouring steel plow, John Deere moved to a water-powered factory along the Mississippi River in Moline, Illinois—a town of roughly 55,000 people just outside my district.

In 1868, John Deere incorporated his business under the name Deere & Company and established enduring values that have sustained his company for over 165 years—quality, integrity, innovation and commitment. Today, Deere & Company does business in more than 160 countries and employs roughly 43,000 employees worldwide, many of whom reside in my Congressional district. They are the world's leading manufacturer of agricultural and forest equipment, a major manufacturer of construction equipment, and a leading supplier of equipment used in lawn, grounds and turf care.

Today, I wish to recognize Deere & Company on the achievements of pioneer blacksmith John Deere and congratulate the company he founded on the 200th anniversary of his birth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday January 27th, Wednesday January 28th, and on Tuesday February 3rd, I was unavoidably detained due to family matters I had to take care of in California and was not present for rollcall votes on those days.

Had I been present I would have voted the following:

Rollcall No. 6, to extend the provision of title 39, United States Code, under which the United States Postal Service is authorized to issue a special postage stamp to benefit breast cancer research, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 7, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 8, on the Baldwin Substitute Amendment, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 9, on the motion to recommit with instructions, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 10, on final passage of S. 1920, a bill to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall No. 13, on the motion to instruct conferees, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 14, expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the anniversary of the accident that cost the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* their lives, and extending heartfelt sympathy to their families, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 15, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding several individuals who are being held as prisoners of conscience by the Chinese Government for their involvement in efforts to end the Chinese occupation of Tibet, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 16, recognizing the 93rd birthday of Ronald Reagan, I would have voted "yea."

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE BY CHINESE GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN EFFORTS TO END CHINESE OCCUPATION OF TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 157 and strongly condemn the Chinese government for the continued detainment and torture of Tibetan political prisoners. I remain extremely concerned that men and women in China are routinely persecuted by the Chinese government. China has for too long been at liberty to detain, torture, intimidate and oppress its people.

The Tibetan people are denied basic human rights guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the right to self-determination, freedom of speech, assembly, movement, expression and religious belief. Hundreds of Tibetans are currently in prison for peaceful expressions of political or religious belief. The majority of Tibetan political prisoners are Buddhist monks and nuns.

Each year the situation in Tibet worsens. The unchecked migration of Chinese into Tibetan areas is resulting in social, economic and cultural destruction of Tibetans. His Holiness the Dalai Lama considers this demographic strategy the greatest threat to the survival of the Tibetan culture and identity. More than 6,000 monasteries and nunneries and their contents—irreplaceable jewels of Tibetan culture—have been destroyed since the Chinese occupation and thousands of monks and nuns have been kicked out of their monasteries for refusing to renounce the Dalai Lama.

The Chinese government routinely refuses to allow independent international human rights monitors, including U.N. human rights representatives, to conduct unhindered investigations into the human rights situation in Tibet. Religious freedom in Tibet is non-existent.

Tibetans are routinely imprisoned for participation in non-violent political activities, such as hanging flags or promoting independence. Prisoners serve lengthy sentences and are routinely mistreated and tortured while in prison. I visited Tibet in 1997 and was able to witness first hand the conditions there and the continued repression of the Tibetan people. I met with monks, nuns and Tibetans on the street who revealed to me how bad the conditions are in Tibet. I visited the prisons and heard first hand accounts of the brutality taking place deep in the shadows.

The following is a firsthand account of the arrest of Phuntsog Nyidron, a 20-year-old nun arrested in 1989 for peaceful demonstration in Lhasa. "During arrests nuns are kicked, beaten and given electric shocks on their hands, shoulders, breasts, tongue and face. During the interrogation, they are suspended by their hands, which are shackled behind their backs, for prolonged periods and beaten with iron rods."

As I close, 10 Catholic bishops are in China today under house arrest. The Protestant Church is being abused and beaten in China. The Falun Gong are being persecuted on a daily basis. The Chinese have plundered Tibet. America must do more to force China to adhere to fundamental human rights and religious freedom.

The clock is ticking for Tibet. If nothing is done, a country, its people, religion and culture will one day be lost.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes on February 3, 2004. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 12, on H. Res. 507, expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the anniversary of the accident that cost the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* their lives, and extending heartfelt sympathy to their families, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote No. 13, on H. Res. 157, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding several individuals who are being held as prisoners of conscience by the Chinese Government for their involvement in efforts to end the Chinese occupation of Tibet, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote No. 14, on H.J. Res. 84, recognizing the 93rd birthday of Ronald Reagan, I would have voted "yes."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.