

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING MEGAN TRISCARI FOR RECEIVING THE CHILD CARE WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Megan Triscari, a resident of the Chautauqua County town of Jamestown, upon the occasion of her receiving the Child Care Worker of the Year award.

Megan was honored at the YMCA Camp Onyhasa's annual meeting for her exemplary service and dedication to children. This honor was given based on her never ending commitment to her job.

Ms. Triscari has been known to report to work on snow days and even request to work extra shifts. This type of dedication is very rare in this day and age.

Megan has displayed extreme compassion, love and dedication to her work and the children she is entrusted with and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor her today.

THE AMERICAN LEGION SUPPORTS AUTHORIZATION OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE RESEARCH EDUCATION AND CLINICAL CENTERS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the American Legion, which has 2.8 million members fully supports H.R. 2959, which will permanently authorize the Department of Veterans' Affairs Parkinson Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers. The VA treats some 40,000 veterans who have this neuro-degenerative disease.

The letter from the American Legion follows:

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, June 21, 2005.

Hon. LANE EVANS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE EVANS: On behalf of the 2.8 million members of The American Legion, I would like to offer full support of H.R. 2959—"Authorization of Parkinson's Disease Research Education and Clinical Centers", permanently authorizing the six existing VA Parkinson's Disease Research Education and Clinical Centers (PADRECCs).

Parkinson's Disease is a debilitating neuro-degenerative disease that affects approximately 1.5 million Americans each year. The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) currently treats more than 40,000 veterans with Parkinson's disease. As the veteran population ages, the PADRECCs will become even more essential, not only for treatment, but for training health care professionals, conducting progressive research, and

finding a cure. This bill will help to ensure that these veterans receive the best quality care.

Again, The American Legion fully supports H.R. 2959, "Authorization of Parkinson's Disease Research Education and Clinical Centers" and we appreciate your dedication to this serious health issue.

Sincerely,

STEVE ROBERTSON,

Director,

National Legislative Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I strongly disagree with the defense policy of the Bush Administration. While I disagree with the policy, I do not believe we should deprive our troops in the field and our military of the funds they need to protect our country.

Since 2003, Congress has appropriated almost \$250 billion for the war efforts by passing supplemental appropriations bills in 2003, 2004 and 2005. U.S. spending in Iraq will be at least \$75 billion to \$80 billion this year and could approach \$400 billion by 2006, according to Congressional Quarterly. This approaches the \$406 billion cost of the Korean War. Last month we passed a fiscal year 2005 supplemental appropriation that totaled \$82 billion, the second largest supplemental in history. Only one month has passed, and we find ourselves voting for another \$45 billion for war funding for the first 6 months of the 2006 fiscal year.

Assuming the size of the U.S. military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan will remain at approximately the same level through 2006, the war costs will require another \$40 to \$45 billion. No money will be spent that is not directly related to the war. No money under the \$45 billion supplemental portion of the bill will be spent on the Army's modularity initiative or to increase the permanent end strength of active duty forces.

I am a strong advocate for developing a plan for withdrawing U.S. forces from Iraq. We should keep in mind that the FY05 supplemental contained language that requires the Defense Department to provide Congress with a set of performance indicators and measures of stability and security in Iraq and a timetable for achieving these goals. The first report is due in July. We look forward to how DoD will define its strategies for success.

This bill is framed principally by our missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. In my judgment

the forces we have on the ground in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom are doing a fabulous job, but the size of our Army and Marine Corps is just too small to do the job we are asking them to do. I hope the funds in the bill will provide for that shortfall.

I support this bill in order to properly equip our troops with body armor, vehicle armor and other equipment to protect them from insurgent attacks. As much as I regret the War in Iraq, I cannot ignore the fact that we are a Nation at war. This bill recognizes and provides our troops with the tools they need to do their job.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was detained late yesterday afternoon. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 289 (Motion to Recommit with Instructions—H.R. 2475)—nay; Rollcall 290 (On Passage—H.R. 2475)—yea.

RECOGNIZING CROATIA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. PETER J. VISCOSKY and myself, in our capacity as Co-chairs of the Congressional Croatian Caucus, on the occasion of National Day of the Republic of Croatia, June 25, I rise to recognize the significant progress the country of Croatia has made in gaining recognition and responsibility within the international community since its independence.

Croatia has come a long way in the last 14 years and has experienced a number of important developments in the process. Overcoming the legacies of communism and armed aggression, Croatia is now well on the path towards full membership in the Euro-Atlantic community. All these achievements mark Croatia's successful transition in political and economic reforms to a thriving democracy and market economy, as well as depicting the Croatian Government's commitment to the rule of law and human rights.

Croatia's strategic objectives to enter NATO and the European Union, as well as strengthen and deepen its ties with the United States, are the driving forces behind its foreign and security policy, and defense reforms. Integration into the Euro-Atlantic Community will enable Croatia to assume a more active role within the community of democracies that share the same values, principles and interests. Active participation by Croatian military

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in **this typeface** indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

personnel in a number of peacekeeping operations worldwide, including the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan, displays Croatia's credibility as a future NATO member state. Furthermore, Croatia has a track record of cooperation with NATO allies through the PIP.

Mr. Speaker, it is clearly in our national interest to encourage peace and stability in the region of Southeastern Europe. To this end, the role of the Croatian American community and their representatives in the nation's capital, as an inherent component of the U.S.-Croatia partnership, cannot be overlooked. They represent a vital bridge between our two countries in order to strengthen deep historical and cultural links between the United States and Croatia since 1783. Special recognition should be given to the current Croatian government under the leadership of Dr. Ivo Sanader to solidify Croatia's place within the community of democratic nations and to move the country forward to becoming a model of stability, peace and cooperation throughout Southeastern Europe.

IN RECOGNITION OF FORT WORTH METROPOLITAN BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor that I rise today to recognize the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce (FWMBCC)'s 25 years of devoted service to the enhancement of the economic development in the African American community in my district. Since its founding in 1979, the FWMBCC's tireless efforts, on behalf of the black community of Fort Worth, have accomplished a great deal. I would like to mention a few of their accomplishments.

The FWMBCC has done much to improve minority involvement in the Fort Worth economy. In 1985, the FWMBCC contracted with the Fort Worth Convention and Visitor's Bureau for sales, and marketing initiatives to attract minority association conventions. Three years later, it established two enterprise zones in a partnership effort with the City of Fort Worth. It initiated the development of a comprehensive plan for redevelopment of Southeast Fort Worth in 1991.

The FWMBCC strives to get others involved as well. In 1989, it signed a Community Reinvestment Act Agreement with Bank One (Chase Bank) to benefit low to moderate income families. It also recruited the OmniAmerican Federal Credit Union to build a branch location in Southeast Fort Worth on Rosedale in the Poly neighborhood. It also lobbied to pursue development of workforce support for the Alliance Corridor, including public transportation to the growing Alliance business community from Southeast Fort Worth.

The FWMBCC is about more than just money, as shown by the way it adopted Como Elementary School under the Fort Worth Independent School District's Adopt-a-School program. Showing further concern for education, it collaborated with Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. on a strategic plan resulting in the refurbishing

of the F.W. Carver School for use by the Fort Worth Housing Authority and the I.M. Terrell School.

The FWMBCC believes strongly in integration of both race and gender. It established the Women's Business Issues Division as a part of the FWMBCC—the first women's division in the nation affiliated with a Black Chamber in recognition of the business assistance needs of women of color to much acclaim. It also served as an advocate on behalf of people of color for business opportunities in Sundance Square and other business areas in and around the City of Fort Worth as well as integration of the Colonial Country Club.

I would like to applaud the FWMBCC on its first 25 years, and encourage it to keep up its impressive work.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH SHACK, PRESIDENT OF DADE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, rise to honor a true leader in our South Florida Community, Ruth Shack.

After she became the President of the Dade Community Foundation in 1985, Ruth spearheaded a campaign to encourage philanthropy and charitable giving by developing a permanent endowment to meet Greater Miami's emerging charitable needs. The Foundation protects and manages the assets of philanthropic funds and provides grant-making expertise to donors with various interests at all levels of giving. By bringing together diverse groups in Miami-Dade County, the Foundation helps improve the quality of life and build a more cohesive community by supporting local nonprofit organizations with grants and technical assistance.

Spurred by her leadership, the Foundation made a radical change in its mission by diversifying its Board of Governors, its staff and its grant-making focus to better respond to the needs of Miami's greatest asset and our most intractable challenge: the incredible ethnic diversity of our community. They review the grants they award from the standpoint of their impact on the issue of cultural alienation and the need to help people work successfully across ethnic barriers. Empowerment and seed funding for emerging groups, based in the diverse multicultural communities of Miami-Dade, are the hallmarks of their grant-making program.

In addition to her two decades of leadership at the Dade Community Foundation, Ruth Shack has also served three very productive terms on the Dade County Commission and in leadership capacities in numerous other organizations, both locally and across the country. Throughout her career she has demonstrated a profound commitment to making Miami a community where opportunity is available to everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for our entire community in congratulating and thanking Ruth Shack for her 20 years at the helm of the Dade Community Foundation.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Hinchey Amendment which will ban the U.S. Justice Department from spending taxpayer money to arrest or prosecute medical marijuana patients in the ten states where medical marijuana is legal: Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington.

In 1996, my home-state of California passed Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act, which gave seriously ill Californians the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes. The medical use of the drug must be deemed appropriate and prescribed by a physician.

Since then, the U.S. Justice Department has initiated actions against individuals who are following State law and making marijuana available to individuals with a physician's prescription. Federal law enforcement officials should not be deployed to override State law in this regard.

Although the Supreme Court recently ruled that Federal drug law supercedes State medical marijuana statutes, there is no reason to imprison patients who are seeking relief from chronic pain or the doctors trying to help them.

The use of prescriptive medical marijuana is supported by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Public Health Association. This is a matter of medicine not self indulgence. The use of marijuana for medical treatment should not be criminalized.

I urge all my colleagues to support this Amendment.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Chairman, for the past few years, I have voted to redirect funding in support of smart bombs and other weapons that are actually usable against hardened, deeply buried targets. I'm pleased to see that this appropriations bill provides funding for conventional studies to defeat hard and deeply