

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS MINCARELLI

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Louis Mincarelli for his long-time service to the Norriton Fire Engine Company and surrounding communities.

Mr. Mincarelli has been a member of the Norriton Fire Engine Company since 1976. He has served tirelessly on the banquet, by-laws, and legislative committees and was instrumental in raising the funding necessary to simultaneously purchase two new fire trucks. In 1995, he was awarded Life Membership for his service and sacrifice to the Company. Additionally, Mr. Mincarelli held the position of president of the Norriton Fire Engine Company for 15 years from 1979 to 1994.

For 34 years, Mr. Mincarelli also served his country as a First Sergeant in the United States Army. As an honored veteran, he takes pride in continuing to serve the citizens of East Norriton Township and surrounding communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Mr. Louis Mincarelli for his exemplary and dedicated service to the Norriton Fire Engine Company and the East Norriton Township area. His commitment and energy to make his community a better place is an example for all citizens to follow.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FINANCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2007

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, today, along with several of my colleagues, I introduced the Financial Security Accounts for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2007. As we know, the federal government gives American families a helping hand in saving for the future. Accounts with special tax advantages help people save for college, retirement, and other life events. But people with disabilities don't always have the same expectations for the future.

Individuals with disabilities may have very different needs and concerns for their long-term care. However, no matter how different the needs or the financial demands that face a family, all parents have a common interest—to ensure the financial security of their children. Although several savings tools exist for all families, increased costs for care, long-term security, more flexibility, and the desire to foster greater independence for children with disabilities warrant the establishment of a new savings instrument.

Many of you know about typical tax-deferred savings plans—such as a “529” and college tuition plans. These savings tools, which are available to all Americans, can't help a family with a child who may not go to college. Yet, one could argue that the need for savings and planning for the future is even greater for a child with a disability because he or she will likely be less able to earn a self-supporting income. And may require continued expenditures on medical treatment or adaptive equipment.

Without a new savings tool, parents of children with disabilities must choose between turning down the advantages of savings plans available to others or risk a hefty penalty if their child cannot use the funds according to the account restrictions.

The Financial Security Accounts for Individuals with Disabilities (FSAID) Act of 2007 will provide families of people with physical, cognitive, or developmental disabilities access to the savings tools that everyone else enjoys. Individuals with disabilities, or their families, could create a Financial Security Account (FSA) that accrues tax-free interest during the life of the beneficiary. The FSA will help families of individuals with disabilities to pay for a variety of current and long-term essential expenses including medical care, community based support services, education, employment training and support, and assistive technology. As adults, beneficiaries can also use these accounts to pay for housing and transportation needs.

FSAs differ from existing savings tools by providing much needed flexibility for families and beneficiaries:

Accounts can be established as easily as a typical savings account, without overburdensome paperwork, administrative fees, or on-going legal fees;

Beneficiaries are allowed to control their own financial destinies; and if they are unable to serve in this capacity, parents, guardians or other designees can serve in this capacity;

Qualified expenses under the FSAID are purposefully broad to accommodate the greater needs of people with disabilities and the financial demands of their individual care plan;

Qualified expenses are not limited to adulthood or retirement age so resources can be used whenever they are needed;

The flexibility in expenses also allows families to save with confidence even though they cannot always predict how independent their children will become;

A family who saves money in a traditional account for a child who becomes disabled later in life can roll over the funds into an FSA without penalty; and

Unlike some savings instruments, FSA would be created and regulated on a federal level so any eligible individual in the United States would have access to this savings tool.

The Financial Security Accounts for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2007 will give families of people with disabilities the ability to save for their children's futures just like other American families. Today, we are taking the

first step toward that realization by giving all American families the tools they need to provide for their families—no matter what their specialized needs might be.

A new approach to savings for these families—one that fosters ownership, self-control and flexibility—is needed today. I urge my colleagues to support this innovative approach to saving for the long-term, specialized needs of children with disabilities.

FSAs will bring families the much needed peace of mind by giving them the tools to provide for their children and helping ensure that children with disabilities are able to live life to the fullest and be as productive as possible.

Our legislation offers hope to families to provide resources that are life-enhancing and meaningful and the control necessary to ensure that their loved ones obtain essential services. I urge my colleagues to support the Financial Security Accounts for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2007.

IN HONOR OF ARABY COLTON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Araby Colton, a great lady who passed away recently at the age of 95. Araby was a passionate activist of uncompromising principles throughout her life.

Araby and her husband, Vie, founded the Canadian-American Wolf Defenders, which was instrumental in stopping a wolf hunt in Canada. She was a member of the Monterey County Peace Coalition, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, and a valued member of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. She raised Arabian horses and a wolf-dog. Her children inherited her love of animals.

During consideration of the 1972 Endangered Species Act, testimony was entered on the subject of aerial wolf hunting in Alaska. Araby's passionate “Letter to Wolf Defenders” from her HOWL newsletter detailing the horrors of such hunting practices was read before the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation in their hearings on predatory mammals and endangered species.

Throughout the 90's, she wrote “Your World and Mine,” a newspaper column for the Carmel Valley Sun and other local newspapers. Her articles reported on the environment, animals, politics and book reviews. She kept up with current events, and was writing a letter to the editor on global warming when she passed away.

In her later years, Araby and some friends formed a confab they called “The Coffeehouse.” They named their group in memory of the American rebels that met in coffeehouses in the 1770's to discuss separation from a tyrannical government. “The Coffeehouse” members discussed the great issues of the day.

• 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.

Madam Speaker, the life of Araby Colton was full of joy and purpose. She cared about the world around her and worked tirelessly to make it a better place, not just for humans, but for all creatures. She would be delighted to think that she was a thorn in the sides of politicians, but I have only respect and admiration for a lady with such deep convictions. I know I speak for the whole House in extending condolences to her family. Araby will be greatly missed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Congressman ALTMIRE for offering this amendment and also want to thank Chairman MILLER for his support. Over the past two Congresses I have introduced legislation very similar to the language we are now considering, and I am very hopeful that it will be included in today's bill.

For every soldier who is deployed overseas, there is a family back home faced with new and challenging hardships. The toll extends beyond emotional stress. From raising a child to managing household finances to day-to-day events, families have to find the time and resources to deal with the absence of a loved one.

Today's amendment offers a way to help ease this transition. The Altmire-Udall amendment would allow spouses, parents or children of military personnel to use Family and Medical Leave Act benefits for issues related directly to the deployment of a soldier. Current FMLA benefits allow individuals to take time off for the birth of a child or to care for a family member with a serious illness. The deployment of a soldier is no less of a crisis and certainly puts new demands on families. We should ensure that the FMLA benefits given in other circumstances are provided to our fighting families during their time of need.

The passage of this amendment and its inclusion in the final conference report will bring new relief to thousands of families across the nation, and it will demonstrate the thanks we owe our brave men and women serving overseas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 345 through 349 on May 15, 2007. I was down in my district attending the funeral of SSG Timothy P. Padgett.

I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 345, final passage on H.R. 634—American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 346, final passage on H.R. 692—Army Specialist Joseph P. Micks Federal Flag Code Amendment Act, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 347, final passage on

H.R. 916—John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 348, final passage on H.R. 1700—COPS Improvement Act of 2007, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 349, final passage on H.R. 1773—Safe American Roads Act, "aye".

SMALL BUSINESS FAIRNESS IN CONTRACTING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1873—the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act.

The 10th Edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines fairness as being: impartial, honest; free from self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism. For too long small businesses have been overlooked, short changed and under-funded. For the first time in over a decade this House voted on a bill to open the \$380 billion federal marketplace to small businesses across the country.

Mr. Chairman, this bill will not only bring about strong economic growth but also create jobs. This bill does that by: Ensuring that new regulations and databases are added to encourage and promote fairness in the use of small businesses in government contracting; increasing the overall national goal of using contracts with small businesses; and increasing the goal for contracts with disadvantaged and women-owned businesses. These changes are vital to small businesses all over this country.

For the past 6 years, the government has failed to meet its 23 percent small business contracting goal. This has cost small business \$10 billion in lost contracting opportunities.

In the 3rd district of Florida, small business owner Lisa Wolf of Wolf Technologies informed me that she faces many contracting problems and loss of business due to the bundling of small projects into large mega contracts. Ms. Wolf owns a geotechnical engineering firm and has gained a reputation for helping clients exceed their goals; she cannot effectively do this without small Federal contracts.

Entrepreneurs and small businesses like Lisa Wolf's are key players in the economy of Florida.

Florida has an estimated total of 1,837,800 small businesses and 29 percent of them are women-owned firms.

According to the Florida Small Business Development Center:

The stability and growth of Florida's economy depends largely on the vitality of our state's small businesses who are a diverse group of entrepreneurs and innovators. This large and growing group keeps the Florida economy productive.

This bill ensures that more Federal contracts are available to small firms like Lisa's and also increases the procurement opportunities for the small, disadvantaged and women-owned businesses.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is not only a great investment to my home State of Florida but most importantly to our nation's small businesses and I strongly support it.

TRIBUTE TO DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF LES STILES

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, a dedicated Oregonian, and a tremendous public servant: former Deschutes County Sheriff Les Stiles. Sheriff Stiles retired last month, and tomorrow night his many years of achievements on behalf of the residents of Central Oregon will be celebrated at a public event in Bend, OR. Sheriff Stiles dedicated his career to keeping the city of Bend and Deschutes County a safe and desirable place to live and visit. quit

Sheriff Stiles has always exuded an interest in public policy and making our communities better and safer. His commitment to our country dates back to his service with the U.S. Army where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant with the Corps of Engineers. Les also served with the U.S. Army Reserves as a captain in the infantry from 1968 until 1974. After serving in defense of the United States of America, Les turned toward educational pursuits that would provide him with the knowledge that, complemented with his life experience, would ultimately allow him to better serve the citizens of Oregon.

In 1974, Les received a bachelor's degree in English from Illinois State University. From there, he went on to earn a masters degree in public administration from the University of Northern Colorado. In 1982, Les focused exclusively on law enforcement and completed the grueling training session at the FBI National Academy's 128th session. Madam Speaker, this was not the end of the sheriff's commitment to education. Later in life he graduated from the National Sheriffs Institute and in 2005 he graduated from the FBI Executive Leadership Program. He spent 15 years teaching at Central Oregon Community College and was always willing to address a community group on a pending issue.

Madam Speaker, the city of Bend, OR, received great fortune when Les and his family moved to the beautiful central Oregon region after his training at the FBI Academy. During 25 years of law enforcement in central Oregon, Les served first as a patrolman, eventually as Bend's chief of police, and ultimately as the sheriff of Deschutes County. Sheriff Stiles has been a strong advocate in combating the scourge of methamphetamine and its devastating impact on communities across the country. Sheriff Stiles quickly recognized the significant harm and damage this terrible poison inflicts on families and communities and was a real leader in bringing the problems associated with methamphetamine use to the forefront and attention of the general public. He's been diligent in his efforts to get this deadly drug off the streets, a vocal proponent and promoter of prevention efforts, and tireless in his efforts to support and promote treatment programs for those in desperate need of help.

My colleagues, when Les Stiles took office as the sheriff of Deschutes County, he inherited quite a mess. His predecessor pled guilty