

consideration the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Hinchey amendment.

I acknowledge that this is a controversial issue, and it has been a difficult decision for me. While scientific evidence is inconclusive and the medical community has yet to speak with one voice as to whether there is a unique, therapeutic benefit to inhaled marijuana, some studies suggest that marijuana can relieve pain, nausea, and appetite loss. I have heard from many patients, suffering from some of life's most challenging conditions, who have informed me that the therapeutic value of inhaled marijuana is unmatched. I have always supported further study of medical marijuana because of the potential to ease the suffering of the many Americans dealing with chronic illness and disease.

While I have not supported amendments similar to this one in the past, the issue is different for me this year, as the Representative from the Second Congressional District of Rhode Island. Since we last debated this issue in June 2005, the state legislature of Rhode Island has passed—and the state Department of Health has implemented—a law allowing for legal access to medical marijuana. Under this law, the state established a registry that issues identification cards to qualifying patients or caregivers who register with the state. These patients, who suffer from an approved list of conditions including cancer, multiple sclerosis and AIDS, must provide certification from a Rhode Island physician. Once approved in the registry, the patient or a designated caregiver is permitted to possess up to a certain amount of cultivated marijuana and to grow up to 12 marijuana plants. The statewide discussion over the issue made clear that my constituents overwhelmingly support regulated access to marijuana for medical purposes; and the state legislature responded with overwhelming support by overriding a governor's veto with significantly more than the necessary 2/3 support in each chamber. I am aware that I now represent some constituents who are using medical marijuana, in compliance with state laws. I am also aware that under federal law, these Rhode Island patients run the risk of being arrested and prosecuted for federal drug offenses—and this troubles me greatly.

My vote for the Hinchey amendment should not be interpreted as an unconditional endorsement of medical marijuana. I do believe the therapy deserves further clinical trials and scientific scrutiny. As we move forward with these policy discussions, we must bear in mind that marijuana is a narcotic and therapeutic usage must be carefully controlled. However, I rise today in support of the Hinchey amendment because I do not want my constituents, or those of the ten other states that have passed similar laws, to live in fear of arrest when they are complying with state law.

I urge my colleagues to support the Hinchey amendment, as well as the further study of the therapeutic value of medical marijuana.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. KENNEDY to H.R. 5672, the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007.

The amendment in question would increase the funding for the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program by \$50 million which would bring the committee's total mark for the program to \$608 million. I strongly believe passage of this amendment is critical. The Edward Byrne Justice Grant Program provides States and local units of government the necessary flexibility in creating programs to address local needs when it comes to crime prevention and enforcement.

A prime example of how this funding can lead to great success in a community happened just yesterday back in my home district. In LaSalle County, Illinois, a anti-drug task force was established to address the growing problem of drug use in many of their communities.

Yesterday, this anti-drug task force arrested the brother of the head of the Chicago-based gang called Gangsters Disciples for dealing heroin and cocaine in the county. The apprehension of this dangerous criminal will further reduce the heroin and cocaine flowing into LaSalle County.

The reason this arrest was such a great success story of the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program is that the task force is funded almost entirely by Byrne grant funding. The success story in LaSalle County, Illinois, is one of many from the Byrne grant program.

In closing Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman FRANK WOLF for providing a \$142 million increase from last year's funding level for our local police forces. I also want to thank Congressman KENNEDY for offering this critical amendment that will provide our local law enforcement officers with a larger pool of funding to further protect our communities. I urge all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support its passage.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, June 28, 2006, I voted in favor of the Hinchey amendment to H.R. 5672, the FY 2007 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations Act.

Eleven states have passed laws to allow the use of medical marijuana. This amendment would prohibit federal funds from being used to prevent the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Rhode Island, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, or Washington from implementing state laws authorizing a physician to prescribe the use of medical marijuana for their patients in those states. I voted for this amendment because I do not believe that the federal government should be preempting state medical laws approved by either the state legislature or voter referendum.

I served as Johnson County District Attorney for 12 years. I do not believe in the legalization of drugs. But this amendment has to do with compassion for people who are suffering from horrible pain or may be dying, and the ability of doctors in states in which those people live to provide means by which their suffering can be relieved.

Medical marijuana may alleviate suffering from debilitating diseases such as AIDS, cancer, glaucoma and multiple sclerosis. Some contend it has no medicinal value whatsoever. Regardless of one's opinions within this debate, the federal government should not be spending our limited funding for law enforcement to target American citizens in states where the voters or the legislature have passed laws allowing for the use of medical marijuana. To be clear, this amendment would do nothing to legalize marijuana use for any purpose in states, such as Kansas, where voters or the legislature have not approved measures to allow marijuana for medical use.

Under the provisions of this amendment, patients in states that have enacted laws to allow the use of medical marijuana would be prescribed the medication under the direction and careful supervision of their physician. Patients would not be permitted to use this medication for any other purpose.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
MASSEY PALMER BEDSOLE, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the city of Mobile and, indeed, the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Born in Mobile on July 21, 1928, Massey Palmer Bedsole, Jr., graduated from University Military School and then Virginia Military Institute. Upon graduation from V.M.I., Palmer served 2 years as an infantry officer, 1 year as an intelligence officer and later, in Korea, during the Korean War.

As a native of Mobile, Palmer was known by many as a champion of the arts, civic leader and philanthropist.

For many years, he was the chairman of the J.L. Bedsole Foundation, which focuses primarily on civic projects. Among other things,

the foundation funds a scholarship program that provides assistance for area students from southwest Alabama to go to college, and also runs the MLK Avenue Redevelopment Corporation, which assists housing construction in lower income neighborhoods in and around Mobile.

In addition to these programs, the foundation also supports the Centre for the Living Arts, which was founded by Palmer and his lovely wife, Ann.

Palmer Bedsole was awarded the 2004 Outstanding Citizen Award of Mobile because of his creation and involvement with the Centre for the Living Arts. This center operates Space 301, an art gallery in the former Mobile Press-Register building, as well as the historic Saenger Theater. Palmer was a driving force behind the renovations of this Mobile landmark.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a successful businessman, a respected farmer and true friend to many throughout Alabama and around the country.

At 6 feet 6 inches, Palmer Bedsole was not only a tall man, but he was big in heart and generous in spirit. Naturally, he will be missed by his family—his wife of 48 years, Ann Smith Bedsole; his children, Raine Bedsole, George Demmas, Mary Martin Riser and John Henry Martin; and his grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING HARRISON WADSWORTH ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Harrison Wadsworth for his service this summer during his internship in our Nation's Capital. Harrison has been a tremendous help to my constituents in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

As he finishes his internship, Harrison is preparing for his junior year at Johns Hopkins University, where he is majoring in political science. He is a member of Sigma Chi, and his dedication to his studies has earned him a spot on the Dean's List.

I know firsthand that Harrison comes from good stock. His father worked in my Washington, DC office for many years, and his sister has also interned here. Given the fine character of his family, I expected good things from Harrison and I was not disappointed.

Harrison's remarkable attitude and eagerness have been great assets during his time here. He has been very helpful in answering constituent concerns, guiding visitors from Middle Tennessee through the U.S. Capitol and assisting me and my staff with countless projects. His creative approach to problem solving has served him well.

I hope Harrison has enjoyed this learning experience as much as we have enjoyed having him in the office. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARK JAGET

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Jaget, who recently competed in the Gobi March, a 7-day, 150-mile footrace across China's Gobi Desert.

Mark is a 39-year-old chiropractor, who, with his brother David, owns three Spinal Rehabilitation Centers in Las Vegas, Nevada.

On June 3, 2006, after completing the six-stage, 7-day footrace across one of the harshest landscapes and climates on Earth, Mark crossed the finish line in a small, remote village in the Xinjiang Province of China. Mark finished the race an impressive 9th overall, with a time of 32 hours and 56 minutes.

This was Mark's first race, and he trained for 9 months in order to prepare for his amazing performance in this self-sustaining test, where the competitors have to carry their own food and supplies. Although participants were provided with a tent, water, and dehydrated meals, this served as little consolation in the extreme heat and rugged terrain.

Mark's motivation to finish the race came by focusing on thoughts of his wife, Clare, and their children, Sebastian, who is 7, and Tristan, who is 5, with whom he had imaginary conversations during the contest to keep his spirits high.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mark Jaget on the floor of the House. I commend him for his overwhelming determination and appreciate his representation of our country and the State of Nevada in the Gobi March.

COMMENDING LIEUTENANT COLONEL SAMUEL I. PARKER, RECIPIENT OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR, ON HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO OUR NATION THROUGH HIS VALIANT HEROISM DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding service of Lieutenant Colonel Samuel I. Parker of North Carolina's 8th district. Lieutenant Colonel Parker was one of only two soldiers from North Carolina to receive the Medal of Honor for his "valiant heroism" during the First World War.

Born on October 17, 1891 in Monroe, North Carolina, Samuel Parker entered the United States Army at a young age. When the United States entered World War I, Samuel Parker, like so many of his generation, chose to put his own interests aside and lay his life on the line to serve his country.

As his citation dutifully notes, on July 18, 1918, then-Second Lieutenant Parker found himself near Soissons, France. During the attack on Soissons, two infantry battalions were merged and established a frontline position. In so doing, a gap was left between the right flank of the French 153D Division and the left flank of the 28th Infantry, exposing the left

flank to enemy machine-gunfire in a rock quarry on high ground. Second Lieutenant Parker ordered his depleted platoon to follow him in an attack upon the strong point. Meeting a disorganized group of French Colonials, he persuaded them to join his platoon. They followed him through enemy fire to the crest of the hill, and rushing forward, took the quarry, capturing six machineguns and 40 prisoners. The next day when the assault continued, Second Lieutenant Parker was in command of the merged battalions. Although wounded in the foot, he refused to evacuate and continued to lead his command until the objective was reached. Seeing that the assault battalion was subjected to heavy enfilade fire due to a gap between it and the French on its left, he led his battalion through heavy fire and closed the gap, remaining in command until the newly established lines were thoroughly consolidated. In supervising this, Lieutenant Parker had to crawl on his hands and knees on account of his painful wound.

As the British statesman and philosopher Edmund Burke once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." That day good men like Lieutenant Parker did something, and evil did not triumph, but rather our freedom was ensured.

Unlike many of his comrades, Second Lieutenant Parker survived to receive his Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross and went on to achieve the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He passed away on December 1, 1975 at the age of 84. It is our duty to remember the service and sacrifice of Lieutenant Colonel Samuel L. Parker and that of all our veterans.

Our veterans are the heroes who helped define our American heritage, and are living proof that freedom is never free. The memory of those we lost and the sacrifice of those who lived to tell the tale must be held in high esteem by Congress and a nation that extends our veterans its utmost respect and gratitude. As we approach the fourth of July, the anniversary of our independence, we must never forget the service of our veterans and pay tribute to those who have gone before us. Now more than ever, we must come together as a nation to unite and rally around those who continue to fight for our freedom.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRIAN CHRISTENSEN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDI

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mr. Brian Christensen of Littleton, CO, on his victory in the NCAA Archery Recurve finals.

Mr. Christensen is a one-man team from Colorado State University, he is self-coached and his achievements are noteworthy. He has further ambitions to compete in the 2008 Summer Olympics. He has also been named Colorado Archer of the Year. Previously he has won the World Archery Festival in 2002 and 2003. Archery requires intense concentration and therefore he has used his discipline in the academic realm as well; currently he is using this in his goal of graduating with a degree in Sports Medicine.