

Church. Earning his B.A. at Kilroe Seminary of the Sacred Heart in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, his Bachelor of Sacred Theology Degree from Sacred Heart Monastery in Hales Corners, Wisconsin, and his Masters in Religious Education from the University of Detroit, Father Donlan spent an early part of his career as Pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church in Detroit, Michigan. He then moved on to serve the Church in Mississippi and Florida, eventually moving to Brooksville, Florida where he has been Pastor at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Brooksville for the past 14 years.

Father Donlan joined St. Anthony's Parish following service as the Parochial Administrator at St. Jerome Church in Indian Rocks Beach, Florida. Loved by his parishioners from throughout Hernando County, Father Donlan has fostered a spirit of unity throughout the Church with his good deeds and kind words. In fact, since his appointment 14 years ago, the number of registered families in the parish has grown to more than one thousand three hundred, including this member of Congress and her husband. Having listened to his homilies for many years, I can tell you that he preaches from the heart and speaks the true word of Jesus Christ.

In addition to his decades of service, Father Donlan has been very involved in local church and civic organizations. This volunteerism includes service as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Brooksville Ministerial Association for 10 years, the Vicar Forane of the Hernando Deanery of Catholic Churches, and volunteer efforts at area nursing homes and health care facilities.

For the past 40 years, Father Donlan has tended to the needs of his congregation. As a part of his ministry, he has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help his Church grow and prosper. One example of his devotion was the creation of a Wailing Wall in the Church. Designed after the original Western Wall of the old temple in Jerusalem, the wall is designed to receive petitions that are burned each month during the celebration of Mass.

Madam Speaker, Father Donlan's dedication to the Lord and to the Catholic Church has served as an inspiration to thousands throughout Hernando County. His ministry has touched the hearts of many, and the Church has continued to grow under his leadership. Father Donlan is to be commended for his years of service, his commitment to the Lord, and for serving the men and women who rely on his counsel and wisdom. Father Donlan is a shining example of the good that serving Jesus Christ can bring to our friends and families, and he is to be commended on the 40th anniversary of his ordination into the Catholic Church.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on September 18, 2007, I inadvertently missed the vote on Passage of H.R. 1852, The Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, rollcall vote 876. It was my strong intention to vote "aye" on Passage.

PATENT REFORM ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1908) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform:

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Chairman, for purposes of the record, I would like to register my opposition to H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007.

I would like the record to further reflect that while I do support comprehensive patent reform, I cannot support legislation that so dramatically picks winners and losers.

My opposition to H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007, stems from concerns raised that this legislation could actually undermine the value of patents, as well as innovative work conducted by universities, biotech facilities, and other companies.

Many Missourians understand that research could be impeded by the passage of this bill.

Indeed, a growing number of researchers and businesses agree that greater protections need to be put in place, but not in a way that risks existing patents or denies access for judicial relief.

A strict one size fits all approach to this problem creates more problems than it cures, and puts companies in certain industries at an unfair disadvantage.

I hope that as this bill moves through the legislative process, the disadvantages placed on certain industries are remedied, and that we have a patent reform bill that protects all U.S. businesses.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 18, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on approving the Journal, on ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 650, and H. Res. 650 and wish the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 870 on approving the Journal, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 871 on ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 650, providing for consideration of H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 872 on H. Res. 650, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO THE CUSIMANO FAMILY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Cusimano family as they and our community gather this month to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary.

The Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary was founded in 1957 by Joseph and Sue Cusimano in Mountain View, California. Joseph and Sue devoted their entire lives to the work of their business, and to the service of their community. For 50 years, Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary has maintained a family-oriented approach to providing mortuary services to the community—a commitment that has been carried on by their children. In 1980, in recognition of the exemplary professional standards and extensive community involvement, the mortuary was invited to join the distinguished association of Selected Independent Funeral Homes.

Joseph and Sue lived their broad and continuing commitment to the service of their community—ranging from the Mortuary's 50-year sponsorship of the local Babe Ruth Little League team to Joseph's service as the Mayor of Mountain View. The generosity of the Cusimanos also extended beyond our community to others in need, as exemplified by their gift of children's caskets to the victims of the 1995 Oklahoma City tragedy.

Joseph and Sue bequeathed both their business and their sense of responsibility to their children. The Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary is now managed by Matthew and Sherri, who have maintained the spirit of service and community participation that began with their parents 50 years ago. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Cusimano family as they celebrate this special anniversary.

IN HONOR OF MR. DENNIS PLANN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished career of Dennis Plann. After decades of dedication to the agriculture industry serving the Fresno County Department of Agriculture, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Dennis Plann decided to retire in August of 2007.

A native of California's Central Valley, Dennis attended Fresno State University. While attending school, Dennis harvested oat, hay, cotton and alfalfa on 90 acres of his family's land. After graduation, Dennis quickly found work as an agricultural inspector, and through this experience he continued to move up the ladder in his career.

During his tenure at the Fresno County Department of Agriculture, Dennis worked to ensure regulations were being followed, helped farmers to handle crises effectively, and interacted with the media extensively. The Central Valley as well as the entire California agricultural community benefited from Mr.

Plann's service and appreciated his knowledge in the field. His dedication to his work and to his community is to be commended.

Dennis was also instrumental in the development of the Fresno County hazardous material spill response plan and was the primary responder for the Department of Agriculture. His drive, dedication and attention to detail were certainly an asset to the county.

Throughout his career in agriculture, Dennis Plann has proven to be a highly effective professional who was always committed to excellence in his work and service to others. As he gets ready to spend much more time with his wife Connie and enjoy other relaxing activities, I wish him good health and a happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JOHN BOGA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer John Boga on his retirement from the City of Newark, California, after serving over 20 years as a police officer and sergeant and over 25 years as a member of the Newark Police Department.

Officer Boga began his career with the Newark Police Department as a reserve police officer in April 1982 and served in this capacity until his promotion to the rank of police officer on June 1, 1987.

Officer Boga was most recently assigned to his third term as the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Officer. As a D.A.R.E. Officer, Boga has taught a structured D.A.R.E. curriculum to the students in various grades of the eight public elementary schools and one private elementary school in Newark. In 2001, he also became a Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) instructor, which he also taught at the elementary school level.

In addition to his D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. duties, Officer Boga has also served as an executive board member of the California D.A.R.E. Officers Association, a member of the hostage negotiation and trauma support teams, a member of the California Association of Hostage Negotiators, field training officer, and citizen police academy instructor. He had also held numerous assignments during his tenure including patrol officer, school resource officer, tri-city gang task force officer, Alameda County gang task force officer, reserve coordinator, and first aid/CPR instructor.

Officer Boga has been recognized with many awards, the most recent being the police department's Distinguished Service Medal for his devotion to the department, the community, and the youth in Newark. He was also chosen to become the department's Police Officer of the Year in 1992. Officer Boga was selected as the 2006 California D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year by the members of the California D.A.R.E. Officers Association for his hard work and dedication to the D.A.R.E. program. He was also named the City of Newark Employee of the Year for 2005 for his commitment to the city and for all of his hard work and positive attitude.

I join the Newark Police Department in thanking Officer John Boga for his years of commendable service and devotion to the City of Newark and the community.

515TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION OF WWII

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I wish to extend my appreciation to the 515th Field Artillery Battalion of World War II as they reunite for the first time since the end of the war. These men of the 515th represent the best of the greatest generation.

Composed of officers and enlisted men from various units around the United States, the 515th was trained to operate the 155mm "Long Tom" guns. From the time that it fired its first rounds in combat until nearly the end of the war, the unit was constantly on the move and involved in combat, supporting various units. Moving steadily northward, the unit finally crossed the Rhine River on a heavy pontoon bridge at Worms, Germany. From here the battalion moved south to the area of Heidelberg and then north again toward the area of Birkenfeld. It was reported that during the month of March the battalion traveled a distance of 557 miles, 153 miles of which were during combat. The 515th fired 3,122 rounds of ammunition during this time.

The 515th rarely stayed in any one place for more than a day or two. Movement was not fast and generally cumbersome since the tractors pulling the "Long Toms" moved at only about 30 miles per hour. Once an area was designated it would sometimes take as much as a day to set up all three gun batteries, coordinate their positions and lay communication lines between the individual guns and battery commands, and then from the battery commands to Headquarters. These men met monumental challenges every day, and courageously faced their obstacles and overcame them.

The 515th Field Artillery Battalion will be remembered for their pivotal role in the United States achieving victory in World War II. These soldiers gave their heart and soul for our country. Their efforts will never be forgotten and their actions will always be remembered. And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN HESTIR

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansan and a fine citizen of DeWitt, Arkansas. I am proud to recognize Dr. John Hestir in the United States Congress for his 50 years of service as the leading medical professional in DeWitt, Arkansas. He has made numerous invaluable contributions to his community, his state and our Nation.

Originally from Des Arc, Arkansas, John Hestir attended University of Arkansas and later the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas for graduate school. While attending school in Texas, he accepted an offer to serve as the primary doctor of DeWitt, Arkansas.

When Hestir first moved to the small town, DeWitt had limited capacity for medical serv-

ices. The town had no hospital or ambulance and the closest emergency medical facility was a 12 bed hospital in Stuttgart, which is over a half an hour away by car. However, the sparse amenities did not discourage Hestir from providing the citizens of DeWitt the medical care they needed. With some perseverance and ingenuity Dr. Hestir engineered miracles that went beyond medicine.

Dr. Hestir knew that in order for him to better serve the people of DeWitt he needed an improved medical facility. In 1962, Hestir convinced the mayor, Jim Colvert, to apply for a government grant to build an 18 bed hospital. Today, the hospital has been expanded to a 35 bed facility, serving DeWitt and the surrounding areas. Hospital capacity is not the only expansion happening in DeWitt. With this new hospital and other improved medical care, people are living much longer. When Dr. Hestir first arrived in DeWitt, the life expectancy was 58 for men and 62 for women, today the average stands at 78 for men and 84 for women.

Dr. Hestir embodies the old fashion values of service, leadership and commitment to his community that have made our State and our Nation great. He has dedicated his life to serving the people of DeWitt as a leader in both his profession and his community. On behalf of the United States Congress, I extend congratulations and best wishes to my good friend Dr. John Hestir, for 50 years of outstanding personal and professional achievements.

STATEMENT ON INTRODUCTION OF THE COST OF GOVERNMENT AWARENESS ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Cost of Government Awareness Act, which repeals one of the most deceptive practices of the federal government—income tax withholding. Withholding keeps many Americans ignorant about the true size of the federal tax burden. Withholding is also the reason millions of Americans overpay their income taxes, granting the United States Government interest-free loans. Many of these taxpayers are further misled into thinking the U.S. Government is acting benevolently when they receive "refunds" of money improperly taken from them through withholding!

Collecting taxes via withholding damages the economy because it forces every business in America to waste valuable resources complying with the withholding tax requirements. The Internal Revenue Service is so fanatical about forcing employers to act as de facto federal agents that it once confiscated the assets of a church because the church refused to violate the church's religious beliefs by acting as a tax collector. The IRS sent armed federal agents in this house of worship, even though the church's employees regularly paid taxes.

When the United States Government implemented withholding in 1943, it promised the American people that this would be a "temporary" measure. I am sure my colleagues agree that 64 years is a sufficient lifespan for any "temporary" measure. It is time to end the deceptive practice of withholding and empower taxpayers to reflect upon their tax bill