

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMBAS-
SADOR ALBERT RAMDIN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin is well prepared to serve as Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States during the 35th Regular Session of the General Assembly; and

Whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin has dedicated his life to public service having displayed his vast array of talents in multiple arenas such as Senior Adviser to the Minister of Trade and Industry of Suriname, Chairman and member of several national policy development committees including the "Establishment of the Investment Fund" and "Privatization of State Enterprises" committees, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Finance of Suriname, and Suriname's non-resident Ambassador to Costa Rica, among other endeavors; and

Whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin has had an extensive history with the Organization of American States including chairing the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, and serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative; and

Whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin's distinguished involvement with the Caribbean Community has involved serving as Co-Chair of the Central America High Level Technical Committee and as Assistant Secretary-General for Foreign and Community Relations.

Therefore, I join with the family, friends, and colleagues of Ambassador Albert Ramdin to honor and congratulate him in his new position of Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

SUPPORTING GOALS OF NATURAL
MARINA DAY AND URGING MARI-
NAS CONTINUE PROVIDING ENVI-
RONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GATE-
WAYS TO BOATING

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 308, a bill supporting the goals of National Marina Day, and urging that marinas continue providing environmentally friendly gateways to boating.

In my district on Eastern Long Island, business associated with local marinas is important to vacationers and residents alike. The tourism and fishing industries are two of the most important contributing elements of the local economy, and marinas help these economic engines create much needed revenue throughout Brookhaven and the five East End Towns.

There are more than 12,000 marinas nationally that benefit local communities by providing safe and reliable gateways to boating. The marinas of the United States serve as stew-

ards of the environment, and they actively protect the waterways that surround them for current and future enjoyment.

The Marina Operators Association of America has designated August 13, 2005, as National Marina Day to increase awareness among citizens and elected officials about the many contributions that marinas make to communities, and it is important that Congress support this initiative.

As vacationers throughout the country flock to the coasts for well-deserved vacations, it is important that we recognize the significance of marinas. I'd therefore echo the Marina Operator's support for National Marina Day and urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 25, 2005, I was unavoidably detained on official business overseas.

I respectfully request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 417: "Yes" (On motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.J. Res. 59); Rollcall No. 418: "Yes" (On motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 181); and Rollcall No. 419: "Yes" (On motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 376).

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago—on July 26, 1990—our great Nation made a promise to the disabled community that we have a moral obligation to keep. We said no to discrimination. We said no to sanctioned inequality. We said yes to inclusion and equality.

Today marks the 15th Anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the most sweeping civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights Act.

I am immensely proud to have been a part of reauthorization efforts of this important legislation, and I will never forget all of the advocates for the disabled at the signing ceremony on the South Lawn at the White House.

This landmark law sent an unmistakable message: It is unacceptable to discriminate against someone simply because they have a disability. Moreover, it is illegal—in employment, in transportation, in public accommodations, and in telecommunications.

The ADA recognized that the disabled belong to the American family; that a disability need not be disabling. Disabled Americans can share in all our Nation has to offer—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

Over the last 15 years, the ADA has allowed hundreds of thousands of Americans to

join the workforce, attend school, travel, or drive a car—many for the first time in their lives. The ramps, curb cuts, Braille signs, and captioned television programs that were once novel are now ubiquitous.

However, the first 15 years of the ADA have not been without challenge. Too often, the intent of the ADA has been misconstrued by our courts, which have given it a narrow construction that its authors never intended.

To date, people with diabetes, heart conditions, cancer and mental illnesses have had their ADA claims kicked out of court because, with improvements in medication, they are considered too functional to be considered disabled.

Together, these decisions represent a dangerous chipping away at the foundation of equality which we poured 15 years ago when the ADA was enacted. And they are a reminder as we commemorate this 15th Anniversary that our work is not done.

This is clearly not what Congress intended when it passed the ADA and the first President Bush signed it into law. We intended the law to be given a broad construction, not a narrow one.

Today, let us renew our commitment to the principles and spirit of the ADA—a law that befits our great Nation, which stands for liberty and freedom. Today, let's commit to keep the promise we made when we enacted the ADA, because while its promise remains unfulfilled, it still is within reach.

Thus, I join my Congressional colleagues and demand that we commit ourselves to expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities and all Americans. Only then will we live up to the ideals of equality and opportunity.

RECOGNITION OF PETER DERBY

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, staffers do not often receive proper recognition for the hard work they do in government for either Congress or the agencies. Many of us would like to thank one of those deserving of such recognition. That person is Peter Derby, the Managing Executive for Operations and Management at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mr. Derby has announced that he will leave the SEC at the end of July. He will be leaving a legacy of hard work and accomplishment at that agency. Chairman William Donaldson praised Mr. Derby thusly: "Peter has played a critical role as a trusted Member of our senior management team during a critical period at the Commission. He was instrumental in increasing the operational efficiency and effectiveness at the Commission and served with distinction and integrity. Peter will leave a strong and lasting legacy at the Commission."

Prior to joining the SEC, Mr. Derby was involved in a wide array of business and public service ventures which left him well prepared to take over a position of such importance. Peter served as an elected member of the

Board of Trustees of the Village of Irvington-on-Hudson, NY. Derby spent a decade in Russia, where at the forefront of democratizing that nation's markets and banking infrastructure. He participated in the founding of DialogBank in 1990, the first private Russian bank to receive an international banking license. He moved rapidly through the ranks and was named Chairman of the Board of this institution in 1997. In addition, Derby founded the first Russian investment firm, Troika Dialog. Prior to Derby's time in Russia, he was a Corporate Finance Officer at National Westminster Bank from 1985–1990 and an Auditor at Chase-Manhattan Bank.

Mr. Derby worked seamlessly with Chairman Donaldson to repair the damaged image of our Nation's corporations and financial markets. In addition to improving the overall efficiency of SEC operations, Derby oversaw the creation of the Risk Management Program to create a more proactive posture. He also produced the first-ever audited financial statements of the SEC as well as leading the development of an implementation program for aligning facilities, technology and organizational systems with the agency's strategic themes.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in giving thanks to Peter Derby for his service to our Nation in a time of challenge. It is reassuring to the United States to know that there are people who will give time from their lives to help our country.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
THE KENYA CANNING COMMITTEE UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF KEITH COPE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Keith Cope and the congregation of Leesville Faith Community Chapel began a ministry for the 1,000 members of Pastor John Okinda's church in Migori, Kenya; and

Whereas, the Kenya Canning Committee is committed to collecting two separate shipments of 30,000 jars with the purpose of teaching the Kenyan congregation to properly store food through canning to reduce the repercussions of malnutrition and starvation; and

Whereas, the Kenya Canning Committee has also raised \$45,000 to supply the congregation with a tractor and are planning to raise funds to purchase a water tank all to aid in their quest to end starvation in Migori, Kenya; and

Whereas, previous shipments enabled Pastor Okinda's members to successfully can food for the first time in June, 2005.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating the Kenya Canning Committee under the direction of Keith Cope for their outstanding accomplishments and best wishes for all their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on Monday July 25, 2005, I was delayed in returning to Washington, DC from Columbus, OH due to inclement weather. As a result, I was unable to record a vote on rollcall No. 41—H.J. Res. 59, No. 418—H. Con. Res. 181, and No. 419—H. Res. 376. I support these measures and had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Nos. 417, 418 and 419.

IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST
MICHAEL R. HAYES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army Specialist Michael R. Hayes, an American hero who lost his life in defense of liberty and freedom. He made the ultimate sacrifice so that others might know freedom, and I am humbled by his bravery and selflessness.

Spc. Michael Hayes was killed on June 14, 2005 when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Humvee while he and four other Marines were providing security around a suspected explosive device near Baghdad. He was 29 years old. Spc. Hayes was assigned to the 617th Military Police Company, Kentucky Army National Guard at Richmond, KY. In addition to his family, fiancée and country, Spc. Hayes loved soccer. He founded the girls' soccer program at Butler County High School of Kentucky six years ago and was a devoted coach. He took this love from the soccer fields to the streets of Iraq where he took particular pride in seeing the children attend their newly built or refurbished schools. He wrote often of the Iraqi children and how their smiles brought him comfort. His leadership, dedication and enthusiasm will be missed.

He is survived by his mother, Barkley Hayes, fiancée, Melissa Allen, sister, Spc. Melissa Stewart, and brother, Spc. James Hayes, both of whom serve in the 617th Military Police Company.

I want to thank his family for raising such a fine man. As the father of two sons, I know their sacrifice is indescribable. Spc. Hayes leaves behind a legacy marked by courage, integrity and character. It is an honor and a privilege to represent his family in Congress. May God bless them, and may I convey to them the many thanks of a grateful Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, I was detained in Florida due to a doctor's appointment and as a result, missed the day's votes. I ask that my absence

be excused and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD shows that had I been present: for rollcall No. 417—the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. J. Res. 59, I would have voted "yea"; for rollcall No. 418—the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 181, I would have voted "yea"; and for rollcall No. 419—the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 376, I would have voted "yea."

THE STAKES IN CAFTA

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article for the RECORD:

[From the Washington Post, July 26, 2005]

THE STAKES IN CAFTA

The House is getting ready to vote on the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), a deal that would bind the five nations of Central America plus the Dominican Republic to the U.S. economy. From a commercial standpoint, it's curious that most Democrats in the House resist the agreement: 80 percent of Central American exports already enter the United States without tariffs, so the main effect of the deal will be to open the region to U.S. products. But the political argument for CAFTA is at least as compelling. While the United States has been focusing on terrorism, a new challenge has been brewing in its own hemisphere. House members should consider this challenge before voting to slam the door on Central America's pro-American leaders.

For much of the post-Cold War period, U.S. anxieties in Latin America seemed to be fading. The disintegration of the Soviet Union left Cuba's Fidel Castro without subsidies, undermining his power to buy influence in the region. The peace process in Central America succeeded, ending leftist insurgencies in El Salvador and Guatemala and leading to elections in Nicaragua that removed its Marxist leadership. Democracy already had displaced often populist dictatorships across South America; in Mexico, a pro-American, pro-market presidential candidate succeeded against the long-ruling and traditionally leftist Institutional Revolutionary Party. The remaining U.S. problem in Latin America was the drug war. Although the cartels were rich and ruthless, they were not trying to rally Latin Americans behind an anti-Yanqui banner.

In the past few years, however, an attempt has been made to revive the political challenge once represented by Mr. Castro. It centers on Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, who combines Castroite rhetoric with the financial clout of Venezuelan oil. Mr. Chavez has spread his money around the region, sponsoring anti-American and anti-democratic movements and promoting alternatives to U.S. initiatives. To counter the U.S. trade agenda, for example, he has put forward a "Bolivarian Alternative." This has given critics of the United States something to advocate. El Nuevo Diario, a Nicaraguan newspaper that is critical of CAFTA, praised the Bolivarian Alternative recently, asserting that "America is for the Americans, not for the North Americans." In Costa Rica critics of CAFTA who draw inspiration from Mr. Chavez have made no secret of the fact that they oppose the deal because they oppose the United States.

Most House Democrats don't want to hear this; they claim that CAFTA is opposed by