

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 Herseith 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. BOEHRNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. BOEHRNER. 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,

and twelve professional journal articles. He has also been invited to speak at numerous foreign policy seminars, panels, and conferences in Washington and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has many dimensions. But no part of our body symbolizes professional analysis and the provision of non-partisan, academic perspective to public policy more than the Congressional Research Service. CRS enriches this institution; it adds a dimension of judgment that few outside the body understand. Dr. Cronin's career epitomizes why the Congressional Research Service has established the reputation it has and, on behalf of so many of my colleagues, I want to express my appreciation for his many contributions to the Congress and wish him well in his new position.

U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA—EXAMINING THE ADMINISTRATION'S CLAIMS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, with the G-8 Summit and its Africa-centered agenda approaching, there has been much discussion in recent weeks about the scale of U.S. development assistance to Africa. I find it appropriate to bring to the attention of this body a June 27th report authored by Susan E. Rice of the Brookings Institution. The report entitled "U.S. Foreign Assistance to Africa: Claims vs. Reality", gives a fresh analysis of U.S. aid to Africa, and puts into question many of the assertions put forward by the administration.

In response to calls for increased Africa assistance, Bush has frequently stated that U.S. assistance to Africa has "tripled" under his administration to \$3.2 billion. However, according to the Brookings report, U.S.-Africa assistance has increased only 67 percent in nominal dollars, or 56 percent in real—inflation adjusted—dollar terms from the period 2000–2004 of which President Bush speaks. The report further points out that 53 percent of the 4 year assistance increase to Africa was in the form of emergency food aid rather than actual development assistance. When looking at development assistance exclusively—which excludes emergency food aid and security assistance—the 4-year increase is only 33 percent in real dollar terms.

It must be said that the Bush administration should be commended for its work to increase overall Africa assistance. In particular, HIV/AIDS programs in Africa have benefited from the administration's efforts. However, the closer examination given by the Brookings Institution shows that the scope and composition of U.S. assistance to Africa is somewhat overstated.

Emergency food aid—which has been given in large quantities by the Bush administration, and is a large portion of the administration's Africa assistance package—is extremely vital and saves lives during a short term crisis, but it does not really help a country to "develop". Real development relates to the areas of health, education, infrastructure, and trade and business promotion. In these areas, the report points out, the overall aid increase is fair, but not overly substantial.

This is important, because as the leaders of the G-8 have tried in recent months to find agreement on increased assistance to Africa, the Bush Administration has touted its Africa assistance track record and the existence of its Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) as reasons why it does not need to subscribe to Prime Minister Blair's development assistance recommendation.

The MCA in particular does not help President Bush's argument that the U.S. is doing enough for Africa. The MCA, which Bush introduced in 2002, was supposed to have provided \$10 billion in additional assistance to developing countries from 2003–2005 and five billion dollars a year starting in 2006.

However, the Republican-led Congress has only appropriated \$2.5 billion dollars total for the MCA over the past 2 years, and just 2 countries in Africa have received funding—Cape Verde and Madagascar at \$110 million each. Indeed, the majority of the MCA's expenditures so far have gone to simple administrative costs.

On a recent trip to the White House in early June, several African leaders lamented the slow pace of aid through the Millennium Challenge Account mechanism, and urged the President to do more to bring aid to African nations. So bad is the situation at the MCA, the agency's director suddenly resigned earlier this month.

With all that said, the Bush Administration must be more aggressive in bringing increased aid to the continent—just as vigorous as it was in spearheading the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq, which has cost America over \$200 billion and counting.

In the report, Ms. Rice argues that the U.S. should commit to increasing their overseas development assistance to 0.7 percent of GNP by 2015, as called for by Prime Minister Blair, and several longstanding United Nation agreements. The EU has recently agreed to meet the 0.7 percent assistance benchmark, with half of the increase going to Africa. Canada is also currently considering ways in which it can meet the goal, with its Parliament urging action on the matter.

Not only has the United States not committed to the 0.7 percent goal, but at 0.17 percent, it is currently second to last among industrialized nations in the percentage of GNP dedicated to development assistance. Some countries, such as Sweden and Holland, have long achieved the goal, and even surpassed it.

The United States now has the opportunity to rise to the challenge and rewrite history. We dedicated 2.5 percent of our GNP to fund the Marshall Plan, which helped to reconstruct Western Europe. Why then, can we not now dedicate 0.7 percent to help development the entire world, especially when we would have 10 years to meet the objective? In the short-term, the doubling of assistance to Africa that Blair is advocating would require only \$6 billion dollars a year on the part of the United States—or \$1 billion dollars more than what President Bush had planned under the Millennium Challenge Account after 2005.

I thank Ms. Rice and the Brookings Institution for their insightful report. It contributes to an increasing body of evidence that the Administration can do more to help Africa, and it will undoubtedly serve to embolden the chorus of individuals, organizations, and nations challenging the Administration to do its part to end the evil of global poverty.

The Bush Administration Record

The Bush Administration has significantly increased aid to Africa, but that increase falls far short of what the President has claimed. U.S. aid to Africa from FY 2000 (the last full budget year of the Clinton Administration) to FY2004 (the last completed fiscal year of the Bush Administration) has not "tripled" or even doubled. Rather, in real dollars, it has increased 56 percent (or 67 percent in nominal dollar terms). The majority of that increase consists of emergency food aid, rather than assistance for sustainable development of the sort Africa needs to achieve lasting poverty reduction.

President Bush has thus far rejected Blair's call to double aid to Africa, as well as the benchmark set by the OECD and signatories to the Monterey Consensus, which called on developed countries to devote 0.7 percent of their gross national income to overseas development assistance by 2015. In declining to commit to either of these targets, President Bush frequently states that his Administration has "tripled" U.S. assistance to Africa over the past four years to \$3.2 billion. On June 7, 2005, the President also announced that the U.S. will spend an additional \$674 million, which consists of previously appropriated emergency humanitarian food aid. The U.S. recently agreed with G-8 partners to cancel the multilateral debt owed by 18 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries, a positive step forward.

The Challenge

As G-8 member states prepare to meet from July 6th to 8th in Gleneagles, Scotland, they will have to confront the challenge posed by their host, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, to double aid to Africa to \$25 billion by 2015, preferably through the creation of an International Finance Facility. Part of a sweeping agenda set forth by Blair and his Commission for Africa to alleviate poverty and improve prospects for African security, democracy and sustainable development, this proposal includes scaled-up commitments by the G-8 to assist Africa with increased aid, trade opportunities, investment, debt relief as well as conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacekeeping capacity.

What the U.S. Should Do and Why

The Gleneagles Summit poses an historic opportunity for the United States to lead the international community in providing increased development and other assistance to Africa. The Bush Administration should join the UK, France, Italy and Germany and twelve other developed nations and commit to devote up to 0.7 percent of U.S. gross national income to overseas development assistance by 2015. This commitment would place the U.S. in the forefront of international efforts to alleviate global poverty.

Global poverty undermines U.S. national security by facilitating the emergence and spread of transnational security threats, including disease, environmental degradation, crime, narcotics flows, proliferation and terrorism. First, poverty substantially increases the risk of conflict, which in turn creates especially fertile breeding grounds for such threats. Second, poverty erodes weak states' capacity to prevent or contain transnational threats.

Key Findings

U.S. aid to Africa from FY 2000 to FY 2004, the period to which the President referred, has not "tripled" or even doubled. Rather, in real dollars, it has increased 56 percent (or 67 percent in nominal dollar terms).

An analysis of actual U.S. appropriations from FY 2000 (the last full budget year of the Clinton Administration) to FY 2004 (the last completed fiscal year of the Bush Administration) reveals a different reality about U.S.