

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to say that these individuals, and many others throughout the world, are doing the hard and often unrecognized work that is required to keep our homeland safe. I also know that these fine agents and specialists serve as role models for others throughout the United States. Protecting our citizens and our freedoms is vitally important to our future security, and these men and women have proven with their actions that they are up to the task.

For their outstanding work throughout the investigation, I would like to individually recognize the following people:

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HONORING BRUCE RODEWALD

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, over 33 years ago, Bruce Rodewald joined the Arlington Heights Fire Department located in my Congressional District. Thirteen years later he accepted the title of Fire Chief and for the last 20 years he has led the department with the highest distinction and honor.

Chief Rodewald comes from a long lineage of firefighters and community leaders. Both his father and grandfather served in the Arlington Heights Fire Department. His son also serves as a firefighter and paramedic in a neighboring town.

During his tenure as Fire Chief, the village of Arlington Heights' Class III Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating was upgraded to an ISO I rating. This is the highest ranking given for a municipality's fire protection services. Arlington Heights is one of only about 40 fire departments in the county to have received this outstanding distinction.

Mr. Rodewald's dedication to his department and the village of Arlington Heights is unequalled. He had originally planned on retiring from the department in 2001. However, after the September 11th attacks, Chief Rodewald decided to forgo his retirement and continue his service. For the last 3 years he has dedicated himself to the reorganization of the Arlington Heights Fire Department to reflect the heightened levels of awareness and preparedness necessary in the post 9/11 world.

In his years of service, Fire Chief Bruce Rodewald has led the Arlington Heights Fire Department with the professionalism and dedication required of a community leader. The Department he leaves behind is one of the most well-prepared and trained in the Nation. Chief Rodewald's tenure in the Arlington Heights Fire Department is worthy of the highest commendation. I wish him much happiness in retirement and offer him and his family my sincerest thanks and appreciation. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing this extraordinary individual.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL BARKEY

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, with great sorrow I rise today to recognize Michael Barkey, a constituent from the 16th District of Ohio,

who gave his life fighting for our country. National Guard Sgt. Barkey died in an accident while serving with the 1484th transportation company in Iraq.

A football standout at Northwest High School in Canal Fulton Ohio, Barkey was known as a leader on and off the field. Family, friends, and coaches all recognized this young man's strong values and commitment to honor and integrity. He began his career with the National Guard to help pay his way through the University of Akron and was carrying on a long family tradition of military service.

This outstanding young man showed courage and a commitment to protect those who could not protect themselves. Without people of his moral fortitude, our Nation would not stand. Sgt. Barkey carried a medallion with the inscription "With God all things are possible." We must trust that the dedication of men and women like Sgt. Barkey will create a safer America.

Sergeant Barkey and his family will be forever in our hearts and prayers. May we keep them in mind as they struggle through this difficult period of mourning.

U.S.-AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, domestic healthcare policy should not be decided in trade agreements. That is why I rise in opposition to the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

I strongly support the opportunity for increased trade with Australia, our closest ally and strongest economic partner in the Pacific rim. I support the agreement's strong protections for digital copyright, the elimination of tariffs on entertainment and media products, and improved market access for U.S. films and television via cable, satellite, and the Internet. I am deeply concerned, however, that this agreement also involves a deliberate effort to drive up drug prices in Australia and set precedents that could be used to undermine efforts to lower drugs prices here in the United States.

It is wrong for us to interfere with another country's domestic health policy, particularly when it comes to the affordability of medicine which is an equally sensitive issue here in the United States. I staunchly oppose provisions in this agreement that make it easier for pharmaceutical companies to challenge decisions made by the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, or PBS, a formulary system used by the Australian government to negotiate prices on behalf of its citizens and keep down drug costs. I am also concerned that the Bush Administration has set an irresponsible precedent that could bring scrutiny upon our own federally sponsored health programs like Medicare and the VA formulary system, which we rely upon to reduce drug prices for seniors, veterans, and the military.

This is special interest policymaking at its worst. The Bush Administration is letting the pharmaceutical industry use trade agreements to manipulate the drug laws of the United

States and other countries in ways that the industry could not otherwise achieve.

For example, the Australia agreement codifies provisions of U.S. law that prohibit reimportation of medicines that are produced in the United States and sold at a discount in other countries. I strongly oppose the inclusion of this controversial issue in a trade agreement when it is the subject of ongoing Congressional debate. Bills currently under consideration in the Senate and already passed by the House of Representatives will now be in technical violation of our trade obligations. Since the provision will have no actual impact because Australian law already prohibits wholesalers and pharmacists from exporting low-cost drugs procured through the PBS system, it appears that its sole purpose is to serve as a basis for the inclusion of similar provisions in future agreements.

Unfortunately, it is not just the Australia free trade agreement where these back door assaults on domestic healthcare programs are taking place. The U.S. has also negotiated trade agreements with Central America, Morocco, and Thailand that would significantly impede and delay access to cheaper generic drugs in these developing countries where the availability of quality healthcare is already limited and few can afford medicine. All of these efforts fit into the pharmaceutical industry's agenda to raise drug prices and profits around the world, even at the expense of saving lives.

Because of unique dynamics between the United States and Australia the net effects of this agreement on health programs may be negligible. But that doesn't mean they aren't bad policy and bad precedents. I am voting no on this agreement, which I would have liked to support, in order to register my strong protest against the Bush Administration's work with the pharmaceutical industry on provisions that sour an otherwise promising trade opportunity.

International trade has the potential to raise the standard of living and quality of life for millions of people around the world. To uphold that vision, we must work for future trade negotiations that ensure that our citizens and our trading partners have the opportunity to experience the full benefits of free and fair trade.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the men and women of the 4th Congressional District of New York in support of this Resolution condemning the July 9th advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which denounces Israel's security fence.

I have long been an ardent and proud supporter of Israel. In recent years, the volatile and unstable history that has underscored Israel's history has become even more bloody and pronounced. We can understand as Americans that Israel has a responsibility to protect its citizens from the grave threat posed

against the country from those terrorists that seek to harm it.

The security fence has drastically enhanced Israel's ability to protect itself from terrorists by significantly limiting the ability of terrorists to access Israeli cities. For example, since its construction, suicide bombings along the northern West Bank have decreased by 90 percent. Contention and criticism to the wall lies with the proposed plans to have the wall run through the area of northern Jerusalem. Prior to the ICJ's opinion, efforts were made to change certain aspects of the designated route to limit the impact it could have on localities near and around the wall's course.

Local Palestinian communities, those most directly affected by the wall's construction, have worked with Israel to redirect the wall in certain areas to lessen the impact. The wall's construction is condemned by the Court of Justice because of claims that it violates certain boundary laws. However, the wall is a protection for both Israelis and Palestinians. Their joint effort has not only lessened any undesirable impact for both parties, but proven the possibility for compromise between both areas.

I have long felt that America should not attempt to dictate decisions for Israel. With this resolution, we are simply showing that we are supporting Israel's step toward safeguarding its people. We as Americans must sympathize with the fact that the Israelis are attempting to confront terrorism by erecting a wall to stand as its physical and metaphorical barrier. In condemning the opinion of the International Court of Justice and supporting this resolution, we as a body align ourselves with the best interests of the Israeli people, progress and peace in the Middle East, and in the best interests of all Americans who wish to one day see calm in a section of the world so long divided.

Thank you.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 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. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to commend Chairman BONILLA and Ranking Member KAPTUR for including a strong commitment of funding in this bill for the implementation of the Low Path Avian Influenza program at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). This \$23 million in funding will allow APHIS to promptly address the repeated and diverse outbreaks of avian influenza that have occurred in several states including my state of Delaware.

This additional funding is necessary to respond to the many needs confronting this vital

industry including: Expanded monitoring of avian influenza, increased surveillance of the live-bird markets and distributors, advanced research on and implementation of fast and economical tests, and confirmed identification and tracking of avian influenza sources.

The presence of avian influenza presents an immediate threat to the U.S. poultry industry. It constitutes a significant danger to the national economy and potential serious burden on interstate and foreign commerce.

As you know, in early February, two flocks of chickens in Delaware were confirmed as having H7N2 low pathogenic avian influenza, and roughly 83,000 birds were promptly depopulated. Isolated avian influenza infections were then identified among chickens in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Later in the month, officials determined that a flock of 7,000 broilers in Southeast portion of Chairman BONILLA's home state of Texas tested positive for a highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza. The most recent case came when a flock of chickens in Pocomoke City, Maryland, tested positive for the H7 avian flu, which led to more than 300,000 birds and chicks being depopulated on three farms. The infections discovered this year follow past outbreaks of low pathogen flu in Virginia, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

The USDA response to the outbreaks occurring this year has been prompt and the assistance provided to the state Departments of Agriculture and the poultry industry has been instrumental in helping to identify, contain and eradicate the avian influenza outbreak—but there is still much that needs to be done. Even before the recent infections, the Administration recognized the expanding need to implement a comprehensive strategy to battle avian influenza by including \$12.7 million in funding in the APHIS FY'05 budget request for the Low Pathogen Avian Influenza (LPAI) program and recently transferring \$13.7 million in FY'04 funds into the program.

This builds on the close to \$1 billion provided in FY'04 that is scheduled for implementation at the end of this month. I believe it is critical that APHIS receives the proper amount of funding to maximize the resources at its disposal to strongly address this serious problem. Low Path AI is capable of mutating into highly pathogenic forms. The occurrence of HPAI in Texas led Secretary Veneman to declare an Extraordinary Emergency earlier this month. A healthy and vital poultry industry is a major contributor to the recovering economy of this country, and the finding of AI, particularly the highly destructive High Path AI, represents a major threat in this regard.

Moreover, the multi-billion dollar poultry export industry is put at risk by the avian flu discoveries. Many of our trading partners continue to impose import bans on U.S. poultry products. While some of these importers have set restrictions on products from specified states, others have taken the more drastic step of banning importation of poultry products from our entire country. We need to give our trade negotiators the necessary support in the form of these AI surveillance and control efforts, to allow them to negotiate with our foreign trading partners and convince them to reopen these markets.

Again, I commend Chairman BONILLA and Ranking Member KAPTUR for providing APHIS with the critical resources it needs to address this threat to our poultry industry.