

H.R. 2929

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2929 which bans the construction and use of permanent bases in Iraq. This legislation sends an important message to the people of Iraq and the rest of the world that the United States does not intend to remain in Iraq permanently and does not intend to control Iraqi oil resources.

Based on current negative views of so many across the globe, it would be extremely dangerous for the United States, its citizens and our armed forces to remain in Iraq indefinitely. Previous provisions like the one before us today have been in legislation that bans our military forces from remaining in Iraq permanently; however, these provisions will expire on September 30, 2007. With recent statements made by the Bush Administration suggesting a long-term presence of our troops in Iraq, the time is now for Congress to speak out and reflect the views of the American people.

H.R. 2929 sends a clear message to Americans and the rest of the world that the Iraqi government and the many cultural and ethnic groups that live there that they need to work together to achieve national sovereignty and peace. Relying on the United States is the wrong position for Iraqis as it will not develop their national identity and strength.

The bipartisan Iraq Study Group made it very clear that the United States must not remain in Iraq permanently. H.R. 2929 accomplishes this task and I commend the gentlewoman from California, Ms. LEE, for bringing this bill to the Floor today. I urge all my colleagues to support it.

TRIBUTE TO THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Catholic Diocese of Marquette, which celebrates its sesquicentennial this weekend. The Diocese of Marquette enjoys a rich and storied history that stretches back into the earliest days of the U.P.'s settlement. In many ways, the story of Michigan's Upper Peninsula is deeply intertwined with the history of the Diocese of Marquette.

Even before the Catholic Diocese and before the United States was a nation, Catholicism played an integral role in the settlement of the U.P. As early as the 1600s, Jesuit missionaries from France began spreading the Gospel to natives of the Upper Peninsula. In 1641, Saint Isaac Jogues was the first to offer Mass in America's third oldest city, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

In 1668 missionary Jacques Marquette, for whom the Upper Peninsula's largest city is named, became the first resident pastor to the Chippewa and Sault Indian tribes. For nearly 350 years, the Jesuits remained a constant presence in the region.

Father Frederic Baraga settled in L'Anse in 1843 and devoted the rest of his life to spreading the Word. The present-day Diocese of Marquette, encompassing all of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, was declared a Vicariate Apostolic within the ecclesiastic Province of Cincinnati in 1853. In 1857 it was established by Pope Pius IX as the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, and the saintly Father Baraga was named its first bishop.

Bishop Baraga moved from his missionary efforts at L'Anse to Sault Ste. Marie to carry out his new mission. Unfortunately, Sault Ste. Marie was located 230 miles from L'Anse and Father Baraga found the location too remote of a location to effectively reach the residents of the U.P. In 1865, the seat of the diocese was moved to Marquette, Michigan. At that time, the name was changed to the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie and Marquette. In 1937, the Diocese assumed its current title, the Diocese of Marquette.

Throughout the 20th century Bishop Baraga's successors strived to continue building the church as they increased the number of parishes, missions and Catholic schools throughout the diocese, and encouraged involvement from the laity.

By 1953 when the Diocese celebrated its 100th anniversary of being named a vicariate apostolic, the Diocese had grown significantly. At that time the U.P. Diocesan clergy numbered 143. The Diocese encompassed 96 parishes, 42 chapels and 38 missions. The Diocese had six high schools and 28 grade schools. A Centennial Mass was held August 30 at Memorial Field in Marquette and seven additional observances were held in various regions of the U.P. in September and October 1953.

Madam Speaker, the Diocese of Marquette remains today a church that is intrinsically linked to the spirit of the Upper Peninsula. It remains a church that actively evangelizes and spreads the Word of the Lord. The Diocese continues to minister to the poor and care for the weak and infirm. My hometown church, the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Menominee, Michigan resides in the Diocese of Marquette. A prayer we say there reflects well the history, spirit and sentiment of the Diocese of Marquette. It reads:

May the power and love of Jesus transform our families

Our neighborhoods, our society and all nations

By becoming a welcoming, forgiving people.

May we let our faith shine on the world around us,

Radiating the love of Jesus

By the everyday way we speak, think and act.

This we ask in Jesus Name. Amen

Madam Speaker, 150 years since its founding by Bishop Frederic Baraga, the Diocese of Marquette remains a steady bastion of Catholic faith in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Just as the Diocese guided the U.P.'s settlement, it continues to today to serve the residents of the Upper Peninsula.

Madam Speaker, this Sunday the Diocese of Marquette celebrates 150 years of service to the people of the Upper Peninsula and 150 years of worship. 2,000 Catholics from throughout the U.P. and 10 Catholic bishops from across the Midwest are expected to attend. Residents of the U.P., of all faiths will come together—to celebrate this historic mile-

stone—and to honor Catholicism in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. I would ask, Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in paying homage to the Catholic Diocese of Marquette, the clergy who have served there and the many parishioners—past and present—who make up this Diocese, rich in history, rich in faith and rich in the Lord's spirit.

CONGRATULATING MS. GAIL P. HARDY**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Gail P. Hardy, who became the first African American in Connecticut's history to be appointed to the position of State's Attorney. Ms. Hardy, an 11-year veteran of the Division of Criminal Justice in Connecticut, was appointed to serve as State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Hartford. The appointment was by a unanimous vote of Connecticut's Criminal Justice Commission. As State's Attorney, Ms. Hardy will be the chief law enforcement officer in the Judicial District of Hartford, where she will oversee prosecutions and more than 70 employees in the Hartford district. The district includes Hartford and 18 surrounding communities, along with Superior Courts in Hartford, Enfield and Manchester, Hartford Juvenile Court, and Hartford Community Court.

Gail Hardy has an excellent and diverse record both in and outside of the courts. In addition to her impressive work as a prosecutor, Ms. Hardy also served as a probation officer, a public defender, a state child support investigator, an adjunct college professor, and as a counselor in a halfway house. Her past and current colleagues have offered no less than the highest regards to her experience and quality of her work and service. From the courtroom to the community, Ms. Hardy has a record that illuminates her competence and fairness that will serve her well as State's Attorney. The citizens in Hartford's judicial district can have confidence in a criminal justice system that is both efficient and unbiased under Ms. Hardy's leadership.

And so today, I rise to congratulate and honor Gail P. Hardy for her outstanding achievements. Ms. Hardy, through years of dedication and service to her community comes to the position of State's Attorney with great experience and knowledge that she will use to continue to succeed in this next chapter in her career. Ms. Hardy also brings to this position a broad perspective that will serve Connecticut's citizens well.

LIBERIA DESIGNATION EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3123. This legislation extends the opportunity to

3,600 Liberians currently residing in the United States to be able to remain here under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

President Johnson Sirleaf has made it very clear that Liberia continues to need our support. As Liberia rebuilds after its civil war and re-establishes its civil society and government, we must continue to work with the Liberian people. Liberians that continue to reside in the United States, including the city of St. Paul, need our assistance as well. After the civil war Liberians were given the opportunity to register for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in this country. Today, the opportunity to continue to receive this status is in jeopardy. However, this legislation will protect those that need our help.

On October 1, 2007 the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) of all Liberians residing in the United States is set to expire. This will create a devastating effect on the opportunity for prosperity and hope of Liberian citizens. H.R. 3123 will alleviate this burden Liberians face by extending the designation of TPS.

Not only has United States provided assistance to the people of Liberia and its government, but the Liberians who currently reside in this country provide aid to the growing economy and families who remain in Liberia. The Liberians in the U.S. provide monetary support to families in Liberia but equally important is the ability to provide their skills, talent and education they have gained living in the U.S. to their countrymen that need help.

During her address to Congress in 2006 President Johnson Sirleaf expressed that Liberia needs to continue to receive these remittances and aid to help keep their economy stable. If the Liberian community in the United States is not granted TPS again and all are required to return to Liberia in a short period of time the economy and infrastructure of Liberia will not be able to sustain the influx.

Liberia and its people need our friendship and support and I applaud the gentleman from Rhode Island, Mr. Kennedy, for bringing this important bill to the Floor. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2272,
AMERICA COMPETES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. Speaker, there is much to be excited about in H.R. 2272, the America COMPETES Act, a bill that endeavors to maintain America's preeminence in math and science. It doubles funding for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. It establishes a number of initiatives to encourage diversity in energy choices and participation. It also establishes a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy, ARPA-E, to overcome the long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of energy technologies.

However, the directive of ARPA-E explicitly includes provisions for the advancement of nuclear energy. The perils of nuclear energy are numerous. Indeed, in March 2002, workers at

the Davis Besse nuclear power plant discovered a deep cavity in the head of the nuclear reactor, leaving only a thin stainless steel lining. Experts have concluded that if the hole were not discovered, the reactor could have ruptured within the next year of operation. Furthermore, the lack of a long-term solution to dispose of nuclear waste necessitates that we dump tons of highly toxic waste on several generations to come. Finally, the economics of nuclear power requires billions of dollars in Federal subsidies, which would be far better spent on development of truly renewable energy technologies.

For these reasons, I voted against H.R. 2272, the America COMPETES Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR PURPLE
HEART VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 49, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and commanding recipients of the Purple Heart for their courageous demonstrations of gallantry and heroism on behalf of the United States and in support of S. 27, supporting the goals and ideals of "National Purple Heart Recognition Day."

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in current use. It is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are killed or wounded during conflict with an enemy force or while held as prisoners of war.

The Purple Heart was originally awarded during the Revolutionary War by the order of then-General George Washington. In 1932 the practice of awarding this prestigious medal was reinstated to honor the 200th birthday of George Washington.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is the only veteran's organization comprised strictly of combat veterans. It was created for the protection and mutual interest of those who have received the Purple Heart. Since the reintroduction of this high honor, over 1.5 million soldiers have been awarded the Purple Heart; 550,000 of these brave individuals are living today.

Madam Speaker, the recipients of the Purple Heart have made an invaluable contribution to our country that will not be forgotten. They put their lives on the line and made great sacrifices while in service to our country and deserve our deepest respect. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 49 and S. 27, and I thank all of our Nation's veterans for their service to our country.

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN SHOULD
APOLOGIZE

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor I rise in strong support of

H. Res. 121. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the Government of Japan should formally apologize for and acknowledge the role that some in the Japanese Government played in forcing women into sexual slavery during World War II.

To date, the Government of Japan has failed to do this. This is a human rights issue that the gentleman from California, Mr. HONDA, has championed for years. Along with other Members of this body I am truly proud to stand with him today in support of this resolution.

Throughout the world's history, including World War II, cultures and societies have abused women, raped and enslaved them, and subjected them to forced sexual acts. The United States is not without its past atrocities and abuses, including the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. However, if we recognize and acknowledge our mistakes as human beings we can learn from the past and reduce the occurrence of horrible acts. H. Res. 121 looks to provide recognition of past human rights abuses against the "comfort women" so Japan can move forward knowing it will never commit these acts again.

MR. TOMMY MAKEM

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe the passing of a friend and a man for whom I held a tremendous amount of respect, Tommy Makem.

Tommy was an internationally celebrated folk musician, actor, artist, poet, songwriter, and storyteller from Ireland who took pride in sharing the Irish culture with those around the globe. He immigrated to the United States in 1955 seeking work as an actor and settled in Dover, New Hampshire. After a brief period as an actor, Tommy Makem went on to join a band of Irish decent, The Clancy Brothers, where he rose to international fame.

Tommy broke out on his own following his time with The Clancy Brothers and educated generations on the history, traditions, and customs of Ireland through his music, art, and poetry. He wrote hundreds of songs including, "Four Green Fields," "Gentle Annie," and "The Rambles of Spring," which have been played in Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden, Royal Albert Hall and across the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Tommy Makem's illustrious career has awarded him an honorary doctorate from the University of New Hampshire, gold and platinum albums, and a host of other awards such as the Gold Medal of the Eire Society in Boston, the Genesis Award from Stonehill College in Massachusetts, an Emmy nomination for a New Hampshire public television series, as well as the first Lifetime Achievement Award in the Irish Voice/Aer Lingus Community Awards and a listing as one of the top 100 Irish Americans in the Irish American Magazine five years in a row. The World Folk Music Association awarded him its Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

His enduring memory and music will live on, as will the power and energy of his unyielding spirit. He remains a true inspiration to me and million of others around the world.