

the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, as a member of the Governor's Brownfield Taskforce, and as founder of the New Jersey Watershed Alliance, Dr. Sinclair has shown that his fervor for business does not come at the expense of a healthy environment. His efforts stand as a guiding example that a coexisting relationship between businesses and the environment can genuinely exist without adversely affecting either entity.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly pleased that the New Jersey Business and Industry Association and the New Jersey Policy Research Organization have chosen to elevate Dr. Jim Sinclair to such prestigious positions within their respective organizations. Therefore, I ask my fellow members of Congress to join me today in honoring and recognizing a man who rises up from among his peers and stands firm for the protection of our natural heritage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall votes 241 and 242 on June 13, 2005 because I was attending to an unavoidable personal matter. I was also unable to cast rollcall votes 288 through 321 on June 21, 2005 through June 24, 2005 because I was attending to a family emergency. Had I been present I would have cast the following votes:

On rollcall No. 241, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 242, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 288, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 289, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 290, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 291, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 292, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 293, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 294, I would have voted no.

On rollcall No. 295, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 296, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 297, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 298, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 299, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 300, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 301, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 302, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 303, I would have voted no.

On rollcall No. 304, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 305, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 306, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 307, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 308, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 309, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 310, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 311, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 312, I would have voted no.

On rollcall No. 313, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 314, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 315, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 316, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 317, I would have voted no. On rollcall No. 318, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 319, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 320, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 321, I would have voted no.

TWO PUERTO RICAN WOMEN NOMINATED FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am speaking today in strong support of the two Nobel Peace Prize candidates from Vieques, Puerto Rico. Nilda Medina Diaz and Maria Reina Pumajero are members of the Woman's Alliance of Vieques, an organization committed to the fight against poverty, human rights violations, and international injustices that occur in over 150 countries around the world.

I would like to acknowledge Nilda Medina Diaz for her successful efforts for the demilitarization of Vieques. Nilda has also co-founded the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, which later led to the ending of the weapons training and military exercises that occurred on this U.S. Marine base prior to 2003, after 60 years of military usage. She also continues to play a large role in Puerto Rico's environmental clean up effort as a member of Restoration Advisory Board of Vieques.

In addition, I would also like to recognize Maria Reina Pumajero. She also played a large role in the closing of Vieques as a military base. In addition, her grassroots organizing of working class women against racism and sexism has led her to co-found the Institute for Latino Empowerment. As Maria saw the need to expand her efforts across a larger base, she collaborated with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, an organization that serves Caucasians and also people of color. In addition, Maria works closely with the East Asia-U.S.-Puerto Rico Women's Network against Militarism, in which she is both furthering her efforts to alleviate racial tensions, and uniting against a common cause in the United States and abroad.

I have had the opportunity to visit the Island of Vieques twice and have seen both the damage that multiple years of bombing have done to that island and the tremendous recreation and economic possibilities that lie ahead for the people of Vieques. As the original author of the base legislation, which led to the withdrawal of the U.S. Navy presence from Vieques, I know how important the advocacy of the Puerto Rican Community in Puerto Rico, on Vieques and on the mainland of the U.S.A. and in these Halls of Congress was to achieving our successful shared goal. Ms. Diaz and Ms. Pumajero are just two of the hundreds of committed community advocates, elected officials, and friends from throughout the world who worked hard and dedicated themselves to improving the future of Vieques and the Puerto Rican people.

The women mentioned above are two of 1,000 women nominated this year for the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize that have been engaged in creating better communities, alleviating poverty, and working for a common goal. Their efforts have reflected upon many of the Puerto Rican and Latino communities in my district as a source of power and hopefulness for the future.

I commend these women for their Nobel Peace Prize nominations, their commitment to empowering women across borders, and for their dedication to the closing of the Vieques Marine Base.

REMEMBERING ROGER R. WEIHER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 28, 2005, our community lost a great jurist, advocate and true friend with the passing of Roger R. Weiher. At 79 years young, he unexpectedly passed from this life.

An Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, Roger Weiher was raised in North Toledo and graduated from Woodward High School. He received undergraduate degrees from Western Michigan and John Carroll Universities, and earned his law degree back home at the University of Toledo. In addition to his law practice, Roger also served as Lucas County deputy clerk of courts and Ohio assistant attorney general. He began his judicial tenure with an appointment to Toledo Municipal Court in 1989 and was later elected to the position. Following a decade of service, Judge Weiher continued as a visiting judge even after retirement. His even-tempered, soft and patient nature made him a good judge and, as one of his colleagues noted, "He understood people. That's what made him so effective on that court." Expecting to remain active following mandatory retirement from visiting judge duties at age 80, Judge Weiher planned next month to begin training as a mediator. His wife explained, "He wasn't going to put his feet up."

Roger was not only a fine public servant and respected attorney, but together with his first wife Evelyn Weiher, with whom he raised their son Tommy, he was well known in the theatre world. Evelyn was an actress, director, and teacher in the theatre, and when they settled back in Toledo the two established a theatre company in the 1960s which staged productions in the former State Theatre. Later productions were staged at Adrian's Croswell Opera House. Evelyn passed away following illness in 1983, yet Roger's passion for performing continued. Just last month he participated in his 49th consecutive Gridiron show, an annual event of the Toledo Junior Bar Association.

His wife Norma brought new joy into his life, and they were married in 1985. Always at his side, Norma was his true and faithful companion. She was with him even as he breathed his last from this life and entered into the next. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Norma, Thomas, stepdaughter Linda, brother Donald, and grandchildren. May the brightly burning light that was Roger Weiher in life remain in their hearts, giving them comfort for the journey ahead, and offering them peace in remembering the man who was husband, father, brother, grandpa, mentor, friend, and a man imbued with the spirit of justice borne of his faith and the rule of law.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for a series of rollcall votes occurring on the evening of June 29, 2005 and during the day on June 30, 2005. During this

time, I was on official business attending a regional hearing held by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in Atlanta, Georgia, on behalf of the 118th Air Wing of the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 341, the King amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 342, the Herseth amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 343, the Hooley amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 344, the Souder amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 345, the Davis (FL) amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 346, the Lee amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 347, the Sanders amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 348, the Rangel amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 349, the Souder amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 350, the Garrett amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 351, the DeLauro amendment to H.R. 3058, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE SOLDIERS OF THE OHIO NATIONAL GUARD'S 1487TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the soldiers of the Ohio National Guard's 1487th Transportation Company. I would also like to pay my respect to their families and their employers who remained strong and supportive during their absence.

The 1487th Transportation Company was mobilized in January 2004 and spent a year supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, providing truck transportation in the theatre of operation. The company logged over 230 missions, traveling over four million miles.

The Iron Camels earned eight Purple Heart Awards, ten Bronze Star Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, five Bronze Star Medals with Valor Devices, forty-three Army Commendation Medals, twenty-three Army Achievement Medals, 121 Drive Badges, and twenty Mechanic Badges.

Although their friends, family, and community celebrated the company's return stateside earlier this year, the 1487th will be honored this Saturday, July 2, 2005 as Preble County celebrates "1487th Day." The residents of Preble County have organized "A Tribute to America and Her Veterans," and in addition to honoring our veterans from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, Preble County will also be honoring veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War era, and Desert Storm.

Mr. Speaker, all of us here in Congress are grateful and humbled by the magnificent work our men and women in uniform have accomplished in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Southeast Asia. Their professionalism, dedication, and patriotism are shining examples of our American values, and we are grateful they stand between us and our enemies. The soldiers of

the 1487th Transportation Company performed outstanding service for our country, and I am grateful for their service and for their return.

I would also like to acknowledge the strength exhibited by the family and friends of our deployed soldiers, who have endured quiet moments of fear and uncertainty while they present a brave front to their loved ones who are separated from them by distance and danger. I am grateful husbands and wives, parents and children, fiancés, siblings, and friends are reunited to celebrate our Independence Day together.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the employers in my district who bore the burden of their employees' absence without complaint and who supported their families with material support throughout the length of the 1487th's deployment.

To the 1487th, my message to you is simple and heartfelt: Thank you. Thank you for your service, your patriotism, and your professionalism. God bless you and your loved ones in your future endeavors.

STATEMENT ON THE LOSS OF SECOND LIEUTENANT MATTHEW S. COUTU

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a brave soldier, in Iraq, 2LT Matthew Coutu, a great citizen who served his country with dignity and honor. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

On Monday, June 27, Lieutenant Coutu died in Baghdad, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by enemy small-arms fire while investigating a bombing. He was serving with the 64th Military Police Company, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, out of Fort Hood, Texas. The son of two native Rhode Islanders, Lieutenant Coutu grew up near Chicago and had a lifelong dream of joining the military. It was no surprise that he chose his college, the University of Maine, primarily for the strength of its ROTC program and the ability to be commissioned when he graduated. He was the top cadet in his graduating class, choosing to train with the military police at Fort Hood as soon as he was commissioned. Remembered by those close to him as a remarkable man and born leader, he planned to serve his country as a soldier in the Army or in federal law enforcement. He is survived by his mother, Donna Coutu-Freeland, his father, Michael Coutu, his brother Derek, and both of his grandmothers.

The loss of Lieutenant Coutu should make us pause and reflect upon the courage embodied by our men and women in uniform on a daily basis, as they work to protect freedom around the world. They chose to answer the call of duty to their nation without hesitation, dedicating themselves to the preservation of freedom, liberty and the security of others no matter the cost. We must remember those who have fallen not only as soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, but as patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice for us. May we keep their

loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they struggle to endure this difficult period and mourn the heroes America has lost.

We will continue to hope for the safe and speedy return of all of our troops serving around the world.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD P. CRONIN

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the accomplishments of Richard P. Cronin, a Specialist in Asian Affairs with the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service. Dr. Cronin is retiring after 30 years at CRS and is beginning a new position at the Henry L. Stimson Center in Washington, DC. Over the past three decades, the Congress, and especially the Asia Pacific Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, has benefitted from Dr. Cronin's expertise, analysis, insights, and timely responses on a wide variety of political, security, and economic issues.

Dr. Cronin's tenure spanned 15 Congresses and a succession of events in Asia that held important implications for U.S. interests. He was invited to testify before congressional committees and, in 1995, was seconded to the House Committee on International Relations. While there he not only facilitated a close working relationship between the Committee and CRS, but he worked on specific legislation and hearings that had far-reaching effects. He helped draft legislation that governed U.S. policy related to the North Korean nuclear program, was instrumental in forming legislative initiatives that sought to adjust the Pressler Amendment, and was the primary staff person responsible for hearings on South Asian security issues, the civil war in Sri Lanka, U.S. relations with South Korea, and U.S.-Japan security issues.

Dr. Cronin has diligently sought comprehensive approaches to international problems. His Ph.D. in history and South Asian Studies from Syracuse University along with his Bachelor's degree in economics provided the foundation for him to address issues using methods that were multi-disciplinary and far reaching. While at CRS, he provided expert advice and analysis to Congress on countries, such as India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, China, Iraq, and Somalia, and on the regions of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Northeast Asia. Whether the topic was security, intelligence, the military, economics, terrorism, or politics, Dr. Cronin could address it with authority.

Dr. Cronin also served as head of the Asia Section at CRS and where he supervised work for Congress on U.S. policy toward Asian countries. His supervision, guidance, and review of research projects contributed to the high quality of reports authored by other CRS analysts. He received numerous citations and special awards. In addition to his work for the Congress, Dr. Cronin taught courses at local universities and published extensively. He wrote a book, five chapters for other books,