

and his work to end world hunger. Through this he envisioned a prize that would honor others who had made contributions to helping feed the world.

Dr. Borlaug's life is marked with accomplishments; one such accomplishment was founding the World Food Prize, which is now located in Des Moines, Iowa. The World Food Prize recognizes contributions by individuals who have worked to improve the quality, quantity and availability of the world food supply.

Dr. Borlaug is an amazing man and because of him billions of lives have been saved. The implications of his life's work will be felt for years to come. I again thank Mr. LATHAM for helping to ensure this true American hero is properly honored.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was on official leave of absence due to a health matter in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 483, 491, 497, and 498 and "no" on rollcall votes 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 492, 493, 494, 495, and 496.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, and to congratulate Chairman PRICE on crafting an excellent bill. As the new Chairman of this subcommittee, Congressman PRICE worked hard to adequately fund programs that would enhance the security of all Americans while still maintaining a fiscally responsible budget. He has been a true champion and advocate for real and effective security for our Nation. This bill is a testament to the Chairman's leadership.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the subcommittee staff for their hard work and dedication both throughout the extended hearing process and in preparing the bill and committee report.

Chairman PRICE and our subcommittee based this bill on careful consideration of expert testimony given before our committee on the many serious security concerns facing our Nation. Over and over again we heard that another terrorist attack against our country was not a question of if, but of when.

This bill helps to address these concerns by giving long overdue and sorely needed additional financial support to agencies and programs with major responsibility to protect our country.

I would like to highlight several of these programs and their importance to our national security.

This Homeland Security bill strengthens port facilities and infrastructures that remain vulnerable to a terrorist attack by increasing badly needed funding for port security grants.

This is important, for example, because an attack on our Nation's largest container port complex at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach would negatively affect our entire national economy to the tune of \$1 billion a day.

Passage of this bill will also make available to our first responders increased Firefighter Assistance Grants and Safer Grants to purchase critical equipment and hire and train additional firefighters.

This will help address the outstanding issues that impair our first responders' ability to safely respond to a major disaster, as was identified by the events of September 11 and Hurricane Katrina.

The Homeland Security bill also makes border security a top priority by providing funds for 3,000 additional Border Patrol agents.

Finally, following the 9/11 Commission's recommendation to improve the explosive screening of checked baggage, this Homeland Security bill increases funding for the procurement, installation and maintenance of the latest explosive detection systems at our airports.

Experts agree that the cargo hold of the passenger airplanes is the "soft underbelly" of our aviation system.

Providing this equipment for our airports will help harden that potential target, which is critical to the safety of thousands of passengers who travel not only through the Los Angeles World Airports, but airports throughout our country.

Mr. Chairman, these are just a few of the key improvements this legislation makes to better protect our Nation. I strongly support the bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BILL DEARMAN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Bill Dearman of Alexandria, Virginia. Bill Dearman's retirement will mark the conclusion of 10 years of extraordinary and dedicated leadership and service to the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

Mr. Dearman's skilled leadership and devotion to Alexandria have led to a number of great accomplishments. Among these is the challenge of redeveloping the Samuel Madden Housing Project into what is now the nationally recognized award-winning Chatham Square. In addition he oversaw the development of various site replacements at Braddock Road, and the rehabilitation and refinancing of Jefferson Village, Quaker Hill and Cameron Valley projects.

Through his dedication to the Citizens of Alexandria, he helped ensure housing needed to Alexandria's neediest. His creativity led to effective reorganization of the authority and expansion of services to residents. Through his tireless efforts, Mr. Dearman has improved the general appearance and maintenance of all Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority properties.

In closing I wish to commend Mr. Dearman for his years of service to the City of Alexandria. I wish all the best to him on his retirement with his family in Atlanta.

INTRODUCTION OF BIRTHDAY RESOLUTION FOR WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with my friend and colleague from New York, Representative NITA LOWEY, I am introducing a resolution to recognize President Clinton's 61st birthday, which we will celebrate this August 19th. President Clinton has had a long and distinguished career in public service including serving as Governor of Arkansas and President of the United States. During Clinton's two terms in the White House, this country experienced unprecedented economic expansion including the creation of 22 million jobs. He worked with our NATO allies to end the ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, and played a fundamental role in bringing peace to Northern Ireland. Since leaving office in 2001, President Clinton has continued to dedicate his life to public service through the Clinton Foundation, which serves to strengthen the capacity of people throughout the world to meet the challenges of global interdependence. Notably, the Clinton Foundation has worked to make HIV/AIDS medication more accessible in poor and middle income countries and develop sustainable economic growth in Africa. Most recently, President Clinton launched the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) to help in the fight against global climate change.

I am honored today to recognize President Clinton's birthday as he has dedicated and continues to dedicate his life to serving the American people and noble causes around the world. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

NICS IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support of H.R. 2640, the McCarthy-Dingell National Instant Criminal Background Check Improvement Act. It is high time Congress acted to strengthen the gun laws in this country and implement common sense policies to ensure that guns are not ending up in the wrong hands.

H.R. 2640 will strengthen the National Instant Background Check System (NICS) by creating incentives for states to submit legal records about individuals who are not eligible to purchase guns.

This bill also permits Federal law enforcement grants to be cut for states that do not submit such records to the electronic database and requires greater information-sharing among Federal agencies.

This legislation will make it easier for law enforcement authorities to coordinate and work together to make sure guns do not end up in the hands of criminals, the mentally ill, and non-citizens.

This bill will also create a more uniform system of background checks to help prevent the type of tragedy that occurred at Virginia Tech, where a documented mentally disturbed young man was able to buy guns and create devastation and destruction on a college campus.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this bill is an important first step in strengthening our Nation's gun laws and I support this legislation enthusiastically and without reservation.

I am also offering my own legislation, H.R. 2666, Blair's Bill, which will create a national gun registry and licensing procedure so we can finally begin to get a grip on the deadly issue of gun violence that has devastated so many of our communities across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this and other sensible gun control laws.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WARREN F.
WITZIG

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Warren F. Witzig, of State College, PA, who died on June 13, 2007. Dr. Witzig, who was born on March 26, 1921, was one of the pioneers of nuclear power. Indeed, the Penn State Nuclear Engineering Society recently honored him as a "visionary and innovator in the establishment of the United States nuclear power industry." The Penn State community, his friends and colleagues, and most importantly, his family, will miss him.

Dr. Witzig received a B.S. in electrical engineering in 1942, from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in Troy, NY; an M.S. in electrical engineering in 1944, from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Pittsburgh. From 1942 to 1960, Dr. Witzig was employed at the Westinghouse Research Laboratories and Bettis Plant in Pittsburgh, PA.

During World War II, he worked on the Manhattan District program on high vacuum systems, heat transfer, mass spectroscopy, and ionic centrifuge. He served as the first experimenter in the Materials Testing Reaction and later as engineering manager of in-pile tests for the naval reaction program in Hanford, Chalk River, and the MTR-ETR complex.

Dr. Witzig took the reactor of USS *Nautilus*, the world's first nuclear-powered ship, critical for the first time in 1954 while serving as senior engineer. He was integral in the development of nuclear submarines used by the U.S. Navy, developing engineering that was vital to the *Skipjack* and *George Washington* series of nuclear submarines, which have been the backbone of the U.S. nuclear navy.

After leaving government service, he traveled worldwide in his consulting practice, NUS Corp., which grew into one of the country's largest independent groups of nuclear consultants. He became professor and department head of Nuclear Engineering at the Pennsyl-

vania State University in 1967. While at Penn State, Dr. Witzig was responsible for one of the earliest student programs in nuclear engineering in the United States. He established the undergraduate and associate degree programs and initiated the continuing education Program on Radiation, Nuclear Safety and Environmental Effects for Public Education. Dr. Witzig conducted research in areas of reactor design and safety, fuel cycle, nuclear safeguards, rad-waste disposal, emergency planning and radiation monitoring.

Retiring from the university in 1986, he served on multiple public and private nuclear safety and oversight boards. Dr. Witzig chaired the Westinghouse GoCo Sites Nuclear Safety and Environmental Institute board of directors from 1988 to 1993. In 1979, Governor Richard Thornburgh called him into the service of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the emergency shutdown of Three Mile Island II.

In June 1992, Witzig presented the paper, "The Value of a Nuclear Safety and Environmental Committee," at the Ukraine Academy of Science at Chelyabinski State University. He toured the site of the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Dr. Witzig had been a life-long advocate of nuclear energy as a clean, safe, and efficient source of energy and also for the training, accreditation, and oversight of nuclear operators.

Among Dr. Witzig's honors are Fellow, American Nuclear Society; Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Sigma Xi, Sigma Pi Sigma, and Eta Kappa Nu honor societies; Special Citation for an Engineering educator in Excellence in Engineering Education, EEI Power Engineering; Who's Who in Engineering and America; and Penn State's Outstanding Service Award for retirees.

He was also a leader in his community, serving Ferguson Township as a financial auditor and working 6 years on the Planning Commission, establishing the township's first comprehensive zoning ordinance. A member of the State College Presbyterian Church, Dr. Witzig was an ordained elder of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. He served on the Christian Education committee, and was a Sunday School teacher.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest sympathy to Dr. Witzig's family, especially his beloved wife Bernadette, his children Eric, Leah, Marc, and Lisa, his grandchildren Heather, Sean, Christie, Monica, Mallory, and Alicia, and his great grandchildren Madeline, Ava, and Miles. Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Witzig for his contributions to nuclear engineering. His leadership and ingenuity have saved lives, developed new technology, and advanced our knowledge of nuclear science.

TRIBUTE TO GARY GOSS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Goss, owner of Structural Fiberglass in Bedford, PA, who has been named the 2007 Citizen of the Year by the Bedford Rotary Club. The Club annually rec-

ognizes a local individual who epitomizes the Rotary Motto of "Service Above Self."

Gary has been a dedicated leader in the Bedford community, giving his time to various community organizations. He has served as president of the Bedford Rotary Club and the Bedford County Development Association and currently chairs the local Adopt-a-Highway organization, as well as the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Project. Gary has served as an assistant Scout Master for the Boy Scouts of America for 11 years, in addition to contributing to many other community organizations, nonprofits and his church. The Rotary International has previously recognized Gary as a Paul Harris Fellow.

While I could go on listing the countless organizations to which Gary has given his time and energy, it is reasonable to say that his contributions to the Bedford community are endless. There is no doubt that Gary has touched the lives of thousands, surely impacting each one of them in a tremendous and beneficial way. Gary serves as a role model for many, and it is my hope that those that have the opportunity to meet and work with Gary will take away some of his enthusiasm for bettering the community and the lives of those around him.

Gary's wife Peggy, to whom he has been married for 30 years, and his two children, Michael and Nicole, are certainly proud and honored by his remarkable work and devotion to improving the lives of others. The thousands of people who know Gary Goss—and who have benefited from his hard work and dedication—would join me in thanking Gary for his contributions to the Bedford community, as well as for serving as a great inspiration, demonstrating that selflessness and hard work go far in enhancing not only their own lives, but the lives of many.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
SUSAN TIEGER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Ms. Susan Tieger, of Arlington, Virginia. After thirty-five years of teaching in Arlington County Public Schools, Ms. Tieger will be retiring, leaving behind a legacy of dedication, care and hard work.

Ms. Tieger graduated with honors from Queens College in 1971. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education with the distinction of Cum Laude, she was awarded a fellowship in Special Education by the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and was awarded her Master of Education degree in June, 1972.

Ms. Tieger has taught in the Arlington County Public School system from September 1972 until the present. From 1972-1994, she taught multi-categorical self-contained classes consisting of students with learning disabilities, emotional disturbances and mental retardation at Francis Scott Key Elementary School. She has been the Special Education lead teacher at Barcroft Elementary School since 1994.

In June 2006, she earned the Educational Testing Service Recognition of Excellence for