

HONORING THE JACKSONVILLE
ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to commemorate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Jacksonville Rotary Club for their 85 years of service to Cherokee County. Throughout its history, the Jacksonville Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Jacksonville Rotary Club has benefited numerous organizations and programs that serve the local community including the Anderson/Cherokee Crisis Center and the Jacksonville Literacy Council. The Ambassadorial Scholarship program has enabled local students to enrich their lives and further their education by helping them study abroad. Their valuable community service has also been seen through annual events such as the Pancake Supper, United Fund activities, support of Boy Scout Troop 407, and benefit golf tournaments.

Through these initiatives, the Jacksonville Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE EMPLOYERS OF
OUR GUARD AND RESERVE BUT
MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this important resolution. When it comes to taking care of our citizen-soldiers, many employers have gone well beyond what the law requires. They make up any loss of income that an employee encounters when going on active duty, or they keep the soldier's family on the company health insurance, or they find other ways to ease an employee's separation from loved ones during activation. This bill is an excellent opportunity for Congress to thank these conscientious employers.

In particular, I would like to extend special gratitude to those employers who have taken it upon themselves to eliminate any pay gap that their employees encounter because their military salary is less than their civilian salary.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of the Employees Support for Guard and Reserve, nearly 1/2

of our activated citizen-soldiers have employers who eliminate that pay gap. Companies making such payments include IBM, Sears, General Motors, Home Depot, United Parcel Service and Ford Motor Company.

In addition, the governments of at least 30 states, including my home state of California, offer this differential pay for state employees who go on active duty.

Unfortunately, the Pentagon has prevented the Federal Government from following these conscientious employers and making up any pay gap encountered by Federal employees who have been activated in the Guard and Reserve.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD a wonderful article by Bob Barr that ran in the Washington Post highlighting the efforts of Senator DURBIN and other Members of Congress on this issue.

While I strongly support this resolution I also believe that what is good for the goose should be good for the gander, and that the time has come for the Federal Government, the largest single employer of the citizens who make up the Guard and Reserve—must match the example set by employers throughout this country and support our own citizen-soldier employees.

PRIVATE SECTOR SURPASSES AGENCIES ON PAY
TO DEPLOYED

(By Stephen Barr)

Wachovia Corp., the banking giant, Eaton Corp., an industrial manufacturer, and Enterprise Rent-a-Car keep their employees on full salary and benefits, regardless of military compensation, when they are called to active duty in the reserves and National Guard.

Other organizations also help out their reserve and Guard employees beyond the letter of the law. Citizens Financial Group Inc., the Los Angeles Police Department, Sears, Roebuck and Co., the state of Delaware and Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc. provide financial support to their employees, including a pay differential, for periods ranging from a year to the duration of the deployment.

The companies were among 15 recently honored by the Pentagon with the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, in recognition of their exceptional support of their Guard and reserve employees. The 15 companies went beyond the requirements of the 1994 Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, which seeks to guarantee that workers have a comparable job waiting for them when they return from their military service.

The federal government, however, falls short of being a model employer in its treatment of civil service employees called to active duty. Although federal agencies comply with the law, the government does not make up the difference in pay when an employee is called to active military duty and receives a smaller salary.

David M. Walker, the head of the Government Accountability Office, attended the Freedom Award banquet Oct. 15 and later told a House committee that "the U.S. government is not leading by example or practicing what it preaches in connection with employer support for the Guard and reserves."

Walker, in his prepared statement, said the GAO and federal agencies are constrained by law and ought to have some leeway to ease salary shortfalls for Guard and reserve families.

"Federal agencies should be able to make up any salary differential that activated

Guard and reserve members might otherwise lose out of our annual appropriation," Walker said. "We would also like to be able to be sure that applicable employees and their family members continue to receive their employer-provided benefits."

There are about 1.13 million people in the Guard and reserves, and Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA) and other members of Congress have estimated that about 40 percent of those called to active duty suffer a loss of income, putting mortgages and other obligations in jeopardy, because their military pay is less than they would have earned in their civilian jobs.

About 126,850 reservists are employed by federal agencies, and about 96,600 of them work for the Defense Department. Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) estimates that 17,000 federal employees have been mobilized to serve in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places.

The Senate has approved an amendment sponsored by Durbin that would require a federal employee's agency to pay the difference between a worker's reservist pay and federal civilian pay. More than 100 House members, organized by Lantos, have written to the House Appropriations Committee backing the Durbin amendment.

The amendment has been stripped out of bills during past House-Senate negotiations—what the senator calls "the darkness of a conference committee."

In general, Defense officials have opposed bills that would close the "pay gap" for some mobilized reservists because they believe it could cause morale problems. Officials have contended that all parts of the armed forces—active, Guard and reserves—should be compensated according to their performance of military duties under the existing military pay system.

The officials point out that federal employees who are mobilized may take a month of military leave each calendar year with differential pay and that a special category of federal employees, military technicians, can receive two months at full civilian salary. Federal agencies also may pick up health insurance costs for up to 24 months for their mobilized reservists.

Still, the House members said in their letter, "what is good for the goose should be good for the gander," suggesting that the government, as the largest employer of reservists, should be able to match the support offered by companies to ease financial burdens on employees called to serve.

A PROCLAMATION THANKING SPECIALIST
RODNEY HENDERSHOT FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Spc. Rodney Hendershot has served in the U.S. Army's Alpha company, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry with loyalty, duty, respect, selflessness, honor, integrity and courage; and

Whereas, Spc. Rodney Hendershot volunteered to serve at a time of great unrest when America's values of freedom and liberty for all were challenged most; and

Whereas, Spc. Rodney Hendershot has fought for the freedom of the Iraqi people and the security of this great Nation.

Therefore, I join with family, friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in

thanking Specialist Rodney Hendershot for his exemplary service.

IN HONOR OF THE UKRAINIAN
AMERICAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA), as they celebrate their 80th Anniversary as a world wide youth organization. In northeast Ohio, the UAYA is celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the UAYA Campgrounds in Huntington, Ohio.

For more than a century, Americans of Ukrainian heritage have infused the richness of Ukrainian heritage throughout our Greater Cleveland community. Their significant contributions within all facets of our society, along with their collective focus on preserving and promoting the history of the Ukraine, is enhanced with every new generation of Americans of Ukrainian heritage.

The leaders and members of the UAYA provide vital opportunities for American youth of Ukrainian descent to attain a true understanding of the history, faith, culture of the Ukraine. The UAYA also provides vital cultural opportunities for young people to become active and lasting members of their local Ukrainian community—a community centered around family, faith and tradition.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Ukrainian American Youth Association, as leaders and members celebrate the vital and ongoing legacy of teaching, preserving and sharing memories, customs and culture of their beloved Ukraine. Through the efforts of the UAYA, the heart of the Ukraine transcends borders, oceans and time, and lives on within each new generation of children of Ukrainian heritage—in Cleveland, Ohio, and around the world.

MANKATO, MINNESOTA RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE "100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE"

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Mankato, Minnesota, for being a great place to live and grow up.

On Nov. 1, the city of Mankato was recognized as one of the "100 Best Communities" for Young People by America's Promise, an organization founded by former Secretary of State Colin Powell. At the awards ceremony in Washington, DC, Mankato also received a special award for its outreach efforts to Gulf Coast residents.

Located on the beautiful Minnesota River in the heart of Blue Earth County, Mankato is a great place to live. But as America's Promise has recognized, Mankato is also a great place for young people. Boasting one of the lowest high school dropout rates among the Nation's

small cities, Mankato remains committed to education and family values.

In particular, I would like to recognize the parents and teachers of the city who devote their time to Mankato's youth. I would also like to commend Kathy Brynaert, Independent School District #77 School Board Chair and Anna Thill of the Mankato Area United Way who attended the awards ceremony and accepted the honor on behalf of the city.

In addition to the award for being one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People," Mankato was also recognized for its work in aiding communities devastated by recent hurricanes. Red Cross volunteers and professionals from Mankato immediately responded to the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina by traveling to the Gulf Coast to lend a helping hand. Meanwhile, back in Mankato, community residents and local organizations rallied to collect money and supplies for hurricane victims. Local students designed cards offering their love and support that were delivered to children there.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring and congratulating these outstanding Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT SARGENT
SHRIVER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Sargent Shriver on his 90th birthday today. It is fitting that we take this wonderful occasion to reflect on his life of service to our country.

Martin Luther King once said, "Everyone can be great because everyone can serve." Sargent Shriver embodies this ideal. A man of stellar character and tireless energy, Ambassador Shriver has been long recognized as a true humanitarian and a dedicated public servant.

Ambassador Shriver received his bachelor's degree from Yale University in 1938. He also attended Yale Law School where he earned an L.L.B. in 1941. Shriver began his lifelong commitment to public service in the United States Navy during World War II.

In 1961, Mr. Shriver answered the call of duty again when, at the request of President John F. Kennedy, he established and became Director of the Peace Corps. He helped organize operations around the world, from Africa and Asia to Latin America. Under his steadfast leadership, the Peace Corps provided medical, educational and technical assistance to foreign communities, while giving millions of Americans the opportunity to share our culture and values and democratic way of life with those less fortunate. Shriver's service to our country took a diplomatic turn when he served as our Ambassador to France from 1968 to 1970.

Through his commitment to turning his ideals into reality, Sargent Shriver has inspired generations of young people to work to improve the lives of others through public service. As Director of the Peace Corps, Ambassador Shriver once stated, "I say what our nation needs now is a call to peace and service—peace and service on a scale we have scarcely begun to imagine." These words still

ring as true today as they did when they were first spoken.

While Ambassador Shriver is best known as the Founding Father of the Peace Corps, he has also been instrumental in the creation of many other programs which have the goal of helping Americans to better their lives. Among those programs are Head Start, Job Corps, Legal Services, Upward Bound, Community Action, Foster Grandparents, and the Special Olympics.

In 1994, President Clinton recognized Ambassador Shriver's extraordinary commitment to public service by awarding him the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Sargent Shriver's accomplishments and his undying commitment to humanitarian efforts and I wish him well on his birthday and in the years to come. Happy Birthday, Sargent Shriver. We salute you!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, though I was absent during the legislative week of Tuesday, November 1 through Friday, November 4, 2005 and Monday, November 7, 2005 for medical reasons, I wish to have my intended votes recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the following votes:

November 1, 2005:

Rollcall vote 557 on H.R. 3548—"aye"; and Rollcall vote 558 on H.R. 3989—"aye".

November 2, 2005:

Rollcall vote 559 on H.R. 1606—"aye"; Rollcall vote 560 on H.R. 4061—"aye"; and Rollcall vote 561 on H.R. 1691—"aye".

November 3, 2005:

Rollcall vote 562 Appealing the Ruling of the Chair concerning the Iraq War Investigation—"aye"; Rollcall vote 563 on H. Res. 527—"aye"; Rollcall vote 564 on Amendment numbered 2 in House Report 109-266—"nay"; Rollcall vote 565 on Amendment numbered 5 in House Report 109-266—"nay"; Rollcall vote 566 on Amendment numbered 6 in House Report 109-266—"nay"; Rollcall vote 567 on Amendment numbered 11 in House Report 109-266—"nay"; and Rollcall vote 568 on H.R. 4128—"aye".

November 4, 2005:

Rollcall vote 569 on H.R. 3057—"nay".

November 7, 2005:

Rollcall vote 570 on H. Con. Res. 260—"aye"; Rollcall vote 571 on H.R. 1973—"nay"; and Rollcall vote 572 on H. Res. 444—"aye".

IN RECOGNITION OF MS.

KATHLEEN TURNER

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations and recognition to Ms. Kathleen Turner as she completes her tour of duty