

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to circumstances affecting the health of a family member, I was not present for rollcall votes 385 through 389 on Thursday, July 15. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 385, "yea" on rollcall vote 386, "no" on rollcall vote 387, "yea" on rollcall vote 388, and "yea" on rollcall vote 389.

WELCOME TO BECKLEY, MR. PRESIDENT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, again I wish to discuss the Transportation bill. This time, I want to discuss this much-needed bill in light of President Bush's recent visit to my hometown of Beckley, West Virginia last Friday, July 16, 2004.

This week, Congress will again have to extend the authorization for the previous Transportation bill because we still do not yet have a reauthorization. The previous authorization originally expired almost a year ago. Now, we will be extending that previous authorization for the fifth time—that's right, the fifth time—because Congress still hasn't done its work and completed a new bill.

The reason Congress still hasn't done the Transportation bill is that the White House clearly does not want us to finalize this bill in an election year, and the Republican Leadership in the House and the Senate just follow the Administration's orders. As I have said repeatedly, we should complete the bill, and if the White House wants to veto it, it can go ahead; there are clearly enough Republican and Democrat votes to override a veto and get the Transportation bill finished. But by doing nothing, the House and Senate Republican Leadership are siding with the White House, and preventing Congress from carrying out its Constitutional role as a coequal branch of government.

As I said last week, here on the House floor, States like my home state of West Virginia have been waiting for far too long now to see just what, if anything, they could expect to receive from the Federal Government. This money will help finance important highway and transit projects such as the Beckley Intermodal Gateway, provide good-paying jobs that are sorely needed in this uncertain job market, and sustain our economic growth at this critical point in time.

Mr. Speaker, I have an editorial from a distinguished newspaper in my hometown, the Register Herald, which I would like to submit for the RECORD to accompany my remarks. This editorial from Friday, July 16, 2004, graciously welcomes the president to Beckley. Importantly, it also goes on to note how badly Southern West Virginia needs the highway funding that President Bush is blocking. The editorial reads as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT—WELCOME TO BECKLEY

Today, for the first time in history, a sitting United States president will be in Beckley.

President George W. Bush is scheduled to make a campaign appearance around 4 p.m. today at the Raleigh County Armory Civic Center.

The city, Raleigh County and all of southern West Virginia are proud to have been chosen for a visit. We're happy to see him in person and are most interested to listen to his thoughts on the issues that face us as a Nation.

However, we want to ask Mr. Bush one thing in return. Soon to come before him will be a highway appropriations bill which he's threatened to veto if it carries a price deemed too expensive. Included in this bill is more than \$2 billion to help finance a number of projects that are crucial to the economic development of Berkley, Raleigh County and southern West Virginia. If the economy is to continue the turnaround that Mr. Bush says is gathering steam, we need this money to keep it running.

We trust Mr. Bush enjoys his visit here. We wish he could stay longer and enjoy the beautiful mountains we call home.

No matter which party you're supporting in the upcoming presidential election, partisan politics should be put aside when the president comes to town.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE PUTNAM

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor the distinguished career and legacy of Mr. George Putnam.

When asked what the most important elements in a newsman's character should be, Mr. Putnam replied, "an insatiable curiosity, objectivity, perseverance but, most of all, integrity." These are some of the sterling qualities that have guided his illustrious 70 year career as a broadcaster, reporter and commentator. In 1995, Mr. Putnam was awarded the prestigious Los Angeles Area Governors Award from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. He has been the recipient of four Emmys, six California Associated Press Television & Radio Association awards, and eight annual Radio & Television News Club awards. Legendary radio commentator Walter Winchell called Gorge Putnam's voice "the greatest in radio and television."

From his first broadcast in 1934 at WDGy in Minnesota to his current show, Talkback, on KSPA-AM, George Putnam has earned the respect of his listeners and his peers. It is with great pleasure that I wish him a Happy 90th Birthday, and acknowledge his lifelong contributions to the journalism industry.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DIETHER HAENICKE

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Diether Haenicke who today re-

ceived the 2004 Red Rose Citation for outstanding community service from the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo, Michigan. A dedicated and selfless individual, Diether has tirelessly served and greatly impacted the quality of life of countless individuals throughout the state of Michigan.

During his distinguished service as president of Western Michigan University from 1985 to 1998, Diether inspired and impassioned students and colleagues alike. For many years I have looked upon Diether not only as a voice of knowledge and insight, but also as a friend. Despite his retirement, he continues to be an active voice in the community.

Diether spent a career devoted to extensive charity and loyalty to local individuals and the community as a whole. Whether one looks at his service and leadership at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, as commissioner of the Education Commission of the States, or on the Board of Trustees for Bronson Methodist Hospital, Diether has a long history of benefiting the communities of Southwest Michigan.

Since 1945, the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo has annually presented the Red Rose Citation to outstanding members of the community, and I can think of no one more fitting to receive this great honor than Diether. I extend my very best wishes to Diether and his family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD SAFE ACT OF 2004

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Child Safety, Adoption, and Family Enhancement Act (Child SAFE) of 2004. This legislation would reform the Nation's child protection programs to ensure that children are safe and families are strengthened.

Like the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program before the historic 1996 welfare reforms, the Nation's child protection programs are broken. More than 500,000 children are in foster care today. Foster care should be a temporary, short-term placement for children until they can be reunited with their parents or placed with a safe, adoptive family. However, on average, children remain in foster care for almost three years. Unfortunately, too many of these children also will experience further abuse and physical and emotional scars that will haunt them for decades.

Every State's child protection program failed recent Federal reviews. Since November 2003, the Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee I chair has heard from more than 40 witnesses who have testified that the current child protection programs are ill-equipped to prevent abuse and keep children safe. In May 2004, after a year of study, the nonpartisan Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care proposed major changes to current financing rules for child protection programs. Many of the Pew Commission's recommendations are included in the Child SAFE Act. It is time to respond to the growing body of evidence demanding change and better accountability from our Nation's child protection programs.

The Child SAFE Act would focus on outcomes, rather than process, to better protect children by (1) providing more resources, (2) promoting better outcomes, (3) increasing accountability for results, and (4) increasing State flexibility. The legislation would increase overall child protection program funding over the next 10 years by \$2 billion. Federal funding for every child protection activity—foster care, adoption, family services, and case-worker oversight—would rise over the next 10 years.

Current child protection programs provide limited funding for services to assist families and keep them safely together. At the same time, the system provides open ended funding if kids are removed from their families, leading many to conclude that the system encourages an over-reliance on foster care. The result is that countless children are abused and too many families broken up.

The Child SAFE Act would provide Federal foster care aid for every child regardless of income, addressing a longstanding concern among families, advocates and program officials. It also would guarantee rising foster care funding to States regardless of the number of children in care. That means that States that promote more up-front services to either keep kids out of foster care or move them more quickly through foster care will have even more dollars to invest in additional services. This will remove any financial incentive for a State to needlessly remove a child from their family or let that child languish in foster care for years.

The Child SAFE Act also would promote adoption of children from the public child welfare system. Federal adoption assistance will be available for these children regardless of income. Since 1995, the number of children adopted from the public child welfare system has more than doubled. However, more than 129,000 children in foster care await adoptive families. We must encourage States to do more to find safe, loving homes for these children.

The legislation would increase Federal aid for family services and caseworkers. Federal aid would be (1) merged, (2) guaranteed, and (3) increased by a total of \$2 billion over 10 years. States would have more funds, more flexibility, and greater incentives to serve families and prevent children's removal to foster care.

The Child SAFE Act also provides increased funding to Indian tribes for child protection programs. It expands funding and services for children placed with relatives. The legislation requires an assessment of children entering foster care—many of whom have deep physical and emotional scars—to determine what services they might need. States that excel in protecting children would receive a share of \$400 million in new performance funds. And the legislation is fully offset by provisions previously passed in the House welfare reform bill (H.R. 4).

I thank my colleagues, Mrs. JOHNSON, Mr. DELAY, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CAMP, and Mr. CANTOR for joining me in introducing this important legislation. This legislation will improve our Nation's child protection programs so that children are safe and in loving families. I invite all Members to support it.

IN HONOR OF JOHN A. COLEMAN

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the achievements and activities of John A. Coleman. Mr. Coleman currently is serving as the President of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies otherwise known as CASA. CASA is a statewide association of wastewater treatment agencies that is responsible for ensuring the protection and improvement of California's water quality for more than 22 million Californians and their related businesses and our state's natural resources. He was elected CASA President after serving as a member of this association since 1990. It is also noteworthy that he assumed this leadership role after he was elected to the Board of Directors of the East Bay Municipal Utility District that provides water quality and water supply services to many of my constituents of the 10th Congressional District.

Mr. Coleman was the first CASA President to serve a two-year term of office, having been unanimously elected by the General Council of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies on August 9, 2002 and re-elected August 15, 2003. He will conclude his term as the 46th President on August 7, 2004.

Mr. Coleman's performance on behalf of CASA has been one of strong leadership. He has provided important guidance on complex legislative and regulatory issues affecting the management of local public wastewater agencies as these agencies strive to comply with the myriad of federal requirements. On many an occasion I have had the opportunity to review a number of these matters with Mr. Coleman in his capacity as President of CASA and as a member of the East Bay Municipal Utility District Board of Directors.

In each of these roles, Mr. Coleman displayed the highest level of integrity establishing a threshold of performance that served CASA well. He used his position at CASA both as President and a Member of the Executive Board to encourage all CASA members to maintain the highest level of professional performance in the course of conducting the public's business.

Of special note, during Mr. Coleman's tenure as CASA President, he launched a state wide program to promote the beneficial use of biosolids to improve the quality of our lands and minimize the inappropriate disposal of a useful byproduct of water quality programs. This program has generated a better understanding on the part of the public on how we can be better stewards of our local communities and their natural resources.

Most recently, Mr. Coleman oversaw the first CASA Federal Legislative Outreach Seminar, bringing to Washington 40 public officials to meet with their congressional delegations and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials. This effort typified Mr. Coleman's commitment to working to enhance the CASA members' understanding of the policymaking process and to promote increased public participation in the legislative and regulatory processes. Through this activity, he has elevated and solidified CASA's leading role as one of the most effective, respected, and influential

California public association dedicated to wastewater and water quality improvements.

As Mr. Coleman prepares to complete his term as CASA President, I want to take note of these accomplishments and to commend him for his tireless commitment to improve the water quality of California's lakes, rivers, streams and coastal waters. His commitment and leadership at CASA means that valuable recreational, economic and social activities that today's Californians enjoy will be available for California's future generations. I congratulate him on his many achievements.

HONORING THE ARMY RESERVE 367TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT UNIT FOR ITS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY DURING OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM AND OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Army Reserve 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Unit for their participation in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. I commemorate the service of the 367th members from the 12th Congressional District, which I am proud to represent, and all who served in the unit. For fourteen months members of the unit worked to provide news and information to media sources from around the world. Additionally, due to the work of the 367th, soldiers from my district were able to send messages to loved ones by way of "video post cards home" broadcast on local television. This service provided my constituents and many other Americans the opportunity to watch our troops in action. Today, we thank its members for the sacrifices they made to serve our country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share one example of the 367th's exemplary service to our Nation. The unit was in Tikrit, Iraq when it was informed of the capture of Saddam Hussein. Its members immediately realized the support that would be needed to accommodate the over 600 journalists who traveled to Iraq to cover the event. The 367th took action and coordinated an effort to provide transportation, lodging, food and even internet access. Because of the 367th's hard work, journalists from around the world were able to provide coverage of the historic event.

On March 3, 2004 the 367th returned home after a job well done. Once again, I thank the members of the Army Reserve 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Unit for their service to our country.

NATIONAL BLACK DATA PROCESSING ASSOCIATES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Black Data Processing Associates (NBDPA). In honor of their upcoming 26th National Conference, I would like to