

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FORT
WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT
EAST DIVISION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fort Worth Police Department East Division, in the 26th Congressional District of Texas for their outstanding work serving and protecting the communities of Fort Worth.

This past May, I had the privilege of visiting the Fort Worth Police Department East Division. Captain Bryan Sudan provided me with a brief tour of the facility and explained how the divisions of the department interacted together.

I also had the opportunity to ride along with veteran Officer Anthony Cutler and with Officer Thomas O'Brien and witnessed firsthand the high level of respect the officers have for the community and citizens. It was clear that the officers cared about the neighborhood and the people in it.

On a day-to-day basis, these individuals place their lives on the line just to protect us all. They do this with bravery, strength, humility and dignity. They are selfless in their actions and compassionate people at heart. They only want safety for us all, and I am thankful for their service.

Friendly, courteous, and professional only begins to describe the high caliber of officers employed with the Fort Worth Police Department East Division. I am honored to now represent the Fort Worth Police Department and send my sincere thanks for their service to the community.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
APPROPRIATIONS ACT
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5441) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5441, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007. As a member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, it has been an honor to work with Chairman HAL ROGERS and with our ranking member, MARTIN SABO, who sadly is retiring at the end of the 109th Congress. Congressman SABO has served our country with honor and distinction. It has been a privilege to serve

with him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Chairman, Chairman ROGERS has once again been presented with an inadequate budget allocation. He has done his best to strengthen our ability to effectively respond in times of national emergency and fund the critical programs in the bill that protect our Nation against terrorist attacks and national disasters.

Nevertheless, I am disappointed that due to the lack of funds resulting from hundreds of billions of dollars in Republican tax cuts for the very rich, the bill reduces badly needed funds for programs critical to our first responders' ability to efficiently and safely respond to a terrorist attack or national disaster. I am particularly concerned about cuts to grants that fund communication capability such as interoperability. Radio interoperability is essential for our police, fire, and emergency medical service departments to communicate with each other in times of emergency. This was demonstrated by the horrors in New York on 9/11 when many of the New York police and firefighters died because of the inability to warn each other of the dangers ahead. Four and a half years after 9/11 it is unconscionable that interoperable communications remain an unmet urgent need. It is also unfortunate that the Democratic amendment by Mr. OBEY that would have added funding for port security, border security, and first-responder equipment and training failed on a party line vote.

I am also disappointed and greatly concerned that this bill's report expresses support for the expansion of the 287(g) program which allows State and local law enforcement officers to perform immigration enforcement functions. Many local law enforcement officers have stated that if they are required to enforce Federal immigration policies it would hamper their ability to successfully fight crime in their respective communities.

Furthermore, I am disappointed that the report does not include a solution to the miscalculation of the Letters of Intent contract between the TSA and the Los Angeles World airports, LAWA. According to LAWA, TSA's contractor made errors in calculating the cost of installing inline baggage screening equipment at Los Angeles and Ontario airports. These calculating errors have resulted in a contract dollar amount lower than what is needed to complete the required equipment purchase and installation. I hope to work with the chairman in conference to resolve this problem.

Despite these concerns, I thank Chairman ROGERS and Congressman SABO for including many of the items I requested in the Homeland Security report. The following report language addresses serious issues raised during subcommittee hearings with representatives of the Department of Homeland Security.

(1) The report language addresses the need to continue the use of Legal Orientation Programs in Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, detention centers around the country. Legal Orientation Programs are legal presentations given to persons in immigration detention, prior to a first hearing before an immi-

gration judge by nongovernmental agencies. The presentations facilitate access to justice for detained immigrants in removal proceedings. The program also saves money on immigration detention and makes the Immigration Court more efficient.

(2) The report recognizes the success of the Intensive Supervised Appearance Program, ISAP, which prevents families from being detained in jail. The bill includes an additional \$5 million for the expansion of this program.

(3) The report expresses concern regarding reports that children apprehended by DHS continue to be separated from their parents. The committee's report language encourages ICE to work with reputable nonprofit organizations to consider allowing family units to be placed in the Intensive Supervised Appearance Program. If detention is necessary, the report language encourages ICE to house family members together in nonpenal, home-like environments until the conclusion of their immigration proceedings.

(4) The report includes language that expresses concerns regarding recent media reports of health care deficiencies at ICE detention facilities. The committee's report language correctly directs ICE to report on the activities it undertakes to ensure compliance with detention standards.

(5) The report highlights concerns with the backlog at the National Records Center. This backlog results in few, if any, of the asylum applicants who requested their files through the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, receiving their files in time to prepare for their appearance in immigration court. The report language directs Citizenship and Immigration Services to develop a plan to ensure that such requests are filled in a timely and expeditious manner.

(6) The report expresses concern that the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services has not issued regulations on the U-visa for immigrant victims of a crime. This visa was established 6 years ago in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Due to the lack of regulations, few victims have applied because only interim relief exists. The report directs CIS to report on its plan for issuing U-visa regulations.

(7) I was pleased that the report recognizes the important efforts of the Directorate of Science and Technology, S&T, to encourage universities to become centers of multi-disciplinary research on homeland security issues. An outstanding example of such a center is the University of Southern California's Center for Risk and Economic Analysis in Los Angeles. Given the high threat of acts of terrorism to large cities like Los Angeles, these centers can help prioritize countermeasures to terrorism, by computing relative risks among potential terrorist events and by identifying where homeland security investments can be most effective.

(8) I am also pleased that Customs and Border Protection is directed to report on their plans to address the increased workload at Ontario International Airport and to provide

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

quarterly reports to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Homeland Security on international flight arrivals at Ontario that take customs longer than the standard 60 minutes to process.

(9) The report includes language that expresses concern about reports that unaccompanied alien children are being detained in unacceptable conditions, such as jail-like facilities, and not routinely transferred within the required 3–5 day timeframe from DHS custody to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, ORR. The report directs ICE to immediately contact ORR upon apprehension of children and to ensure ORR gains custody within 72 hours.

(10) When the age of an unaccompanied alien child is unknown, the report directs ICE to consider using holistic age-determination methodologies recommended by medical and child welfare experts. These methodologies recommend taking into account the child's physical appearance and psychological maturity, rather than relying exclusively on forensic evidence.

(11) The report expresses concern about the dearth of repatriation services for unaccompanied alien children. These children are removed from the United States to face uncertain fates in their homelands. The report urges the Department, in close consultation with the Department of State and ORR, to develop policies and procedures to ensure the safe repatriation of these children to their country of origin including placement with family or a sponsoring agency.

(12) I am very grateful that Chairman ROGERS once again included language I drafted to prevent the Department of Homeland Security from moving forward with its potentially dangerous plan to privatize key immigration officer positions at the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. Officers currently filling these positions are responsible for handling classified information used to prevent fraud and exploitation of our immigration laws. I am thankful that this inherently governmental work will continue to remain the responsibility of trained and experienced Federal employees directly accountable to the Department and not to the bottom line of a private company.

(13) I am pleased that the report recognizes the important work of Operation Archangel, located in my home city of Los Angeles. Operation Archangel is a national model for protecting critical infrastructure. The Department should continue this important program and replicate it throughout the country.

Lastly, I commend Chairman ROGERS for withholding funds from DHS until it meets its obligations to this Congress and to the American people. It is a tragedy that the Department of Homeland Security is so dysfunctional that the chairman had to take this step. I congratulate him for standing up for the safety of our Nation and the American people. As he has said on numerous occasions, those who seek to do us harm only have to do their job right occasionally. We have to do our jobs to protect America 100 percent of the time. To date, the Department is far from reaching that 100 percent mark.

Mr. Chairman, I support this bill because in spite of its deficiencies, Chairman ROGERS has done his best to effectively allocate the limited funds he was given to help ensure our country's safety. Fully addressing critical national security concerns requires resources that the administration simply did not propose and

which the Republican majority did not provide in this bill. While this bill is an improvement over the administration's request, it nevertheless is lacking in fully meeting our critical homeland security needs.

TRIBUTE TO GARY MELIUS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Gary Melius. Over the past 10 years, Gary has dedicated himself to the continuation of Oheka Castle, which is treasured by the town of Huntington, Long Island, and all of New York State.

As the second largest mansion in the United States, Oheka Castle stands as an architectural marvel and an historic structure that must be protected. Gary Melius knows this fact better than anyone.

Prior to his leadership, the castle's previous occupant went bankrupt leaving this structure abandoned. It was at this grave juncture in 1996 that Gary came to the helm.

With his diligent guidance, Oheka Castle has been restored to its original structural magnificence. Gary's service has insured that Oheka Castle will remain a treasure for our children and future generations on Long Island.

For 10 years, Gary has devoted himself to the protection, preservation and public awareness of Oheka Castle. I applaud Gary Melius for his achievements and contributions to Oheka Castle and the town of Huntington.

INTRODUCTION OF "NOTIFICATION OF RISK TO PERSONAL DATA ACT" H.R. 5582

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues that I am introducing legislation to protect the privacy rights of Americans. This bill will require Federal agencies that possess electronic data containing personal information to disclose any unauthorized acquisition of such information. Under this legislation, the same requirement will be made of "people"—corporations, institutions and individuals—who engage in interstate commerce.

The point is simple: People should be notified when information about them that is personal and potentially sensitive is stolen from a corporation or a government agency. We cannot rely on these entities to report such a theft on their own, since they might try to cover up the data loss to avoid adverse publicity.

The most salient example of the need for such protection is the recent shameful episode in which it took the Veterans Administration three weeks to announce that personal information including names, birth dates, and social security numbers of millions of veterans had been stolen from the home of a VA employee. Keeping the problem under wraps for three weeks is not the way to protect our veterans from the potential theft of their identities.

Many veterans have called my office expressing concern about their financial safety, and I am appalled the VA has not done more to protect them.

The stolen information included the name, social security number, and date of birth for approximately 19.6 million veterans. Disability ratings for some veterans were also included in these files. On June 6, 2006, the VA announced that the stolen files might also have included data on 1.1 million active duty members of the military, 430,000 members of the National Guard, and 645,000 members of the Reserves.

On June 8, 2006, the House Committee on Government Reform, on which I serve, conducted a hearing entitled, "Once More into the Data Breach: The Security of Personal Information at Federal Agencies."

During the hearing, U.S. Comptroller General David Walker testified that legislation is needed requiring agencies to notify those whose privacy is violated. The Comptroller General said, "Public disclosure of major data breaches is a key step to make sure personal data is safeguarded."

Congress should act on this issue, and it is time for us to give Americans the notice they need to protect themselves from identity thieves. My colleague, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, first introduced the Senate version of the bill I am introducing today. I commend her excellent work in this area, and I am hopeful that moving this bill in the House will expedite needed action.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5522) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by my friend and colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN. While he means well, and I too strongly support greater funding for the Emergency Refugee and Migration Account, their offset is problematic.

There has been a dramatic change in Colombia since President Clinton introduced Plan Colombia with his former colleague, and now Colombian Ambassador to the United States, Andreas Pastrana. And this change can be summed up into one phrase: Safety, Security, and Confidence are back.

Colombia is the oldest democracy in South America, and its strongest. In 1990, during some of the darkest hours of this democracy, when their leading Presidential candidate was assassinated on television, and the country was afflicted by almost daily bombing campaigns by the FARC and the drug lords, like Pablo Escobar, their democracy continued to function and they conducted fair and free elections and the country continued to move on.