

BREAST CANCER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT**HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me and over 200 other Members in cosponsoring H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. With just one more day until Mother's Day, it is important for us in Congress to honor the women in our lives and work to bring an end to diseases such as breast cancer. Each year, tens of thousands of women die from this disease and more than 3 million women are currently living with breast cancer. Important advances have been made, but we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it.

This bill will establish a research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment—authorizing \$40 million a year for five years for NIH studies.

Hopefully, this research will help mitigate the devastating effects this disease inflicts on mothers, sisters, wives, daughters and families across the Nation. The National Breast Cancer Coalition has worked tirelessly to advance the fight against breast cancer, as we celebrate Mother's Day this year, I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON S.
CON. RES. 21, CONCURRENT RES-
OLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of S. Con. Res. 21, a budget resolution designed and drafted by Democrats to end over a decade of Republican fiscal irresponsibility.

One of the best results of the Democrats gaining the majority in the Congress is the fact that we can realign the priorities of the Federal government. Instead of Republican tax cuts for the richest 1 percent, we can put those same resources into health care for our children and veterans. Instead of driving our Nation deeper and deeper into debt, we can put us back on track towards a balanced budget.

Twelve years of Republican budgets have left our fiscal house in shambles. We are nearly \$9 trillion in debt, and if Republicans had their way, we would never end the deficit. However, the Democratic budget resolution is a good first step towards ending the sea of red ink on our budget. Within the next 5 years, we will have balanced the budget, while at the same time providing necessary services to those who need them most.

This budget resolution incorporates the pay-as-you-go rule that the Democrats passed as one of our first acts in the majority. The rule

is simple. Any additional funds we spend, or any taxes that we cut, have to be paid for with cuts in other areas.

The budget resolution finally fulfills some of the promises we made to our military veterans. This legislation includes a \$6.6 billion increase in veterans spending, which is the largest increase in history. The Congress has failed to meet our obligations for over a decade in providing necessary services to our veterans, and this budget aims to correct some of this neglect.

In addition, this budget also provides \$50 billion over 5 years towards children's health care. The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has been extremely successful in improving access to healthcare for children whose parents earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to purchase private health insurance. Two-thirds of all uninsured children in this nation are actually eligible but not enrolled in SCHIP. With this budget, we can significantly improve health care coverage to millions more children across the country.

This budget resolution will also help protect our Nation from its enemies. The 9/11 recommendations, most of which have been ignored by the Republican Congress, can be implemented under this budget framework. We have also included additional funding for homeland security in order to better ensure the safety of our citizens.

It is no great secret that the Administration has severely underfunded schools across the nation with the No Child Left Behind Act. This is another program we intend to fix with our budget resolution. In this budget, we have included \$9.5 billion over what the President requested for fiscal year 2008. This necessary funding will help stop the decline in our Nation's education system.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have nearly enough time to speak about all the benefits of this budget resolution. Programs such as Head Start, LIHEAP, Social Security and Medicare all benefit. Residents of New Orleans and Mississippi benefit from the money to rebuild after Katrina. Higher education students will benefit from increased Pell Grants and we avoid cutting other student aid programs such as Perkins loans and special opportunity block grants, which was proposed in the President's failed budget plan.

I am strongly supportive of this Democratic budget resolution. This bill will go a long way towards putting our fiscal house in order, without relying on the massive middle class tax increase that the President's budget relies upon. I would urge all of my colleagues to support this budget resolution.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Chairman, as we debate the FY 2008 Defense Authorization bill, I am pleased to note the effort by my colleagues in working to ensure that our national defense funding and policy are focused on programs that will make our country safer and provide our troops in harm's way with the resources they need today.

I support making sure that Congress wisely, as well as robustly, provide for our national defense, including ensuring dollars are spent on systems that will actually protect our Nation and our allies. One of those systems drawing new attention during this debate is missile defense. Our country has already spent over \$100 billion over the last several decades to develop various missile defense systems. These Cold War efforts for which annual funding has increased from \$3 billion in the late 1990s to nearly \$10 billion have yet to bear fruit, even as our country faces the grave threat posed by terrorists smuggling nuclear weapons into our country across our borders or through our ports.

Supporters will point to successful tests recently of portions of this system. However, we all know the challenges of replicating limited success from carefully and highly scripted tests in real world conditions. Given that participants knew roughly when the test target would launch, what they would look like, how they would fly and what they would do, it may be even more concerning that these systems missed as often as they did.

I am troubled when I hear experts such as the Government Accountability Office report that while costs have grown, less work is being completed than planned. GAO found that "too few tests have been completed to have confidence in the models and simulations used to predict performance." One year after establishing 2006 goals for the program, the Missile Defense agency informed Congress that it planned to field fewer assets, reduce performance goals, and increase the program's cost goal.

Our citizens and our allies and their citizens are not made safer by rushing to deploy technology that "may" protect them when called upon.

The solution to a flat tire is not to blow more air into it. We cannot afford to expend valuable national defense dollars to develop technologies that we know today will not work at a time when these funds can be spent to improve our homeland security, provide needed equipment for our troops in the field, or increase foreign aid to our allies.

I am sure there is no need to remind my colleagues that the \$8.1 billion provided in the bill for the missile system is more than is currently authorized for port security grants or included in the recent House-passed COPS reauthorization bill to put more police officers on our streets.

Some have attempted to muddle this issue by inserting the nation of Israel into the missile defense issue. Our Nation recognizes the importance of our ally Israel and provides over \$2 billion in foreign military aid to help that nation meet its unique security challenges. However, simply putting more unproven, insufficiently tested, and unreliable missile defense systems into the field does not make our country or our allies safer.

I certainly believe the purpose of this \$645 billion Defense authorization bill is to help make our country safer including assisting our

allies. If we truly want to help protect important allies like Israel, let's develop and share with them defensive systems that will work effectively, reliably, and consistently. The history of this program has shown me that simply providing more funds will not accomplish that goal.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER EDWIN
LEAHY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to offer heartfelt congratulations to Father Edwin Leahy—Father Ed—as he receives an honorary degree from Rutgers-Newark. Father Ed will also serve as the commencement speaker on Thursday, May 17, 2007. He is the headmaster of St. Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark, NJ.

Father Ed graduated from St. Benedict's Prep in 1963 and from Seton Hall University in 1968. He received his training in theology, attaining an M.Div. with distinction in 1975 from the Woodstock College, the Jesuit School of Technology at Union Theological Seminary. He was ordained as a priest in 1972 after first taking vows as a monk in 1966 of the Benedictine Abbey of Newark.

Father Ed's appointment to headmaster of St. Benedict's Prep has been a true blessing to the young men who come through its door and to the community at large. Father Ed became headmaster at the age of 27 and took a school with an enrollment of 89 students and 14 faculty members to its current population of 550 and 46, respectively. In the process, he has touched the hearts of many of his young charges and their families. The students are mostly Black and Hispanic from humble backgrounds. Yet 95 percent of the school's graduates go to college; no small feat in a city where the dropout rate is very high.

Thanks to Father Ed and his perseverance, St. Benedict's Prep now has a waiting list with many suburban youngsters hoping to gain admission. The school received national attention when its comprehensive program was featured in Education Week.

Madam Speaker, Father Ed has served St. Benedict's and the greater community well for almost 25 years. I know my colleagues agree that Father Ed is a very good choice for commencement speaker and is a deserving recipient of an honorary degree from Rutgers-Newark. I wish him well as he continues his good works.

“FIFTY GOOD YEARS”

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, yesterday, May 20, marked the 41st anniversary of the date on which Jose F. & Valentina C. Giesta emigrated from the Azores to Massachusetts, landing, fortunately for me, in New Bedford. I say fortunately for me because while I believe in general that hard-working immigrants like the Giestas have been

a great boon to this country in so many ways, and have particularly added significantly to the economic and cultural richness of South-eastern Massachusetts, I've been a particular beneficiary of this immigration decision because their daughter, Maria, is my very capable Deputy Chief of Staff.

The Giestas are an excellent example of why so many of us continue to support an immigration policy that welcomes people from elsewhere in the world who want to come to America both to share in the life we have and to help it flourish. Next week, on June 1, the Giestas will mark another very important anniversary—that of their wedding. They were married in Faja de Baixo in the Azores on June 1, 1957—several weeks, I will note, with a politicians penchant for getting himself into the act, before I graduated from high school.

As the Giestas celebrate their 50th Anniversary with their family and friends in New Bedford, they will be with their five children, who are in addition to Maria Eugenia, Gualter, Jose Augusto, Aires, and Stephanie. Stephanie, incidentally, has become a very accomplished hairstylist of whose talents I regularly avail myself. Their five children have produced eight grandchildren, Melissa, Mark, Matthew, Jacob, Tyler, Austin, Quentin, and Daulton. As the family gathers in New Bedford next Saturday on this wonderful occasion, I take this opportunity to acknowledge this event here, not simply out of my personal feelings of gratitude and affection to the Giestas, as strong as they are, but because at a time when people have been hearing a lot of the negative arguments about immigration, the story of the Giestas—a representative one for my district and many other districts across the country—shows how in fact immigration has been of overwhelming benefit to this Nation of immigrants. I am delighted to send my best wishes to Jose and Valentina and to tell them that I regularly cite them as an example of why an open and welcoming immigration policy continues to be in our Nation's best interest.

TRIBUTE TO GALEN JAMISON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of Galen Jamison. Galen passed away on Thursday, May 17, in my hometown of Flint, Michigan at the age of 71. Galen was a committed public servant, always striving to improve the quality of life for the people of the greater Flint area. He was a dear friend and a valued advisor. I will miss his knowledge and wisdom.

He was a graduate of Central Michigan University and he had attended Arkansas State College and GMI. Mr. Jamison married Shirley J. Earns in 1955 and moved to Flint Township where he resided for over 50 years. Galen worked for General Motors as a General Supervisor. He was deeply committed to public service. Galen was elected as Flint Township supervisor and served 4 years. He was also elected 2 terms as Trustee on Flint Township Board of Trustees. Galen held several appointed positions over the years. These included State of Michigan Registered Codes Official and Inspector, Commercial Plan Reviewer, and 11 years on the Liquor Advisory Board where he drafted the first ordinance. He

served on the Planning Commission for 9 years, the Board of Appeals for 6 years, the Economic Development Authority, the Central Business District Authority, the Bicentennial Committee, and was the Anti Annexation Drive Coordinator.

Galen served on many Genesee County Boards including service as the Chairman of the Auto and Theft Grant Board. He held positions with the Water and Waste Board, the Retirement Board, the Parks Board, the Library Steering Committee, and as Genesee County Michigan Township Association Trustee. He had previously served on the CAMEO Executive Board and as a Flint Junior Achievement Advisor. He served as the Chairman for the Flushing Road Action Committee for Water for 4 years. At the time of his death Galen was currently serving as the Flint Township Chief Building Director and Chairman of the Genesee County Road Commission. Because of his commitment to public service Galen was awarded the G.M. Truck and Bus Plant Award for excellence in Community Activities.

Galen is survived by his wife of 51 years, Shirley, his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers, sister, numerous nieces and nephews and a Godchild.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying respects to a wonderful man and a true public servant, Galen Jamison. The Flint area mourns his passing and will miss his leadership, insight and zeal to make the Flint community a better place to live and work.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RHEA, ARTHUR DALE JACKSON AND KEVIN DOAN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on May 20, 2006, five men lost their lives in a coal mine explosion in Harlan, Kentucky. The number of casualties would have been greater, were it not for the heroic efforts of three mine inspectors who decided to go in and save whomever they could.

There were only a few seconds to decide what to do in this situation. There were no second chances. Information was conflicting and incomplete in those rushed minutes late at night on May 20. These three men—Robert Rhea, Arthur Dale Jackson and Kevin Doan—heard enough and chose to descend into the smoke-filled blackness of the Darby Coal Mine.

They were driven to help whomever they could, inserting themselves into this hellish furnace not knowing whether there would be additional explosions or structural collapses.

The person they rescued, Paul Ledford, had succumbed to the carbon monoxide gases caused by the explosion and was unable to move any further. He was a half-mile down and never would have made it out on his own.

We are reminded that coal miners face potential hazards deep underground, everyday, so that we can keep the lights on and appliances running. When tragedy strikes one of