

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.

But the 1990s were not good to the people of Colombia. It was during this time, President Bill Clinton working with his Colombian counterpart, President Andreas Pastrana, created Plan Colombia—an investment of U.S. resources, both military and economic, to help restore peace and stability to this democracy.

President Bush continued and built upon this successful program with his counterpart, current President Alvaro Uribe, who was just re-elected less than 2 weeks ago to another term overwhelmingly by his citizens in an election all consider to have been fair and free. The election was independently confirmed by the well respected Human Rights Watch.

We need to continue to build upon this relationship.

President Uribe will be visiting the United States next week, and we should welcome him as a friend of our country—because he is.

If one reviewed the committee report from this subcommittee, one would see that it actually starts with a statement highlighting that USAID needs greater emphasis in Latin America, as U.S. influence and interests in the region are waning—cutting funds from our strongest ally and a country in need does not send the right message. In fact, this bill rejiggers our aid appropriations to Colombia, reflecting a nonnalization of relations and the massive progress Colombia has made in the past 5 years. Colombia continues to build strong democratic institutions, while curbing violence and drug trafficking.

Plan Colombia has been working, including limiting the drug trade in the U.S. We will hear occasional statistics on the drug war—the detractors will ignore the demand side of the cocaine issue, and solely focus on the supply side.

On the supply side there have been numerous victories—not as big as hoped but victories none the less. We will not achieve full victory until we curb the demand and that involves an active role in the bane of drugs here in the U.S. We can all rattle off data, but the facts show the path is moving towards progress.

Is fumigation the best approach? That can be debated, but not in a way that we strip funding from an ally who is working with the United States of America to end the flow of drugs to the United States of America.

Additionally, Colombia has complied with 433 extradition requests from the U.S. since August 1998; no country has cooperated more than Colombia with extradition requests. Some of the biggest drug dealers, and some of the biggest terrorists, including 2 FARC leaders are in jail today in the DC area—too bad we can't say the same thing about Osama bin Laden.

And Plan Colombia has worked domestically in Colombia as well. In the Department of Public Safety, Colombia provides protection to labor leaders, human rights workers, and journalists. There has been an 80 percent decrease in kidnappings since the initiative of Plan Colombia in 2000; there has also been a 63 percent decrease in terrorist attacks.

Last year, one journalist was killed in Colombia and 21 since 2002 according to the State Department. While sad, this death toll has steadily decreased every year since that time. While still too high, the facts prove that the democratically elected government of President Alvaro Uribe is fighting a winning battle against terrorism in Colombia, making

his country safer for all of its citizens. In 2000, the Colombian government created the Journalists Protection Program to protect journalists from attack. During 2005, the Direction of Human Rights of the Ministry of Interior and Justice provided direct protection to 113 journalists. The situation in Colombia for journalists has vastly improved over the past 4 years. This success is owed both to the security initiatives implemented by their democratically elected President, as well as the support provided by the United States under Plan Colombia.

Plan Colombia has been a foreign policy success for the United States of America and a domestic security success for Colombia. Started by President Clinton and continued by President Bush, Plan Colombia has made measurable progress in Colombia's security, as seen through decreases in violence, murders and kidnappings as well as the eradication of drug crops.

The streets of Colombia are safer—some will argue that the victories achieved by Plan Colombia have only effected the cities so far—but that's where 75 percent of the people live—and they are living safer, better lives today.

It isn't a complete victory, I agree, but we cannot cut Colombia, our ally, off at the knees as they approach victory.

I urge a "no" vote on the McGovern amendment.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST DANIEL GIONET

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sacrifice of an American hero, Army Specialist Gionet, who gave his life in service to our country.

Specialist Gionet was born in my hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts and grew up in the area. He was fulfilling his second tour of duty when he was killed in service to our country. Daniel died Sunday, June 5, while on patrol in Taji, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device exploded near his tank. He was 23.

Daniel married his wife, Katrina, on November 26 of 2005 before being deployed for the second time. He had been looking forward to buying a home, going to college, and starting a family. Daniel enjoyed fishing, fixing cars, and was a fine cook. On his first tour, he put his culinary talents to work in Afghanistan as a chef based at the Kandahar Air Field. In between his first and second deployment, Daniel decided that he wanted to more directly help his comrades in the field and volunteered to re-train as a medic. His selflessness should be an inspiration to us all.

Daniel served the United States Military courageously. He enlisted in the Army in 2001 and served in Afghanistan. In 2004, he went above the call of duty and reenlisted, this time deploying to Iraq. Specialist Gionet comes from a long line of distinguished service to country. His grandfather served in the Air Force during the Korean War and his father was a Marine.

Daniel graduated from Pelham High School in 2001. He was an athlete and distinguished

himself on Pelham's baseball, football, and wrestling teams. He envisioned a career in criminal justice or the culinary arts. Daniel joined the Army, in part, to help finance a college education.

Daniel Gionet's family is proud of him for the supreme sacrifice he made on behalf of his country. He is lovingly remembered by his family and friends as a selfless, brave, and a genuine "angel," as his mother, Denise Gionet, described him. He will be dearly missed.

I have requested that an American flag be flown over our United States Capitol in memory of Specialist Daniel Gionet to honor his noble service to our country. This flag will be delivered to his family. Daniel died fighting for the country he loved, alongside comrades he respected, and with the family he adored looking on. Our Nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I request that we take a moment to recognize Specialist Daniel Gionet, United States Army, who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country.

CONGRATULATING LOUIS BUCKALEW ON RECEIVING THE 2006 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a young man from Coden, Alabama, on his exemplary work towards improving his community.

Last month, Louis Buckalew was honored at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and awarded \$1,000 for his outstanding volunteer efforts. The 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, conducted in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals and created by Prudential Financial, Inc., has honored more than 70,000 young volunteers at the local, State, and national levels for 11 years. Louis was chosen from nearly 20,000 candidates from across the country.

Louis just completed the eighth grade at Clark School of Math and Technology in Chickasaw, Alabama. He has volunteered with several organizations over the past 3 years to clean up the gulf coast shoreline and roadways near his home. Louis was first inspired to help his community's environment through his involvement with the Boy Scouts. Louis has also worked with the Coast Guard, Mobile Bay Estuary Program, and local government to improve his community, even recruiting friends to join in his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Louis Buckalew and to commend him for his hard work and this well-deserved award. I know Louis's family and friends join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his efforts on behalf of the citizens of Coden and Alabama's First Congressional District.