

certain that in his passing, he has left a legacy that will not be forgotten.

I urge my colleagues to join me as we remember and honor a man whose faith undoubtedly strengthened and empowered all who crossed his path.

May the memories of Reverend Villaronga serve to benefit others as his benevolence clearly did throughout his 80 years of life.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to explain the purpose of Section 924(c) of this bill, Standardization Report and Program, which originated as my amendment and was approved by the Committee on Science.

The purpose of the amendment is to transfer important knowledge related to energy conservation from the government to the private sector. The Department of Energy and other agencies involved in building research, development, and construction have acquired a wealth of knowledge on high performance buildings. These are buildings that are optimized over their life for energy conservation and other important values such as security and environmental quality. DOE and other agencies have worked with a government-chartered non-profit organization, the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), to accumulate this knowledge on the Whole Building Design Guide website. In turn, these agencies require their contractors to use the information in the design, construction, operation, and up-grading of federal buildings.

The private sector construction industry can benefit greatly from this information but the companies involved are often too small to use the information in its current form. Therefore, in my amendment I have called on NIBS, under a DOE contract, to work with voluntary consensus standards organizations and other appropriate industry groups to examine voluntary consensus standards as a whole to see which ones need to be upgraded to take into account whole building values contained on the website on a building life cycle basis such as energy efficiency, environmental quality, sustainability, safety and security, and accessibility.

A goal is to look forward ten to twenty years and design buildings so that they can be retrofitted easily to remain state of the art structures. Another goal is to think through what standards are now in use and to work with the developers of those standards so that an easy-to-use set of procedures and standards can be put in place both for construction and for renovation. Once the study is complete, hopefully no longer than a year and a half from the date of enactment, the section directs the Secretary, in cooperation with NIBS as appropriate, to establish a program of technical assistance and grants to aid the affected

standards development organizations and other appropriate industry groups in bringing to fruition the user friendly system this section envisions.

HONORING WANDA B. RYAN ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wanda B. Ryan for her 41 years of outstanding service to the youth of Camden, New Jersey. She has shown tremendous dedication to our community, serving and living in Camden throughout her entire career.

Ms. Ryan has an amazing track record at the Washington School: she has not missed a day of school in her entire 41 year career! Since September of 1964, she has been there every day for her elementary school students, who have certainly benefited from Ms. Ryan's lessons, and have gone on to live more enlightened, fruitful lives. Her efforts have certainly benefited not only the students, but all those involved in the Washington School and its community.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the outstanding career of Wanda Ryan. She has certainly accomplished much throughout her time at the Washington School, and I applaud her steadfast commitment to her community and students. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

HONORING FATHER ART

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2005

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, there are those who make their mark on the community with great fanfare, a need for recognition, or in service of a particular agenda. And there are those who serve the community quietly, with grace and humility—like Reverend Arthur R. Bartlett, a man whose life has been marked by love for his country and remarkable concern for others.

Most in the sea-side community of San Pedro, in the southern part of my Congressional district, know him as "Father Art," a testament to the Reverend's lifelong dedication to a community that is a gateway to the Pacific, home to generations of seafarers, and has twice been the hub of a world-wide war effort. As a young man, Father Art built ships, worked the docks, supplied countless Navy sailors and taught U.S. Army soldiers to fly B-17 bombers.

But Father Art is best known for the aid and support he has given to merchant seafarers of all nations, creeds and faiths. As Program Director for the Seamen's Center in San Pedro for the past 47 years, he has provided the stabilizing influences of church, home and community to many who passed through San Pedro Harbor. Through training programs, counseling and hospital visits, he has provided hope to those who had none or nowhere else to turn.

Father Art has also touched the lives of many who settled in San Pedro and fell victim

to the ravages of alcoholism. He is the founder of Beacon House, the only recovery facility for male alcoholics in San Pedro and a true ray of hope for the entire community.

The respect and admiration that he earned from local residents and the concern that he demonstrated for San Pedro Harbor led Mayor Tom Bradley to appoint Father Art to the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners in 1981.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enormous pride and gratitude that I recognize The Reverend Arthur R. Bartlett's life achievements and commend him on receiving the Seamen's Church Institute's 2005 Guiding Angel Award.

S. 256, THE BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S. 256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. This bill would negatively affect millions of hard-working Americans, particularly veterans and victims of identity theft.

The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 is a bad bill because it favors credit card companies at the expense of hard-working Americans, veterans, and victims of identity theft. It creates a means test which would make it impossible for families to be protected even when they have suffered debt due to illness or unemployment, preventing them from being able to start over in life. While the bill makes it harder for these individuals to eliminate their debt, it unnecessarily strengthens the hands of creditors. For example, this bill does not guarantee that hard-working parents can make child support payments over credit card debt payments.

Another concern is that this bill would leave veterans and victims of identity theft vulnerable to credit card companies.

An example is our brave citizen soldiers of the National Guard and the Reserve who are serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan. Having left their civilian jobs to serve and protect our great Nation for extended periods of time, many will return to face significant debt, because their military wages are less than their regular wages. Yet this bill does not spare them from the means test, leaving them vulnerable to credit card companies.

Furthermore, many brave men and women return from duty with injuries that alter their lives, often resulting in debt. Although there are some exemptions, this bill still leaves some of those disabled veterans subject to the means test, even when their debt resulted from a disability acquired from their service to our country.

I am disappointed that efforts made by my Democratic colleagues to better protect our veterans were rejected by the majority. The Republicans defeated an amendment that would have provided complimentary credit counseling to those veterans of our armed forces who found themselves with credit problems.

Finally Mr. Speaker, in its current form, this bill leaves our Nation's victims of identity theft

vulnerable to debt for which they had no responsibility.

According to a recent survey by the Better Business Bureau, in 2004, 9.3 million Americans were victims of identity theft. It is clear that every day the number of Americans at risk of suffering identity theft is increasing, as more and more companies disclose that criminals have gained access to their massive databases of sensitive consumer information. A perfect example is the recent reporting of identity theft by DWS of thousands of its customers.

Yet this bill does nothing to address the very real problem of identity theft. Under this legislation, victims of identity theft would, in many cases, be held accountable for the debt accrued by someone else.

In short, the bill favors credit card companies at the expense of hard-working Americans, veterans, and victims of identity theft. For all these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy:

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, those of us who come from coal-producing states, like Illinois, believe that DOE's fossil energy research and development program is very important to the future of coal utilization. Over the years, the coal R&D program of the Department of Energy has been broad-based and has led to many of the combustion and gasification technologies now in use. These technologies represent both environmental and energy-efficiency improvements over the technologies they have replaced. In last year's energy bill passed by the House, Science Chairman BOEHLERT and I reached agreement on a set of coal programs of research, development and demonstration priorities for the next decade. We also agreed that the authorizations for the coal programs set out in what are now sections 963, 965 and 967 should be at least 60 percent of the total authorization in section 968(a). The agreed-upon language from last year has been omitted from the version of H.R. 6 before us today. The requirement that at least 60 percent of fossil energy research and development funds be spent on coal remains in the Committee on Science's report, but not in the H.R. 6 bill language. There, the traditional categories of coal research funding are removed and replaced with a series of objectives, which are consistent with the roadmap for these programs developed by the Department in conjunction with industry. Therefore, it is my assumption and will be my position going forward into Conference that the intent of the House of Representatives towards coal research and development has not changed. We still favor a

fossil R&D program that allocates at least the historical 60 percent of funds to coal R&D and that the House is not mandating significant structural changes in the program that we set out in last year's version of H.R. 6.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy:

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, my colleague from Illinois, Mr. COSTELLO, has made a statement which points out that the language of H.R. 6, Energy Policy Act of 2005, unlike last year, does not include a provision requiring that 60 percent or more of the total fossil energy research and development budget be allocated to coal research and development. This allocation is the position of the Committee on Science as set out in its report on H.R. 6. In conference, I will be happy to support and work towards including the 60 percent or more funding language in the conference text of H.R. 6.