

Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation located at Fort Benning, Georgia.

“Aye” on final passage of H.R. 2764, Making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 and “Aye” on final passage of H.R. 2771, Making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM STEARNS

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great efforts of one of my constituents, Mr. William Stearns. Mr. Stearns has gone to great lengths to promote a stronger sense of community in Greene County, Indiana, and his hard work provides us all a valuable resource. Mr. Stearns created and maintains the website gogreenecounty.com, which provides wonderful local information on a variety of topics. The website's forum provides a convenient place for local Hoosiers to discuss a variety of issues, and the community links expand the resources that community members can access from this one, convenient website.

As great a service as this website is to the people of Greene County, Mr. Stearns' work is all the more remarkable because he performs this great service despite being legally blind. When one considers the visual difficulties Mr. Stearns overcomes every day, the fact that he produces a valuable website for our community is especially noteworthy. I commend William Stearns for his tremendous service to Greene County, Indiana.

HONORING MANUEL RODRIGUEZ OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Manuel Rodriguez of Lake County for his years of dedicated public service on behalf of the citizens of Lake County. He has ably worked in the Social Security Administration, assisting local residents in managing their benefits, and his work has been of great importance to many.

Mr. Rodriguez was born in Los Angeles, and served 5 years in the United States Air Force before receiving an associate of arts degree in history. He has worked for the Federal Government in the Social Security Administration for 28 years, during which time he has excelled in a variety of roles. His work for Social Security has been marked by an exacting attention to detail, and a commitment to ensuring that when interruptions do occur to a citizen's benefits, the problem is corrected as expeditiously as possible. His patience and work ethic have been of the utmost importance to many people who depend on his expertise to sustain their primary source of income.

Beyond his work in the office, Mr. Rodriguez has been an active member of his community, lending his efforts to a number of local organizations. He is a member of the Parish Council at the United Christian Parish in Lakeport, and has been a dedicated supporter of the many different programs this ministry offers. He has also been a longtime volunteer at the Lake County Passion Play.

In his retirement, Mr. Rodriguez looks forward to traveling with his wife Michele, and enjoying more time with his step-children, Grant and Terre Basham, who also live in Lakeport. He intends to return to school to obtain a minister's license.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Mr. Manuel Rodriguez for his many years of service at the Social Security Administration. He has been a dedicated public servant of the highest caliber, and he has done exemplary work on behalf of the citizens of Lake County.

HONORING LT. COL. TOM CASTRIOTA FOR HIS EXEMPLARY MILITARY SERVICE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Castriota, a marine who has served his country with honor and distinction for nearly 3 decades. Having retired from the Marines after 26 years in service to his country, Mr. Castriota was so moved by the attack of September 11 that he volunteered to re-enter active military service and join his fellow soldiers and help wage the Global War on Terror.

Following his return to the Marines, Lt. Col. Castriota was first assigned to Tampa's U.S. Central Command Post. Last October, he was notified that he was being called up for a six month stint in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in Iraq, Lt. Col. Castriota served as part of the Multi-National Security Transition Command. His duties included helping to coordinate the training of the Iraqi soldiers and police recruits, as well as a twice-weekly briefing that he gave to general David Petraeus on the progress of his training.

When he is not serving his country as an active duty member of the Marines, Lt. Col. Castriota and his family own a Chevrolet dealership in Hudson, Florida, working with his wife Anita, who is the daughter of a marine, and his 2 children Alex and Chrissy. Lt. Col. Castriota has built a second career helping area residents find the perfect car. True leaders in the Pasco County community, the Castriota family has worked hard to give back to Hudson and help make their neighborhood a better place to live and work.

Madam Speaker, it is military service members like Lt. Col. Castriota that help make our military the finest fighting force in the world. This Congress congratulates Lt. Col. Castriota for his outstanding sense of volunteerism and thanks him for once again joining the battle for freedom around the world. His story should serve as an inspiration to every American and each Member of the House and Senate.

HONORING THE NEW HAVEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DELAUR

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Ms. DELAUR. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the community of my hometown, New Haven, Connecticut, as friends, colleagues, and community leaders gather to celebrate a remarkable milestone—the 100th anniversary of the New Haven County Bar Association. Founded in the late 18th century and incorporated in 1907, this organization serves as the professional association for judges, attorneys, and legal paraprofessionals throughout the greater New Haven area.

As one can see from the historical exhibition currently on display at the New Haven Museum and Historical Society, the legal community has long played a unique and integral role in the rich history of New Haven. From the earliest days of the colony and the Amistad case in the 1840s through the Black Panther trial in the 1970s and *Connecticut v. Griswold* in 1965, New Haven attorneys and judges have been at the center of legal decisions which have helped to define our Nation. Beyond those cases which garnered national attention, the exhibit also reminds us of the many local lawyers who had a significant impact on the character of our community. Theophilus Eaton wrote the laws of the New Haven Colony in the 1600s, Joseph Sheldon actively hired African-American law students in the 1880s and was influential in the development of the American Red Cross, George Dudley Seymour who was known for his dedication to civic duty in the 1900s, and Mary Manchester in 1938 was the first woman to be named a law partner in Connecticut.

Today, the New Haven County Bar Association is more than simply a professional association. It supports its members in many ways, including continuing legal education programs, new attorney mentoring opportunities, annual social events and working to foster relations between its members and the courts. The Bar Association is also the sponsor of the New Haven County Lawyer Referral Service—a not-for-profit public service that, for more than 50 years, has referred members of the public to private attorneys experienced in the appropriate field of law. The Bar Association also works closely with its charitable arm, the New Haven County Bar Foundation, Inc., which provides charitable outreach and educational programming.

As members gather this evening in celebration of the New Haven County Bar Association's 100th anniversary, we pay tribute to the many invaluable contributions the legal minds of our community have made locally, statewide, and nationally—but most importantly for the countless hours of hard work they do every day for their clients. While New Haven certainly has had its share of compelling legal cases which have caught the public's attention, more often than not, our lawyers, judges, and legal paraprofessionals are working on cases which—while they may not make national headlines—have a real impact on the lives of those they are representing. For the

outstanding work they do every day and for the many contributions they make to our community, I am honored to stand today to extend my sincere congratulations to the New Haven County Bar Association and its membership as they celebrate their centennial anniversary.

HONORING CAPTAIN DON ORNDOFF, CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS, UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Captain Don Orndoff, a native of Winchester, in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia, for his distinguished career as he retires from the United States Navy.

Captain Orndoff served our country not only as a Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer for 29 years, but also as Naval Facilities Engineering Command Assistant Commander for Navy Public Works and Navy Public Works Business Line Leader. Captain Orndoff graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and has done tours in such places as Pearl Harbor, San Francisco and Yokosuka, Japan.

After being chosen to lead a Navy Installation Command and Naval Facilities Engineering Command transformation Captain Orndoff implemented a dramatic restructuring and transformation of all NAVFAC components. He reduced their required workforce by 1,100 civilian positions and increased productivity 13 percent, directly resulting in over \$600 million in savings and creating the most comprehensive and fundamental reorganization of the command in more than three decades.

As the Navy Public Works Business Line Leader, Captain Orndoff successfully led over 9,000 civilian and military employees and contractors, executing an annual workload of \$3.6 billion for the Navy's global shore installation system.

I am proud to call attention to Captain Orndoff's service to our country through a career marked by inspirational moral courage, exceptional vision and relentless leadership. I also commend him and his family for their dedication to patriotism and their contributions to the United States Navy, and wish them well in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CARTER GAMBLE

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, my hometown of Seymour, Indiana, has lost one of its finest. Although Carter A. Gamble, Jr. was born and raised in Georgia, he called Southern Indiana home for a short while. Carter Gamble was tragically killed in Iraq Sunday. My deepest condolences go to his family—his wife, Peggy, his children, including one on the way, his extended family, particularly Jackson County Sheriff Marc Lahrman and Carter's grandparents, Bob and Helen Lahrman. Carter served this country so notably and honorably.

He was deployed to Iraq twice, the second time reenlisting in the Army knowing he would likely be sent to Iraq. I thank him for his unwavering commitment to our great Nation. I thank his family for loving and supporting him. Carter will be greatly missed and was taken much too soon from his young and growing family. Let us all keep Carter Gamble and his family in our constant thoughts and prayers.

INTRODUCTION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS PROMOTION ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, many of us recognize that one of the great challenges facing our nation today is combating global warming by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions responsible for the rapidly rising temperatures on our planet. What many may not realize, however, is that the largest source of emissions and energy consumption both in this country and around the world is buildings. Given this fact, any attempt to stem the tide of growing greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency must include the building sector. The federal government has an important role to play on this count, and must provide leadership to the rest of the country and world. To that end, I rise to introduce today the Energy Efficient Buildings Promotion Act of 2007.

This legislation takes up "The 2030 Challenge," issued by Ed Mazria of the organization Architecture 2030, who, I am proud to say, is one of my constituents and who was also instrumental in developing this legislation. The 2030 Challenge calls on the global architecture and building community to adopt targets to ensure that all new buildings, new developments and existing buildings undergoing major renovations, achieve carbon neutrality, or use no fossil fuel greenhouse gas emitting energy to operate, by 2030.

Organizations, architects, local governments, and individuals wanting to do their part have all taken up this challenge. The U.S. Conference of Mayors has adopted it for all buildings in all cities. It is time for the federal government to do so as well. In the United States, the building sector accounts for approximately 48 percent of all annual energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Several states have implemented building standards for state government buildings, but the federal government needs to lead the rest of the nation by example, to encourage reduced fossil-fuel energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the "built" environment.

My legislation ensures that the federal government answers Architecture 2030's call by establishing an energy performance standard for new federal or federally supported buildings. For new federal buildings and federal buildings undergoing major renovations, they must meet the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver level standards, or an equivalent standard approved by EPA. They must achieve at least a 60 percent reduction compared to the regional average en-

ergy consumption for that building type, and they must be built in a manner that will allow for declining fossil fuel energy consumption in amounts of 70 percent by 2011, 80 percent by 2015, 90 percent by 2020, and 100 percent by 2025.

In addition, my legislation establishes similar standards for new buildings and buildings undergoing major renovations that were built with at least 10 percent of federal funds. These buildings or renovations must be designed to achieve at least a 50 percent reduction compared to regional average energy consumption for that building type. Also, they must be built in a manner that will allow for declining fossil fuel energy consumption in amounts of 60 percent by 2011, 70 percent by 2015, 80 percent by 2020, 90 percent by 2025, and 100 percent by 2030.

Madam Speaker, I believe these two new standards and the improved energy efficiency that will result will be a strong marker of Federal leadership towards more environmentally friendly buildings.

It is not enough by itself, however. Another avenue for Federal leadership is the U.S. tax code. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 recognized this and established several very important tax credits and deductions to promote energy efficient construction and improvements to homes and commercial buildings. Many of these tax provisions are not only scheduled to expire in 2008, but in the estimation of many, were also set at amounts too low to spark the level of construction and efficiency improvements needed.

To that end, this legislation extends to 2013 and increases the Nonbusiness Energy Property Tax Credit from \$500 to \$1,000, it extends to 2013 and increases the New Energy Efficient Homes Tax Deduction from \$2,000 to \$4,500 per unit, and extends to 2013 and increases the Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction from \$1.80 to \$2.75 per square foot.

Madam Speaker, we must take steps to address the greenhouse gas emissions and energy inefficiencies in the building sector. The Federal Government has a unique opportunity to provide the leadership for the rest of the country and even the world in promoting greener building. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation and help begin stemming the tide of a significant portion of the greenhouse gas emissions contributing to the problem of global warming.

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER WESTHOFF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christopher Westhoff, Assistant City Attorney—Public Works General Counsel with the City of Los Angeles, California, who will become President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA).

Christopher Westhoff is an environmental champion for the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, and the Nation. He is an exceptional leader and public steward, dedicated to the improvement of Los Angeles' water quality and public health.