

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACTOR'S EQUITY ASSOCIATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Actors' Equity Association, in honor of its 90 years of contributions to the American theater.

Since 1913, Actors' Equity Association has fought for better wages, working conditions, and pension and health benefits for actors and stage managers. Equity has fostered and stimulated the art of live theater and contributed to the health of the American theatrical community. In particular, Actors' Equity plays an important role in the Broadway industry, in the heart of my district, which contributes \$4 billion annually to the economy of New York City and depends greatly on the talent and professionalism of Equity's members.

Throughout Actors' Equity's distinguished history, it has built a proud tradition of contributing to the overall good of our society and community by: fighting against segregation, blacklisting and discrimination; supporting funding for the arts; and spearheading fundraising for charities such as Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

In addition, in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York City, Equity came together with other theatrical unions to keep Broadway shows up and running, helping New York City recover.

The hard work and talent of the more than 45,000 members of Actors' Equity Association contribute to the arts and to their communities in cities and theaters across the country. Actors' Equity Association is committed to ensuring these members are treated with dignity and respect, and that the art of live theater continues to flourish.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to applaud Equity's ongoing efforts to uphold the highest artistic standards of live theater in the United States. I commend Actor's Equity for all of its good work and offer my sincerest congratulations upon reaching this milestone.

A VAST HUMAN TRAGEDY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article for the RECORD. Surely this is evidence of a vast human tragedy.

A VAST HUMAN TRAGEDY

(By Andrew Natsios)

In a decade and a half of humanitarian work I have witnessed the aftermath of much human tragedy, including the Rwandan genocide and the killing fields of Cambodia. In June 2003, I visited Iraq's mass graves, the most recent addition to mankind's legacy of mass murder.

Rows of white bundles containing bones filled room after room. Families filed by, searching for signs of those who had disappeared, some stolen during the night, others taken in daylight. Even small children were not spared the butchery.

The graves that Saddam Hussein's henchmen dug and filled with human beings are a bitter sign that mankind still has a long way to go before every person has the basic human rights promised by all our religions and cultures—the rights of life and liberty.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told the United Nations that under Saddam Hussein, Iraq was "a murderous tyranny that lasted over 35 years." "Today we are unearthing thousands of victims in horrifying testament," Zebari said.

I walked across the sandy plains of Iraq and saw the mass graves that were just found and are beginning to yield their tragic secrets. The bones tell a story of horror and shame: arms bound together, skulls pierced from behind. Hundreds in one long trench.

Those who survived inside Iraq, and those who watched helplessly from abroad, have joined together to begin the long, painful process of accounting for the dead. British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on November 20, 2003, that as many as 400,000 Iraqis lie in these mass graves.

They are Kurds, killed because of their ethnicity. They are Shiites, killed because of their religion. They are Sunnis, killed for their political views. They are Egyptians, Kuwaitis, and Iranians, killed because their lives meant nothing to Saddam Hussein, his sons, and their followers.

As Saddam's evil regime collapsed in April and May, 2003, and his Baath Party mass murderers retreated into the shadows, Iraqis began to act on their formerly hidden grief. They searched for their loved ones rounded up over the years in campaigns of terror. They had heard rumors about shots in the night, mass burials, and vanished prisoners. Now they followed those bloody trails to the mounds of earth they suspected entombed their beloved children and parents.

The new leaders in Al Hillah, Karbala, Najaf, and a dozen other cities and towns around Iraq worked with U.S. and British forces to try and protect some of the mass graves. We hope to preserve the evidence of these crimes against humanity.

Human rights groups have formed, assisted by USAID and working with the Coalition Provisional Authority, to urge people to record the names of those being exhumed and describe the circumstances under which they were seized and slain.

Yes—people want to find the remains of their loved ones and give them a proper burial in consecrated ground. But the Iraqi people also want justice—to punish those who callously killed their fellow citizens by the busload, day after day, year after year.

Above all, if people in Iraq and around the world hope to learn from the crimes of the past, the mass graves of Iraq must be documented, reported, and never forgotten or denied.

This booklet is a small, early marker on that path.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to acknowledge 125 years of reliable, timely, and objective science that illustrates and enhances our understanding of the Earth, and serves the important needs of individuals and communities across this great land.

The United States Geological Survey has an outstanding history of public service and scientific breakthroughs. It has been at the forefront of advances in our understanding of the Earth, its processes, and its resources. Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey pioneered hydrologic techniques for gauging the impact of floods and modeling the flow of complex ground-water systems. The astronauts who landed on the Moon in 1969 were trained in geology by the USGS.

Innovative ventures with the private sector have given the world access to digital images of neighborhoods and communities in one of the largest data sets ever made available online. Modern-day understanding of the formation and location of energy and mineral resource deposits is rooted in fundamental scientific breakthroughs by USGS scientists. Their biologists revolutionized thinking about managing wildlife resources, providing a sound scientific basis that lets waterfowl conservation and recreational hunting work in tandem as adaptive management, not as conflicting interests. Advances in seismology are making early warnings of earthquakes a reality that will give the needed alert time to save lives. The future of the global community presents infinite opportunities for the science of the USGS to continue to make substantive and life-enhancing contributions to the betterment of the nation and the world.

I congratulate the United States Geological Survey on its 125th anniversary. By commemorating this date, I hope we will come to recognize the crucial services that this institution continues to provide this nation.

The United States Geological Survey is a vital Federal science agency that is headquartered in my District in Northern Virginia; however, Members should know that this agency has an important presence in every state of the union.

How has 125 years of independent science benefitted our nation? It has given us an extensive record of our land and resources, which allows us to realize and track the changes in our land, water, and wildlife. It has provided a wealth of long-term data and research, which continues to serve thousands of government agencies, companies, non-profit organizations, recreational groups, and individual Americans. And it has given us scientific expertise and understanding that we can count on to be accurate and up to date.

Since its inception, the United States Geological Survey has become the premier science organization for the nation, covering all of the natural science disciplines (biology, geography, geology, and hydrology) in every state. This expansive coverage provides us with the comprehensive information we need to tackle many complicated issues in many geographical areas.

As an unbiased science agency, the United States Geological Survey often serves the needs of the nation behind the scenes. Whether it's research on windborne dusts, mercury contamination, or West Nile Virus used to protect public health; or natural hazards assessments used to ensure public safety; or the energy and mineral resources, water and biological information, and geologic mapping and geospatial information used to serve our economy, for 125 years, the United States Geological Survey has provided the science that serves as the basis for our most important decisions.

It's time we congratulated those whose labor provides us with the information we need to manage our resources and safeguard society. I am delighted to have this opportunity to bring attention to the work of the United States Geological Survey and showcase its remarkable history. I urge you to support this resolution, thereby confirming our appreciation for their ongoing work that has served the health, safety, and prosperity of the United States for 125 years.

RESOLUTION

Whereas March 3, 2004 will mark the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of the United States Geological Survey;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey has become the Nation's premiere earth and biological science agency;

Whereas during its 125-year history, the United States Geological Survey has been the birthplace of a number of other Federal agencies, including the Reclamation Service (later renamed the Bureau of Reclamation) in 1902, the Forest Service in 1905, the United States Bureau of Mines in 1910, the Grazing Service (later renamed the Bureau of Land Management) in 1934, and the Minerals Management Service in 1982;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey has been a widely respected source of relevant and objective science to address the Nation's diverse natural resource issues;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey continues to serve the Nation as an independent fact-finding agency that collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific information and understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems;

Whereas a hallmark value of the United States Geological Survey to the Nation is its ability to carry out studies on a national scale and to sustain long-term monitoring and assessment of natural hazards and natural resource conditions;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey is an agency of the Federal Government with no regulatory or land management responsibilities and is thus a trusted entity to provide impartial science that serves the needs of the Nation; and

Whereas the United States Geological Survey has a scientific presence in every State and Territory of the United States and serves the Nation's extensive and diverse needs for objective scientific knowledge and understanding: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the United States Geological Survey on its 125th anniversary; and

(2) expresses strong support for the United States Geological Survey as it serves the Nation by providing timely, relevant, and objective scientific information which helps to describe and understand the Earth, minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters, manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources, and enhance and protect the quality of life of all Americans.

In addition to Congressman JAMES P. MORAN, the following members are original sponsors of the House Resolution Congratulating the United States Geological Survey on its 125th Anniversary: BARBARA CUBIN, TOM DAVIS, NORM DICKS, ANNA G. ESHOO, RON KIND, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, ZOE LOFGREN, RALPH REGULA, NICK SMITH, BILL YOUNG, and SHERWOOD BOEHLERT.

WARM SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF EDUCATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to recognize Warm Springs Elementary School, the first permanent school in San Bernardino, California, which is celebrating its 150th year of providing education to the children of ranchers, railroad workers, Air Force personnel and immigrants.

In 1854, ranchers near the small Mormon town of San Bernardino decided seven miles was too far for their children to walk to school. They got together and built an adobe east of downtown, and named it after the nearby Warm Creek. As a one-room school, it provided an education for about 25 children of all ages. This was just four years after California gained statehood, and the same year as the City of San Bernardino was incorporated as the county seat.

Over the next 10 years, the school grew slowly as many of the Mormon settlers returned to Utah. Gold was discovered in the San Bernardino Mountains—bringing thousands of fortune-seekers but few families. The school building was nearly destroyed by an earthquake and a flood, so the adobe was replaced with a log cabin on the same site facing Sterling Avenue. The students were grouped by reading ability rather than age, and boys and girls sat on opposite sides of the room.

The log-cabin school was destroyed by fire in 1974, and a clapboard building replaced it—with an auditorium added in 1887. That school also later burned to the ground and was replaced.

By the 1890s, the railroads had come to San Bernardino and the area was booming. The Santa Fe Railway built a huge repair yard near downtown, and the population grew rapidly. In 1898, Warm Creek School grew to four rooms and had as many as 100 students. That school was torn down in 1926 and replaced with a Spanish-style tile-roofed building that remains the school's core.

Students at Warm Springs School became close witnesses to America's war efforts in the 1940s. The San Bernardino Municipal Airport, just seven blocks south, became the San Bernardino Army Airfield, repairing and servicing hundreds of transport planes moving troops around the country. The airfield became Norton Air Force Base in 1950, and for the next 38 years was one of the most active Air Force fields in the West. Children of the base's civilian repair workers swelled the ranks of students at the school, which added nine classrooms in 1945 and two more in 1947.

By 1954, the city of San Bernardino had grown far beyond the former outpost school, and it was absorbed into the city's unified school district, becoming Warm Springs Elementary School. It continued to grow to 32 classrooms, and today 45 teachers serve 1,000 students in year-round classes, making it one of the largest elementary schools in the district. The student population today is nearly 60 percent Latino, many of them the children of recent immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, Warm Springs Elementary has provided a free education—the foundation of our American success—to thousands of children over the past 150 years. I would be proud to be associated with this school for that fact alone, but I have a special reason to be fond of Warm Springs. It is the alma mater of the Walker girls of San Bernardino—Mary, Darlene, and her twin sister Arlene, who happens to be my bride. Arlene and I will be returning to her old school on March 9 to celebrate the sesquicentennial, and encourage the current students to take advantage of the opportunities their education can provide.

I have always believed, Mr. Speaker, that our education system is a success because of local schools run by wonderful teachers, supported by great principals. Warm Springs Elementary continues the tradition of excellence under Principal Arlan Anderson that it has carried on for the past 150 years. Please join me in congratulating those educators on their continued dedication, and wish their current students well for the future.

HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Dean Stone, long-time editor of The Daily Times newspaper in Maryville, TN, has written a really outstanding editorial about prescription drug prices.

Mr. Stone frequently writes very thoughtful and informative editorials about issues of national importance.

He points out in this editorial that we have drug prices that are far too high because the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, seems to be controlled by the giant pharmaceutical companies.

I have consistently supported in committee meetings and in votes on the floor of the House the right of the people to purchase drugs from Canada. Mr. Stone points out that FDA concerns about safety are not supported by any evidence.

I would like to call this fine editorial to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

WITH MORE THAN 600 LOBBYISTS, THERE'S
LITTLE CHANCE ON DRUG PRICES

Know why we Americans will not get reasonable prescription drug prices?

The pharmaceutical industry has more than 600 lobbyists in Washington, more than the total number of representatives and senators.

They have spent \$435 million to influence Washington from 1996 to 2003 and handed out \$57.9 million in contributions between 1991 and 2002 to buy their way through Congress.

They are well paid (we pay for them with exorbitant drug prices) and they do their job, cutting to pieces any legislation that might tend to lower the price of prescription drugs.

The Feb. 2 issue of Time magazine contains an excellent article about how Americans are being ripped off with high prices from the manufacturers of drugs.

And most of our drugs are manufactured overseas by American companies who moved there because of the tax breaks. And it is illegal for Americans to import these drugs.