

The African American Association of Georgia, AAAG, gives the opportunity for our youth to work with positive professional athletes in an up close and personal setting. The AAAG has demonstrated a spirit of giving, service and leadership to our district. Our district, families and community have benefited from the AAAG working to build a strong foundation in the lives of our youth mentally and physically.

The AAAG has worked tirelessly to give their best to preserve integrity, mentor our children and to build our future. The AAAG is currently sponsoring the 2007 Sports Festival Track and Field Meet and I was pleased to proclaim July 21, 2007 and July 22, 2007 as African American Association of Georgia Days in the Fourth Congressional District.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a bill that is critical to improving our country's water quality and infrastructure, the Water Resources Development Act.

I am glad we're finally able to pass a WRDA conference report. For far too long, Congress has stalled on moving this critical legislation, creating a backlog of projects in the country, including many in Southwest Florida.

This legislation is vital to protecting our environment and improving water quality in Florida and the rest of the country. The bill will help to restore the Everglades and parts of coastal Louisiana affected by hurricanes. It will also assist in protecting our beaches and coastal areas from floods and storms and is vital in facilitating commerce at our Nation's waterways and ports.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will pay untold dividends in the years to come. We all agree that our children and grandchildren deserve to inherit a fiscally responsible government, but we also agree that they deserve to inherit clean water, clean air and a healthy environment.

I hope that the President won't act on his veto threat and instead will sign WRDA into law. We need this legislation to protect our environment for future generations. We can't delay in moving forward on these critical infrastructure projects.

TRIBUTE TO CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICE, INC.

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of Americans who should have been honored years ago for their service and sacrifice to the United States during the Vietnam war. For a period of 10 dangerous years, between 1965 and 1975, over 260 pilots and ground crew members flew over regions in Southeast Asia. They were the Continental Air Service Inc., CASI, personnel.

CASI was a subsidiary of Continental Airlines created at the request of the CIA to back up air service in Southeast Asia for another CIA airline, Air America. CASI personnel flew support missions for U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Operations Mission, the CIA, and other government agencies. The countries CASI covered include Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, and Singapore.

CASI pilots deserve to be recognized by our Government. These pilots played a vital role during the Vietnam war delivering hard rice, food, medicine, and other supplies. Moreover, CASI pilots were sent on many secret missions to rescue American troops. Madam Speaker, I would like to point out these were not easy missions. CASI pilots flew for 10 years in the most unfavorable conditions: there were limited air traffic controllers in most regions, the unpredictable weather made flying dangerous, and their planes were constantly under enemy fire. As most of their flights were covert operations, the pilots could not even talk about their experiences with their own families.

CASI pilots flew the same missions, shared the same airstrips, and sacrificed their lives in America's war effort as did Air America pilots. In fact, CASI and Air America operated side by side for U.S. AID during the war. On June 2, 2001, the CIA honored Air America and Civil Air Transport for their part in the war effort: however, the CASI pilots and crew did not receive the same recognition. Many CASI pilots have passed away and some air crews are still missing in action in Laos.

After 32 years, the time has come to honor these individuals who sacrificed their own safety for the safety of our American soldiers and for our country.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the gallant pilots and crew members of Continental Air Service Inc.

TRIBUTE TO THE ASIAN CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, many organizations strive to bring awareness and enlightenment to our community.

The Asian Cultural Experience has been a unique showcase for different Asian cultures in the Metro Atlanta area.

The past 14 years have been and continue to be a great gift of music, dance, food, art, native crafts, and fashion of the many different Asian countries from around the world.

We have found a jewel in this annual event that touches the minds and hearts of so many. Our community has been strengthened, our lives have been touched, and our spirits uplifted.

The 2007 Asian Cultural Experience is being presented at the Atlanta Botanical Garden on July 14–15, 2007. I was pleased to proclaim July 14, 2007, and July 15, 2007, as the Asian Cultural Experience Days in the 4th Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER HART UPON EARNING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Walter Hart of Lehigh Acres, Florida upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boys Scouts of America.

Mr. Hart's honor is truly significant because he earned the rank 70 years after completing the requirements for the award. Before he could collect his award, Mr. Hart joined the Navy and served for 2 years aboard the USS *Alfred A. Cunningham* during World War II.

Mr. Hart earned 23 merit badges during his time as a Boy Scout, fulfilling requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. As only 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Mr. Hart's accomplishment is quite notable and worthy of distinction.

Mr. Hart's service didn't end with the Boy Scouts. He fought for our country overseas during World War II and continued to serve his community at home when he returned from the war—no doubt in part because of the skills and values he learned as a member of the Boy Scouts. Mr. Hart is part of a prestigious group of accomplished men who have served our country well.

Madam Speaker, I know the people of Southwest Florida join me in offering our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Hart upon this great honor. We're proud of him and all of his accomplishments. I wish Mr. Hart and his family all the best as he continues to serve our community as an official Eagle Scout.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDI- CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act. This is a landmark measure which touches on many aspects of our national health care system. It forestalls a potentially devastating cut to physician payments through Medicare that would imperil our senior's access to their doctors. It also expands assistance to our lowest income seniors so they get the help they need to afford life-saving medication.

But most important, the bill we are debating today will extend the life changing benefit of health insurance to five million more American children. That means five million parents who won't have to bring their child to the emergency room because they're running a fever. Five million parents who can take their child to a dentist if their teeth hurt. Five million parents who can take care of their children in a way we all take for granted—that when they're sick, they can go to the doctor.

SCHIP has been an incredible success story, extending the benefits of health care to six million children, about 750,000 in California

alone. These are children whose families have incomes that are too high to qualify for Medicaid, but who do not receive health insurance through their employment and can't afford it on their own. SCHIP is based on a simple premise: Insuring kids is the right thing to do. And it's much cheaper to insure a child, who is relatively healthy, than an adult or a senior citizen. The experience of the 10 years since SCHIP was originally created proves the wisdom of providing health insurance for children.

In addition to reauthorizing the program, this bill improves SCHIP by creating new incentives to seek out millions of children around the nation who are eligible but not enrolled. It includes a group of seven best practices, developed and implemented in states, that should be followed to get kids into the program and keep them there. That's the right approach. In the past, I've called for a simplified enrollment system so that families applying for a range of means-tested benefits, such as subsidized school lunches, can automatically apply for SCHIP. We accomplish that with this bill, and it will mean that more kids who are eligible will get enrolled and stay enrolled for a benefit that they are entitled.

The Committee on the Budget has certified that this legislation complies with the PAYGO rules we set earlier this year to ensure fiscal discipline. It pays for these important reforms to children's health and Medicare by an increase in the tax on cigarettes a provision that I hope will help discourage youth smoking. And it cuts back on subsidies to privately run Medicare plans. Contrary to the statements of the minority, we are not cutting one dime from Medicare. In fact, this bill today will extend the lifespan of the Medicare Trust Fund.

A vote for this bill is a vote for an America that takes care of its children. In the richest Nation in the history of the world, it is simply wrong that millions of children, our most vulnerable citizens, go without basic access to health care. With a "yes" vote, five million more children will enjoy the benefits of a healthy future and a real chance in life. I urge a "yes" vote.

TRIBUTE TO DEKALB COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, many community organizations are called to aid in sustaining a healthy lifestyle for all citizens.

Under the leadership and guidance of the Dekalb Community Service Board, thousands have been assisted with treatment and support for Mental Health, Development Disabilities and Addiction Services.

The Dekalb Community Service Board has demonstrated the will and desire to aid citizens in need since 1994 and continues today to be a beacon of light to our country.

Our beloved county and community benefit from the fruits of the labor that the Dekalb Service Board members and staff have invested.

This unique board has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to preserve in-

tegrity, uplift their fellow citizens and make this a better place.

The community service board has created an Annual Walk of Heroes to allow everyone to come out in support of the work of the Service Board.

I was pleased to proclaim July 21, 2007 as Dekalb Community Service Board Foundation Day in the 4th Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO APPLEWOOD PLUMBING, HEATING, AND ELECTRIC

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric for being the recipient of the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric has adhered to high standards of business ethics for over 35 years and employs ethical behavior as a philosophy in daily business.

Owner John Ward is the principal source behind this philosophy and serves as the role model for over 40 employees. To maintain the high code of ethics at Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric the company has weekly customer service sessions that address the best way to resolve issues that may arise in addition to trainings specifically devoted to ethics. As a result of these training sessions, the company has received zero complaints from customers regarding customer service.

Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric is listed as one of the top 10 service companies in the Nation with a spotless record with the Better Business Bureau. This is due to their dedication to high ethical standards.

The Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric model for outstanding ethics in business is an example for all business in America to emulate. I once again congratulate Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric for their receipt of this award and encourage them to keep doing "the right thing."

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, IN JULY 1994

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, a terrorist bomb destroyed the headquarters of the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association, known by its Spanish acronym, AMIA, killing 85 people and wounding 200. To this day, the attack on the AMIA remains the deadliest anti-Semitic incident since World War II, and as of yet, the perpetrators of this act have not been brought to justice.

I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 188, which not only condemns this heinous attack, but also applauds the Government of Argentina for speeding the pace of this investigation and calls on other responsible nations to support Argentina in its efforts to finally bring this case to a close.

Substantial evidence attributes the attack on July 18, 1994, to the terrorist group Hezbollah, based in Lebanon and sponsored by Iran. Evidence indicates that the tri-border region where Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet was used to channel resources for the purpose of carrying out the AMIA attack by terrorists linked with Iran. Regrettably, the scheming of international terrorist organizations, such as Hezbollah and al-Qaeda, are not confined to the tri-border region. In fact, much of the Western Hemisphere is ideal for international terrorist groups to establish bases due to the ill equipped and poorly trained security agencies across the region.

Almost daily, we hear reports of terrorist threats from organizations including Hezbollah and al-Qaeda. It is more important than ever to vigorously pursue and prosecute these criminals at every given opportunity. Unfortunately, while the AMIA case has been officially under investigation for over 13 years, the responsible parties have not yet been apprehended. Massive judicial and investigative irregularities, destruction of evidence, and cover-ups have already distorted the long-delayed trial. Make no mistake about it, failure to duly punish the culprits of the AMIA attack serves to reward terrorists and help spread terrorism.

I strongly applaud the recent efforts by the Government of Argentina to fulfill its international obligations and its promise to the Argentine people by aggressively pursuing the local and international connections to this act of terrorism, wherever they may lead, and to properly punish all those who are involved. However, if the last few years have taught us anything, it is that no nation can effectively combat terrorism on its own. While it is up to the Argentine government to conduct a thorough investigation, it is also the responsibility of the international community to cooperate fully in this effort.

Argentina owes it to itself, its people, and the human family to conduct an intense, fearless, and comprehensive investigation that will lead to the identification and prosecution of the principal criminals. We in the international community owe it to Argentina to cooperate with its efforts to bring this dark chapter of its history to a close.

H. Con. Res. 188 is not only a much needed reminder of this tragic event, but it is also a reminder of the truly international scope of the war on terror.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP EDDIE L. LONG

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service.

Bishop Eddie L. Long has given of himself since August of 1987 to lead New Birth Missionary Baptist Church.

Bishop Eddie L. Long, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained New Birth Missionary Baptist Church as an instrument in our community that betters the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens.