

and Drew Carter had the aspiration of becoming one. He had dreamed of being nothing but a Texas Ranger since he was a small child. He was proud to wear that gleaming silver badge, white Stetson hat, and cowboy boots. Little did Ranger Carter know that he would make history.

As law enforcement combed Texas for Ramirez in 1999, Ranger Carter conceived an idea for Ramirez's apprehension. He knew that Ramirez was close to his sister and thought maybe she would be willing to convince him to surrender. Carter's instinct proved to be correct: Ramirez's sister was more than willing to convince Ramirez to surrender. She was worried he would be killed by law enforcement, or worse, that he would kill again. Over several weeks, Carter worked out a deal with Ramirez's sister. If Ramirez would surrender, Carter would make sure that he was protected in jail, could be visited by family and friends, and would receive a psychological evaluation.

Ranger Carter's terms were agreed to by Ramirez's sister, as well as by the district attorney of Harris County, TX, one location where Ramirez was wanted. The agreement was struck that Ramirez would peacefully surrender to Ranger Carter, and only Ranger Carter, on the middle of the bridge connecting Mexico and Texas. So on July 13, 1999, the demonic killer who had brutally terrorized the good citizens of Texas for nearly 2 years quietly shook the hand of Ranger Drew Carter and surrendered.

On June 27, 2006 Angel Resendez Ramirez was put to death for his crimes, effectively ending his reign of terror forever. Had Ranger Carter not acted with the intelligence and diplomacy of a Texas Ranger, this justice may have never been carried out. He is a humble man, stating that he did not apprehend Ramirez on his own. Mr. Speaker, Ranger Carter was aided by other Texas lawmen and federal agents; but it was because of his particular heroism and determination, a dangerous killer faced the justice he deserved. Today, I am honored to pay him this tribute.

That's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO MERCY FLIGHT OF WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mercy Flight of Western New York and their commitment in providing life-saving services to the community on this, their 25th anniversary. On September 27, 1981 Mercy Flight flew its first mission and since then has transported more than 13,000 patients for emergency care.

Mercy Flight was the pioneer of air-medical service in New York State and one of the first operations of its kind in the United States. Its nine guiding principles include: patient focus, integrity and honesty, neutrality, clinical excellence, safety, readiness, respect, community partnership, and fiduciary obligation. By relying on these principles Mercy Flight has proven their dedication to their life-saving mission.

Mercy Flight is independent of any hospital and instead puts their patients first and chooses

the hospital that will best suit their medical needs, honoring a simple goal: to save lives. Mercy Flight has provided an exemplary service to Western New York during emergencies when every second matters. They provide fast, safe, and cost-effective air-medical emergency services to over 600 people every year.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to pay tribute to Mercy Flight, an organization that has devoted 25 years of service to the community and one that will be deeply valued by Western New York for decades to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF FLOYD WEAVER

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest sincerity and respect that I rise today to honor Floyd Weaver, longtime community activist and icon in Stockton, California. He has recently been honored by the Stockton Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Weaver has taught in the Stockton Unified School District for 39 years, with over 20 years of experience in city government. It truly is an honor to join the NAACP in recognizing his notable contributions and dedication to our community.

Floyd Weaver is an innovative thinker, a highly respected leader and an individual with an unwavering commitment to the Stockton community. Throughout his career, Mr. Weaver has distinguished himself as a pioneer in the education realm, starting out as one of few African American males to teach in the Stockton Unified School District and later becoming the first African American Male Principal in the school district. After 39 years with the Stockton Unified School District, Mr. Weaver moved into the realm of city politics. While serving on the Stockton City Council, he founded and chaired the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recognition ad hoc Committee and later developed a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Trust for charitable events. The then City Councilmember became a two term Vice Mayor, another first for African Americans in our community. During his tenure as Vice Mayor, Mr. Weaver witnessed the realization of one of his proudest achievements, the Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza in the heart of downtown Stockton.

Floyd Weaver's service has reached beyond the City to Stockton to the county and state levels. In 1997 Mr. Weaver began serving on the Board of Directors for San Joaquin Regional Transit District, including two terms as Chair and three terms as Vice Chair. In October 2003, he was appointed to the California State Reclamation Board by Governor Gray Davis. More recently, he has been recognized for his efforts in renaming part of Charter Way in Stockton to honor civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. In addition, Mr. Weaver serves on several local advisory boards and committees and continues to be recognized with numerous awards for his ongoing involvement and unmatched devotion to the community.

Mr. Speaker, the recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives

for Mr. Floyd Weaver is clearly deserved and well overdue. He is an esteemed member of our community, a lifelong activist for all people young and old, and an outstanding human being who will leave behind a legacy to be admired for generations to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him for his remarkable career and untiring dedication to a vision for a better tomorrow for the people of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 10, 2006, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 358 and 359. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2563 and H.R. 5061.

DEEP OCEAN ENERGY RESOURCES ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4761) to provide for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources on the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes:

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4761, the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act. I believe the measure deceptively undermines States' rights to protect their coastlines, compromises fragile coastal environments, and ultimately would cost taxpayers billions in lost revenue, adding to the already record-setting national deficit.

H.R. 4761 presents the illusion of granting States more control over drilling, when in actuality it makes it more cumbersome for States choosing to continue protecting their coastlines. States desiring to opt-out of drilling would be required to pass legislation every 5 years, subject to approval by their governor, and present it to the Federal Government. If State legislatures and their governors are unable to come to agreement on drilling policy within one year of this bill's enactment, they would lose their right to decide as the Federal Government would then have authority to begin granting leases within 50 to 100 miles off their coastlines.

This bill attempts to bait States, already suffering fiscal restraints due to the Majority's consistent practice of cutting States funding for vital services like Medicaid/Medicare and public education, with a greater share of revenue if they are willing to sacrifice their coastal protections. It would take the second largest funding source of the Federal Government, after income taxes, and redistribute those funds only to the coastal States that will allow drilling. This comes as a sacrifice to all other States as the Interior Department has estimated the alteration of current Federal-State revenue sharing provisions on royalty payments will result in a loss of approximately

\$70 billion in revenues over the next 15 years; adding to the public debt burden.

It is important to note that 80 percent of known oil and natural gas reserves are in areas where drilling is already permitted. The Department of the Interior has already offered leases for 267 million acres of the outer-continental shelf; however, energy companies have only taken the initiative to explore 24 million of those acres already available to them. It would be insensible to risk these coastal environments before companies have even exhausted the exploration of areas they are already permitted to drill.

America's families need real relief from high-energy costs. Even if this measure had addressed this issue in the most optimal manner, offshore exploration remains an expensive, slow, and risky way of addressing the nation's energy crisis. The Federal Government should be investing resources to advance energy efficiency, conservation, and the development of alternative fuels, which can provide immediate relief to American citizens, not reinforcing our nation's gluttonous appetite for oil.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 4761.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARK JAGET

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 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 Jaget is a chiropractor who owns three Spinal Rehabilitation Centers in Southern Nevada with his brother, David. He and his wife Clare have two children, Sebastian, who is 7, and Tristan, who is 5. Mark enjoys endurance running and has competed in several marathons over the years. This year, Mark chose to further challenge himself by competing for the first time in the rigorous Gobi March.

The Gobi March is a 6-stage, 7-day trek across some of the world's most severe terrain, which includes salt flats, sand dunes, rivers, slot canyons and mountain ridges. To add to the challenge of the race, competitors in the Gobi March are required to carry a 7 day supply of food and the supplies necessary to survive on the trek. Despite confronting intense temperatures, 60 mile-per-hour winds and a stress fracture in his foot, Jaget crossed the finish line on June 3, 2006. Although he competed against nearly one hundred experienced endurance runners and ultra marathoners from around the world, Jaget finished the race an impressive 9th place, with a time of 32 hours and 56 minutes.

I applaud Mark Jaget for his unparalleled determination and will to succeed. His resolve to compete at such an outstanding level is an inspiring example of what a person can accomplish when committed to physical preparation and personal fortitude. What is truly inspiring, however, is that Mark chose to race in this grueling competition on behalf of several charities that are devoted to providing for veterans disabled in the War on Terror and to honoring the men and women who serve in the United States Military. I cannot think of a

more commendable way to show appreciation for those who serve and sacrifice for our great country and for the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mark Jaget on the floor of the House for his extraordinary accomplishment. I commend him for his overwhelming determination to achieve personal excellence and I appreciate his commitment to honoring the United States Military. Mr. Jaget has set a wonderful example for his family and his community and I wish him well in all his future endeavors.

SUPPORTING INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS TO TRACK TERRORISTS AND TERRORIST FINANCES

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to House Resolution 895 and in support of a better alternative, H. Res. 900 introduced by Congressman FRANK.

H. Res. 895 intends to express the sense of Congress that we are in support of intelligence and law enforcement programs used to track terrorists and terrorist finances when these programs are consistent with Federal law and with appropriate Congressional consultation. H. Res. 895 also specifically condemns the disclosure and publication of classified information that impairs the international fight against terrorism and needlessly exposes Americans to the threat of further terror attacks. Although I agree with these basic tenants, H. Res. 895 includes several statements that cannot be factually confirmed as of yet by the vast majority of Members of Congress.

No Congressional Committee has formally looked into the terrorist finance tracking program. The Financial Services Committee will not hold its first oversight hearing on this topic until July 11, 2006. Although H. Res. 895 includes a clause stating that Congress has been fully informed on the terrorist finance tracking program, we cannot ask Members of Congress to affirm specific statements about the legality and constitutionality of a program that have yet to be independently confirmed. I simply cannot state something to be a fact that I do not know to be a fact. To do so would be a disservice to the people of North Carolina's Second District I have sworn to serve.

In contrast, H. Res. 900 expresses the same sense of Congress in support of lawful programs used to track terrorists and terrorist finances, as well as the condemnation of the disclosure of classified information, while remaining free of any of these unverified statements of fact. H. Res. 900 is a balanced, thoughtful and appropriate statement of Congressional support for vigorous prosecution of the war against the terrorists.

IN SUPPORT OF SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, across America, too many children remain in the foster care system for far too long. Through efforts known as subsidized guardianship, though, the amount of time from entrance into foster care to permanent placement is being slightly reduced.

Currently, there are more than six million children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives. The reasons vary, some children enter due to the death of a parent, others have been neglected while others have suffered abuse and still more live in foster care because of poverty or the military deployment of a parent. Whatever the reason, these children lack the security that permanent residency affords. I celebrate grandparents and other relatives who unselfishly and at great financial sacrifice provide safe, stable homes for these children. There are compassionate programs such as subsidized guardianship, that permit children to transition from the foster care system into the permanent custody of loving and supportive relatives in a comparatively short period of time.

In my State of Pennsylvania, 7 percent of the children live with non-parent relatives. Grandparents and other relative caregivers are often the best chance for a stable childhood for the children in their care, but their hard work and dedication often go unnoticed. I appreciate and congratulate those who put the interest of our Nation's children first. Future generations will be better because of those who provide the continuing services of subsidized guardianship.

DIRECTING SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO TRANSFER FUNCTIONS OF UNIT OPERATING ON THE TOHONO O'ODHAM INDIAN RESERVATION

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. SHADEGG. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5589, a bill to transfer a Customs Patrol Officers unit known as the "Shadow Wolves," to the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement branch.

The Shadow Wolves were created by an Act of Congress in 1972, establishing a Native American customs unit to operate along the Tohono O'odham Nation's border with Mexico. The unit is entirely composed of Native Americans and is tasked with infiltrating and disrupting drug cartels and smuggling operations along the border.

In March of 2003, I had the opportunity to visit the Tohono O'odham Nation during a Congressional hearing on border security and our anti-drug efforts. I met with the Shadow Wolves, and found them to possess a unique dedication toward pursuing smugglers. Their