

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 538. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the Price of Georgia amendment.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS, PARENTS,
TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS
OF THE WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students, parents, teachers and administrators of the Wake County Public School System, many of whom are in Washington today to accept the National Energy Development Project's "School District of the Year" award.

The National Energy Development Project, or "NEED," is a nonprofit education association dedicated to advancing the understanding of the scientific, economic, and environmental impact of energy. This year, after reviewing more than sixty submissions from across the Nation, the NEED National Award's Review Panel chose to recognize Wake County's public schools for their unique and outstanding work.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud of the students and faculty of the Wake County Public School System. Energy independence and combating global warming are two of the most important and challenging issues confronting our Nation. In the coming years, the goals we set and the choices we make in this area will have profound, irreversible consequences for our Nation and our planet.

More than ever before, America needs informed, innovative and energy-conscious leaders at every level of society. I congratulate the Wake County Public School System for rising to this challenge so impressively, and I commend them, and all the public school systems that participated in this program, for their commitment to this ideal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 499: Yes. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2563.

(2) Rollcall No. 500: Yes. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Con. Res. 151.

(3) Rollcall No. 501: Yes. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 233.

TRIBUTE TO PETER RENDINA, JR.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of a man I am proud to represent in Congress and prouder still to call a close personal friend and trusted advisor, Mr. Peter Rendina, Jr. Pete is being recognized on Friday, June 22, by his colleagues, upon the occasion of his retirement from the Paterson Public Schools.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for he has a long history of dedication and commitment to the students of our great city. Through his years of teaching history and social studies especially, he has shown countless students the magnificence and power of our great Nation and democracy in action.

Pete is a lifelong resident of Paterson. He is a graduate of School 18 and an Eastside High School Ghost. After graduation, Pete went on to continue his education at Jersey City State University, earning his degree in elementary education, working as a substitute teacher in the Paterson school system while continuing on his studies. After graduation, he became a full-time member of the Paterson Board of Education team. Since then, he has worked with many different grade levels, and taught a variety of courses. In the following years, Pete returned to Jersey City State, earning his Masters degree in Urban Education, Administration and Supervision. Soon he was serving as an adjunct professor, first at Upsala College and Passaic County Community College (PCCC), and later at Seton Hall University as well.

He has circumvented the educational bureaucracy that constricts many teachers and earned the admiration and trust of his pupils. The respect he has earned from his students is unprecedented and unmatched. He serves not only as an educator but also as a mentor; he helps his students to handle not only the academic rigors of high school, but also the many other challenges they face.

All the while, Pete has been living the lessons he teaches. His students learn about our government from someone who works in the field directly. Whether it was the 2 years he spent working as Congressman Herb Klein's district administrator, or the many years since that he has served as a special aide to me, he has been involved in the day to day affairs of our great government. His students have the benefit of learning civics from a teacher who works in the field and lives it first hand.

In addition to his work in the classroom, he has made his mark as a coach and athletic director. Pete has coached softball, basketball, football, track and volleyball on the high school level. On the collegiate level, he has led the men's basketball teams at both PCCC and William Paterson College, and served as the athletic director at PCCC. His talent for motivating his athletes to perform to the best of their ability and reach their goals makes him a successful coach. Just as when he is in the classroom, his mentoring skills with his players enable them to succeed on and off the field.

Outside of his profession, Pete has contributed greatly to the Passaic County community

in a civic role. He has served as the president of the Passaic County Technical and Vocational High School Board of Education, as a member of the board of trustees of the PCCC Foundation, and as commissioner of the Passaic County Board of Social Services.

His contributions to education, in Paterson and beyond, cannot possibly all be listed. Most importantly, he is a personality who, in every sense, cannot be replaced. I value his friendship and know that although he is retiring from teaching, his service to his community will continue.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the accomplishments of educators like Peter Rendina. I applaud the Eastside High School family for honoring Pete, and join them in wishing him a fantastic retirement.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the Eastside High School Ghost family, the Paterson Board of Education, Pete's family and friends, all those whose lives have been touched by him, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable achievements of Mr. Peter Rendina, Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RE-
LATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATION
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment to close down the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. It is time to stop and examine our history so that we can avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. Our relations with our neighbors in Latin America are at their lowest ebb ever. The people of Latin America think the U.S. is more concerned with achieving goals through military means no matter the consequences. They think the U.S. is not concerned with human and democratic rights in Latin America. We need to start winning over the citizens of our planet and show them our desire to bring human rights to everyone.

The time has come for our country to cease our support of this Institution, to put down the swords, and instead show our neighbors in Latin America that our actions adhere to our preaching. U.S. assistance has been increasingly weighted towards harsh and ineffective counter-narcotics and military aid.

After so many decades of human rights abuses and threats to democracy, why is the U.S. Government still giving so privileged a position to Latin American militaries, such that it maintains a special school in the United States just for them? Our neighbors need assistance for clean water, vaccinations for children, micro-credit, technical assistance for small farmers and small business, shelter for

refugees and generous disaster relief builds good will with our neighbors.

If we end this Institute once and for all, we will show that the priorities of the United States are with democratic and civil institutions. A more cooperative, less unilateral foreign policy that clearly demonstrates respect for international human rights standards would help the United States regain influence around the world.

It is time to sow the seeds of peace; we must stop sowing the seeds of war. As a great Nation and blessed people, we must heed the words of the spiritual—"I am going to lay my burden down, down by the riverside. I ain't gonna study war no more." We do not need this school. My colleagues, I urge you to vote in favor of this amendment.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
JAMES "JIM" H. SHIMBERG

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to herald the life and philanthropic contributions of James "Jim" H. Shimberg, and to acknowledge our pride in the communities he founded in the Tampa Bay area.

A native of Syracuse, New York, Jim Shimberg served as a First Lieutenant in World War II. After he received his degree from the University of Chicago Law School, he practiced law in New York for nearly 10 years. Jim then relocated to the Tampa, Florida area in 1958 to launch a community business. By 1983, his development of over 6,000 homes, several recreation centers, schools, and shopping centers in northwest Hillsborough County laid the foundation of the Town 'N Country community.

Jim's success in community development led him to become President of the Tampa Home Builders Association and the Florida Home Builders Association, as well as Vice President of the National Association of Home Builders. He was co-founder of the National Housing Endowment and was inducted into the National Housing Hall of Fame in 1985. After developing the Town 'N Country community, Jim served as chairman for the Hillsborough County Charter Review Board and was largely responsible for the expansion and development of eastern Hillsborough County.

The philanthropic contributions of Jim Shimberg have unquestionably improved the lives of thousands of Floridians. His dedication to the well-being of Floridians led him to found the University Community Hospital in 1968. He served as the first Chairman of the Board for 9 years, and as chair of the investment committee for the duration of his life. His commitment to providing quality health care services led him to serve as Vice-President of the Judeo Christian Health Clinic for 25 years. In addition, Jim endowed the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing at the University of Florida in 1991, and funded the philanthropic National Endowment in Washington, DC.

As a result of his immense lifetime philanthropic contributions, Jim Shimberg was honored as Tampa's Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 2007. He and his wife, Amy Shimberg,

were also honored as the 2003 Philanthropists of the Year by the Tampa Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

The Tampa community honors the life of Jim Shimberg, his wife Amy, daughters Janet and Nancy, sons Jim, Richard, and Robert, and the entire Shimberg family for their outstanding contributions to the Florida community. Jim Shimberg's life serves as an inspiration to all who knew him, and will continue to benevolently impact the lives of Floridians in the future.

THE EXTENSIVELY DRUG RESISTANT-TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENT: A POORLY COORDINATED FEDERAL RESPONSE TO AN INCIDENT WITH HOMELAND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for holding this very important hearing to discuss and investigate a possible breakdown in security procedures or the lack of adequate safety measures sufficient to safeguard against and minimize a potentially very serious public health security threat, namely the contraction of the extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB). I would also like to take this time to welcome our witnesses, Dr. Martin S. Cetron, Dr. Jeffrey W. Runge, and Mr. W. Ralph Basham, (accompanied by Jayson P. Ahern).

Mr. Chairman, 2 weeks ago, Mr. Andrew Speaker, an individual known to be infected with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) was subsequently confirmed to be infected with extensively drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB). He disregarded a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to seek medical treatment in Italy, and returned to the United States by altering his flight itinerary, flying to Canada, and then driving through the U.S.-Canada border. A number of homeland security and public health processes were utilized to manage the situation and failed at a variety of points.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide Members with the opportunity to (1) determine where weaknesses exist with homeland security processes designed to prevent entry into the U.S., (2) explore the inefficient interactions between the Department of Homeland Security (the Department) and the CDC when addressing public health security issues, and (3) identify areas for immediate and longer term improvement.

According to current U.S. public health policy, the CDC must be apprised when MDR-TB appears also to be extensively drug resistant so that the CDC can provide laboratory confirmation of XDR-TB. A very important question immediately comes to mind in Mr. Speaker's case: given the increasing incidence and prevalence of all types of TB, including MDR- and XDR-TB, should the CDC have been apprised sooner?

Mr. Chairman, in urgent matters such as preventing the spread of potentially serious and very harmful public health risks such as XDR-TB, time is most certainly of the es-

sence. In January, Andrew Speaker, a 31-year-old Atlanta lawyer, fell and hurt his ribs. He received an X-ray, revealing an abnormality in the upper lobe of his right lung. This suggested tuberculosis. Speaker began meeting regularly with Fulton County health officials for treatment. In early March, Speaker underwent a procedure to get a sample of sputum from his lungs. By the end of the month, lab cultures revealed he had tuberculosis (TB).

Though it is still unclear, it appears that the CDC was not notified of these events until May 17 when it was called in to test for XDR-TB. Health officials determined Speaker had a multiple-drug resistant (MDR) form of TB. According to press accounts, Fulton County health officials called the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) on May 10, but gave the impression that the problem was "largely hypothetical." The GDPH then made a call to the CDC. Some questions still persist and will hopefully be answered in this hearing. It is extremely important to know when the CDC was notified about Speaker's case of MDR-TB. It is also helpful for this Committee to know what the formal procedure by which the CDC was asked to perform its analysis. It is reported that the CDC was called in to test for XDR-TB on Thursday May 17. Was this the proper protocol to follow? If not, why wasn't the CDC asked to perform the analysis earlier?

Notifying the CDC of potential public health threats in a timely manner is also important because the sooner the CDC is notified the sooner public safety authorities can put measures in place to protect the public. Had the CDC been notified, the CDC may have been able to prevent Mr. Speaker from traveling and subjecting the public to potential risks of contracting XDR-TB.

As the Chairwoman of the Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, what I find even more alarming is the fact that the Transportation Security Administration was not notified until after the incident took place; after he had already posed a threat to the lives of hundreds of Americans and non-Americans. Had the TSA received forewarning, the identity of Mr. Andrew Speaker could have been disclosed in such a manner and he would have been placed on the "no-fly" list.

Mr. Speaker was simply given too many opportunities to create a public health crisis in this country and abroad. On May 12, Speaker departed Atlanta on Air France flight 385. Speaker arrived in Paris on May 13. On May 14, Speaker flew from Paris to Athens on Air France flight 1232. Speaker flew from Athens to Thira Island on Olympic Air flight 560 the following day. The CDC called in to test for XDR-TB. On May 17, the GDPH was notified that Speaker had flown overseas. Four days later, tests came back positive for XDR-TB. Meanwhile on that same day, Speaker flew from Mykonos to Athens on Olympic Air 655 and then he flew from Athens to Rome on Olympic Air 239.

Mr. Chairman, questions still persist about the ability of the Federal Government to quarantine an individual. DHS officials told Committee staff that Federal officials do not have the authority to quarantine. This is inaccurate. The President may issue an executive order for federal isolation and quarantine for the following communicable diseases: cholera, diphtheria, infectious tuberculosis, plague, smallpox, yellow fever, viral hemorrhagic fevers,