

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SUPPORT FOR ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS THAT OCCURRED ON DECEMBER 26, 2004, IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 12, expressing support to the victims of the tragic earthquake and tsunami that occurred on December 26, 2004. I offer my deepest condolences to the people of Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and India, along with all of the children and families across South Asia and Eastern Africa, in the wake of this devastating event.

The toll taken by this tragic earthquake and tsunami is staggering: More than 150,000 dead, thousands still missing, and 5 million lacking basic survival necessities like clean water, food and shelter, and healthcare. The world endured the largest earthquake since 1900 and the tsunami that followed took the lives of children, their parents, tourists and entire families. This is a region ill-prepared for such a colossal and devastating natural occurrence. It is a human tragedy of epic proportions.

In response, the world community has embarked on a massive humanitarian relief effort unparalleled in the history of disaster relief. To date, the United States and other donors have pledged an estimated \$2 billion in emergency and reconstruction assistance.

As the wealthiest nation in the world, the United States must lead the effort to provide humanitarian assistance. A once belated and undervalued response by the United States must now be erased with aggressive and generous action. I call on Congress to swiftly authorize and appropriate the \$350 million pledged by the President so it can be delivered promptly to those who need it immediately.

I also call on the President to ensure that the money he pledged to provide humanitarian relief in the wake of this disaster does not come at the expense of existing international aid programs assisting millions of people across the globe. These programs, for example, help AIDS orphans, victims of drought, war refugees and the families in Iraq and Afghanistan that are rebuilding their homes and communities. Our assistance in these areas must remain a priority.

The tragic loss of human life and destruction from the earthquake and tsunami unite the United States and the entire international community in solidarity and support. My thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of this terrible tragedy and I pledge my continued support and help for their families and the hundreds of relief workers who have come to their aid.

CLARIFICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL INTENT REGARDING 22 U.S.C. 7207(b)(1)

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a question about the Congressional intent of the phrase "payment of cash in advance" as it appears in 22 U.S.C. 7207(b)(1) as passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on October 11, 2000, as passed by the U.S. Senate on October 18, 2000, and as signed into law by President Clinton on October 28, 2000.

As the principal negotiator and author of the language in question, I can state, without any ambiguity, that the Congressional intent behind the phrase "payment of cash in advance" is the following: that all legal sales of agricultural commodities or products to the Cuban Government or any person in Cuba, must be paid in full in advance of the shipment of the goods.

I sincerely hope that regulations will be issued to reflect the congressional intent of this phrase.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 242, THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce "The Surface Transportation Research and Development Act of 2005." This legislation is actually a reintroduction of the bill that passed the Science Committee last Congress. After the bill passed the Science Committee, I worked with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to have many of the provisions included in the House version of the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century—better known as TEA-21. Unfortunately, the House and Senate were not able to reach consensus on a final transportation bill.

As we prepare to complete the reauthorization early in this Congress, my legislation still provides the needed emphasis on transportation research and development that will ensure our whole transportation system can meet the tremendous challenges of today and especially for the future. Considering that we won't have the ability to simply build more roads to address these challenges, especially in urban areas, we must look at new ways to improve the overall system, to make it safer and more efficient, and to ensure that the system meets future needs. Good research, properly done, will more than pay for itself in longer-lasting roads, better bridges, faster traffic flow, and fewer accidents.

In the last Congress, as chairman of the House Science Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards, which shares jurisdiction over surface transportation research with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I held hearings to hear

from experts on the state of the Federal Government's current surface transportation research program. In addition, we heard from a wide array of interests on how to improve and reform the research program, and the levels at which research should be funded. Based on this input, I introduced the Surface Transportation Research and Development Act last Congress.

This legislation I am introducing today is identical to the bill that passed the Science Committee last Congress. It has three overarching goals: to increase stakeholder input to ensure that the people who must implement and use the research agree that it is applicable to everyday challenges; to create the highest quality research through increased competition and peer-review of all projects; and to ensure greater accountability so that our research supports the goals of our surface transportation system.

More specifically, the bill:

Creates and funds an important research program run by the National Academy of Sciences to address short to medium-term research needs. Research will focus on reducing congestion, renewing existing roads and bridges while minimizing impact to the public, improving safety by reducing crashes, and developing tools for getting more out of our existing highway capacity and assessing future needs. All projects funded by this program will be competitively awarded and peer-reviewed;

Provides needed funds to implement a public-private cooperative environmental research program, with the goal of developing the knowledge, tools, and performance measures that will help us better understand and manage the linkage between the environment and the transportation system;

Calls on the U.S. Department of Transportation to take the lead in carrying out fundamental, long-term research to achieve breakthroughs in transportation research;

Increases funding for University Transportation Centers and ensures greater competition among universities which seek to become transportation research centers;

Reforms and increases the responsiveness of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics to the needs of the transportation community; and

Provides States with additional resources to better train and educate the transportation workforce.

This legislation will significantly, yet prudently, increase funding for transportation research starting at \$500 million a year in fiscal year 2006 for Federal research programs and gradually rising to \$850 million a year by 2010. When Congress increased funding for overall transportation programs by upwards of 40 percent in TEA-21, funding for transportation research remained relatively flat. I believe that lack of investment in research has hurt our ability to meet new challenges. My approach ensures that our transportation research is well planned, peer reviewed, properly funded and evaluated and will go a long way to help solve the many challenges facing our Nation's transportation system.

I look forward to again working with my colleagues on the Science and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees, the U.S. Department of Transportation, state transportation departments, and all other interested stakeholders as we try to finish the job begun last Congress.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM WUNSCH

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, this previous year, the community of Ft. Morgan, CO, lost a veteran and a long time local farmer when William Wunsch passed away at the age of 86.

He was born February 18, 1918, to Fred and Katherine Wunsch, who lived in the German Corner of Fort Morgan after emigrating from the Volga region of Russia.

Mr. Wunsch was drafted into the U.S. Army in February 1942. He served bravely during World War II as a tank sergeant in the 7th Armored Division, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Because of his heritage and his ability to speak and read German, he provided a valuable service by working with the Counter Intelligence Corps before returning Colorado.

After leaving the Army, Bill married Violet Eckhardt on December 15, 1946. Together they started a farm south of Fort Morgan where he stayed until he retired in 1997. Sadly, Violet was killed in a car accident in 1970. On May 1, 1971, he married Lydia Lehr Schwartz and they worked together on the farm. William was named to the "High Ten" several times for having the greatest average sugar beet tonnage for the Sheds District of the local sugar factory. Frequently he was interviewed by the local paper about his accomplishments in farming and about his heritage as a Volga German immigrant.

As a member of the Christ Congregational Church, William actively worked in his church as a deacon, secretary, Sunday school superintendent, and a Sunday school teacher. Mr. Wunsch also remained active in the community as president of the Beet Growers Association, the Daily Lateral Irrigation Company, and a charter member of the Caring Ministries.

Mr. Speaker, we lose more of our precious veterans everyday. These heros have left their homes to defend our nation, and then returned home to be valued members of their communities, showing their children and grandchildren how to live meaningful lives of service. I want to take this brief moment to honor William Wunsch for the sacrifices that he made. May God bless his family, may God bless our precious veterans, and may God bless America.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a legend. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was a trailblazer whose story represents the best of America, and the essence of the New York experience.

She was the first of four girls born to two immigrants—one Barbadian, the other Guyanese—who instilled in her a lifelong devotion to the value of a good education. She graduated cum laude from Brooklyn College, and

went onto earn a master's degree at Columbia.

During the 1950s, she directed a day care center in Brooklyn, and worked as an educational consultant for New York City. Her work in the community launched her political career, and she was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1964.

In 1968, she was elected to Congress as the first African-American woman to serve in the House of Representatives. She went on to become a founding member of both the National Organization for Women, the National Women's Political Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus. And as always, she devoted her energies to education, promoting programs like Title IX and early childhood education.

She served seven terms in Congress, in midst of it all becoming the first African-American, of either gender, to run a large-scale campaign to become the presidential candidate of one of the major political parties.

A proud and independent voice, Shirley Chisholm was a New York original. She will be sorely missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMMANDER DANIEL J. HURLEY FOR HIS 29 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE EL CERRITO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career accomplishments of Commander Daniel J. Hurley during his service to the El Cerrito Police Department.

Commander Hurley represents very high professional standards of law enforcement and service to his community, and he will be missed after his retirement.

In the Department, which he joined in 1975, he held positions of increasing responsibility, advancing to the rank of Sergeant in 1980, and to the rank of Police Commander in 2000.

He also held a wide range of positions, from administration to field operations, that required both technical and managerial expertise.

In a characteristic quest for excellence, Commander Hurley continued on with his higher education while he was working for the Department, and he earned a Bachelor's Degree.

Commander Hurley's life work, like the work of law enforcement officers in all our communities, is the source of stability and safety we all count on and enjoy in our daily lives.

My purpose in speaking today is to give due recognition to the quiet, knowledgeable, and reliable work Commander Hurley has consistently performed in his twenty-nine years with the El Cerrito Police Department.

I thank him for his essential contributions to the quality of life in El Cerrito and the Tenth Congressional District, and I wish him a well-deserved retirement with his wife Deborah and their children Danielle, Erin, and Ryan in the desirable community he has worked well and hard to shape.

HONORING LEO E. FUHR, DISTRICT DIRECTOR FARM SERVICE AGENCY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Leo E. Fuhr, District Director of the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. Leo retired on December 29, 2004 after many years of distinguished service to our district, state, and nation.

Leo Fuhr first joined the United States Department of Agriculture in August of 1974. His first assignment was just north of here in Keosauqua, Iowa. After leaving Keosauqua, he moved on to Warrensburg, Missouri and our state has been fortunate to have his services ever since. After completing his tenure in Warrensburg, Leo served in Maryville, St. Joseph, Trenton, and then Brookfield. In March of 1986, Leo became District Director and remained in that position until his retirement on December 29. As a farmer myself, I can tell you that his lifelong dedication to agriculture will be missed by all.

I also want to recognize his wonderful family, especially his wife Jeanette, their daughter Brenda, who recently graduated from Truman State University, and their son Brian who is currently serving our nation with the U.S. Army in Iraq. Leo himself is no stranger to military service; from September 1966 until August 1999 Leo served in the National Guard, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Leo E. Fuhr. Mr. Fuhr truly exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to northwest Missouri, and I am honored to call him one of my constituents. Congratulations on a job well done.

HONORING DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, we honor all who serve our country in the military. However, the men and women of the District of Columbia who volunteer for military service are entitled to special honors. D.C. residents who serve today are the most recent in a long line of citizens of the District who have fought and died for our country, although they did not have the same democratic rights as their fellow citizens and fellow soldiers.

I ask the House of Representatives to honor the residents of the District of Columbia who have served in every war since the Revolutionary War of 1775, by recognizing three young men today who served in the Iraqi War, Marcus Gray, Emory Kosh, and Isaac Lewis. We also honor members of the military from the District, including the D.C. National Guard, who have served or are serving in Afghanistan and throughout the world, especially those who have lost their lives.

Specialists Gray, Kosh and Lewis were members of the U.S. Army Reserves, 299th Engineer Company and part of the first wave of soldiers who entered Iraq in March 2003.