

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Madam Speaker, had I been here on September 7, 2007, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Newton Memorial Hospital on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. As it celebrates its diamond anniversary, I share the sentiments of all Newton area residents who are grateful for the integral role the hospital plays in their community.

The hospital was founded in 1932 out of the bequest of the estate of Thomas E. Murray. With his gift, as well as half a million in funds raised through a community financial campaign, the Newton Hospital Foundation began to plan construction of a hospital facility off of Route 94 in Newton, NJ. When it opened its doors that year, it had 40 acute care beds and 10 bassinets. That initial facility is now the Administration Building. The Sussex County community rapidly grew and the hospital grew with it. By 1951, the hospital constructed a new building, adding 60 more inpatient beds, a complete maternity suite with a newborn nursery of 20 beds, and expanded ancillary and diagnostic services.

And, as the community continued to grow, Newton Memorial Hospital kept pace, adding buildings, beds, and land. By the year 2000, Newton Memorial had opened the Sparta Health and Wellness Center to provide off-campus outpatient diagnostics and treatment, a state of the art emergency room and surgical suites, and more. In that year, 10,262 patients were admitted for inpatient and same-day surgery cases, including 750 births. And, in 2001, the hospital extended its care over the border into Pike County, Pennsylvania, with its Milford Health and Wellness Center.

Newton Memorial Hospital's continuing efforts to meet the needs of the community are shepherded by a superior staff, dedicated volunteers, and an active and capable Foundation. As a Sussex County resident, I understand how comforting it is to know that we are served by the Newton Memorial Hospital and I join the community in wishing them the best for another 75 years of superior care.

TRIBUTE TO ERIK NOWAK

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Erik Nowak of Bunker Hill, West Virginia, who was recently named U.S. Army National Guard Soldier of the Year.

Specialist Nowak had only been enlisted in the National Guard for just 16 months before he was selected by his squad leader to participate in his company's board competition. In just one day, he won the company's board as well as his battalion's board, a rare feat, especially for a newly enlisted soldier. From there he advanced to the state competition and then to the regional competition in Fort Pickett, Virginia.

He competed against seven soldiers on August 1, 2007 in phase one of the national competition in Fort Benning, Georgia. The first phase of competition consisted of a series of tests; a 5-mile run, weapons training, first aid, land navigational skills, combat water survival, and an obstacle course all completed within 40 hours on only one hour of sleep. In the second phase of the competition, later in Washington, DC, the seven guardsmen were interviewed by a board of enlisted officers, given a written test and were required to recite the soldier's creed.

On August 15, 2007 it was announced at the National Guard Conference that Specialist Nowak was selected among 350,000 troopers as the 2007 U.S. Army National Guard Soldier of the Year. He will advance to the Army's "Best Warrior" Competition at Fort Lee on September 30, 2007.

Specialist Nowak is currently a military police officer assigned to the 157th MP Company in Martinsburg. Prior to that, he was working as a substitute teacher at North Middle School where his met his wife, Krista. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech and a 1998 graduate of Musselman High School.

I am proud to honor Specialist Erik Nowak for representing the spirit of the Mountain State and the very best of the United States Army. In this time of international struggle, it is an honor to serve such an accomplished young soldier.

CONGRATULATING MS. SHERIDAN GODFREY

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Sheridan Godfrey of Centennial, CO, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. Her outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have

laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young woman.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Ms. Godfrey to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Godfrey and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

REGARDING GENERAL PETRAEUS TESTIMONY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, the purpose of the President's escalation of the war in Iraq was to provide the Iraqi government with the space and security they needed to make real political progress. Unfortunately, it does not appear that meaningful progress has been made. General Petraeus has publicly admitted that the hope he once had that Iraqi leaders would take advantage of the U.S. troop surge efforts to minimize violence and make political gains "has not worked out as we had hoped." Despite the lack of progress, General Petraeus continues to want to stay the failed course. He has asked that the current levels of troops be kept in place until spring 2008.

Violence might be slightly diminishing in provinces where the presence of U.S. troops have been increased by the surge, but an increase of deaths and sectarian violence by car bombs and suicide bombers has increased in other provinces. The last 3 months have claimed the lives of 264 U.S. troops in Iraq, making it the deadliest summer of the war so far. Since the war began, 3,759 U.S. troops have been killed. More than 27,770 have been wounded in combat. In the 32nd Congressional District, 14 brave service members have given the ultimate sacrifice.

A number of recent reports on Iraq contain findings which are different than the testimony delivered today by General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker. A Government Accountability Office report on Iraq shows that the Iraqi government has failed to meet 15 of 18 benchmarks for success. A report by retired Marine GEN James Jones found that Iraq is still far from being able to take over its own security responsibilities. This report also indicates that the Iraqi Interior Ministry, which runs the security forces, is "dysfunctional,"

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and recommends that the national police force be disbanded.

I find these reports to be even more disturbing considering the overwhelming costs of the war. Congress has already appropriated nearly \$565 billion for the war in Iraq since March 2003, at a rate of approximately \$10 billion per month in Iraq. This has cost the taxpayers of the 32nd Congressional District an estimated \$1.1 billion. This money could have provided health care coverage for 447,203 individuals or college scholarships for 167,215 students.

The American people are frustrated and want a new direction in Iraq and an end to the war. According to a poll by the New York Times, 78 percent of Americans believe the U.S. should reduce its current level of troops or the withdrawal of all troops from Iraq. A USA Today poll shows that 6 percent of Americans would like for the U.S. to set a timetable to withdraw our forces from Iraq and stick to that timetable.

I agree. This grave situation requires a policy to secure and stabilize Iraq, one that constructively engages in diplomacy and partners with neighboring countries and the region to create a stable and peaceful nation, not a blank check to send more men and women into harm's way. We must resist establishment of permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq and train Iraqis to secure and run Iraq. Although I strongly disagree with the policies that continue to endanger our servicemen and women, I stand firmly behind them and look forward to their redeployment and safe return home.

MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION
DIGITAL AND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITY ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE OF Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 694, the Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2007. H.R. 694 will further enhance the quality of service of the academic institutions of our nation by providing the technological advances in the quality and delivery of educational services. I support H.R. 694 because it secures a foundation of excellence for the minds of tomorrow by enriching the academic experience and insuring that more students have the opportunity to receive a quality education.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you today in support of a bill that will assist (1) historically black colleges and universities, (2) Hispanic-, Alaskan Native-, or Native Hawaiian-serving institutions; (3) tribally controlled colleges or universities; or (4) institutions with a sufficient enrollment of underprivileged students as defined under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Science Committee and a strong supporter of minority institutions, I have been a champion for closing the digital divide as well as the math and science proficiency gap that exists between American youth and other youth around the world. This divide is especially

wide between minority and low income students. I believe that H.R. 694 is essential in decreasing the academic gap of the quality of education that is often defined by one's income or economic status and will further enhance competitiveness in a globalized economy.

The Information Technology Association of America says in a newly released study that the percentage of women working in technology fields has dropped almost 20 percent since 1996. This statistic is true even though the percentage of women in the overall workforce remained relatively unchanged during that time period. The reason for the drop is mainly the fact that administrative jobs in the tech industry are decreasing, and about a third of the women in the IT workforce serve in administrative positions. The ITAA analyzes information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, BLS, Current Population Surveys to evaluate trends in the American workforce and compiles reports breaking down the data into percentages to determine the progression and regression of diversity. Previous ITAA diversity studies were conducted in 1998 and 2003. The reports also include a discussion of possible barriers to underrepresented groups and solutions for overcoming them.

Their study also showed that Hispanics are the most underrepresented racial group in IT jobs, comprising only 13 percent of the labor pool but only about 6.5 percent of IT workers. However, Hispanics represented less than 5.5 percent in 1996, so their numbers are slowly but steadily growing, even though the Hispanic population in the U.S. is the fastest-growing, and they constitute almost 13 percent of the overall workforce. African Americans are underrepresented by 22 percent, with their numbers actually dropping 1 percent since 1996, from 9 percent in 1996 to 8 percent in 2004. The percentage of African Americans in the overall workforce in 2004 is the same as it was in 1996, 10.7 percent. Interestingly, there are 6.6 percent fewer whites in the IT workforce than in the overall workforce. Asians continue to be significantly overrepresented in the IT workforce, by almost 200 percent.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will increase the number of persons from most minority groups either training or working in information technology, which over the years has been consistently low. Considering only those students who graduate from college, the percentages of Native Americans, African Americans, and Hispanics receiving a degree in computer or information science is actually higher than the percentage among non-Hispanic white males. However, this promising statistic is more than offset by the low number of minorities moving through the educational pipeline.

There are very few minority role models in information technology. Minority students are less likely to have computers at home or at school on which to gain early exposure to information technology. Students who attend historically black colleges and universities face limited computing facilities, compared with the average U.S. college or university. Thus, H.R. 694 will allow minority students the opportunity to utilize the technological advances necessary to compete in today's society.

H.R. 694 directs the Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology to: (1) establish an advisory council to advise on the best approaches toward maximum program participation by eligible institutions; and (2) ensure that

grant awards are made to all types of eligible institutions. This bill is a huge step in the right direction of narrowing the technology and science gap between minority students and others.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 694.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Madam Speaker, had I been in Washington on September 7, 2007, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007.

HONORING MR. HAGOP
BAHTIARIAN

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last month, the Nation lost a great patriot when Mr. Hagop Bahtirian of Emerson, New Jersey, passed away. Mr. Bahtirian was born of Armenian descent in Keskin Maden near Ankara, Turkey in 1909.

In 1915, his father was murdered by Turkish officials, forcing his mother to flee with her children, adopting the Muslim faith and "Turkified" names to survive. In 1919, at the age of only 10, Mr. Bahtirian was placed in an orphanage in Constantinople with his brother. Not until 1922 was he able to escape to Marseilles, France, a survivor of the Armenian genocide.

In 1927, he came to America, living in the Bronx, New York and Englewood, New Jersey. There he worked as a jeweler and watch maker and raised a family with his wife, Gula; loving children, Rita and Berj; and later in life two grandsons. Mr. Bahtirian never forgot the life he'd been forced to live as a child in Turkey and was an active member of Armenian cultural groups dedicated to ensuring that the genocide would never be forgotten or repeated.

During World War II, he went to work for his adopted country, serving proudly as an Instructor at the Naval Air Warfare Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. There he specialized in the construction and repair of the famous Norden Bomb Sight.

Mr. Bahtirian lived a tremendous life and he bore witness to some of the most significant events of the 20th Century, from the Armenian Genocide to World War II. And he ensured that the lessons learned from those events would bear the fruits of peace for his children and grandchildren. Each year, as more and more survivors of the Armenian Genocide pass, let us be certain that their memory lives on and that we never see such a travesty again.