

THE JOHN N. HARDEE AIRPORT
EXPRESSWAY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I along with my colleague, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the completion of Phase One of the John N. Hardee Airport Expressway. This will be announced to the people of South Carolina at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, July 12. The completion of this 2.8 mile expressway will provide easy and direct access to the Columbia Metropolitan Airport.

This expressway, which widened Airport Road from Airport Boulevard to Platt Springs Road, will make a vast difference in the way South Carolinians and visitors commute to the airport. We are looking forward to the next and final phase of the project, which is currently under design and should begin construction in 2006. This will provide for a new four-lane road extending Airport Road to Interstate 26. Coupled with the success of the John N. Hardee Expressway, these two new roadways will reduce traffic and provide direct access to the growing Columbia Metropolitan Airport by passenger and cargo vehicles, removing some 25,000 vehicles each year from the local network surrounding the airport.

We would like to thank the people at the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) for all of their hard work in completing this important project. Mrs. Elizabeth Mabry, Executive Director of SCDOT, and Mr. John Hardee, SCDOT Second District Commissioner for whom the expressway is named, thank you for your tireless dedication in getting this phase of the project completed. This expressway will be helpful to the people of the entire state of South Carolina, and for this you are appreciated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the following votes on Wednesday July 7, 2004, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 329, I would have voted "yea" on the Flake Amendment, to prohibit the use of funds in the appropriations bill to implement the Commerce Department's new restrictions on gift parcels to Cuba and the amount of personal baggage allowed for travelers to Cuba.

Rollcall vote No. 330, I would have voted "yea" on the Weiner Amendment which would have increased COPS funding but at the expense of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Rollcall vote No. 331, I would have voted "nay" on the Hefley Amendment, an amendment to eliminate funding for the re-engineered design process for the 2010 Short-Form Only census.

Rollcall vote No. 332, I would have voted "yea" on the Kucinich amendment, to expand

the membership of the President's "Manufacturing Council" to include representatives from unions and the steel industry.

Rollcall vote No. 333, I would have voted "nay" on the Paul amendment, an amendment to prohibit the use of funds in the bill to pay expenses for any U.S. contribution to the United National Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Rollcall vote No. 334, I would have voted "yea" on the Farr amendment, directing that none of the funds in the appropriations bill may be used to prevent the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont or Washington from implementing state laws authorizing the use of medical marijuana.

Rollcall vote No. 335, I would have voted "nay" on the Paul amendment, which would have prohibited the use of funds to pay any United States contribution to the United Nations or any affiliated agency of the United Nations.

Had I been present for the following votes on Thursday July 8, 2004, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 336, I would have voted "nay" on the rules of debate for H.R. 4755.

Rollcall vote No. 337, I would have voted "nay" on the rules of debate for H.R. 3598.

Rollcall vote No. 338, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3980 to establish a National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program.

Rollcall vote No. 339, I would have voted "yea" on the Sanders amendment, which would have restricted the investigative powers of the FBI and homeland security, and restored some of the basic civil liberties revoked by the PATRIOT Act.

The Sanders amendment would have repealed some of the most dangerous provisions of the PATRIOT Act, which allow the government to monitor the reading and research habits of citizens in libraries and bookstores. It is clear that there is potential for abuse of individual rights in every community across the nation, and there has been mistreatment in my own. I am appalled by the behavior of the House leadership in administering this vote. It was made clear that even if I had been present to cast my vote of support, the vote would have been held open for as long as it would have taken to strong arm enough members into defeating the legislation.

Rollcall vote No. 340, I would have voted "nay" on the Akin amendment, which prohibits funds in the appropriations bill for HIV/AIDS programs that do not explicitly oppose legalizing sex trafficking and prostitution.

Rollcall vote No. 341, I would have voted "nay" on the King (IA) amendment, providing \$1 million for the enforcement of provisions of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act regarding receiving and providing information to the federal government on the citizenship or immigration status of an individual.

Rollcall vote No. 342, I would have voted "nay" on the Smith (MI) amendment, which increases funding for scientific and technical research and services of the National Institute of Standards and Technology by \$20 million. The amendment offsets the increase by reducing funding for U.S. contributions to international organizations by \$20 million.

Rollcall vote No. 343, I would have voted "nay" on the Hefley amendment, an amendment to reduce funding for the U.S. Court of Federal Claims by 50 percent.

Rollcall vote No. 344, I would have voted "nay" on the Hefley amendment, an amendment to cut total appropriations in the bill by 1 percent.

Rollcall vote No. 345, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 4754.

Rollcall vote No. 346, I would have voted "yea" on the passage of H.R. 4754, to make appropriations to the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and other related agencies for the fiscal year 2005.

Rollcall vote No. 347, I would have voted "nay" on the motion to adjourn.

Had I been present for the following votes on Friday July 9, 2004, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 348, I would have voted "nay" on the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair.

Rollcall vote No. 349, I would have voted "nay" on the motion to adjourn.

Rollcall vote No. 350, I would have voted "nay" on ordering the previous question.

Rollcall vote No. 351, I would have voted "nay" on the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 2828.

Rollcall vote No. 352, I would have voted "nay" on the motion to reconsider.

Rollcall vote No. 353, I would have voted "nay" on the motion to adjourn.

Rollcall vote No. 354, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 2828.

Rollcall vote No. 355, I would have voted "yea" on the amendment to authorize \$120.6 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program and 10 percent yearly increases for FY06-08 and to allow the Federal cost-share for MEP Centers in the FY05-08 to increase up to one-half on a case-by-case basis as determined by the Administration.

Rollcall vote No. 356, I would have voted "yea" on the amendment to prohibit funds authorized from being used to require centers participating in the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program to re-compete for funds that already have been approved.

Rollcall vote No. 357, I would have voted "yea" on the amendment to establish a Manufacturing and Technology Administration within the Commerce Department and to direct the President to appoint, with the consent of the Senate, an Under Secretary of Commerce for Manufacturing and Technology, an Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing and an Assistant Secretary for Technology.

Rollcall vote No. 358, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 3598.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4766) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and

Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. BURR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this misguided amendment that threatens not only the delicate balance achieved in passage of the international tax bill, H.R. 4520, but also the future of every farm program administered by USDA.

Tobacco simply happens to be first. More crops will most certainly follow. To my colleagues who produce feed grains, wheat, rice, cotton, tobacco, dairy, soybeans, oilseeds, peanuts, sugar, honey, wool, and certain other crops: Your crops are next.

It is also somewhat disingenuous for proponents of this amendment to claim that they are protecting the American taxpayer. If indeed "taxpayers" are impacted by the tobacco reform provisions included in H.R. 4520, the burden falls only on those who pay excise taxes on tobacco products. Any approach other than the one proposed in H.R. 4520 will actually result in a tax increase on those who choose to use tobacco products. If that is what colleagues really are seeking, they should say so.

The facts, Mr. Chairman, are that tobacco and tobacco taxes raise more than \$30 billion every year for states and the Federal government. We are only asking for a portion of this money over five years to provide relief to our struggling farmers and their communities.

DEPLORING MISUSE OF INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE BY UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSE

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my serious reservations about House Resolution 713.

Israel's construction of a security barrier has been a source of great controversy within Israel and in the international community.

The debate has less to do with the actual construction of a barrier than with the route of the barrier.

The government of Israel regards the barrier as a form of self-defense—a legitimate means for preventing further terrorist infiltration. Israel has a right to self-defense, and if the Israeli government believes that the security barrier is the best means for protecting their citizens, then I support their right to construct a barrier.

But as it now stands, the barrier has gone deeply into territory beyond the 1967 borders. That is the fact the authors of this resolution choose to ignore: There would be no International Court of Justice decision to condemn if Israel were building the fence along the Green Line.

The Supreme Court of Israel recently ordered portions of the fence rerouted. The Court held that the barrier's current route "injures the local inhabitants in a severe and acute way while violating their rights under humanitarian and international law."

American diplomats also have worked diligently to modify the barrier's route in their dealings with the Israeli government.

This resolution threatens to damage these efforts, implying an unqualified endorsement of the barrier and warning the international community against efforts to influence the situation.

Roughly one-quarter of the 420-mile barrier has been completed—clearly there is still much at stake for both the Israelis and the Palestinians. Our efforts should be directed at negotiating borders that will advance peace. Resolutions such as the one before us today do nothing to advance the peace process.

There are legitimate questions as to the propriety and wisdom of the action taken by the International Court of Justice in this matter. But this resolution goes too far. It condemns the ICJ and "Palestinian Leadership" indiscriminately, and it undermines worthy efforts underway in Israel, the U.S., and internationally to promote Israel's security in ways that enhance the prospects for a just and lasting peace in the region.

If we were truly serious about promoting peace in the Middle East, we would focus on efforts like the Roadmap rather than pass resolutions such as H. Res. 713.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO RE-NAME THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER IN AMARILLO, TEXAS, THE "THOMAS E. CREEK DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER"

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, today, I have the privilege, along with the entire Texas delegation in the House and Mr. Moran from Kansas, to introduce a bill to rename the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Amarillo, Texas, the "Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center."

Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek, USMC, of Amarillo, Texas, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously by President Nixon. He was a true American hero, deserving of this recognition and honor.

On February 13, 1969, Lance Corporal Creek was an 18 year old Marine with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam. He was part of a resupply convoy that was ambushed by enemy forces using mortars, mines, fragmentation grenades, and small arms. According to the documents recommending him for the Medal of Honor, "[t]he fierce combat found the men firing at point blank range." Lance Corporal Creek was wounded by a bullet in the neck, but then saw a fragmentation grenade land between him and the rest of the squad. He then, though wounded, deliberately rolled on top of the grenade, taking the full impact of the explosion, and saving the lives of 5 Marines nearby. His act inspired the rest of the squad to defeat the enemy and complete its mission to resupply the forward combat base.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot help but be moved by such acts of self-sacrifice and bravery. They exemplify the highest standards of the Marine Corps, our military, and our Nation. The veterans community in the Amarillo area suggested this way of honoring Corporal

Creek. It is supported by the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and AMVETS.

I also want to acknowledge and to thank all those who have helped in this effort to recognize Lance Corporal Creek, especially Corporal Creek's family, Selden Hale, and Larry Milam, who were instrumental in this endeavor.

In some ways, 1969 seems like a long time ago, yet acts of bravery like Corporal Creek's are timeless. They provide an example for us all. Corporal Creek's name will further magnify the honor attached to those who have served our nation and receive health care at this veterans' facility. I urge my colleagues to support the measure.

WELCOMING THE OPENING OF THE ROBERT BROADBENT LAS VEGAS MONORAIL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the opening of the Robert Broadbent Las Vegas Monorail today in Las Vegas, Nevada. This momentous achievement will expand transit opportunities for residents and visitors in Southern Nevada while enhancing the environment, reducing congestion, and improving safety.

The Robert Broadbent Monorail is the most technically advanced transit system in the world. The first leg will run 4 miles along the world famous Las Vegas Strip. The Broadbent Monorail is built entirely with private money, and shows the commitment to build for our future that southern Nevada is famous for. The monorail is named after Robert Broadbent, a long-time community leader who sadly passed away last year. Robert Broadbent was the chairman of the Monorail and served as Mayor of Boulder City, County Commissioner, McCarran Airport Director and Director of the Bureau of Reclamation.

I invite all the members of the House to visit Las Vegas and see firsthand the Broadbent Monorail. I urge the House to join me in congratulating Chairman Jim Gibson, President Cam Walker, and all of the men and women who have contributed over the years to the success of this project. I look forward to extending the monorail in the near future to serve McCarran Airport, downtown Las Vegas, and other points in southern Nevada.

A TRIBUTE TO JACK VALENTI

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has touched the lives of countless Americans and helped to put smiles on the faces of kids young and old.

Jack Valenti has served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Motion Picture Association for almost 40 years. Texas born and Harvard educated, Jack has led several lives: a wartime bomber pilot, advertising