

amendment to fully restore the President's FY08 budget request of \$65 million for the ARC in this bill.

THE TOWN OF JANE LEW'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the residents of Lewis County, West Virginia, in recognizing the town of Jane Lew on its 100th birthday.

Situated in north central West Virginia, Jane Lew traces its origins back to 1773. The small community grew slowly over the years before being issued a charter of incorporation by the State Legislature in 1907.

Today, at 100 years young, Jane Lew continues as a thriving small town. Known for being a friendly tight-knit community, the town is home to 40 businesses, a thriving senior center and one of the region's largest Labor Day craft shows.

I congratulate the residents of Jane Lew and look forward to many more birthday celebrations in the future.

RECOGNIZING DALLAS PEACE CENTER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone that was achieved by the oldest and largest peace and justice organization in north Texas. This year the Dallas Peace Center will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

The Dallas Peace Center is based on a vision of reconciliation to promote education, dialogue, and action for peace and justice. Along with other contributions, the Dallas Peace Center hosts forums and conferences advocating for peace in America and the world. Moreover, the center hosts community service initiatives that help promote justice in the north Texas area. The heart of the Dallas Peace Center reaches well beyond its members through its dedication and commitment to the community.

The Dallas Peace Center also meets with other organizations that promote peace including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Amnesty International. The center hosts free workshops and book club meetings so that members and non-members can learn about pertinent subject areas.

This year, the Dallas Peace Center is supporting the upcoming 3rd Women's International Peace Conference, which will bring women leaders from across the world to Dallas to engage in dialogue leading to peace.

On behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I am elated to congratulate such an invaluable asset to the Dallas community on its 25th anniversary. I thank the members of this center on their dedicated service to Dallas and the great State of Texas and I wish them many more years of prosperity.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF YEOMAN MICHAEL "JOHN" FOY DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a native Houstonian, who has spent the last 25 years of his life serving our country in the United States Navy.

After graduating from Lubbock Christian University where he was actively involved in the Army ROTC Program, Chief Day entered the Navy on October 16, 1983, and for the next 5 years was involved in 3 different SEAL teams.

While accomplishing numerous tasks with the SEALS, Chief Day committed much of his time to his community. He served as President of the Gateway Housing Council, Director of the Neighborhood Watch Program, and was a member of the San Diego School Board.

After being transferred to Europe in 1989, Chief Day continued achieving duties with the Personnel Support Detachment and many community organizations. Some of those organizations include: Leader of the Scottish Boy Scouts, member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and was recipient of the 1995 Outstanding United Services Organization (USO) Award of Europe.

In June 1996, Chief Day was reassigned to Ingleside, Texas, and continued participating in community involvement. During the completion of his assignment with the Afloat Training Group (ATG) and Mine Warfare Training Center, Chief Day became Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter in Ingleside. During his time as commander he received the highest award in the Department of Texas. The J.T. Rutherford honor is awarded to the number one ranked volunteer member in Texas.

In June 1998, Chief Day was relocated to the Middle East and honorably carried out various missions with the Navy and Marine Corps TAFT unit, under the Joint Military Order of the Royal Saudi Navy and Marine Corps forces. After being selected as the number one sailor in Europe and promoted to his current rank of Chief Petty Officer, Chief Day volunteered and deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Throughout his military career Chief Day earned 42 awards, was selected 5 times as sailor of the quarter, and 3 times as Sailor of the Year.

Chief Day is a loving father, husband, and a prime example of a leader who promotes citizenship by participation. As Chief Day's military career comes to a close, I am proud to stand before you and honor a man who has represented his community, state, and country with dignity.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL A. BECHERT

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. VISCOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness and deep respect that I wish to

commend Army SSG Michael A. Bechert for his bravery and his willingness to fight for his country. Staff Sergeant Bechert was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany. Tragically, Staff Sergeant Bechert passed away on June 14, 2007, due to injuries sustained on May 30, 2007, when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq. His sacrifice for his country will forever be remembered by a community that has been devastated by the loss of one of its own.

Staff Sergeant Bechert felt tremendous pride for his country, and it will never be forgotten that he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow citizens. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he battled. Staff Sergeant Bechert enlisted in the United States Army, fully aware that danger could arise in any situation. He accepted this so that the freedoms and values he treasured could be enjoyed by men, women, and children around the world.

For his efforts, Staff Sergeant Bechert was awarded several military medals and honors, including: the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Army Commendation Medal for heroism, as well as a Purple Heart for previous injuries sustained in battle. In addition, he will be posthumously awarded an additional Purple Heart and a Bronze Star medal.

Although he loved his unit and his country, Michael treasured his family above all else. He is survived by his wife, Daniela, and his son, Branden Andrew, as well as many other friends and family members whose lives he has touched. My condolences go out to all who knew and loved Michael. His eagerness to serve and his willingness to sacrifice himself is worthy of the highest admiration.

Madam Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army SSG Michael Bechert. He will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Chairman, the Energy and Water Appropriations bill charts an important new direction for improved public health and a cleaner environment throughout America. The bill also makes important new investments in renewable energy as we must reduce our dependence on foreign oil and cut

greenhouse gas emissions. We must rapidly expand the production of clean, alternative fuels and increase energy efficiency. Our country has lost momentum due to the Bush-Cheney White House's inaction on global warming and energy independence. The new Congress will change course today.

A healthy and clean environment and renewable energy solutions are vital to the State of Florida and the Tampa Bay area. In my Tampa Bay area district, we are working to increase energy efficiency through organizations like the Clean Energy Research Center at the University of South Florida. My recent Tampa energy forum "Turning Green for the Red, White and Blue" drew great community interest. Our neighbors now are focusing on commonsense conservation initiatives. Nevertheless, leadership at the Federal level is vital.

The Energy and Water Appropriations bill invests \$3 billion in global climate change science and in renewable energy technologies that both reduce greenhouse gases and help our Nation meet its energy needs. Additionally, this bill will provide a 50 percent increase into research on energy efficiency and renewable energy, including solar, biofuels, hydropower, and geothermal, as well as new vehicle technology and energy efficient buildings and homes. Solar energy holds great promise for Floridians and I strongly support the new investment of \$200 million for research, development and demonstration projects to make solar energy more affordable.

On the first day of the new Congress, the House passed legislation to repeal \$14 billion in taxpayer subsidies given to Big Oil companies that are earning record profits while we pay record profits at the pump. Those monies now will be channeled into clean alternative energy technologies and energy efficiency. Doing so enhances our national security as our country will lessen its foreign entanglements with questionable, petrocentric nations.

Climate change is potentially the greatest threat to our national security and prosperity. Energy independence is vital to our future. I urge the Congress to act swiftly for the sake of my community and all Americans.

INTRODUCING THE FAIR BALANCE PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADVERTISEMENT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act. This bill would place long overdue restrictions on direct-to-consumer, DTC, prescription drug advertisements. All too often, these poorly regulated ads provide incomplete and misleading information about new pills, pushing unnecessary prescriptions and promoting drugs before doctors and scientists have time to learn enough about their dangers.

Consumers, at whom these ads are targeted, don't realize that FDA approves drugs without confirming that they are safe for every treatment circumstance. As a result, many new drugs are widely marketed before the FDA discovers serious side effects and takes corrective action. Examples include drugs for

conditions as common as arthritis and high blood sugar.

As scientists have discovered, "DTCA (direct to consumer advertising) is a successful method of generating prescriptions." Since ad restrictions were gutted in the U.S., drug advertising has grown at a startling rate, to a whopping \$4.2 billion in 2005. No surprise, drug costs have grown dramatically as well, from 78 billion in 1997 to more than 2 trillion in 2005. Pharmaceutical companies spend billions of dollars trying to convince consumers their drugs will fix everything from bad sex lives to bad moods. These ads lead consumers to demand drugs that may not be medically necessary or appropriate for their condition.

In many instances, DTC ads promote drugs that are later found to harm patients. In 2003, for example, Johnson & Johnson ran ads where Procrit seemed to rescue a cancer victim from disabling lethargy. Then new research came out showing cancer patients did no better on Procrit. In fact, some cancer patients actually did worse.

The FDA has now given Procrit a black box warning cautioning against the use of this drug in certain circumstances. The agency has also warned Johnson & Johnson and Amgen that there is no evidence to support marketing efforts suggesting the drug reduces fatigue for patients in chemotherapy.

By increasing demand for pricey new drugs when cheaper ones will do, DTC advertising also drives up the costs of prescriptions. Sadly when patients find they can't afford these expensive drugs, they skip doses or don't even start the treatment. Unbalanced ads for expensive pills therefore contribute to both higher costs and to poor control of chronic disease.

The Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act will empower the FDA to determine whether pharmaceutical companies present information about their products in a fair manner, balancing risks and benefits. Any advertisements found to violate this standard would be denied currently allowed business expense tax deductions for advertising costs.

Based on recommendations from the Institute of Medicine, the bill goes one step further and eliminates the business exemption for all new medications for the first 2 years that they are in the marketplace. This provision would provide doctors and scientists the opportunity to learn more about drugs' effects on a general population before consumers are bombarded with marketing pitches. Had this regulation been in effect when Procrit was introduced, many people would be better off today.

There are freedom of speech concerns with directly prohibiting advertising, accurate or not. This legislation therefore takes a different approach, hitting drug companies where it hurts them most, their bottom lines. While companies could continue running misleading ads, they would have to pay significantly more to do so. This will discourage drug companies from engaging in dishonest marketing practices.

The Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act sets forth new guidelines that will help the pharmaceutical industry appropriately educate the public, enabling consumers to make informed decisions based on a fair and balanced presentation of risks and benefits. Today's DTC ads simply don't meet that standard. Given rapidly rising health care and

prescription drug costs, we need to take every step we can to make prescription drugs safer and more affordable. We have to make sure advertisements aid consumers in making informed decisions, rather than simply increasing demand for the newest drugs.

Since the pharmaceutical industry already argues that their ads inform consumers, they should have nothing to fear from this bill. We should pass this bill immediately and take a concrete step to improve the safety and efficacy of prescription drugs for America's consumers. I urge all my colleagues to join me in support of the Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act.

TRIBUTE TO THELMA BERTIE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Thelma Bertie of the Bronx, NY, and to recognize her on the celebration of her 90th birthday. Ms. Bertie is an 87-year resident of New York and has exhibited steadfast commitment to American ideals by faithfully voting in every local and national election since reaching voting age. I commend her on this great dedication to her civic duty and I wish her a joyous day with many more happy moments ahead beside her loved ones.

Ms. Bertie has asserted herself as an active and conscientious citizen and has earned appreciation for her contributions to the community. Her life and accomplishments are true inspirations to the lives of all those she touches and I am honored that my district is called home by such an outstanding citizen. Ms. Bertie truly understands the value of being not only a New Yorker but an American as well, and the entire Bronx community is privileged to count her among its residents.

Madam Speaker, I join to congratulate Ms. Bertie on this birthday milestone and I wish her good health and fortune in the future.

CONGRATULATING LANCE CORPORAL WILLIAM BURKE JR.

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, LCpl William Burke Jr.

Lance Corporal Burke recently returned from Haditha, Iraq, where he served a 7-month deployment. He was assigned to Company E of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment of the United States Marine Corps.

The city of Haditha saw unprecedented improvements when Lance Corporal Burke's Company E served. Upon arrival, Haditha was considered one of the most dangerous regions in Iraq. By the end of Lance Corporal Burke's deployment, the police force was rapidly growing, attacks on Iraqi Police and Marine patrols were steadily decreasing, and relations with the Iraqi people were improving.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Lance Corporal Burke, whose selfless actions benefit all Americans. Our Nation