

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3311, AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS AND RECONSTRUCTION OF INTERSTATE I-35 BRIDGE IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA; MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF S. 1927, PROTECT AMERICA ACT OF 2007; AND MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3222, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF
HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1927, a temporary bill to renew the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, FISA, to provide procedures for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence information.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I know that the recent National Intelligence Estimate contains a stark warning about our vulnerability to terrorist attacks. S. 1927 intends to fill an intelligence gap that exists in the original FISA law and due in part to a recent court ruling regarding the surveillance of foreign suspects. S. 1927 seeks to make clear the procedures for obtaining warrants for the surveillance of domestic and foreign terrorist suspects. Reform in the intelligence-gathering arena is particularly necessary as the worlds of technology and communications rapidly change. Clearer laws and boundaries enable our intelligence agencies to respond swiftly against terror suspects.

Although I believe in providing our intelligence agencies with the necessary tools to protect our Nation from terrorism, I am also concerned that we do so without limiting Americans' liberties and rights to privacy. Because of the seriousness of the threats we face, we cannot delay in giving needed direction to our intelligence agencies. However, I share many of my colleagues' concerns with this bill. While S. 1927 includes a provision to sunset in 6 months, I support Speaker PELOSI's call to the House Committee on the Judiciary and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to revisit this issue as soon as possible when Congress reconvenes. Congress should continue to work to find a balance between protecting our Nation, and protecting the freedoms that have made our Nation great.

HONORING 125 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE BY THE FIREFIGHTERS OF GOOD WILL FIRE COMPANY IN BELVIDERE, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the volunteer firefighters of Good Will Fire Company No. 1 in Belvidere, New Jersey. For the past 125

years, they have faithfully guarded their neighbors. I commend them for their extraordinary service.

The Good Will Fire Company was first formed in 1879 and officially incorporated on April 26, 1882. It has relied upon the dedication of volunteer firefighters throughout its rich history. Changes in demographics, lifestyle choices, and regulatory requirements have made it harder to recruit volunteers, but the men and women of this fire company make up for the open spots with their tremendous commitment and spirit.

Many of the current members of Good Will Fire Company have fire fighting in their blood, fulfilling a legacy of service. And, there are also those at Good Will that have sons and daughters ready to step into their boots.

On August 18th, the Good Will Fire Company celebrated their service with a parade. The people of Belvidere are well-aware of how fortunate they are to have these men and women protecting their lives and homes and businesses. And, I join them in honoring these brave firefighters.

IN RECOGNITION OF PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS DANA M. GAINES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer First Class Dana M. Gaines, United States Navy, for twenty years of active duty naval service.

From his entrance into the navy in 1987 all the way up to his retirement twenty years later, Petty Officer Gaines exemplified what it means to be great leader. Early on in his career, he became the first sailor to be appointed President of the Army's Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers' program. In this role, he oversaw the service of over 1500 soldiers and sailors. Later in his career, Petty Officer Gaines was commissioned to Fort George G. Meade in Maryland where he served as the lead instructor and course manager for report writing course IS-222.

Petty Officer Gaines' great achievements in the U.S. Navy have not gone unrecognized. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Award, the Armed Forces Service Medal, as well as six overseas service awards, among others.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Petty Officer Dana M. Gaines for twenty years of active duty naval service. As he retires from active duty to spend more time with his wife Kristy and children Christopher and Jarin, I and the country are grateful for his service.

NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 3221) moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3221, the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act; and H.R. 2776, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007.

As forward thinking as this legislation is Madam Chairman, it is by no means a perfect bill. This legislation contains a Renewable Portfolio Standard for investor-owned electric companies that I voted against, and remain opposed to as I believe it places an unfair burden on my state of North Carolina and the other Southeastern states. It is my hope that this RPS can be corrected in conference so that certain states are not placed with the burden of funding initiatives in other states.

These two pieces of legislation truly represent a new direction in our nation's energy policy. This legislation will move the United States toward greater energy independence and security by developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure.

H.R. 3221 provides incentives that will increase research and development in clean energy technologies, raise efficiency standards for appliances and lighting, and direct the Federal Government to become a leader in reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. H.R. 2771 will expand tax incentives and bonds for renewable energy, energy efficiency and renewable fuels as well as incentives for consumers to purchase plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and energy efficient appliances.

This legislation will put our nation on a path towards energy independence, it will strengthen national security, grow our economy, and create new jobs. It does so by investing in the future, in new energy technologies and innovation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, August 4, 2007, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call numbers 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845 and 846.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted “aye” on the following roll call votes 837 and 846, and “nay” on the following roll call votes 836, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844 and 845.

JAIME BARTON—“LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR”

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jaime Barton for receiving the “John’s Labor Leader of the Year Award” from the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO.

Jaime Barton began his career with the Cement Masons Local 744 San Diego in 1982 right out of high school. In 1988, Jaime was approached by the financial secretary of the local to become the apprenticeship coordinator for the Cement Masons apprenticeships. In 1990, Jaime was elected as a business agent for the local, a position that he currently serves in today.

In 1999, Jaime graduated from Mesa College with an associate degree and continued his educational quest at the George Meany Labor College with a bachelors degree in the political economics of labor. In addition, Jaime has been a trustee of the San Diego County Cement Mason Trusts Funds since 1992. Jaime is also a speaker, moderator and trustee committee member of the International Foundation of Employee Benefits.

Jaime has been closely involved with the Cement Mason Apprenticeship Dedicated Donation’s Projects which helps many non-profit organizations in San Diego County. Projects completed included the San Diego Blind Center, San Diego Children’s Museum, Habitat for Humanity, several Little League ball parks, elementary schools, Disabled Children’s Homes of San Diego County, the Sheriff’s County SWAT White House Project and at several churches of all denominations.

Jaime recently became a member of the LEAD San Diego Graduate Program, which develops future leaders of San Diego County. Jaime also sits on many boards and commissions, including the San Diego County Building and Trades Council, San Diego Labor Council, the John S. Lyons Memorial Foundation, the City of San Diego Housing and Advisory and Appeals Board, the United Way of San Diego County and the American Red Cross of San Diego County.

Jaime Barton is highly deserving of this award and he received it from a very distinguished labor council that goes far beyond the call of duty on behalf of all working men and women who reside in San Diego County.

IN RECOGNITION OF DETECTIVE ROBERT T. SOLTIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Robert T. Soltis

on the occasion of his retirement, and to thank him for thirty-seven years of service protecting the citizens of Garfield Heights.

Detective Soltis joined the force on January 1, 1970. Since that day he has been dedicated to making Garfield Heights a safer and more vibrant community. Detective Soltis took his obligation to his community seriously, and never has wavered in his commitment to public safety.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the distinguished career of Detective Robert T. Soltis. As he retires to spend more time with his wife, Juanita, and children Robert, Sharon, Lenny, Pamela and Jennifer, I congratulate him for his career of distinction. May his commitment to protection of the public good serve as an example for future generations.

HONORING REVEREND BILLY DEAN

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Billy Dean of Hamilton County, Tennessee. We celebrate Reverend Dean’s 60th year in the ministry and his 77th birthday.

Billy Dean was born on September 20, 1930, to parents James Thomas and Kate Dean. He had four brothers and one sister.

Billy began his religious pursuit in a small country church in Soddy Daisy, Tennessee. He attended Kirkman Vocational High School and graduated in 1950. Billy entered the ministry when he was seventeen and pastured at Shanty Town Baptist on Sand Mountain. Because of his commitment to the ministry, Billy would ride the bus to Trenton and walk up the mountain to church for morning and evening services on Sunday.

Billy married Jo Whitmire in 1953 and became the proud parents of a three year old son, Vince, when they adopted him in 1962. After his marriage Billy attended Tennessee Temple Baptist College in Chattanooga.

Reverend Dean went on to pastor several Baptist churches, including Philadelphia Baptist and Maranatha Baptist, as well as serving as a detective for 28 years at the Chattanooga Police Department. Billy retired from the police department in 1991.

In 1992, Frawley Road Baptist approached Billy to come as interim pastor to help them get through a difficult period for the church. After 15 years, Billy is still pastor at the growing Frawley Road church and his son, Vince, is now Music Director and Associate Pastor.

I have been a friend of Billy Dean for many years. I have firsthand given witness to his extraordinary testimony and even watched his son enter public service as a result of his father’s walk of faith. State Representative Vince Dean carries on the Dean tradition in the Tennessee General Assembly as we hail this family for their lifetime of service and faithfulness to God and His people.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in celebrating Reverend Dean’s birthday and thanking him for his commitment to the Kingdom of God here on earth.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF TEMPE ON THE GRAND OPENING OF THE TEMPE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the gala opening of the Tempe Center for the Arts, in my hometown of Tempe, Arizona. This wonderful event has been years in the making, and is the culmination of the collective efforts of our citizens, volunteers, and city staff under the leadership of a forward-thinking mayor and city council.

This opening could not have happened without the visionary voters of Tempe who, in May 2000, demonstrated their commitment to local arts by passing Proposition 400. That measure dedicated a small source of funding to support the development, construction and operation of the center.

This opening would not be possible without the leadership of the Tempe City Council—both past and present—who under the leadership of former Mayor Neil Giuliano, I showed an unyielding commitment to making Tempe an even stronger community. Their foresight helped make the Center for the Arts one of the hallmark structures along the shore of the Tempe Town Lake—a shining reminder of how the arts can enrich our lives every day.

Let me also recognize the unsung heroes of this project: the Tempe city staff and the army of volunteers who worked every day, and made significant sacrifice, to make this project a reality. Their work serves as a glowing example of what great things can happen Tempeans work together.

Let me tell you something about this magnificent facility. It is a truly multipurpose building with 88,000 square feet, complete with a 600-seat theater, a 200-seat studio, 3,500 square feet of gallery space for showcasing visual art and 3,400 square feet of meeting and event space. The art theme even extends to the outdoors with a 17-acre park and sculpture garden.

The building itself is a work of art designed by Tempe’s own Architekton in collaboration with Barton Myers Associates of Los Angeles. The soaring roofline and expanse of windows overlooking the Tempe Town Lake truly makes this a “jewel in the crown” for the City of Tempe and its citizens.

What I really appreciate about the new Center is that it has been driven by citizen input from the very beginning. At the outset, the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission worked tirelessly on all aspects of the project and stayed true to the vision of a professional level facility which would serve the community.

Just last year, the Friends of the Tempe Center for the Arts formed as a separate non-profit entity whose stated mission is to “support the artistic activities of the Tempe Center for the Arts; support a system of funding through public, private and philanthropic sources; encourage and foster appreciation of the arts for future generations, and help to develop the Tempe Center for the Arts to be known in the community and regionally as a dynamic center for exciting cultural experiences.”