

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of Lighthouse International. They are a leading organization that helps vision impaired individuals of all ages lead independent and productive lives.

Founded in 1905, Lighthouse International is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping prevent the disabling effects of impaired vision. Their rehabilitation program teaches the visually impaired new skills to cope with their vision loss and accomplish the goals they have set for themselves. Lighthouse International has served approximately 5,000 residents in the New York City metropolitan area.

Lighthouse International is New York State's foremost provider of comprehensive vision rehabilitation services for people of all ages. Their services include infant and toddler programs, a child development center, counseling, career services, low vision care, a music school, computer training, and instruction in independent living.

The Lighthouse collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) to develop strategic plans that address and prevent vision impairment. They are a participant in the IAPB's "Vision 2020: The Right to Sight" campaign to eliminate avoidable blindness.

There are 180 million people with vision impairment worldwide. Lighthouse International deserves recognition for its tireless work on their behalf. Their programs give hope to people who had once lost their faith in accomplishing everyday activities.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Small Business Administration and celebrate and applaud the dedication of America's small business men and women during "National Small Business Week."

Small businesses are vital to our nation's economic growth and prosperity. America's 23 million small businesses represent more than 99 percent of all employers, account for more than half of all private sector workers and generate 3 out of every 4 new jobs. Additionally, small businesses account for one-third of U.S. exports and more than half of the gross domestic product. These people are the risk-takers, innovators and creators of tomorrow.

We've all heard that U.S. small businesses are the growth engine of our economy. As such, U.S. small technology businesses contribute significantly to our nation's economic

security. The technological innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses such as HGI Skydne ensure that the military, aerospace and electronics industries have access to a constant flow of unique technologies to create world class products.

HGI Skydne, a small business in my district, dates back to 1938 when it began manufacturing and selling lightweight, protective cases. Over the years it became a regular supplier of state-of-the-art fiberglass and composite-material cases. Among the company's many achievements were a patented composite-material wing for the Corsair airplane, the design and production of the transportation container for NASA's Lunar Landing Module, and the design and manufacture of the cases that brought moon rocks home to earth. Despite those successes, Skydne's owners were ready to shut its doors in 2002. However, Hornet Group, Inc., a small, six-employee product development company decided to acquire Skydne. Thanks to the Small Business Administration's 7(a) Loan Program, Hornet Group was able to keep Skydne afloat and also enabled them to hire additional employees—now totaling 80. Under their collective stewardship, a second round of SBA and Key Bank financing was recently completed in order to accommodate the company's astronomical growth—sales orders that have grown to \$3 million from \$200,000 in just two years! Now that's a real small business success story and there are many others with similar accomplishments.

Entrepreneurship will continue to be the backbone of the American economy. Our future depends on the successful creation and expansion of small business. It is our job to increase our efforts on behalf of small business to ensure we have an environment where they can thrive. During "National Small Business Week" let us recognize and reflect on the hard work and dedication of all our small businesses who overcome financial and regulatory hurdles in order to help our economy run smoothly.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 748) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent the transportation of minors in circumvention of certain laws relating to abortion, and for other purposes:

Mr. McCaul of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act. I would like to thank Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen for her leadership on this crucial issue. I am an original co-sponsor of this legislation and applaud the effort of those who brought this measure to the floor.

Today we have an opportunity to protect families, protect children, and protect the unborn. Let us make sure parents are given a chance to help their daughters during their most vulnerable times. Parents of minor children must be consulted if their child wants to get their ears pierced. The same standard should be applied when it comes to making life altering decisions. My home State of Texas has enacted a law guaranteeing the rights of parents in making important medical decisions for their children. Several states bordering Texas have no such statutes and many try to circumvent Texas law by driving across state lines, often against the will of the child. This bill will ensure that if a family is ever faced with having to make such a life altering decision it will be made by the family, and with the child's best interests at heart.

With passage of this legislation, Congress has an opportunity to stand with families during a difficult time. We also have a chance to protect the least among us, the unborn.

Let us be judged on how we answer this call. Let us pass this pro-family, pro-child, and pro-life legislation.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE APPROPRIATE SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE METHOD BY WHICH MEMBERS ARE ELECTED

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that addresses an important issue I have pursued through several Congresses. This bill forms a commission to examine how we, the people, may be best served by our representational democracy. This commission would analyze the current size of the membership of the House of Representatives and examine alternatives to the current method of electing Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation encapsulates an important idea whose time has come. We are one of the most underrepresentative democracies in the world. As a country that holds itself up as the standard bearer for the democratic process, we must continue to ensure our democracy gives all citizens an equal and meaningful voice in our government.

As events of the past few years have made clear, we are facing an electoral crisis. Voter turnout continues to fall as people lose more and more faith in the democratic process. We owe it to our constituents and each American citizen to closely examine all available options for ensuring maximum participation in this great democracy of ours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. As Members of Congress, we have all taken an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. Part of our duty is to

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

keep the promise of a true representative democracy as envisioned by our forefathers. This legislation furthers that goal. That is why I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this legislation forward.

**TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
KATHRYN G. FROST**

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Major General Kathryn G. Frost is retiring after a long and exceptionally distinguished career.

General Frost's outstanding service to the nation has been marked by meritorious service in increasingly demanding command positions, culminating as the Commanding General of the United States Army and Air Force Exchange.

General Frost is a 1970 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of South Carolina where she received a degree in Administrative Education. She also received a Master's degree in Counseling from Wayne State University.

Her distinguished career has spanned three decades, and her duties have included tours as Chief, Military Personnel Office/Deputy Adjutant General, Berlin Brigade/United States Army, Berlin, Germany; Commander, Eastern Sector, United States Military Entrance Processing Command, Great Lakes, Illinois; Adjutant General/Commanding General, Physical Disability Agency/Executive Director of Military Postal Service Agency, Alexandria, Virginia; and Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC.

General Frost's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge. She also was named one of USC's Distinguished Alumni in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Major General Kathryn G. Frost, for her outstanding commitment to the United States Army and the United States of America.

**CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION
NOTIFICATION ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer my support for an important piece of legislation on which I was unable to vote due to the birth of my granddaughter.

During my absence, the House considered the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (H.R. 748) which I co-sponsored, and strongly support. There is no question that we must protect young women from being coerced into

obtaining abortions. As the testimony and advertisements made available through the committee process have clearly demonstrated, many clinics deliberately target minors in order to avoid parental notification and consent laws in their home states.

In order to protect the enforcement power of each state's laws and these young women, I am thrilled the House is moving forward with this legislation and look forward to its passage. Isolating minors from their parents at a time when they need them most is the wrong thing to do, and this legislation prevents these out of state clinics from doing just that. I am grateful my colleagues supported this important bill and opposed all amendments. If I had been present, I would have voted against all amendments and in favor of final passage (Roll Call Vote #144).

I know this is an important vote, and I was unable to be present for the vote because I have welcomed a new life into the world.

My son and daughter-in-law have been through a very challenging pregnancy, with serious concern that they would lose Kate during the early months. We couldn't imagine how terrible that would be, and are so grateful that God has provided for the safe delivery of little Kate Summerlin Westmoreland. She was born Tuesday, April 26 at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia and weighs in at six pounds, four ounces, with a full head of hair!

I am so blessed to have the family I do, and to enjoy the time together with them was worth everything in the world, especially after how many challenges accompanied the initial stages of Kate's life.

I don't know what God has in store for this little one, but am excited about what lies ahead of her. I am returning to Washington as soon as practicable after her birth, and look forward to getting back home to spend time with Kate, her big brother Acton, and her proud parents, Trae and Kristy.

In today's world, so many people rush by without realizing the treasure they have in their families. Events like the birth of grandchildren help bring those special ones into focus, and remind you of the rich blessings God has given.

Mr. Chairman, it has been an exhausting, but thrilling past few days, and I am honored to announce to the House the birth of Kate Summerlin Westmoreland.

INTRODUCTION OF FOCUS ON COMMITTED AND UNDERPAID STAFF FOR CHILDREN'S SAKE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues Mr. PLATTS, Ms. DELAUR, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. STARK, Ms. TUBBS JONES, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. CAROLYN McCARTHY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. DANNY DAVIS in introducing the FOCUS Act. This bill would increase the overall quality of child care by elevating the skills and pay of early childhood education providers. This is a

proven successful model, first developed in North Carolina, and critical to helping all children reach kindergarten ready to succeed.

Between 1970 and 2001, the percentage of mothers in the workforce rose from 38 to 67 percent. The change for mothers of young children has been even more dramatic. According to the New America Foundation, the labor force participation of women with children under age 6 has more than doubled—from 24 percent in 1960 to 65 percent in 2000. Over 9 million children between the ages of birth and 5 are in child care in this country. With so many of our children in early care and education settings, it is more important than ever that child care can support the developmental needs of children.

High quality child care plays an important role in healthy child development and school readiness. Research on brain development demonstrates that the experiences children have early in life have a decisive, long-lasting impact on their development and learning. Unfortunately, child care program evaluations indicate that the quality of most care ranges from mediocre to poor. This country must make changes in its child care system.

Just as it is the parents who matter at home, it is the teachers who matter in child care—a stable, educated and qualified teaching staff is one of the most critical components of quality child care. Staff training and experience are the most important components of child care quality. Research shows that children learning from more highly educated teachers perform better on tests of verbal and math achievement.

Studies repeatedly show that one of the leading causes of poor quality child care is low pay and high turnover among child care staff, who on average make just over \$17,000 annually. FOCUS improves the quality of child care by boosting training, reducing turnover, and attracting qualified staff by providing stipends of \$1,000 to \$3,000 to qualified child care providers based on their level of education. FOCUS also would grant funds for scholarships in early childhood development and education so providers can continue to improve their knowledge and skills. FOCUS also provides grants to States to provide better access to health coverage for child care workers since lack of health benefits also impedes retention of qualified early education teachers.

We cannot expect children to transition to kindergarten and succeed in school if we do not take the necessary steps to provide quality care in the years prior to school entry. The average quality of child care is far poorer than what it should be in a country as wealthy and committed to our children's future as is ours. It is time we work to make quality child care for all children a national priority. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House to join me and co-sponsor the Focus Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLIFFORD J. MERRILL FOR HIS 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SOLANO COUNTY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clifford Merrill for his 21 years