

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 2004 (H.R. 5024)

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, recently the nation marked the third anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

In addition to mourning the loss of so many lives, it is appropriate to ask: "Are we as safe as we should be?" Sadly, two high level inquiries, including the independent 9/11 Commission, have said: "no."

Our rail lines, ports, commercial aircraft, power plants, chemical facilities, and other critical infrastructure components are not as secure as they should be.

Our first responders are not able to communicate with one another in real time, as they should be.

Much of the world's supply of the materials used to build weapons of mass destruction is not secured, as it should be.

Initiatives in the Department of Homeland Security are not funded adequately by the President and the Republican Congress, as they should be.

The nation's unmet security needs involve more than insufficient resources. The systemic governmental failures that opened the door for the terrorists to strike on 9/11 have been repeatedly identified. But there has been no concerted effort to fix them.

Eighteen months ago, a Joint Inquiry by the congressional intelligence committees produced a bipartisan call for change in the structure of the intelligence community. Nothing came of it.

Eight weeks ago, the 9/11 Commission issued a unanimous, bipartisan report recommending change—in the intelligence community and elsewhere—to deal with the terrorist threat. The Commission coupled its recommendations with a call for urgent action.

What was the response? The congressional recess went on, largely undisturbed, even after the threat level for New York and Washington was raised.

There has been too much delay. Congress must commit itself today to using the time left in this session to enact legislation to address the problems identified so clearly by the Commission and others.

To focus our efforts, many of my Democratic colleagues have joined me in introducing a bill that translates the Commission's recommendations into legislative language.

This bill will give the committees of jurisdiction a framework for considering the proposals on their merits, and reporting them to the House quickly for debate and votes.

United together, with an unwavering bipartisan commitment to the security of our country, let us make as much progress as we can so that our words of comfort to the victims'

families on September 11 are not diminished by their knowledge of how much critical work remains unfinished.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EVERY VOTE COUNTS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to abolish the electoral college and to provide for the direct popular election of the President and Vice President of the United States. I would like to start with a quote from Thomas Jefferson regarding the electoral college.

I have ever considered the constitutional mode of election ultimately by the Legislature voting by States as the most dangerous blot in our Constitution, and one which some unlucky chance will some day hit and give us a pope and antipope.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that these unlucky chances are hitting us today. The stakes of American presidential elections are tremendous for all of us but our Presidential candidates focus their activities on small numbers of "swing voters" in roughly a dozen states.

This is an injustice. All Americans are created equal and all Americans vote should count the same. So today, I am reintroducing legislation I authored in 2001 with my colleague from Washington State, Mr. BAIRD.

Our legislation, the Every Vote Counts Amendment would begin a Constitutional Amendment process to create national elections that are simple, democratic and counts every American equally. The heart of the amendment is Section Three, which reads: "The persons having the greatest number of votes for President and Vice President shall be elected."

The people, not small groups of partisans, should be responsible for filling the highest office in America. The Electoral College violates the sacred democratic principle of "one man, one vote." It should be abolished and replaced by something simple and fair.

Why should the candidate who wins the most votes not win the election? Opponents of this Amendment cannot justify why a less popular candidate should win, without saying, "that's the way we have always done it."

In 1913, Congress and the states trusted the people to elect their senators when we approved the Seventeenth Amendment. Today, we should trust the people to elect the President of the United States through a direct vote.

Every vote should carry the same weight in the election, no matter where in the nation it was cast. Texas Democrats, New York Republicans, California Republicans, and South Carolina Democrats would again have a say in the election of their President.

America is one nation, and our President should not wage a handful of separate campaigns in evenly balanced states, but one campaign, in all states, for all the people.

My constituents are unjustly ignored because neither candidate ever comes to Texas except to look for money, not votes. That is an insult to all Texans, Democratic and Republican.

Americans got a shocking look at our needlessly complex national election process in 2000, when we watched outcomes of recounts of hundreds of votes in a handful of counties determine an election in which over 100 million people voted.

We began to worry whether members of the Electoral College would be faithful to their states. We began to fear an election decided by just 435 individuals in the House of Representatives, which we have seen can be manipulated by redistricting.

There is nothing more simple and fair than: "the persons having the greatest number of votes for President and Vice President shall be elected."

In America, every vote should count and they should count equally. Therefore, we should adopt the Every Vote Counts Amendment and allow the states to begin the process of ratification.

RECOGNIZING THE ROBERT E. MITCHELL CENTER FOR PRISONER OF WAR STUDIES

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today in recognition of the Robert E. Mitchell Center for Prisoner of War Studies.

The original Center for Prisoner of War Studies was established in 1972 under a five-year charter to study long-term effects of captivity on repatriated Vietnam prisoners-of-war. After the initial five years, the Air Force and Army programs were discontinued. Captain Robert Mitchell continued to successfully direct the Navy-Marine program, so successfully in fact that Air Force Vietnam POWs rejoined the program in 1993 and Army POWs rejoined in 1997.

Located in my district in Northwest Florida, the Mitchell Center is the only program in existence that works with three branches of the armed services in this field, and currently sees over half of today's surviving Vietnam POWs. Findings from the Center's research have been used worldwide in medical and psychological fields, paving the way for further insight into POW studies. The Center now works with repatriated POWs from World War II all the way through Desert Storm.

Recognizing the importance of the Mitchell Center's findings, Secretary of the Navy Gordon England signed a Memorandum of Understanding this year with the Robert E. Mitchell

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

Foundation allowing it to raise money for the sole purpose of supporting the Mitchell Center's success.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to commend the Mitchell Center for its groundbreaking work in supporting our nation's prisoners of war as we bring them home.

TRIBUTE TO THE PINELANDS CULTURAL SOCIETY

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pinelands Cultural Society as it celebrates its 30th year of incorporation with a special celebration concert at Albert Music Hall on November 20, 2004.

The Pinelands Cultural and Historical Preservation Society is a grass roots, non-profit, all-volunteer organization that has been operating in southern New Jersey for the past three decades to preserve the cultural heritage of the New Jersey Pinelands region.

The Society's goals include preservation and stimulation of interest in South Jersey's musical and cultural heritage. Running a live show 50 Saturday nights each year, plus special occasion Sunday shows, the proceeds, along with individual donations of time, talents and money have culminated in the creation of the present 350-seat concert hall building called "Albert Music Hall" which serves as a "living history" venue for the presentation of live acoustic music concerts in the decades-old tradition of people indigenous to the Pinelands area. It also serves as a repository for extensive historic archives including audiotape and videotape recordings, documentation and photographs reflecting life in the New Jersey Pines from the early 1900s.

Albert Music Hall has been inducted into the American Folklore Center, Local Legacies Collection Archive at the Library of Congress, and is also registered in the Library of Congress' Moving Image Collections Archive Database.

Thus, I am pleased to recognize the efforts of an expert staff of volunteers for their efforts in bringing New Jersey's history to life. I congratulate them, and wish them many more decades of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I was called away on official government business, as a result, I was not able to be present for rollcall vote 431. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes". I request that this statement appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

HONORING LAWRENCE B. MARTIN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Lawrence "Larry" Martin of San Francisco, California on the occasion of his retirement from 38 years of outstanding civic leadership and public service.

Upon completion of his service time on active duty in the U.S. Army, Larry began his civilian career in San Francisco in 1966. Upon joining the ranks of the platform employees of the San Francisco Municipal Railway System, he became an active member of the Transportation Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO Local 250-A. Committed to pursuing his educational interest in the labor movement, Larry attended the Labor and Management School at the University of San Francisco, took classes in Labor and Urban Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and was later awarded his A.A. degree in Labor and Urban Studies at Merritt College in Oakland, California.

In the decades that followed, Larry would draw on these experiences to become increasingly active in the areas of labor studies and civic leadership. While serving as President of TWU Local 250-A and later as a member of the Labor Advisory Boards of the Labor Studies departments at U.C. Berkeley, San Francisco State University, the University of San Francisco, and the Community College District of San Francisco, he was also instrumental in steering various city boards and commissions. Not only did Larry serve for over 12 years on the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, but also served for over 8 years on the Planning Commission. In addition, Larry has played a vital role for several years as an Executive Board Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, on the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Commission since 2000, as an Executive Board Member of the San Francisco Labor Council, and as the Director of the TWU California State Conference.

On September 17 and 18, 2004, Larry will be honored in San Francisco, California on the occasion of his retirement. I would like to take this opportunity to commend his exceptional achievements not only in the areas of education and labor, but also for his role as a leader in the areas of civic planning and local government. By demonstrating his commitment to the improvement of workplace standards and quality of life for all, Larry has contributed immeasurably to the community of the Bay Area, and the 9th Congressional District salutes and congratulates him for 38 remarkable years of service.

ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF COM-
MERCE'S LABORATORIES IN
BOULDER, CO

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary and rededica-

tion of the Department of Commerce laboratories located in Boulder, Colorado. Three Commerce Department agencies have labs located in Boulder: the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). As chairman of the House Science Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards, I have the honor and pleasure to be responsible for overseeing the research work of these three important research laboratories.

The Boulder laboratories were first dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on September 14, 1954. Since then they have made significant contributions in such fields as precision timekeeping, nanotechnology, wireless communications, and atmospheric and climate science. This research has been critical to developments in public and private infrastructure, homeland security, and a variety of technology-based industries.

The Boulder laboratories are located on land that was donated by the citizens of Boulder who, in 1950, raised the necessary \$90,000 in funds in two weeks to purchase 217 acres for the first buildings. This generous act set the stage for the strong relationship between the Commerce laboratories and the community in Boulder that continues to this day.

The Commerce laboratories have two joint institutes with the University of Colorado at Boulder: the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics, or JILA, a partnership with NIST, and the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Environmental Sciences (CIRES), a partnership with NOAA. As a young physicist, I spent a year doing research at JILA, and have happy memories of the research and collegial atmosphere fostered by this relationship between NIST and the university.

Let me mention just a few of the recent accomplishments of the employees at the Department of Commerce's Boulder laboratories and Joint Institutes. NIST staff at Boulder include Eric Cornell, who in 2001 won the Nobel Prize for Physics together with Carl Wieman of the University of Colorado for creation of a Bose-Einstein condensate, a new state of matter. Deborah Jin recently won a MacArthur "Genius" Award to pursue research on the science of atomic clocks and lasers. Staff at the NOAA laboratories include Susan Solomon, recipient of the "Blue Planet Prize" and the 1999 National Medal of Science for her work on identifying the cause of the Antarctic Ozone Hole. Dr. Hans Liebe of NTIA won the 2002 Harry Diamond Memorial Award, the highest recognition for technical achievement given by the 235,000-member United States unit of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). This is just a sample of the hundreds of hard-working, dedicated personnel at the Boulder labs, and their contributions to American science and technology.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Department of Commerce laboratories in Boulder, Colorado on their first 50 years. Based on their performance since 1954, I believe we can expect at least another 50 years of pioneering scientific research from these outstanding institutions, their academic and industrial partners, and their many scientists and technicians.