

eight years serving the community. Mr. Johnson is now dedicated to the general practice of law and holds an office at 26 Court Street. He remains particularly active in several organizations, including the Bedford Stuyvesant Lions Club, Brooklyn Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity, 100 Black Men of New York, and Comus Social Club.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements and selfless service of Mr. Johnson as he continues to offer his talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of the community.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of altruistic community leaders such as Mr. Vincent Johnson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I missed nine votes on June 17th, 2005 because I was attending my daughter's graduation from elementary school. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 274, 275, 276, 277, 278 and 281. I would have voted "no" on rollcall Nos. 279, 280 and 282.

RECOGNIZING ADMIRAL VERN CLARK, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Admiral Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations, for his loyal service to the United States of America.

Admiral Clark's dedication and loyalty to the advancement of our naval service and the Nation as a whole is to be highly commended.

Admiral Clark's devotion to duty has reflected the highest standards of the military profession through a number of command and staff positions. He served aboard the destroyers USS *John W. Weeks* and the USS *Gearing*. As a Lieutenant, he commanded the USS *Grand Rapids*. He also commanded the USS *McCloy*, USS *Spruance*, the Atlantic Fleet's Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center, Destroyer Squadron Seventeen, and Destroyer Squadron Five. After being selected for flag rank, he commanded the Carl Vinson Battle Group/Cruiser Destroyer Group Three, the Second Fleet, and the United States Atlantic Fleet. Ashore, he served as Special Assistant to the Director of the Systems Analysis Division in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. He later served as the Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations and as the Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Chief on Naval Operations. He then served as the Administrative Aide to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. He also served as Head of the Cruiser-Destroyer Combat Systems Requirements Section and Force Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer for the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic

Fleet, and he directed the Joint Staff's Crisis Action Team for Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Admiral Clark's first flag assignment was at the U.S. Transportation Command where he was director of both Plans and Policy and Financial Management and Analysis. While he was commanding the Carl Vinson Battle Group, he deployed to the Arabian Gulf and served as Deputy Commander, Joint Task Force Southwest Asia. He also served as the Deputy Chief of Staff, United States Atlantic Fleet; the Director of Operations and subsequently Director of the Joint Staff. He became the 27th Chief of Naval Operations on July 21, 2000.

Admiral Clark's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (three awards), the Distinguished Service Medal (two awards), the Legion of Merit (three awards), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Navy Commendation Medal, and various service and campaign awards.

Admiral Vern Clark has shown the highest level of commitment and devotion to his country. Today we recognize him for his unwavering patriotism and dedication to both his profession and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Admiral Vern Clark, the 27th Chief of Naval Operations, on his retirement from the United States Navy.

HENRY J. HYDE UNITED NATIONS REFORM ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2745) to reform the United Nations, and for other purposes:

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand in wholehearted opposition to this outrageous Republican bill, which requires the Secretary of State to press for numerous reforms at the United Nations (UN) including budgeting, oversight and accountability, peacekeeping, and human rights. H.R. 2745, which requires the Secretary of State to withhold 50 percent of U.S. assessed contributions to the regular budget of the U.N., if the Secretary is unable to certify that the reforms called for by this bill have been met, is simply unacceptable.

The United Nations, which is based in our country, in New York City, was created in 1947 by the United Nations Participation Act, with a mission of assisting the President and the Department of State in conducting United States policy at the United Nations.

Along with my Democratic colleagues, I wholeheartedly believe in the goals of the United Nations, yet I do believe there is some need for reforming the organization. The idea that our country can just unilaterally withhold 50 percent of what we owe to the U.N. and then veto any new or expanded peacekeeping operations is not good politics, and does not serve our national interest by any means. I do however, strongly believe that the Lantos-Shays substitute, which, if passed, would empower the Secretary of State to withhold funds

if the suggested reforms are not met, would allow the United States to work with other nations to achieve true reform.

There are numerous problems with this bill. Perhaps the most ridiculous is the mandating of the withholding of 50 percent of our dues to the U.N. by giving inadequate flexibility to the Secretary of State. The bill, in effect, mandates a withholding of U.S. dues by imposing an unrealistically long list of 38 reforms, a number of which are virtually impossible to achieve in such a short period of time.

In my estimation, given that our country has been, and remains to be, the single largest contributor to the U.N., that we should not attempt to simply strong arm the organization with threats or sanctions merely to achieve the types of reforms we deem necessary. In fact, in 2002, our contributions to the U.N. totaled more than \$3.0 billion, a total which included over \$5 million in assessed contributions to their regular budget and U.N. affiliated agencies; about \$750 million in assessed contributions to U.N. peacekeeping activities; about \$50 million for war crimes tribunals; and about \$1.7 billion in voluntary contributions to U.N.-affiliated organizations and programs. To reiterate, I simply do not think that unilaterally withholding funds from the United Nations is a good way to achieve real reform of the organization, and if I had been able to be here today, I would have voted "yes" on the Lantos-Shays Substitute, and "no" on overall passage of the Hyde bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF RON ACE FOR HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mrs. TAUSCHER and I, rise to pay tribute to Chief Ron Ace who is retiring from the City of Concord Police Department after 30 years of serving the residents of Concord and the entire region.

Ron Ace began his career in public service even before his work with the Concord Police Department when he served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1967 to 1971. As a Marine, he served a tour of duty in Viet Nam in 1969, attached to a Huey Gunship helicopter squadron as a door-gunner.

Chief Ace began his distinguished career with the City of Concord Police Department in 1975, having previously served as a Deputy Sheriff with Alameda County. In 1985, Ron Ace was promoted to Police Sergeant. Ten years later he became a Lieutenant, and in 1998, he was promoted to Captain.

In 1999, Ron Ace was promoted to Police Chief for the City of Concord. As Chief, he has been instrumental in helping the Police Department become recognized throughout the country as a model law enforcement agency.

During his tenure, Chief Ace helped to develop and advance the Department's generalist model of community policing. This approach has worked to support collaboration among police officers, residents, and civic leaders to ensure the safety of residents and the individuals who work to protect the City.

Chief Ace's efforts have resulted in an integrated philosophy of community policing that is visible throughout the entire community.

Chief Ace maintains membership in several peace officer associations and he is currently serving his second term as a Commissioner for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Chief Ace's work and commitment to Concord has been recognized by the Association of California School Administrators and the Northern California Juvenile Officer's Association. He also received the Warrington Stokes Award for Child Abuse Prevention.

Ron Ace has lived in Concord with his wife Carol and daughter Susan for more than 25 years. As a resident, he has gone far and beyond his professional responsibilities and served as an outstanding member of the Concord community. He has been active in school activities, youth sports and community organizations.

For 30 years, Chief Ron Ace has served the Concord Police Department and surrounding community. His hard work has improved the safety of the City, the community as a whole, and ensured an enduring legacy of public service in Concord. Today, we are proud to commend him for his service to the community, his dedication to duty and his commitment to the people of Concord.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANGELA WILZ OF BISMARCK, ND

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine, Angela Wilz of Bismarck, North Dakota, has shown tremendous courage during a very challenging year for her family. When her husband—CPT Grant Wilz of North Dakota's 141st Engineer Combat Battalion—was deployed to Iraq in February of 2004, Angela was forced to face the challenges of parenting and managing a household without her partner. Though this is always a difficult task when a spouse is serving overseas, Angela's situation was especially demanding.

Angela took over her husband's responsibilities as administrator of a local retirement home, working overtime to help meet the needs of those charged to her care. On top of these professional duties, Angela continued to provide love and care to the couple's three children—including their oldest child who has special needs.

To make matters more challenging, Angela was diagnosed with thyroid cancer during her husband's tour of duty. After undergoing two surgeries, Angela began to experience complications—including temporary paralysis that resulted in hospitalization. Never one to feel sorry for herself, Angela prayed for her health to return so that she could continue to be there for her children.

Thankfully, Angela is on her way towards a full recovery and Captain Wilz is now back home in North Dakota, safe and sound.

The courage showed by the Wilz family is indicative of the sacrifices made by the hus-

bands and wives of soldiers throughout our country's history. Whether their loved ones manned a battleship in the South Pacific, served in the sweltering jungle of Vietnam, or are currently performing dangerous duties in the sands of Iraq, it has been service members' spouses who provide love and care to anxious children and work long hours to make ends meet. Our nation's deeply felt gratitude goes out to all of our servicemen and women and their families who have endured so much on our behalf.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEITH AND RUTH SMILEY AND MOHONK CONSULTATIONS

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my departed friends Keith and Ruth Smiley, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Mohonk Consultations. It is with great pleasure that I honor Keith and Ruth for their outstanding vision and their steadfast dedication to a more equitable and sustainable global community.

Keith Smiley was a good friend, who shared my enthusiasm for protecting and preserving the unique beauty of the Shawangunk Mountains. Keith's life reflected his Quaker upbringing. He treasured the world around him and sought to bring peace and social justice to people by promoting self-determination. He truly believed that all people had the innate right to be involved in the decisions that affected their day-to-day lives. However, the quality that made him special, and that I pay homage to today, was his ardent belief that these decisions, decisions on governing and development, must take into account their impact on the environment.

The idea of "consultations" had always been part of the Mohonk Mountain tradition and under Keith Smiley's leadership they were very successful. When the Mohonk Trust was formed in 1963, the Smileys were able to further their stewardship of the land as well as their goals of promoting international understanding and world peace through conferences and the exchange of ideas. After successfully hosting a gathering of environmental and international development groups for the Agency for International Development, Keith moved forward with his own dream for a unique environmental organization. Mohonk Consultations was officially incorporated in 1980. Since that time, the group has brought together the foremost leaders on the environment, the economy and other individuals seeking new, environmentally sound methods of getting things accomplished.

A tribute to Keith and his work would be incomplete without mentioning his wife, Ruth. Trained as a naturalist and horticulturist, she truly appreciated the sublime nature of her surroundings. What Keith brought to the table in discussion, Ruth brought through her photographs. She always had her camera ready to capture the beauty of the Mountains and was an eager participant in the numerous programs and nature walks sponsored at

Mohonk. Together, Keith and Ruth had a holistic approach to life, the environment and to the world around them. Their vision lives on today through Mohonk Consultations.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to submit these remarks in honor of Keith and Ruth Smiley and in recognition of the 25th anniversary of Mohonk Consultations.

IN HONOR OF THE GROWER-SHIPPER ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary organization based in my Central California district, the Grower-Shipper Association of Central California, on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. Initially formed in 1930 by a handful of growers and shippers to represent one commodity—iceberg lettuce, the GSA now includes over 300 members, spanning four Central Coast counties and representing dozens of commodities—virtually all vegetables, berries, mushrooms, and wine grapes. Through its long record of achievement, the Association has become the premier local representative of agriculture on the Central Coast.

For most of its first 50 years, the Association's work focused on the issue of labor. Today the GSA tackles an extensive workload including food safety and security, pest and plant disease prevention, control and eradication, land use in the agriculture/urban interface, water supply and distribution, market access and trade, agricultural research and education, government, legislative and regulatory affairs, worker safety and training, and labor and employment law.

While managing these increased challenges, the Grower-Shipper Association maintains a commitment to its members and community. Its mission statement declares "We are the local solution representing our members' agricultural needs." The Grower-Shipper Association lives up to this standard through education, representation, and advocacy. In 2003, GSA established the non-profit Grower-Shipper Association Foundation to further its support of the Central Coast agricultural community. Funds from the Foundation will allow the Association to significantly expand its support of educational, training, and other programs of service to the community.

The Grower-Shipper Association has made a substantial contribution to both the agriculture industry and the broader community of the Central Coast. The Association's achievements are a direct result of the leadership of its members, boards, and presidents, past and present. For 75 years the GSA organization has earned a reputation for integrity that honors the culture, companies, and employees of Central Coast agriculture that have made this region the most productive and innovative in the world. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize the Grower-Shipper Association of Central California.