

was at the Oval Office with the President discussing my recent mission to Iraq.

(1) Stearns Amendment (15 minutes)—The amendment would prevent the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) from using any appropriated funds for the purpose of bringing lawsuits against a company that requires its employees to speak English. It would not affect any current case, only future suits. Vote: Yes.

(2) Flake Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would strike \$200,000 in funds for the Lobster Institute at the University of Maine. Vote: Yes.

(3) Flake Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would strike \$720,000 in funds for the meteorological equipment at Valparaiso University, IN. Vote: Yes.

(4) Pence Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would prohibit funds in the act from being used to enforce “the amendments made by subtitle A of title II” of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. This amendment would prohibit the DOJ from enforcing the electioneering communications section of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law. Vote: Yes.

(5) Upton Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment states that no funds shall be made available to purchase light bulbs that do not have the “ENERGY STAR” or “Federal Energy Management Program” designation. Vote: Yes.

(6) Jordan Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would reduce spending across-the-board by 3.0% to reflect FY 2007 levels—Vote: Yes.

(7) Price (GA) Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would reduce funding in the bill by 1.5%. (30 minutes) Vote: Yes.

(8) Musgrave Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would reduce spending across-the-board by 0.5%. (30 minutes) Vote: Yes.

(9) Republican Motion to Recommit (15 minutes)—Vote: Yes.

(10) Passage—H.R. 3093—CJS Appropriations (5 minutes) Vote: No.

TRIBUTE TO MELVA JOAN ADKINS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on October 13, 1964, Melva Joan Adkins of East Lynn, West Virginia began her career with the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, as a GS-3 Clerk Stenographer in Real Estate’s Management and Disposal Branch. She always sought ways to show initiative and achieve results regardless of the assignment. Her dedication to a job well done enabled her to move to the top of the administrative field.

In 1974, Mrs. Adkins advanced to the position of Conveyance Examiner and was responsible for assuring the Government acquired appropriate title to project lands. She audited project acquisition records and recommended actions to correct deficiencies. Melva quickly mastered the skills required for the position and became an expert in the audit field.

Her exceptional communication skills and real estate knowledge were an asset when

she was promoted to Realty Specialist in the Encroachment Section of Management and Disposal Branch in 1990. She worked on the very difficult Muskingum Area Encroachment Program, the first dedicated program of its type in the Nation. Her ability to communicate at all levels contributed to successful resolution of many situations.

In 1992, Mrs. Adkins transferred to the Management Section of Management and Disposal Branch. Her new duties entailed the utilization, disposal, and leasing of civil works projects in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio. In this position she worked with numerous Federal, State, and local agencies, the general public, and other Corps team members to meet the projects recreation and flood control missions. In the last two years of her employment, Mrs. Adkins arranged in-kind services totaling over \$1,000,000 that benefited various District projects. She is known by Corps customers as honest and ethical and has consistently received recognition and praise for her high quality of work.

During her career Mrs. Adkins has been an excellent role model and mentor to her team members. She has served on numerous Federal Women Program committees, served as a Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor, and helped to write the Huntington District’s Etiquette Book for the Physically Challenged.

Melva J. Adkins has made significant contributions to the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers’ mission. On July 30, 2007, she retired with 42 years, 7 months, and 5 days of Federal service, and I offer my heartfelt congratulations on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. DONOGHUE, CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF THE WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and a devoted public servant. Michael J. Donoghue will officially retire tomorrow as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Worcester Regional Retirement System, marking the end of a distinguished career in which he has ably served the citizens of my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts and all of Worcester County.

For more than thirty years, Mike Donoghue managed a \$400 million pension system comprised of fifty Worcester County communities and another forty-five school districts. During that time, he vigorously protected the retirement security of thousands of public employees with an uncommon care and concern for their future hopes and dreams. Throughout his tenure, Mike made it his business to personally know the individual members of the Worcester Regional Retirement System and steadfastly refused to allow the pensioners to become anonymous participants in a cold actuarial exercise. Mike’s unfailing loyalty to his membership will forever be remembered as the hallmark of his remarkable public service.

It also bears noting that Mike Donoghue’s contributions to the greater Worcester community extend far beyond the management of the

Worcester Regional Retirement System. Mike served two terms on the Worcester City Council before being elected Worcester County Treasurer in 1978. Mike’s unique combination of insight, skill and common sense made him a coveted board member for virtually every major civic and charitable organization in the City of Worcester. He has served on the board of directors for the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives (MBI). Mike’s expertise and leadership helped establish Worcester as a center for medical research more than twenty-five years ago and the Gateway Park Project which is right now transforming a former brownfield site in Worcester into another major biomedical research park is also due in no small part to his efforts. Mike’s compassion for the less fortunate has caused him to also lend his talents to the Board of Directors for the VNA Network Foundation, the Worcester Area Mental Health Association, the Worcester Area United Way and the Special Olympics of Massachusetts. After the devastating Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse Fire in 1999, Mike was a natural choice to help the City commemorate the sacrifice of the six fallen firefighters and was appointed to chair the Worcester Firefighters Memorial Committee. He remains committed to that effort today as an active board member.

A man of deep religious faith, Mike has also given to his community through his church as a former member of the Board of Incorporators of Catholic Charities for the Worcester Diocese and Saint Vincent’s Hospital. A proud graduate of Nichols College, Mike has had the special privilege of serving as a trustee for his alma mater.

Madam Speaker, all of us in public service share a special bond forged by the great demands, challenges and rewards of our profession. In the finest traditions of our noble calling, Michael J. Donoghue has proven himself worthy of the respect and admiration he enjoys from his colleagues in government. I will always be grateful for his sage advice and loyal friendship as will my colleague, U.S. Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY, who has long relied on Mike as a trusted advisor and confidant. I know Senator KENNEDY joins me in expressing the heartfelt appreciation of the United States Congress to Michael J. Donoghue on this occasion and we wish him, his wife Maureen, and their beautiful children and grandchildren continued best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement. You, my friend, have earned it.

RENT IS DUE ON THE COURTHOUSE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it’s the first of the month—time to pay the rent at the courthouse. Unfortunately, the costs keep rising with the number of criminals held accountable for their crimes each year, but the good news is their victims have plenty of resources at their disposal as a result of the Victims of Crime Act, or better known as VOCA Fund. Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Poe/Costa/Moore(KS) Amendment

to add more money to the VOCA Fund and continue to meet the needs of victims across our country.

I have been an advocate for victims since my early days as a prosecutor with Harris County District Attorney's office. There are a few cases that have stood out in my career and influenced my life in a significant way. One such case was that of a young woman, who was a student at the University of Houston. She was the victim of a brutal rape and assault. She was abducted at gunpoint at a gas station, taken to a wooded area, raped, beaten, and left for dead. Through her brave determination, she was able to identify her attacker and I was assigned to prosecute him.

Today, victims are assigned court advocates during the trial. Back then, she had no one. No one was there to help her through the emotional stress of a rape and the grueling task of confronting her attacker in court. She did it though, she got through the trial and we sent her attacker to the penitentiary for life. But her story wasn't over, you can't wrap it up with the bang of a gavel and nice neat bow.

Because there were little-to-no resources available to victims at that time, she was not able to cope with the aftermath of her assault. You see, for the victim the ordeal is not over once the trial ends. It follows them day after day and spreads through their life like a cancer out of control. In the following months, her husband left her and sued her for custody of their two children—taking away the only two reasons worth living for.

She spiraled out-of-control. Without anyone to turn to, and losing her family, she couldn't escape the pain. In a hand written note, that I keep with me to this day, she said "I'm tired of running." Madam Speaker, the reality is, she didn't have anyone to run to and sadly ended her life. This ought not to be. This was a tragedy that could have been avoided, a tragedy that continues to influence my life and career.

One of the first things I did as a Member of Congress was establish the bipartisan Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus to advocate and provide a voice for crime victims. I currently co-chair the Caucus with my good friend and victim crusader, Congressman JIM COSTA (CA-20). There are caucuses for everything under the sun in D.C., but there was nothing that advocated solely for crime victims. It seems they are always the ones that are forgotten.

The VOCA Fund is one of those things that is close to my heart and is something, like the victims it benefits, worth fighting for. Created by Congress in 1984 to provide Federal support to Federal, State, and local programs that assist victims of crime, VOCA provides assistance to over 4,400 agencies and 3.8 million victims every year. And it doesn't cost the taxpayers anything! The VOCA Fund is derived entirely from fines and penalties paid by offenders, not taxpayer revenues. But every year, we have to fight to keep it safe for victims. The Washington bureaucrats try to rob this fund for other pet projects.

VOCA funds several important programs, such as domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, children protection agencies, and pays direct expenses to victims of violence, such as assault, rape, and child abuse.

The Children's Assessment Center in Houston is a recipient of VOCA funding and is the very best of its kind. They take sexually as-

saulted kids and help them through the trauma of recovery and trial. The Houston Children's Assessment Center in Houston became the model for others across the country. The services they provide to children who have been victims of crime are invaluable and the most advanced methods used today. Without the knowledge and compassion of thousands of dedicated people who work on behalf of victims, more and more victims would end up like that young wife and mother that desperately tried to hold it together, but couldn't take the pain any longer.

As a constant reminder, I keep that handwritten note on my desk. As a judge, it was my pleasure to hand down one of my many creative sentences and see how far we have come in recognizing the needs of victims. I have dedicated my life to helping victims and proudly serve on the Board of Directors for the Houston Children's Assessment Center and the National Children's Alliance in Washington D.C.

Madam Speaker, criminals should continue to pay for the system they have created. They should pay for the expenses victims incur because of crime. Criminals need to pay the rent on the courthouse—crime victims have already paid enough. No more victims should run.

And That's Just The Way It Is.

SUDAN AND IRAN DIVESTMENT BILLS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of three bills under consideration today in the House of Representatives: the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act (H.R. 180), the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act (H.R. 2347), and a bill to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (H.R. 957).

With a combination of sanctions and divestment, these important pieces of legislation demonstrate our nation's commitment to human rights and the rule of law with our actions and not just our words. The governments of Sudan and Iran must understand the consequences of their deplorable and inhumane policies.

As the genocide continues in the Darfur region of Sudan, many state and local governments have chosen not to invest in companies that do business in Sudan. Until the government of Sudan takes transparent steps to end the violence and increase humanitarian access to the refugees in Darfur, divestment remains an essential tool for pressuring the Sudanese government. The Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act supports efforts by local government and universities to divest from companies that conduct business in Sudan. Additionally, it prohibits the federal government from entering into contracts with these companies as well. Coupled with diplomatic pressure, the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act is a significant step in the fight against the horrific genocide taking place in this region of the world.

Two additional bills, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act and a bill to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, seek to increase pressure

on the government of Iran to halt its uranium enrichment program. The Iran Sanctions Enabling Act authorizes state and local governments to divest from companies with \$20 million or more invested in Iran's energy industry. A second bill amends the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to expand and clarify the entities against which sanctions may be imposed. As Iran relies heavily on foreign investment in its energy sector, these bills will effectively suffocate Iran's resources.

The Federal legislation paves the way for states to make smart, conscious decisions regarding the investment of employee pension funds and other public investments. As the first state to enact divestment legislation, the State of Florida has taken the lead in protecting state interests from reprehensible regimes. I applaud the Florida legislature and all of the community organizations that pressed for this important initiative.

Madam Speaker, the powerful economic tool of divestment makes it clear to Sudan's complicit government and Iran's egomaniacal leadership that the United States and the American people stand strong in the battle against genocide, extremism, and corrupt governance. I congratulate the Members of the House of Representatives for their work on these issues and urge my colleagues to support these three important bills.

UNITED AMBULANCE SERVICE HONORED AS MAINE'S ONLY CAAS ACCREDITED AGENCY

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, this year, United Ambulance Service of Lewiston/Auburn, Maine received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS), making it the first and only ambulance service in Maine and one of only about 107 ambulance services in the country currently to hold this distinction.

United Ambulance is jointly owned by Central Maine Medical Center and St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. Since 1981, it has served the citizens of Androscoggin County, Maine, including the towns and cities of Auburn, Greene, Lewiston, Minot, Mechanic Falls, New Gloucester, and Sabattus.

The CAAS accreditation reflects compliance with national standards of excellence and a continuing commitment to maintaining compliance with these standards. The Commission is a non-profit organization established to encourage and promote quality patient care in America's medical transportation system. Its national standards address the delivery of patient care, the service's total operation, and its relationships with other agencies, the public and the medical community. According to CAAS, accreditation signals that the ambulance service "has met the 'gold standard' determined by the ambulance industry to be essential in a modern emergency medical services provider." In addition, the standards for accreditation often surpass those set forth by local or State regulation.

The communities served by United Ambulance have been the beneficiary of excellent service since the founding of United Ambulance. The CAAS accreditation acknowledges