

right, and not just politically correct. Will be sadly missed by all that knew and loved her. May God Bless her.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise to join my colleagues in recognizing the 103rd anniversary of Korean American immigration to the United States, and honoring the contributions of the Korean American community to our country.

On January 13, 1903, the S.S. *Gaelic* docked in Hawaii, carrying with it the first wave of immigrants from Korea, and ushering in a new chapter in our nation's heritage. These pioneering individuals—56 men, 21 women, and 25 children—would blaze a trail for more than two million Korean American immigrants and their descendants who live throughout our nation today.

Following World War II and the Korean War, a second wave of thousands of Korean immigrants came to the United States. Like all immigrants, they sacrificed everything they knew to answer the calls of freedom and new opportunity, with the hopes of building brighter futures for themselves in America.

Over the course of one hundred years of immigration, Korean Americans have worked hard to achieve the American dream through their resolve, determination, and an abiding belief in the greatness of this country that we love. While well known and celebrated for its entrepreneurial spirit, the contributions made by the Korean American community to our society extends to all areas of the American fabric and have profoundly enriched our national heritage. Korean Americans have broken down language and social barriers, and fought back against the obstacles of racism and discrimination to succeed in and contribute to all aspects of American life—all.

As Representative of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my privilege to represent a diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander community, including a vibrant and active Korean American community.

In marking the 100 year anniversary of Korean American immigration, the Centennial Committee on Korean Immigration designated January 13 of each year as Korean American Day. By honoring this day, we celebrate the extraordinary contributions of this unique community to our country, and rededicate ourselves to making the American dream a reality for all.

This legislation has my strong support, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this vibrant community.

VICTORY IN IRAQ RESOLUTION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 612, "Express-

ing the Commitment of the House of Representatives to Achieving Victory in Iraq". Because of the severe importance of this issue, I feel it is crucial that I explain my position on this issue. As we are all aware, on Friday, December 2, 2005, 10 United States Marines were killed in a bomb attack on their foot patrol outside Fallujah. The following day, 11 Iraqi soldiers died after insurgents ambushed a joint patrol of American and Iraqi forces just north of Baghdad. In my District of Houston, TX, several Disabled Veterans, family members of current and fallen soldiers, and friends joined in a "call to action" to let this Administration know that enough deaths have amassed in the Iraq war to warrant an immediate plan to redeploy our troops back to the U.S. We see daily examples that define this situation as a crisis that continues to increase. Americans deserve a serious exit strategy—'staying the course' has clearly failed.

I salute our brave women and men who are serving and who have served in our military, as they have been victorious. There is no separation among Americans on our belief that our troops deserve and should receive honor. However, as many defense specialists and other scholars have suggested, our troops continued presence in Iraq may constitute and be the basis for the increased violence. We must transfer authority and oversight to a sovereign Iraqi Government. They should then seek to gain the support of certain Arab nations. There is no success in the mounting bloodshed. The Washington Post reported on December 3, 2005 that sources suggest media groups in the United States might have paid Iraqi press to publish favorable propaganda about U.S. military operations there. With this and numerous other possible incidents that raise suspicion as to the credibility of certain American government officials, the troops are in a very tenuous position in a land foreign to them amid daily attacks by insurgent groups. Let us be proactive in helping to save lives and honor our troops by bringing them home safely.

Part of the plan that I suggest includes the following steps:

(1) acts of American diplomacy in furtherance of the creation of an international coalition of support,

(2) convening of a summit of Arab nations for the purpose of engaging leadership on the question of what steps can be taken to aid this region,

(3) cessation of the redeployment of American troops to multiple tours of duty to the region,

(4) allocation of resources and attention to the over 15,000 injured soldiers and the need for medical and educational services,

(5) establishment of a special memorial to honor those who have fallen in the Iraq engagement, and

(6) establishment and articulation of a comprehensive exit strategy that will result in the redeployment of the troops back to the U.S. and the restoration of sovereignty to the installed Iraqi government. Democrats should distinguish themselves by their alliance on this issue.

Many of the Democratic resolutions, specifically that introduced by Mr. MURTHA, deserve our support. They represent excellent vehicles to distinguish Democrats before the American people. We must do that!

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in furthering these initiatives, and I would like to

thank our troops for their hard work and dedication in keeping us safe.

PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House of Representatives passed the Pension Protection Act on a vote of 294–130. I voted in favor of this bill in order to move the legislative process forward because failure to approve pension reform legislation endangers the retirement security of hundreds of thousands of workers. Without changes our pension system, many employers will face even greater pressure to file for bankruptcy to terminate their workers' pension plans. Though I supported H.R. 2830, it is my hope that the final conference report will be a product more closely resembling the version that passed the Senate on a near unanimous vote.

It is my understanding that when the Conference Committee convenes, Education and Workforce Chairman BOEHNER will support including a Senate provision that provides some industries with needed time to address their unique financial circumstances. Without immediate passage of this bill, some defined benefit plans may be forced to default on its payments to retirees.

While not perfect, H.R. 2830, the Pension Protection Act, contains many important provisions that will strengthen our defined benefit system. For example, the Act provides relief to multi-employer pension plans by allowing more affordable and appropriate contributions to maintain their employees' pensions. This will greatly benefit workers in the skilled trades, such as plumbers, carpenters, and transport workers. I was disappointed that multi-employer pensions were excluded from the temporary pension relief that was signed into law last year, and I am glad that this bill provides long overdue relief to secure these workers' pensions.

Though House passage of H.R. 2830 is better than passage of no bill at all, this legislation must be improved during the conference between the House and Senate. I would like to see a bill that does more to protect older workers whose employers convert their defined benefit pension plans to cash-balance plans. Further, this bill provides that the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation guarantee some, but not all, pensions when a factory or plant shuts down. Stronger protections for older workers and insurance for all shut down pension benefits should be included in the final Conference Report.

All workers in every type of industry require immediate changes in our current pension laws if we are to ensure that future generations are able to participate in the defined benefit retirement plans that offer superior retirement security. Failure to pass this bill and move the legislative process forward endangers thousands of workers pensions. Though the Pension Protection Act is not a perfect bill, I am compelled to support this legislation so that our pension system can be changed to assist all employees.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONORABLE JOHN D. DINGELL'S SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join colleagues in recognizing and honoring JOHN DINGELL as he celebrates his fiftieth anniversary as a member of the House of Representatives.

As a young political scientist teaching about the Congress and doing research on the committee system, I knew a good deal about JOHN DINGELL before I joined him in the House in 1987. I studied his role, along with his friend and colleague John Moss, in shaking up the Commerce Committee in the 1970s, decentralizing the then-Chairman's authority and greatly stepping up oversight of the executive. I came to the House hoping that I could someday become a Commerce member myself. By then, JOHN was chairman, and the Committee was the "place to be" for an activist member, known for its broad legislative reach and vigilant oversight.

As it happened, my region had its full quota of Commerce seats, and I successfully pursued Appropriations instead. But I have continued to admire JOHN's work, now as ranking member. He is totally dedicated to this institution as the keystone of American democracy, and he fully understands the importance of active, assertive committees to the institution's capacity for deliberation and sound law-making.

JOHN richly deserves the fulsome tributes we have heard from senior and junior colleagues, of every partisan and political stripe, upon this fiftieth anniversary of his winning the seat vacated by his father's death in 1955. Many have also mentioned Debbie Dingell, JOHN's wife and partner in service. Debbie has been an invaluable resource to the House Democratic Caucus in planning issues conferences and other activities, and I recently was privileged to serve with her on our national party's Commission on Presidential Nomination Timing and Scheduling.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join in tribute to JOHN and Debbie DINGELL—to thank them for their dedication and perseverance, for their effectiveness as advocates and public servants, and for what they have meant to each of us and to our country as champions of this institution.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration

laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, after long deliberation and discussion with the bill's author, I decided to vote "aye" on H.R. 4437. This bill is far from complete, and far from being ready to become law. Yet, it has become clear that Congress will deal with immigration reform through several stages in a long process during the next session of the 109th Congress. I supported H.R. 4437 to begin this process, so we can ultimately achieve comprehensive immigration reform.

Among the provisions I believe are instrumental toward achieving such reform are the reforms to secure our borders. Border security is no longer simply an issue of illegal immigration. It is an issue of national security, where we are vulnerable to terrorist infiltration. This proposal offers a comprehensive way to address this threat.

However, I have several concerns with this legislation that must be addressed in order to receive my support for a final, comprehensive solution to fixing our broken immigration system.

First and foremost, the provision in H.R. 4437 that makes undocumented alien status a federal felony is totally unacceptable. Prior to the bill's passing, I received a commitment from the author, Chairman SENSENBRENNER, that this provision will be removed. Second, the employer verification system proposed in this bill is unworkable and must be fixed. Third, a final bill should include the creation of a secure, legal channel by which foreign workers needed to keep the United States' economy growing may enter and leave the country. And, finally, we must bring into the open, in a reasonable and fair manner, the millions of immigrants who are living in our communities without any documentation. Failure to address all of these issues will simply prolong our broken immigration system.

Because Congress is so divided on how to achieve comprehensive reform, it has become clear to me that such reform will occur in stages over the course of the next year. I look forward to working with my colleagues in both political parties to make sure the final version of this legislative effort is one we can all be proud to support.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4437, The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005. This is a good bill that takes some important steps to curb illegal immigration, secure our borders and make America safer.

The bill takes a broad range of actions to secure our Nation. These include imposing tougher penalties for those who smuggle illegal immigrants into the U.S. and for those who overstay their visas. Individuals involved in making and using fraudulent documents will face stiffer penalties. We also end the "catch and release" policy that allows apprehended illegal immigrants to slip away unnoticed and live illegally in the U.S. as they will no longer simply be released back into the community.

With regard to granting immigration benefits, i.e., citizenship, green cards, permanent residency, the bill ends the practice of granting such benefits to those for whom a background check has not been completed. Immigration benefits should not be handed out simply because a certain number of days have passed since the investigation was commenced. Perhaps the background check approval is being delayed because of the need to fully investigate a possible criminal or terrorism risks.

Current law denies immigration benefits to those who are classified as habitual drunkards, but not those affiliated with terrorist organizations. This bill fixes that problem by making sure that illegal immigrants who are deportable on terrorist grounds are deported without delay.

H.R. 4437 requires employers to verify that prospective employees are legally employable. The bill ensures that a system is in place for employers to verify the legal status of such job applicants and it provides penalties for employers who violate these laws. The bill also prohibits federal funds provided under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program to any state or local government that maintains a "sanctuary policy" for illegal immigrants.

In order to ensure that we have a better understanding of just who is crossing illegally into the U.S. the bill requires the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, to report to Congress on the number of illegal aliens apprehended who are from non-contiguous countries, with a particular emphasis on ascertaining the number of individuals from countries known to harbor terrorists. DHS is also to provide the Congress with a timeline for fully equipping all land borders with the US-VISIT entry/exit system.

On a 260-159 vote, the House mandated the construction of security fencing, including lights and cameras, along the Southwest border in sectors with the highest number of illegal border crossings, drug smuggling, and immigrant deaths. Additionally, DHS will be required to conduct a study and report back to Congress on the use of physical barriers along the Northern border.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 4437 moves us in the right direction of addressing the serious problem of illegal immigration making the United States more secure.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under