

Whereas, Bobby D. Young has exemplified a love for his family, and must be commended for his dedicated service to the community as a family practitioner in Zanesville, and for his service with the Tenth Army Air Corp in Burma during World War II.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Bobby D. Young as he celebrates his 80th Birthday.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5025) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to say that I will be voting for H.R. 5006, the fiscal year 2005 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill, but doing so with some reluctance. While I support many of the funding provisions in this legislation, I also believe that this bill shortchanges many important needs in education and health care.

Almost three years after the historic No Child Left Behind legislation was passed into law, I remain concerned about Congress' ongoing failure to commit the resources promised to our Nation's teachers, parents and students. While I support the intentions of the education reform promise to leave no child behind, I am also convinced that the success of this new law will be determined in part by the investment made in this historic reform effort. I am deeply disappointed that this funding plan falls more than \$7.2 billion short of the resources promised for low-income and disadvantaged districts, thereby making up the vast majority of the total \$9.5 billion NCLB shortfall contained in the bill.

Not only does this bill fall short on critical funding for education, but it also makes cuts to the Rural Hospital Flexibility and Outreach grant programs, important resources to North Dakota health care providers. It is my understanding that Chairman REGULA has committed to work to restore this funding in conference, and I intend to actively support those efforts.

Certainly, this bill includes many provisions that I applaud. While I was pleased that the Rural Education Achievement Program once again received funding to help rural districts manage the No Child Left Behind Act's new accountability requirements, I strongly believe this program merits an increase in funding. I was also pleased that this bill restores the federal overtime protections to six million workers who saw their overtime pay threatened by the Department of Labor's new rules.

Ultimately, I cast my vote in favor of this legislation in order to ensure that the appropriations process could move forward. I remain hopeful that the Senate will include higher funding levels for these programs and that

we can work on a bipartisan basis to develop a fiscally responsible funding plan that provides adequate resources to strengthen our schools, address our public health needs, and support our Nation's workers.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENINGS
OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
THE AMERICAN INDIAN

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, the National Mall is home to memorials in honor of our founding fathers, our nation's veterans and leaders who have shaped the course of the United States. The Mall is also home to wonderful museums that explore subjects from our natural history here on Earth, to travels to the moon and beyond. However, even with the diverse exhibits, there was always a piece of our history missing from the Mall, and on September 21, 2004, that hole was finally filled.

It is my honor to celebrate the long awaited opening of the National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall. This museum stands as a monument not only to the past generations of Native Americans, but to the present and the future. I am hopeful that the prominent placement of this museum will help to educate our nation on the true history of Native Americans, told by their perspective and through their eyes. The museum will be home to artifacts and exhibits, but will also serve as a classroom with live performances and demonstrations. It truly is a magnificent addition to the Mall, and I look forward to visiting the museum often.

As we celebrate this joyous occasion, and visit with the thousands of Native Americans who have traveled from across the country to join in this event, Members of Congress must not forget that our relationship with Native Americans goes far beyond the museum. Preserving the past and ensuring the future of Native Americans is celebrated in the museum, but it is only through the adequate funding of education, healthcare, and other initiatives critical to our Native American communities that illustrates our true commitment. I will continue to work with several of my colleagues to fight for essential programs to give Native Americans the resources they need.

I am proud to have the opportunity to welcome so many Native Americans to Washington, D.C. this week, and to welcome the National Museum of the American Indian.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING
OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
THE AMERICAN INDIAN

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, "with the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian today, the sun shines a bit brighter on the

National Mall. This long overdue addition to the Smithsonian is both an architectural and cultural feat achieved through hard work, imagination and perseverance of Native communities across the country. With its combination of traditional materials and state-of-the-art technological exhibits the museum is a true testament to native communities' commitment to moving forward while honoring the traditions of the past.

"Potomac is Algonkin for 'where something is brought.' Therefore, it is fitting that today on the banks of the Potomac River the Native community brings our great nation the gift that is the National Museum of the American Indian. By meeting adversity with strength and a renewed commitment to the health, welfare and prosperity of their people and traditions, the Native community is an inspiration to all Americans."

"While we celebrate the opening of the museum we must also take the time to recommit ourselves, our nation and our resources to helping Native communities across the country. The challenges of providing adequate housing, health care and education in Indian Country must be met with our full dedication and vigor. We must recommit ourselves to providing full ballot access to all of Indian country in this fall's election and support the efforts of the legal teams of the Native Vote 2004: Election Protection.

"In addition to dedicating ourselves to addressing the needs of the Native community, my Democratic colleagues and I are steadfastly committed to protecting tribal sovereignty and protecting the trust rights of all in Indian Country. The government-to-government relationship between the Federal government and Indian tribes must be protected as we legislate and direct funds in Congress. We must honor our nation's responsibility to protect the land and resources of Native Americans fully and to the benefit of all in Indian Country."

"It is a brighter day in our nation and in all of Indian Country on this opening day of the National Museum of the American Indian."

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING
OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
THE AMERICAN INDIAN

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join in support of this resolution.

The resolution notes that the National Museum of the American Indian Act (20 U.S.C. 808 et seq.) established within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Indian and authorized the construction of a facility to house the National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall in the District of Columbia. It points out this will be the only national museum devoted exclusively to the history and art of cultures indigenous to the Americas, and will give all Americans the opportunity to learn of the cultural legacy, historic grandeur, and contemporary culture of Native Americans. And it officially recognizes that the new museum officially opens today.

By its passage, Congress—

(1) recognizes the important and unique contribution of Native Americans to the cultural legacy of the United States, both in the past and currently;

(2) honors the cultural achievements of all Native Americans;

(3) celebrates the official opening of the National Museum of the American Indian; and

(4) requests the President to issue a proclamation encouraging all Americans to take advantage of the resources of the National Museum of the American Indian to learn about the history and culture of Native Americans.

Mr. Speaker, this day has been a long time coming—and passage of this resolution will make clear that it is all the more welcomed by all Americans. The resolution comes to us from the Senate, where it was introduced by Colorado's senior Senator, BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL.

Senator CAMPBELL deserves our thanks, not only for this resolution but even more for his leadership in making this day a reality. He has earned the praise extended in two editorials that I am attaching for the information of our colleagues;

[From the Rocky Mountain News Sept. 21, 2004]

CAMPBELL'S LEGACY

Kudos to Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell for helping create the Smithsonian's spectacular new National Museum of the American Indian, which celebrates its grand opening today on the Washington Mall.

While serving in the U.S. House 15 years ago, Campbell was asked to be a prime sponsor of the bill that authorized the museum. He was more than willing, but on one condition: the Smithsonian must first agree to return the remains of about 18,500 Native Americans to their tribes for burial, and other museums nationwide must do the same.

The museums resisted, but Campbell prevailed.

He also helped procure the \$214 million needed to build the museum and fill it with artifacts. He deserves the place of honor he will enjoy at today's ceremonies.

[Editorial—the Pueblo Chieftain]

A TRIBUTE TO SEN. CAMPBELL

When the Colorado Republican started off as a Democrat in the U.S. House, one of his first bills was to build a museum to honor the Native Americans who peopled the Americas long before the first Europeans arrived. A grand opening ceremony for the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., will be held today, and it will be the capstone of Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell's service in Congress.

The monument to a largely ignored set of cultures sits on the last vacant spot on the National Mall, in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol, as the centerpiece of the Smithsonian Institution's 18 museums and galleries. The five-story, curvilinear building with limestone facade was designed as if the building itself were a natural formation carved by rain and snow over the centuries, as if it had always been there. Yet, it almost wasn't there at all.

This museum is Sen. Campbell's pride and joy. When the Colorado Republican started off as a Democrat in the U.S. House, one of his first bills was to build a museum to

honor the Native Americans who peopled the Americas long before the first Europeans arrived.

In the years since, Sen. Campbell chaired the museum's fund-raising committee, leading the effort to raise more than \$100 million in private financing to turn an idea into brick and mortar. He hopes the museum will erase the myths characterizing Indians as "savages that were raping and pillaging." The life, languages, literature, history and arts of the native people of the Western Hemisphere will be the focus of every exhibit.

Sen. Campbell, who once made his living as a designer of Indian jewelry, will showcase some of his own artwork in an opening show that will continue for six months.

When he first ran for Congress in 1986, Sen. Campbell emphasized that his political career would be about non-Indian issues as much as it would be about Indian issues. Today, the 71-year-old Cheyenne tribal chief cites numerous accomplishments that have nothing to do with that background and everything to do with making a difference, including doing his best to protect Arkansas River water from the devastating water diversions by Aurora and Colorado Springs, the funding of bullet-proof vests for the nation's police officers, pushing for a national law enforcement museum and upgrading two Colorado attractions—the Great Sand Dunes and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison—to national park status.

Today, he will stand just north of the site where the Indian Removal Act of 1830 was signed—"where the museum now sits"—and address a crowd expected to include thousands of fellow American Indians. The irony of putting the museum on the site where Congress acted to forcibly relocate Indians will make the day all the sweeter.

Sen. Campbell is retiring from Congress the end of this year. The museum he shepherded to reality will in some small measure be a tribute to this adopted Coloradan.

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONTINUING GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OF SYRIAN PEOPLE BY GOVERNMENT OF SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last fall, the Syrian Accountability Act was overwhelmingly approved. That bill required the President to impose a number of economic and diplomatic sanctions against Syria if the Syrian government failed to end its support for various terrorist organizations, refuses to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction, and fails to withdraw its troops from Lebanon. Correctly, the President invoked such sanctions earlier this summer.

Since the passage of that act, Syria continues to host terrorist headquarters in Damascus, it maintains 17,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, it supports the terrorist organization Hezbollah, and it continues its vicious anti-

American propaganda on government-controlled media.

The Syrian regime is one that not only supports and facilitates terrorist attacks against innocent civilians throughout the world, but also engages in a widespread campaign of terror against its own people.

In 2003, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights classified Syria as one of the world's most oppressive regimes.

According to Human Rights International, in 2003 the Syrian Government used its vast powers to prevent any organized political opposition, continued grave abuses including the use of torture in detention and arbitrary arrests, and allowed violence and societal discrimination against women.

Unfortunately, the gross violations of human rights are not limited to Syria's immediate borders. The repressive regime also extends into neighboring Lebanon, which Syria continues to occupy. This fact was recently acknowledged by the international community through the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559, calling on all foreign troops to withdraw without delay from Lebanon and to stop meddling in the country's November elections.

For all these reasons, I support wholeheartedly House Concurrent Resolution 363, which condemns the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties by the Syrian dictatorship.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 363 details and condemns the persistent repression of the people of Syria and Lebanon by the dictatorial Syrian government. It articulates our support for Syria's human rights and pro-democracy activists and calls on free and democratic nations to take a unified stance and condemn the deplorable and heinous human rights record of the Syrian government. Also, it calls for the United States to assist Syrian dissidents in their efforts to help bring freedom to Syria.

I take this opportunity to speak directly to the President and urge him to take these instructions seriously. With respect to Syria, the United States must encourage greater openness, democratization, and economic reform, and to do so it must engage with civil society.

As president of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA) I am intimately aware of the success of the Organization in motivating the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries to sign on to progressive standards of human rights and internal governance. The United States should use a similar strategy of encouraging civil society activists in Syria.

The people of Syria struggle daily from freedom, respect for human rights and civil liberties, democratic self-governance, and the establishment of the rule of law against an authoritarian and tyrannical regime. I support them in their great effort, and denounce the oppressive government of Syria.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support this important resolution.