

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

to Federal charges of embezzlement. Under Les's leadership, the county made great progress in correcting the problems of the past. Sheriff Stiles helped restore public trust and once again brought honor to the position of sheriff. He restored fiscal restraint and helped stabilize funding for a department that otherwise would have lost significant public services this past year.

Today I illustrate but a few of the tremendous successes Sheriff Stiles achieved over a long and distinguished career. I appreciate my colleagues joining me in thanking Sheriff Stiles for all he's done on behalf of the people of Deschutes County, the Second Congressional District and the great State of Oregon. I wish him and his wife, Carol, many good days ahead with their family, complete with many hours of good fishing for the sheriff.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLERGY CONSULTATION SERVICE ON ABORTION

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2007*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion on May 21st, 2007, and the many fine clergy women and men of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice who continue this tradition of service. At the time the Clergy Service was founded, hundreds, if not thousands, of women died each year because of unsafe, illegal abortions. Many of the women suffering the health hazards of an illegal abortion were the most vulnerable, including women of color and low-income women.

The heroic clergy who came together to form the Clergy Consultation Service felt a moral responsibility to help women in need. The Clergy Service provided comfort, hope, and access to doctors who performed safe abortions and treated women with dignity and respect. Participating ministers and rabbis risked public censure and criminal prosecution to provide compassionate counseling and spiritual support to women with an unintended pregnancy. Today, the tradition of support for women has continued through the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and the Clergy for Choice Network.

Over one million American women sought illegal abortions annually at the time the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion was established. In 1965 alone, 17 percent of all pregnancy-related deaths were due to illegal abortions. The largest percentage of abortion deaths was among women ages 35–39 with five or six children.

In my home State of New York in 1967, the only legal reason for performing an abortion was to save the life of the woman. Senior minister of the Judson Memorial Church in New York City, Reverend Howard R. Moody, along with social justice activist Arlene Carmen, recognized that women needed reliable information on how and where to obtain safe, albeit illegal, abortions. With a small group of ministers and rabbis, Reverend Moody founded the Clergy Service. The New York Times ran the statement announcing the service.

“Confronted with a difficult decision and means of implementing it, women today are forced by ignorance, misinformation and desperation into courses of action that require humane concern on the part of religious leaders.”

The statement continued:

“We believe that it is our pastoral responsibility and religious duty to give aid and assistance to all women with problem pregnancies. To that end we are establishing a Clergymen's Consultation Service on Abortion which will include referral to the best available medical advice and aid to women in need.”

Following the announcement, the Clergy Service was inundated with calls and visitors from around the country seeking assistance. From its inception until 1970 the service grew from 26 ministers and rabbis in New York to 2,000 clergy in 25 States referring almost 100,000 women to doctors.

I commend Reverend Moody and the clergy men and women who joined the service over the years. Their selfless service is an inspiration to all who honor women as moral decision-makers and all who seek dignity and justice for women.

COMMEMORATING THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the Battle of Crete, the historic battle that contributed to the Allies' victory of World War II.

Because of its strategic location as part of the lifeline to India and its proximity to both Palestine and Egypt, both the Allies and Nazis wanted Crete. At that time the British controlled the island.

On May 20, 1941, the Nazi invasion force, including thousands of German paratroopers and glider troops began landing on Crete. Hitler felt this was to be an easy victory, yet he is quoted to have said shortly after the invasion, “France fell in 8 days. Why is Crete free?”

During the 11-day invasion of Crete, more than 6,000 German troopers were listed as killed, wounded, or missing in action. The losses to the elite seventh parachute division marked the end of the German military's large-scale airborne operations.

This valiant fight by the Cretan people began in the first hour of the Nazi airborne invasion while other underground movements did not begin until a year or more after being invaded.

Young boys, old men, and women displayed breathtaking bravery in defending Crete. Because German soldiers were not accustomed to facing women in battle, they would tear the dress from the shoulders of suspected Cretan women to find bruises from the recoil of the rifle. The penalty was death. On July 28, 1941, The Times (London) reported that “five hundred Cretan women have been deported to Germany for taking part in the defense of their native island.”

The German soldiers who invaded Crete also faced the heroic resistance of the clergy.

A priest leading his parishioners into battle was not what the Germans anticipated. At Paleochora, Father Stylianos Frantzeskis, hearing of the German airborne invasion, rushed to his church, sounded the bell, took his rifle and marched his volunteers toward Maleme.

This struggle became an example for all Europe to follow in defying German occupation and aggression.

The Cretans paid a heavy price for their valiant resistance to Nazi forces with thousands of civilians executed, starved, or imprisoned. The Germans burned and destroyed entire communities as a reprisal for the Cretan resistance movement. Yet this resistance lasted for 4 years.

The Battle of Crete changed history by delaying Hitler's plan to invade Russia. The invasion was delayed from April to June of 1941. The 2-month delay in the invasion made Hitler's forces face the Russian winter. The Russian snowstorms and the subzero temperatures eventually stalled the Nazi invasion before they could take Moscow or Leningrad. This was the beginning of the downfall of the Nazi reign of terror.

We must always remember and honor this significant battle and the heroic drive of the Cretan people. Democracy came from Greece, and the Cretan heroes exemplified the courage it takes to preserve it.

To honor these heroes, I have introduced H. Res. 148, which recognizes and appreciates the historical significance and the heroic human endeavor and sacrifice of the people of Crete during World War II and commends the PanCretan Association of America.

Today, the courage and fortitude of the Cretan people are seen in the members of the United Cretan Associations of New York which are located in Astoria, Queens.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cretans in the United States, Greece, and the diaspora.

HONORING ROGER AND DIANA SENECHAL

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2007*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Roger and Diana Senechal of Auburn, MA for their many years of dedicated community service and volunteerism.

Roger Senechal and Diana (Sullivan) Senechal dedicated their lives to religion at an early age. They met while volunteering their services for families in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and were married in 1978.

The Senechals moved to New Hampshire, where they continued their lives of service. Diana volunteered extensively and Roger served as the Executive Director for the American Cancer Society. After their son Gerald was born, Roger was received into the Episcopal Church and the family moved to Auburn, Massachusetts, where Roger became a priest at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Roger and Diana have contributed their time to countless organizations. Their record of volunteerism is astounding.

Roger has served the town of Auburn as President of the Auburn Clergy Association,