

has been an important part of the moral fabric of Southwest Louisiana for 100 years and I am confident Pleasant Green Baptist Church will continue to be a valuable community member for many years to come.

Today I want to recognize and congratulate the church and its congregation, for reaching this historic milestone.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 739, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SMALL BUSINESS DAY IN COURT ACT OF 2005; H.R. 740, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2005; H.R. 741, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF OSHA CITATIONS ACT OF 2005; H.R. 742, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SMALL EMPLOYER ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 739, H.R. 740, H.R. 741, and H.R. 742.

Today, America's workers need the protections provided under the Occupational Safety and Health Act more than ever. Each year, 6,000 workers die in workplace-related accidents, and 50,000–60,000 people die from illnesses caused by their jobs. The protections in OSHA ensure what our Nation's workforce has fought for and deserves—a safe and healthy workplace.

Instead of strengthening these worker protections, the bills before us today are an attack on the very intent of these important safeguards.

The first bill, H.R. 739, excuses employers that fail to respond to OSHA citations within the 15-day deadline. The Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHR) already has the authority to review missed deadlines on a case-by-case basis. This change removes the incentive for employers to quickly respond to hazards. Meanwhile, the safety and health of workers hang in the balance.

H.R. 740 seeks to expand OSHRC to five members and require that all members be

lawyers. Since the Commission was established in 1970, it has been composed of three members and has benefited from the expertise of those not holding law degrees. This change inaccurately reflects the workload and responsibilities of OSHRC and unfairly excludes the contributions of members with strong backgrounds in safety and health.

H.R. 741 transfers the authority to bring cases to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court from the Secretary of Labor to OSHRC. This modification overturns a 1991 Supreme Court decision and undermines the Secretary's responsibility to enforce OSHA policies.

The biggest blow delivered by H.R. 742 requires OSHA to pay attorney's fees for every case it does not win, regardless of why the case lost or how well-justified it was. This places the burden of these cases squarely on the taxpayer and leaves America's workforce more vulnerable than ever.

The substitute amendment offered by Congressman GEORGE MILLER to raise the minimum wage has my full support. It is unacceptable that employees working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, for minimum wage earn only \$10,700 a year—\$3,400 below the poverty line for a family of three. American full-time, full-year workers should not be forced to raise their families in poverty. It is unfortunate that this amendment was not made in order by the Republican leadership, as this raise would have benefited over 11 million American workers and their families.

The hard-working men and women of this country deserve to be protected and safe in the workplace, Mr. Speaker. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote against these ill-conceived bills.

TRIBUTE TO BEN BALL OF MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to note the recent passing of a dear friend and great American, Ben Ball of Morehead City, North Carolina.

Born on October 14, 1956, Ben died too soon at the age of 48. Yet in those 48 years, he led a remarkable life.

After attending Wake Forest University, Ben went on to graduate from East Carolina Uni-

versity and then began a successful 25-year career in the real estate business. He was a member of the Carteret County Association of Realtors where he was named Realtor of the Year in 1981, 1992, and in 2002. The North Carolina Association of Realtors named him State Realtor of the Year in 2003, and he served as President of the North Carolina Association in 1992. From 1991 through this year he served as a State Director of the North Carolina Association of Realtors, and was active in the governmental and political process both in Raleigh and in Washington, DC.

In addition to his professional activities, Ben was a pillar of his community. He was a lifetime member of First United Methodist Church in Morehead City, NC. He was a past President of the Rotary Club of Morehead City, and in 1997 was named Rotarian of the Year. Additionally, he had served for 5 years as Sponsorship Chairman of the Crystal Coast Habitat for Humanity Golf Tournament, served as Past President of the Carteret County Division of the American Heart Association, Past President of the Morehead City Planning Board, and as Past Chairman of the Carteret County Republican Party. Further, he was a volunteer at West Carteret High School, and assisted "Toys for Tots" for the past 5 years to help secure over 500 bicycles for local needy children.

Mr. Speaker, I first met Ben many years ago, and knew him as a friend ever since. While Ben was prominent in the community, most importantly—like everyone else who first became acquainted with him through politics, or business, or through community activities—I came to know him not as a political friend, but just as a friend. Period.

He was unfailing supportive, uplifting, and caring toward the many people in his life. His being here on this earth made a difference in ways that we all know, and—I am positive—in countless ways that we will never know.

In times such as this, there are no words that can fill the void in the hearts of his friends and loved ones. While he is now in the loving arms of God, we who are still here miss him.

Ben is survived by his wife, Debbie Carpenter Ball, by his sister Anne Roberts Ball, and by his daughters Debra Kreth Ball and Laura Ryan Ball. They are all in my thoughts and prayers.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 21, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 22

10 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Karen P. Hughes, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy, with the rank of Ambassador, Josette Sheeran Shiner, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, Kristen Silverberg, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, and Jendayi Elizabeth Frazer, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.
SD-419

JULY 25

12 noon
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Timothy Elliott Flanigan, of Virginia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice.
SD-226

JULY 26

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine comprehensive immigration reform.
SD-226

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.
SD-538

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine how farm bill programs can better support species conservation.
SR-328A

Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine legislation to resolve the lawsuit of Cobell v. Norton.
SH-216

2 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.
SD-538

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Henrietta Holsman Fore, of Nevada, to be an Under Secretary of State for Management, Henry Crumpton, of Virginia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, Gillian Arlette Milovanovic, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia, James Cain, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to Denmark, Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism ("Convention") Adopted at the Thirty-Second Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States ("OAS") Meeting in Bridgetown, Barbados, and signed by thirty countries, including the United States, on June 3, 2002 (Treaty Doc. 107-18), Protocol of Amendment to the International Convention on Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Treaty Doc. 108-6), Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (the "Cybercrime Convention" or the "Convention"), which was signed by the United States on November 23, 2001 (Treaty Doc. 108-11), United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (the "Convention"), as well as two supplementary protocols: (1) the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and (2) the Protocol Against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 15, 2000. The Convention and Protocols were signed by the United States on December 13, 2000, at Palermo, Italy (Treaty Doc. 108-16), and S. 1129, to provide authorizations of appropriations for certain development banks.
S-116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the General Services Administration.
SD-562

Judiciary
Intellectual Property Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine certain issues relative to patents.
SH-216

Environment and Public Works
Superfund and Waste Management Subcommittee
To hold an oversight hearing to examine electronics waste.
SD-406

JULY 27

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to assess the status of efforts to reduce greenhouse gases relating to the Kyoto Protocol.
SD-406

Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine lands eligible for gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.
SH-216

Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
SD-226

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Conservation Reserve Program.
SR-328A

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To resume hearings to examine the appropriate Federal role regarding chemical facility security.
SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Aging
To hold hearings to examine the victimization of elderly through scams.
SD-106

3 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Energy Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine recent progress in hydrogen and fuel cell research sponsored by the Department of Energy and by private industry, including challenges to the development of these technologies.
SD-366

JULY 28

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601).
SR-485

Veterans' Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending VA legislation.
SR-418

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine NASA passenger aircraft.
SD-562

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 584 and H.R. 432, bills to require the Secretary of the Interior to allow the continued occupancy and use of certain land and improvements within Rocky Mountain National Park, S. 652, to provide financial assistance for the rehabilitation of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the development of an exhibit to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, S. 958, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in the States of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia as a National Historic Trail, S. 1154, to extend the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, to provide improved visitor services at the park, S. 1166, to extend the authorization of the Kalaupapa National Historical Park Advisory Commission, and S. 1346, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of maritime sites in the State of Michigan.
SD-366

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.
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