

work, ingenuity, dedication, and sacrifice of the men and women of IOPA. IOPA was formed in 1904, in the wake of the discovery of vast amounts of crude oil and natural gas beneath the rugged terrain of the southern San Joaquin Valley, including Kern County. IOPA was formed to ensure that smaller producers, many of them families, received a fair market price for the oil they produced, as can be seen in its mission statement: "It is the mission of the Independent Oil Producers' Agency to secure equitable prices for its members' crude oil and to serve these members at the government, business, and industry levels in matters relating to advocacy, legislative, and regulatory affairs."

Utilizing the proven powers of a cooperative marketing agency, IOPA has succeeded in achieving its objective. During the past century, as it served its members, IOPA has also served our nation by providing a steady domestic source of oil during wars, shortages, and embargos. It is also important to note, and I appreciate the fact that, IOPA and its members have given back to the community by supporting youth activities, education, scholarships, museums, and hospitals. Accordingly, I trust that my colleagues will join me in congratulating IOPA upon their 100th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EFFECTER ACT "EFFICIENT ENERGY THROUGH CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGIES AND ELECTRICITY RELIABILITY ACT OF 2004"

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as our country celebrates Earth Day to introduce the Efficient Energy Through Certified Technologies and Electricity Reliability EFFECTER Act of 2004. I am joined in this effort by a substantial and diverse coalition of my colleagues including Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, my Chairman Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. MATSUI of California, as well as Senator SNOWE of Maine and Senator FEINSTEIN of California. This bill is a more developed version of the EFFECT Act that Mr. MARKEY and I introduced in March 2003.

With the President's Energy Plan currently stalled in the other body, we believe that this bill can deliver on one of the less controversial issues when it comes to energy policy—energy efficiency. I support the President's Energy Plan and voted in favor of H.R. 6 when it came before this body for final passage. Unfortunately, politics has prevented this fine legislation from implementing a desperately needed energy policy in this country.

My constituents in San Diego suffered through the Energy Crisis during the summer of 2001. The aftershocks of the rolling blackouts and outrageously high energy prices are still being felt. Gas prices in California are currently the highest in the country at over \$2.50 per gallon. The entire Eastern seaboard suffered through a major blackout last August, also suffering the consequences of needing the comprehensive energy policy of H.R. 6. We risk another major blackout and continually soaring fuel prices if we choose to wait

for the politicking to end and H.R. 6 to be implemented. My constituents, the American people need solutions now. I am introducing this bill in an effort to pass a portion of our long-term energy plan that can produce results now.

In our legislation introduced last year, Congressman MARKEY and I created legislation that would give builders and consumers a reason to construct housing and purchase equipment that not only saves the consumer money in the long run, but also helps save energy. We have taken this idea and have put it into this bill along with other cost-saving provisions. This legislation offers tax incentives to encourage the production and sale of technologically advanced, energy-efficient buildings and equipment. The incentives will reduce peak power demand, which can diffuse the risk of blackouts and high electricity prices. Peak power shortages cost California \$15 billion in 2000 alone.

These tax incentives are performance based, not cost based. One dollar of federal tax incentives for energy efficiency offered today will not be paid until January–April 2005, but manufacturers will respond to the incentives by investing in production facilities for more efficient products immediately. This will promote the creation of competitive markets for new technologies and designs that are not widely available today, but have the possibility of being cost effective to the consumer in the future.

This bill will have the government lead by example by cutting our own energy bills by upgrading our building energy efficiency standards and purchase specifications, and reauthorizing Federal Energy Savings Performance Contracts, which allow private companies to partner with the government for mutually beneficial cost-effective energy savings. Finally, it includes mandatory electricity reliability requirements that address directly the failures that caused the blackout of 2003.

This bill increases the security and reliability of the electric grid, while reducing natural gas and electricity prices by cutting the demand for natural gas and electricity in the near term, as well as in the longer term. Grid security is improved by adopting mandatory standards for operation.

The EFFECTER Act seeks to address two key power supply issues—electric reliability and natural gas prices. Reducing peak electric demand not only eases pressure on the electric grid but also reduces utility demand for natural gas, a major factor that has led to higher prices. Over the next ten years, this legislation can produce natural gas savings of over 3.3 quads annually—over 12 percent of total gas use; and peak electricity savings of 145,000 megawatts—equivalent to 350 new power plants of 400 MW capacity.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Earth Day, please join me in supporting the EFFECTER Act which will help reduce energy needs and provide for a cleaner environment. Let's respond to our country's desperate needs today, before we have another energy crisis.

TRIBUTE TO ANNA B. "PEG" JACOBI

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my long-time friend, Anna B. "Peg" Jacobi, a resident of the Borough of Tuckerton for more than a half century.

Peg served as Tuckerton's Mayor from 1994 to 1998, after retiring from 36 years of public service. She served as Tuckerton Borough registrar, and secretary for the Board of Health, tax collector, treasurer and executive director of the Tuckerton Municipal Utilities Authority. She was also a member of the Pine-lands Regional Board of Education for a decade.

A charter member of both the Tuckerton Historical Society and the Tuckerton Seaport, Peg was the first president of the New Jersey Association of Rural Water and Watershed Utilities, and is currently president of Rural Water. She is also the current chairman of the Ocean County Utilities Authority, the Ocean County Board of Social Services, the Board of the Southern Ocean County Hospital Foundation, and finance chair of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit and Ocean County Girl Scout Council, where she originated the community Christmas Tree on Lake Pohatcong.

Married for 48 years to the late Egbert M. "Jake" Jacobi, Peg is the mother of four, grandmother of two, and great-grandmother of two fine boys.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege working with Peg Jacobi through the years, and I am proud to recognize her for her many, many contributions to her community, county and State. I am proud, too, to call her my friend.

DISEASE KNOWN AS CUSHING'S SYNDROME

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Americans suffering from a rare and debilitating disease known as Cushing's syndrome. Named after Dr. Harvey Williams Cushing, the early 20th century surgeon who discovered the disease, Cushing's is a hormonal disorder that affects only 5 to 10 adults for every million each year. Symptoms range from obesity to high blood pressure, and if left untreated may result in infertility and even death.

Unfortunately, like most other rare illnesses, Cushing's patients are often mis-diagnosed, delaying important treatment options. This was the plight of my constituent, Jayne Kerns of Spotsylvania, Virginia. Suffering from many of the typical symptoms of the disease, Mrs. Kerns went undiagnosed through frequent physician visits and medical testing for over a year until an educated medical observation brought appropriate treatment.

I bring Mrs. Kerns' story to your attention, Mr. Speaker, to raise public and medical awareness about the Cushing's syndrome, a serious and often elusive disease. Educating

Americans about Cushing's, its symptoms and treatment options, is an opportunity to save lives.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS STAFF SERGEANT DENNIS W. HAMMOND

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to United States Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Dennis W. Hammond who was captured by the Viet Cong on February 8, 1968 and died in a Prisoner of War camp in March, 1970. Staff Sergeant Hammond was one of several American POWs who were held at a camp in Quang Nam Province numbered ST18. He attempted escape with the other POWs in the spring of 1968 and was shot in the leg by Montagnards in a nearby village. After 36 long years, the Department of Defense has positively identified Staff Sergeant Hammond's remains and will lay him to rest with full military honors in Bremond, Texas on May 22, 2004.

Staff Sergeant Hammond's story was brought to my attention by a patriotic and thoughtful newspaper reporter for the Gloucester County Times named Jim Six. Mr. Six has collected more than 400 dog tags from Vietnam and has spent over ten years trying to return these identification tags to their rightful owner or next of kin. As part of this statement, I am submitting three columns published by Jim Six to be included as part of the RECORD.

[From the Gloucester County Times, Feb. 4, 2004]

MARINE'S LENGTHY JOURNEY NEARS END

(By Jim Six)

They found him! After 36 years, U.S. Marine Sgt. Dennis Wayne Hammond is on his way home from Vietnam.

You may remember a story I wrote back in 2001. I have more than 400 dog tags that I gave a friend a hundred bucks to buy from a street vender in Vietnam in 1993. The dog tags may or may not have belonged to American servicemen. The jury is still out on that.

But one of the dog tags matched a real person.

Denny Hammond was captured by the Viet Cong on Feb. 8, 1968, almost exactly 36 years ago. He was shot trying to escape and never quite recovered. By March 1970, the once-strapping Marine weighed about 89 pounds. He died, some say, while reciting the military oath of allegiance.

Previous efforts by the U.S. government to find Denny's body had been unsuccessful. In 1995, a former POW who had helped bury Denny was able to lead searchers to the grave, but it was empty.

On Jan. 20, 2001, in Mexia, Texas, I handed Carlene Tackitt a dog tag bearing the name of her brother, Denny Hammond. Carlene's mother, Opal, had died in 1981, out of her mind with grief for the son who had been captured in the jungles of Vietnam. Before Carlene's dad died, he said it was probably the not knowing that had killed Opal, the not knowing where her boy was.

My visit to Mexia was brief, just long enough to be the recipient of Carlene's Texas hospitality and to hand her a donated jewelry box containing that old dog tag.

She clasped that little piece of metal tightly, not wanting to let go of something

that might have been her brother's. "Keep that next to me . . . I ain't never giving that up," Carlene said back then. "You don't know how much we appreciate this. You have no idea."

The story about the dog tag and the man it might have belonged to was probably one of the most important things I have written. Denny Hammond, for some reason, became part of my life. I have a POW bracelet with his name on it. His high school graduation picture is somewhere on my desk at home. I have an ancient arrowhead Denny's nephew gave me. I think about Denny Hammond a lot.

Last week, Carlene Tackitt was notified by the government that her brother's remains had been located and were now in Hawaii. I got the news Sunday in an e-mail from Carlene's daughter-in-law. "We wanted you to know this because you had played a part in finding a piece of him and thought you might want to know how his story ends finally . . . his family has gotten the peace we need." When I got the news, I cried, then wanted to smoke a cigar, drink some champagne, dance, sing. I hope to talk to Carlene soon. Dennis Wayne Hammond's long journey is almost at an end. He will be buried in Texas, next to his mother and father, sometime in March. Boy, I'd like to be there for that.

[From the Gloucester County Times, Apr. 6, 2004]

MARINE'S JOURNEY HOME NEARS END

(By Jim Six)

The U.S. contacted Carlene Tackitt earlier this year to tell her they finally had her brother's remains. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Dennis W. Hammond was captured by the Viet Cong on Feb. 8, 1968 and died in a Prisoner of War camp in March, 1970.

I've been anxiously awaiting news of how they finally found Denny's remains. As it turns out, the U.S. may have had Denny's remains for almost 20 years.

A team went to Carlene's house in Mexia, Texas, Saturday—a full-dress Marine, a DNA expert, someone from mortuary services. Carlene chose to bury her brother in Bremond, Texas, rather than Arlington, because Bremond is where his parents, Opal and Ernest, are buried.

Having given Carlene what we think was her brother's dog tag in January, 2001, it was pretty exciting news when I got word on Feb. 1 that they'd identified Denny's body. I thought he might have been one of four GIs whose remains had been found in north central Vietnam in mid-January. It seems I was wrong about that.

"Daddy was probably right," Carlene said when she called me Monday. Back in 1985, the government believed they had found Denny's body. Somebody changed their mind, though, and announced the remains they had found were really too small to be those of a Caucasian and were probably those of a Montagnard tribesman. Carlene's father didn't quite buy that story and thought those remains probably really were his son's.

Finally, modern technology caught up with Dennis Hammond. Carlene gave the government a DNA sample two years ago. Recently, they told her Saturday, they started rechecking more than 860 boxes of remains from Vietnam. They showed her a picture of bones they believe are her brother's. They made a DNA match through a tooth.

Carlene signed a paper Saturday saying she accepts the proof and believes these particular remains are those of her brother, Dennis.

When I wrote about this in February, several people contacted me immediately to offer to pay my way to the funeral. Others,

when it appeared Carlene might be responsible for some costs of a funeral in Texas, agreed to make up any difference. I'll let you know later who those folks are. She's asking the government to pay for an airplane ticket so her other brother, Willie, can make it out to Bremond from Detroit for the funeral. Carlene's the oldest. Willie is next. Denny was the baby—he was only 23 when he died in the jungles of Vietnam.

When she sets the date, a Marine will be assigned to guard Dennis Hammond's casket 24 hours a day as it travels from Hawaii to Bremond, Texas. There will be a full-tilt military funeral, complete with 21-gun salute.

My pal, Gene Lillie, himself a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, has already mailed Carlene his POW bracelet that bears Denny's name. I'm still wearing mine. I figure I'll give it to Carlene in person—at the funeral.

I plan to be there when Dennis Hammond's long journey home finally ends.

[From the Gloucester County Times, Apr. 20, 2004]

MARINE'S CHARISMA TOUCHING MANY

(By Jim Six)

How does a Marine who died in Vietnam more than 34 years ago wind up affecting the lives of so many people, many of whom never knew him in life? It's a mystery, so far.

On Saturday, May 22, I'll be attending the funeral of Dennis W. Hammond, a Texas boy by way of Detroit who joined the Marines, served two tours in Vietnam, was captured by the Vietcong in 1968 and died in a POW camp in 1970.

I got drawn into his life, and death, when I was able to present one of his dog tags to his sister, Carlene Tackitt, in Mexia, Texas in 2001. Dennis' parents, Ernest and Opal, are buried nearby in Bremond, Texas. After all these years, Dennis is coming home. His remains—possibly found in the mid to late 1980s but only recently identified thanks to DNA testing—will be returned to Texas.

Mike "Tiny" Readinger served with Dennis in 1968 in a Combined Action Program unit that lived and worked among the Vietnamese. Dennis was ending his second tour in the country, had just a couple weeks left until he'd go home.

Dennis went out with a hastily assembled rescue team to help an ambushed unit. They were overrun by something like 300 Vietcong fighters. Most were killed, only one or two escaped and a couple, including Dennis, were captured.

Dennis tried to escape, got shot, was beaten and nearly starved by his captors. In March 1970, he died, weighing something like 89 pounds. They say he was reciting the military oath of allegiance, more probably the military Code of Conduct, when he died.

Mike found out about Dennis' recovery only a few days ago. His voice cracks when he tells about starting to read the e-mail. He had to get up and go out into his backyard for a while before getting his wife to read the rest of the message. He read it several times after that.

Andy Anderson is a school teacher in Fort Worth who "adopted" Dennis Hammond after getting a POW bracelet bearing his name. Anderson is so involved with Dennis, he has had his students write about the POW every year on Feb. 8. Anderson usually felt quite depressed on Feb. 8 each year. This year, he didn't and, in retrospect, wonders whether he subconsciously knew Dennis Hammond had been found and was on his way home.

Marty Eddy spent 17 years heading the Michigan POW/MIA Committee and, because Dennis had enlisted in Detroit, has followed his amazing story. She never met Dennis,