

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes on October 19, 2005. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall vote No. 529, on agreeing to Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment to H.R. 554—the “Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act of 2005,” I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 530, on agreeing to Filner of California amendment to H.R. 554—the “Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act of 2005,” I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 531 on agreeing to Scott of Virginia amendment to H.R. 554—the “Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act of 2005,” I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 532, on agreeing to Waxman of California amendment to H.R. 554—the “Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act of 2005,” I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 533, on passage of H.R. 554—the “Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act of 2005,” I would have voted “yes.”

**THE ERITREA-ETHIOPIA BORDER  
DISPUTE NEEDS AMERICAN  
LEADERSHIP**

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, the United States and Ethiopia have a long diplomatic history. It is a place that many Americans are familiar with.

Next door to Ethiopia spreading out along the strategic Red Sea coastline is Eritrea, a relatively new country, and a place that few Americans seem to fully understand.

The United States wants to have a good relationship with both Ethiopia and Eritrea. However, bilateral ties with both are weak and deteriorating.

This situation can be corrected, but it will take more interest and involvement by senior leaders in the U.S. government.

Congress is doing its part.

Chairman CHRIS SMITH and Representative DON PAYNE of the Africa subcommittee have held hearings on the border dispute earlier this year and have recently traveled to the region.

Last year Congress passed Senate-originated legislation, which became law, restricting assistance to Ethiopia or Eritrea for non-compliance to the Eritrea-Ethiopia Border Commission findings. Unfortunately, in January 2005, the executive branch waived this provision on national security grounds. I say “unfortunately” because it is because of our national security interest that the provision should have been kept in place. Uncertainty on the border issue creates uncertainty in the region.

Members have written letters to Secretary Rice and President Bush. We have urged

them to clarify our policy and to become engaged in this increasingly volatile part of the world. The responses from the State Department have been unhelpful and lead us to believe that either there is no policy, or the policy is to apply political pressure on Eritrea until there is war—and then blame Eritrea for not compromising with Ethiopia—or continuously pressure Eritrea until they agree to renegotiate the final and binding decision of the EEBC.

From Eritrea’s perspective, everything depends on full implementation of the EEBC decisions. The U.S. supposedly supports the EEBC decisions, but if it does, then its support appears to be very weak.

The U.S. policy, whatever it is, has one clear result: the status quo remains in place.

Unfortunately, the status quo is untenable and will ultimately result in a renewal of hostilities. The current stalemate is clearly driving the region towards war.

The border demarcation crisis is an existential threat to the security of Eritrea. The dialogue and discussion now being requested by Ethiopia has already occurred and is articulated by the EEBC. This fact underlies Eritrea’s unwillingness to dialogue further with Ethiopia or with U.N. Special Envoy Lloyd Axworthy on border demarcation. The failure to resolve the border impacts all aspects of thinking in Eritrea. Eritrea believes that protecting the security and sovereignty of the nation is the first responsibility of the government.

Let me make one thing perfectly clear: Ethiopian troops are occupying sovereign Eritrean territory today and have done so for years.

Because Eritrea is a small developing country the current situation puts into effect enormous internal pressures. But Eritrea will not compromise its national sovereignty, and will instead invoke the right to self-defense as articulated in Article 51 of the U.N. Charter and move to secure its territory by force as the international community fails to implement and enforce the rule of law and U.N. Security Council resolutions.

I am confident that if President Bush knew the details of this situation personally, that he would be very disappointed in the officials responsible for this weak policy. It does not reflect the President’s love for freedom and justice. Our policy leads nowhere but to war. That is unacceptable.

Someone has this problem figured out wrong. Today’s approach mirrors the thinking of the Clinton Administration. One wonders where the Republican appointees are in the policy-making process concerning this part of the world.

There is active discussion among Members about potential solutions. One common aspect of all potential courses of action is that more U.S. leadership is needed.

U.S. leadership makes a difference. Clear policy statements by President Bush and other senior officials preceded Charles Taylor leaving Liberia, Syrian troops leaving Lebanon, Israeli settlements leaving Gaza, Viktor Yushenko’s election as President in Ukraine and so many other recent developments.

China is paying attention to this region. Sudan has thousands of PRC advisors working in the oil and gas business as well as military advisors. China is rapidly expanding its relationship with Ethiopia and Eritrea. These relationships with China will falter over time, but right now Beijing seems to be paying at-

tention to the Horn of Africa and we appear to be asleep at the switch. Someone at the State Department needs to wake up before it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress is calling on the Administration to make a clear statement of our policy on the Eritrea-Ethiopia border demarcation issue. A clear statement urging Ethiopia to unconditionally and swiftly implement the EEBC’s final and binding decision will set in motion positive forces that enable success. Further, such clarity would go a long way to starting a process that would very likely resolve this knotty border matter through a peaceful and diplomatic process rather than by more bloodshed.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGY  
PRICE DISCIPLINE ACT OF 2005**

**HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the “Energy Price Discipline Act of 2005.” This timely and important piece of legislation will ensure that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has the tools to investigate and strongly prosecute price gouging across the nation by those refining, selling, or shipping crude oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas, or petroleum distillates.

Today, Americans are paying more than ever before for the fuel they need to run their cars and heat their homes. Even before the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, consumers were paying almost a dollar more than they were a year ago for a gallon of gas. And in the days following this disaster, average gas price rose an additional 45 cents per gallon—with reported prices of nearly \$6.00 at some stations in the affected areas.

And, as the days get shorter and the air gets colder, more and more people are worrying about how they are going to be able to heat their homes this winter. According to figures released last week by the U.S. Energy Information Administration, households heating their homes with natural gas can expect to spend about 48 percent more, or an additional \$350, on fuel this winter. Those with heating oil can expect a 32 percent increase, or on average about \$378 more.

But as Americans look deeper into their wallets to put gas in their cars to get to work or to heat their homes, both oil companies and U.S. refineries are on track for record profits. I believe that consumers across the country should have the right to know that the prices they are struggling to pay are legitimate and that no one is profiting unjustly at their expense.

For this reason, I am introducing the “Energy Price Discipline Act of 2005.” This bill will give the FTC broad discretion to investigate and, if necessary, strongly prosecute whoever—whether it is a gas station owner, a petroleum company, or a refiner—is guilty of manipulating the price of crude oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas, or petroleum distillates.

The “Energy Price Discipline Act of 2005” recognizes that in today’s global economy consumers in states far removed from a tragedy like Hurricane Katrina may see the results of it in their energy prices—often for legitimate

reasons, but sadly also as a result of price gouging. In my home State of New Jersey, residents voiced concerns over fair and honest treatment when purchasing gasoline for weeks before a federal emergency declaration was declared and state price gouging statutes were triggered.

For these reasons, the bill does not require a federal emergency declaration to be issued before the FTC could begin an investigation. Instead, the bill sets out specific factors for the FTC to use to determine whether the commodity is being sold at an unjust or unreasonable price. If the FTC makes the determination that price gouging exists, the bill ensures that the violator, whether an individual or a corporation, is subject to strong civil and criminal penalties.

Americans in every corner of the country are today being faced with unprecedented energy costs. We owe it to our constituents to ensure that no one is profiting unjustly at their expense. I urge my colleagues to speak for them and to support the "Energy Price Discipline Act of 2005."

### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month and pay special tribute to the extraordinary contributions of Hispanics towards our great nation. Hispanic Heritage Month, which began on September 15th, commemorates the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile both declared their independence in the month of September. This anniversary celebrates the day these countries declared their independence from Spanish colonial rule, and continues to represent the shared heritage of all Hispanics in our hemisphere.

This month-long commemoration allows us to celebrate the diversity within the Hispanic community in the United States. America's cultural diversity has always been one of our nation's greatest strengths. Although Hispanics share a common language, their history is rooted throughout the Americas and the Iberian Peninsula. Hispanics represent a mixture of several ethnic backgrounds, including European, American Indian, and African.

Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have contributed to the greatness of America. From the earliest settlers in the New World to the most recent arrivals seeking greater opportunities and freedoms, Hispanics continue to add to America's unique culture.

According to the Census Bureau, in 2002, there were 37.4 million Hispanics residing in the U.S., representing 13.3 percent of the total population. More than 2.7 million Hispanics reside in my home State of Florida, and comprise almost 17 percent of the population. As a relatively young and rapidly growing population, Hispanics are poised to make their mark on our nation for generations to come. Through their hard work, commitment to faith and close-knit families, Hispanics have the potential to have a significant impact on society.

Furthermore, beyond this data, the reality is that Hispanics are an integral part of America's social fabric. More than one in eight people in the U.S. are of Hispanic origin. During this month-long celebration, we recognize the millions of Hispanic Americans who value a strong commitment to family, hard work, and community. In various aspects of society, from the world of sports, music, and literature and to the entrepreneurial sector, Hispanics continue to live and pursue the American dream. As legislators, we must continue to work for the advancement of initiatives that support and provide opportunity for all.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, I urge all of my colleagues to join with our fellow citizens in celebrating this rich and diverse culture, and I encourage all Americans to recognize the significant role Hispanics play in creating and building this great country.

### HONORING CERRITOS COLLEGE

#### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, Cerritos College celebrates its 50 years of dedication, tradition, and influence in the 39th Congressional District and southeast Los Angeles County. It stands as an honored institution within the surrounding communities and continues to provide excellent education and training to thousands of students year after year.

A community's dream to extend the educational opportunities of local youth resulted in the birth of Cerritos College. Established in 1955, Cerritos College began with a humble 195 students, 10 teachers, and 15 subjects. Today, the College enrolls more than 22,000 students and offers over 180 areas of study.

Cerritos College's dedication to quality education has made the College an asset to both career-oriented students as well as life-long learners. From political science to business, culinary arts to computers, Cerritos College's programs are invaluable in providing the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in today's dynamic world.

Cerritos College has embraced and utilized technology in providing quality education and services to its students and faculty. The College boasts an open-access lab of 600 high-speed computers dedicated to student use, a modern teleconferencing center, online courses, and "wiring" of the entire campus. As a result, Cerritos College has been dubbed "the most technologically advanced community college" in California for teaching and learning.

Perhaps Cerritos College's greatest asset is its diversity. It is the fourth largest Latino serving community college in the nation and is home to more than 300 international students. Cerritos College's commitment to serving the community's needs has empowered local students and given them a chance to pursue their dreams and become engaged with the rest of the world.

I proudly celebrate with Cerritos College its fiftieth anniversary and look forward to working with the College and its students for many more years to come.

IN RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE OF LIFE OF REVEREND MONSIGNOR ROBERT D. GOODILL

#### HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and remembrance of the life of Reverend Monsignor Robert D. Goodill, who tragically died on April 1, 2005 from injuries sustained in a car accident while in Mexico. For nearly seven decades, Reverend Monsignor Goodill selflessly served the citizens of northwestern Pennsylvania, acting as both a community leader and spiritual counselor for countless individuals. He was a man deeply devoted to his church and his community, dedicating the entirety of his life to the betterment of both.

Reverend Monsignor Robert D. Goodill was born in Erie, Pennsylvania on October 23, 1912. He attended St. Patrick grade school and later attended Cathedral Preparatory School. In 1935, Reverend Monsignor graduated from Catholic University of America with an M.A. in Philosophy. Following his ordainment as a priest at Our Lady of Humility Church in Rome, Goodill was assigned as a parochial vicar at St. Brigid Parish in Meadville, PA. Rev. Monsignor Goodill entered military service in 1943. He served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy during World War II and again from 1952 to 1954 during the Korean Conflict, being named Naval Chaplain of the year in 1953. In 1954, Goodill was appointed as the founding pastor of Erie, Pennsylvania's St. Luke Church, a position he held until his retirement in 1985. In 1994, after five decades of loyal service to the church, Pope John Paul II named him a prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor.

The dedication Reverend Monsignor continually demonstrated for his church, community, and nation warrant this body's recognition. As a community leader, spiritual counselor, and war veteran, Reverend Monsignor Goodill's life embodied the American ideals of service, commitment, and sacrifice. With his unfortunate passing, the people of my district, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the nation have lost a truly exceptional and beloved man.

### RECOGNIZING PRINCIPAL CHERRY FITCH

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to recognize Cherry Fitch, Florida's High School Principal of the Year. For over 30 years Mrs. Fitch has served Gulf Breeze High School, improving students' lives working as both a teacher and an administrator.

She began her career at Gulf Breeze High School in 1970 as an English teacher and 27 years of dedication later she became the principal. She is an excellent principal, concerned not only with the academic wellbeing of her students but their social success as well. Although Mrs. Fitch left the classroom, she remained deeply involved in her students' lives.