

significantly contributed in delaying Hitler's plan to invade Russia. The invasion was delayed from April to June of 1941. The 2-month delay in the invasion made Hitler's forces face the Russian winter.

The Russian snowstorms and the sub zero temperatures eventually stalled the Nazi invasion before they could take Moscow or Leningrad. This was the beginning of the downfall of the Nazi reign of terror.

This significant battle and the heroic drive of the Cretan people must always be remembered and honored.

Democracy came from Greece and the Cretan heroes exemplified the courage it takes to preserve it.

Today, the courage and fortitude of the Cretan people is seen in the members of the United Cretan Associations of New York which is located in Astoria, Queens.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cretans in the United States, Greece, and the diaspora.

INTRODUCTION OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, if we knew that there was going to be a terrorist attack sometime in the next 5 years but did not know what kind of attack it would be, who would carry it out, or where in the United States it would occur, what actions would we take to prepare and how would we allocate our human and financial resources to do so?

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 brought home to the American people the magnitude of the danger posed by terrorism on U.S. soil. Now, almost 3 years later, we as Americans must assume that terrorists will strike again, possibly using chemical, biological, radiological or even nuclear materials. The unthinkable has become thinkable.

After the horrific September 11th terrorist attacks, the country pulled together and we began to take steps to make our homeland more secure. We enacted legislation to overhaul our airport security; we provided new border security measures; we created the Department of Homeland Security.

And yet, despite the steps that have been made, many believe that our Nation is in even more danger today than it was 3 years ago. In fact, Administration officials recently announced that they expect another terrorist attack here in the United States before November. They have resigned themselves to the inevitability of more terrorist attacks and are warning us—the American public—to be prepared.

Despite our awareness of the very real threat of terrorism here at home and despite renewed efforts to prepare since September 11, we remain, as a country, dangerously ill-prepared to handle another catastrophic attack on American soil.

That is simply unacceptable.

Much more needs to be done to make Americans safer and more secure than they are today. Securing our homeland must be the number-one priority of our Government. Indeed, our Nation's very charter—the Constitu-

tion—in its preamble states clearly that among the first priorities of Government is to provide for the common defense. Improving the safety of the American people at home must be undertaken as aggressively as pursuing terrorists in far-off lands.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce an appropriations measure that will provide the resources needed to secure our hometowns and ensure our police, fire fighters and paramedics—the Nation's first responders—are fully prepared for anything they may face.

Unfortunately, our efforts have too often been—as we say in Texas—a day late and a dollar short. In this case, however, the \$3 billion shortfall contemplated by the budget passed yesterday is dangerous and unconscionable.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce an appropriations measure that would meet these critical needs and would—

Improve Our Hometown Response Capabilities by providing: \$3.874 billion for the Office for Domestic Preparedness; \$180 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants; \$800 million for Fire Grants; \$60 million for Metropolitan Medical Response System grants; \$515 million for Hospital Preparedness Grants (in HHS); \$940 million in Bioterrorism Aid to Health Departments (in HHS); and \$250 million in Rail and Transit Security Grants.

Secure Our Borders and Meet Airport Security Mandates by providing: \$700 million for Federal Air Marshals; \$650 million for explosive detection systems purchase and installation; \$100 million for air cargo screening; \$250 million for port security grants; \$161 million for the Container Security Initiative; \$400 million on border and port inspection and surveillance technology, including radiation portal monitors in U.S. ports; \$50 million for radiation portal monitors at overseas ports (in DOE); \$100 million more for border patrol and inspector staffing; \$96 million for the northern border airwing expansion; and \$50 million more for bus, trucking and port pilot grants.

Mr. Speaker, we have nothing less than a moral obligation to ensure that our nation is fully prepared and vigorously defended. We have troops deployed around the world fighting the war on terror, but we cannot forget our frontline defenders here at home.

I urge my colleagues in this, the People's House, to act now to provide our police; officers, our firefighters, our paramedics and all other emergency personnel the equipment and support they need to protect our hometowns. I hope the House will take up this carefully drafted piece of legislation soon and provide our Nation the security we need.

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM WILDFIRE

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, given current drought forecasts and the condition of Utah's forests, this year's fire season is expected to be very difficult and expensive. Today, I am introducing legislation, along with my colleagues Congressman DICKS and Congresswoman HOOLEY, to provide \$500 million in

Emergency Supplemental funding for the Forest Service and the Department of Interior to maintain our nation's wildland firefighting efforts this year.

We all know how devastating it would be if the Forest Service and Department of Interior were to stop fighting fires because of a lack of funding. Without passage of this legislation, it is likely that these agencies will quickly deplete the funds that Congress designated for this fire season. When this funding runs out, the Forest Service will be forced to choose between cutting back its firefighting efforts or taking funding away from other essential forestry programs. As a result of funding concerns, the Forest Service and the Department of Interior have employed almost 3,000 fewer firefighters this season than they did at the same time last year. The legislation I am introducing today would provide the additional funding that is needed to employ more firefighters and protect our communities from the devastating effects of wildfires.

The passage of this bill is critical to protecting the health of forests and communities in my home state of Utah. We've seen too much devastation and damage in recent years due to the extreme drought conditions in the West. I am committed to the passage of this legislation as an important step toward protecting Utah's communities from the devastating effects of forest fires.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, a landmark Supreme Court case that gave rise to Linda Brown's dream of equality in education in this country, a dream deferred that has become for many a broken promise.

The 1954 Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision marked a turning point in our history and incited a movement to break down barriers of race that had long plagued communities across the nation. It helped pave the road toward integral measures such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965 and Fair Housing Act of 1968 and began the movement for desegregation. Chief Justice Earl Warren felt the ruling was so historic he issued a rare public statement: "We conclude that in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place." In declaring segregation unconstitutional, the Supreme Court mandated a focus on equality not only in education, but also in public transportation, accommodations and commerce.

The Brown v. Board of Education decision demanded that all Americans be entitled to the fundamental right to equal educational opportunities, regardless of race, and the resources to achieve their dreams. But by the time Martin Luther King, Jr. addressed America from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, nearly ten years later, that promise remained unfulfilled. And half a century later, with the convulsing explosions of the Civil Rights Movement behind us, the future assured to

Linda Brown in that historic ruling has been approached, but not yet reached. And we are left to wonder, like Langston Hughes in his poem "A Dream Deferred," whether those promises, if not fulfilled, will one day cease to exist.

Fifty years ago, Linda Brown, a third grader in Topeka, Kansas, and her father had the courage to protest the long accepted "separate but equal" principle that required her to walk for over an hour every morning because she was not permitted to attend the white-only school just blocks from her house. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court struck down the "badge of inferiority for African Americans" that the principle of "separate but equal" had come to signify.

This week we honor all those who fought for the dream of equality of opportunity: the valiant families who came forward in these five cases; the NAACP legal defense team, including Charles Hamilton Houston, Thurgood Marshall, Robert L. Carter, Kenneth B. Clark and Judge Constance Motley; and the community which held on to the dream through years of bitter opposition and violent protest in the South. But half a century later, urban and rural schools across America lack the funding to provide equal education opportunities for all students.

An Education Trust study released last week reveals alarming statistics about the state of education: Minority students are about three years behind other students by the time they reach eighth grade; 17-year-old African American and Latino students have reading and math skills similar to those of 13-year-old white students; and African American and Latino and American Indian youth are less likely to be enrolled in full college prep coursework.

No Child Left Behind, underfunded by \$27 billion, could achieve the dream of Brown v. Board of Education if provided with the resources to dismantle unequal opportunities and enhance the quality of education for every community. Fifty years after Brown, we continue to make promises we cannot keep.

As we remember today the dream of Linda Brown and the courageous civil rights leaders to whom we owe our progress, let us remember that the most fitting tribute to them is a continued effort to fulfill their vision for our nation. Let us continue the promise of Brown by breaking down the barriers that still persist in our classrooms and giving schools the resources they need to provide a safe and productive learning environment for our children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this historic anniversary and renewing the effort to achieve the promise of Brown v. Board of Education: equal educational opportunities for all children. Let us not defer the dream any longer.

REFORM OUR OUTDATED IMMIGRATION LAWS AND POLICIES

HON. BRAD CARSON

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge that Congress make it a top priority to reform our outdated immigration laws and policies.

The tragic events of September 11th awakened most Americans to the fact that our immigration system is seriously flawed and overwhelmed by the massive numbers of foreign visitors and immigrants flowing through it into our country. We all saw then that immigration policy has serious national security impacts and weaknesses. Since that time, Congress and the Executive Branch have made a number of statutory, regulatory and policy changes that have addressed from a homeland security perspective some of the many systemic flaws in this immigration process. Of course, a great deal remains to be done to ensure appropriate levels of safety for America.

We still have 12 to 15 million, or even more, foreign immigrants living and working here illegally. Fortunately, most are not security threats and are simply seeking to improve their economic status by working here where they can make much more than in their home countries. But, undoubtedly some number are here to do us harm either as terrorists, or, more likely, by engaging in criminal activities. We must continue working to identify and expel those who pose such public safety threats.

We also must address the fundamental issue of reducing the extraordinary immigration numbers that we are experiencing year after year. I believe that immigration is a good thing, and most immigrants are good people, here seeking the American Dream. However, I have no doubt that the extremely high numbers of legal and illegal immigrants we have been allowing to come here in recent years represent "too much of a good thing"—numbers matter, and simply put, our immigration numbers, two-thirds of which are due to legal admissions, are excessive. This is especially so given the changing nature of America's labor markets, where low-skilled workers find their jobs disappearing or wages stagnating. Our labor market clearly does not need the roughly 1½ million new immigrants who move to the United States every year. Inordinately high numbers of immigrants, most of whom are less educated and relatively low skilled are having real, and often adverse, impacts on American life.

Citizens and earlier immigrants, who often remain lower skilled and less educated, are suffering serious job and wage losses due to the continuing massive cheap foreign labor inflows. Such problems would be greatly lessened if we reduce both legal and illegal immigration to more moderate and sustainable levels. Congress today has the power to do so, by reviewing legal immigration policy and by genuinely enforcing a policy against illegal immigration.

We have been experiencing such a large immigrant inflow now for several decades due both to lax enforcement and more importantly to statutory changes made in the 1980s and 1990s that opened the immigration floodgates to an unprecedented degree. Congress essentially reset the immigration thermostat and forgot about it, despite the increasingly obvious and serious impacts this has been having.

Congress can no longer ignore the immigration numbers issue. In addition to ensuring better enforcement of our laws so as to radically curtail illegal inflows, we must readjust legal admission policies to ensure that legal immigration fits the reality of America's 21st century labor market. It has been recognized for years by those who have bothered to ex-

amine how our current system works that statutory changes are needed to eliminate a number of unnecessary admission categories. For example, the Immigration Reform Commission, chaired by the late Rep. Barbara Jordan, recommended repealing the visa lottery, which allows thousands of people to come here merely because their name was drawn in a lottery, and the extended family visa categories which spawn literally endless chain migration.

For starters, I believe that we need to reduce legal admission numbers by ending the visa lottery and the so-called extended family categories that fuel foreign worker inflow by chain migration. A positive first step at reforming our outdated immigration laws would be to pass H.R. 775, the Goodlatte bill that repeals the visa lottery. As a cosponsor of that bill, I urge the House Leadership and the Judiciary Committee to act to bring the bill before the full House for action, and to advance other legislation to ensure that our legal immigration policy, coupled with our blind eye toward illegal immigration, are reviewed.

RECOGNITION OF CLEAN OCEAN ACTION IN HONOR OF THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary work of Clean Ocean Action, and to recognize their significant contributions over the years, as they celebrate their 20th Anniversary this weekend. Clean Ocean Action (COA) was established in 1984, by individuals who had a deep-rooted concern for the environment, as well as a desire to help maintain the cleanliness of our oceans. Today, we can say with great certainty that the waters off the New Jersey and New York coast have benefited a great deal thanks to the efforts of COA, and its volunteers and the many citizens who have participated in COA activities.

In commemorating their 20th Anniversary, COA certainly has much to celebrate. Since its inception, this group has organized over 30,600 volunteers for bi-annual beach clean-ups that have led to the removal of millions of pieces of trash and debris that typically pollute our coast. COA has compiled statistical information on the trash collected during their sweeps, which provide a very valuable tool to determine the leading source of debris pollution on our beaches and in our coastal waters. The Beach Sweeps were also chosen as a "Local Legacy," for the 200th celebration of the Library of Congress.

As a passionate supporter of our oceans and our coastline, I am mindful of the world of indebtedness that we owe to this organization. The selfless acts of groups such as the COA, and the volunteers they organize, often go without official recognition or praise. However, we all benefit and are grateful for the work that they do and it is imperative that we support their efforts. Therefore, I pause today to thank Clean Ocean Action for their tireless efforts and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate COA on their anniversary, and offer them the highest praise for the fine and