

Rev. Smith was a visionary who knew that Minneapolis could become a place of equal opportunity for all people regardless of racial or ethnic differences. During the turbulent 1960s, Smith worked vigorously to advance the cause of the civil rights movement in Minneapolis. He served as a local facilitator working with community leaders to set into action the teachings of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Smith's efforts ultimately contributed to the creation of human rights commissions in Minneapolis and throughout the state of Minnesota. Smith also helped guide local social action groups such as the Minneapolis Urban League and the Black Unity and Futurism Youth Organization of Minneapolis.

Recognizing the important role which unions play in protecting workers rights, Smith fought vigorously to gain union membership for African American workers. Once that battle was won, Smith accepted the challenge of becoming a union organizer, working for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO in New Orleans, Atlanta and Tulsa.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to express my condolences to those surviving Rev. Smith: his daughter, his sons, former wife, and the community he worked for, the community he loved. It is an honor to stand in recognition of the memory and life of a man who gave so much of himself to Minneapolis yet demanded so little in return. Reverend Smith, today we thank you.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3580, the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007. This bill necessarily reauthorizes the Prescription Drug User Fee Program, the Medical Device User Fee Program, and Food and Drug Administration, FDA, authority to grant an additional 6 months marketing exclusivity to a manufacturer of a drug in return for FDA requested pediatric use, for 5 years, through 2012. The act also addresses a variety of other issues of importance to the FDA and to the Nation regarding pediatric medical device safety and improvement, research equity, and pharmaceuticals, a foundation for the FDA, better ways to deal with potential conflicts of interest, clinical trial databases, and measures to increase the post-market safety of drugs. All of these issues are important, but I believe that one of the most important sections of the bill regards additional steps to ensure the safety of our Nation's food.

Mr. Speaker, today we live in a global community, exchanging goods and services with countries around the world. Every country is different, and possesses differing standards, quality assurance, public health infrastructures, safety testing capacity, and desire and ability to secure shipments and distribution systems. Additionally, each must deal with a unique set of threats—naturally caused and intentionally generated. Much of the food on America's dinner tables comes from beyond our borders, and as we all know, despite the

best efforts of a small number of dedicated personnel, much of that food comes into the country without being inspected. Also, whether the food comes from outside or inside the United States, the distribution systems are largely unsecured. This legislation is a tremendous step forward—increasing inspections, improving research, and giving FDA the necessary authorities to inspect, trace, quarantine, and recall certain imported food to ensure safety.

Al Qaeda and other extremist organizations have indicated the desire to use agroterrorism means to attack our food supply. There is also increasing evidence to indicate that these organizations have been recruiting personnel with the scientific and technical know-how to accomplish these means. Additionally, over the past few decades, we have seen cases in the United States of intentional tampering of over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and controlled substances, resulting in illness and death throughout the country.

As the committee with oversight of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, the Committee on Homeland Security works diligently to ensure that DHS effectively executes and manages its duties, and where appropriate, ensures that DHS works collaboratively with other Federal agencies. DHS, through Immigration and Customs Enforcement, often partners with FDA to investigate food and drug tampering and contamination cases. Customs and Border Protection, as well as the United States Coast Guard, also have roles in interdicting and inspecting contaminated shipments as they cross borders and seas into the country. I am pleased that this legislation requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services, HHS, to notify the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security when an HHS entity believes food has been adulterated. Information-sharing is critical to effective, timely response to threats and a more secure homeland.

This legislation addresses a number of important aspects regarding food and drug safety and security. Actions we take now to better secure our food and drugs against contamination, adulteration, and terrorism will add to our overall homeland and transnational security.

I encourage my colleagues to pass this legislation with strong bipartisan support.

COMMENDING THE TREMENDOUS PUBLIC SERVICE OF EAST BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOLS STUDENT JOEY RIZZOLO

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend a seventh grade student at East Brook Middle School in Paramus, NJ, for demonstrating a tremendous commitment to his community with exuberance and spirit. At his tender young age, Joey Rizzolo has already offered more of an example of public service for America than many adults.

Under the tutelage of their teacher, Jane Cosco, Joey Rizzolo and his fellow students take part in a service-learning project called Operation Goody Bag. For the past 3 years,

students at East Brook Middle School have decorated lunch bags; stuffed them with letters, poems, candy, and other such items; and shipped them to local first responders and service members overseas. Fifty thousand packages have been shipped already and each one is sure to bring a smile to the face of its recipient.

As an outgrowth of that effort, Operation Goody Bag decided to participate in the Department of Defense's America Supports You program and the annual Freedom Walk. This year, Joey, as the Paramus Freedom Walk chairman and his fellow students took to the streets with about 400 local citizens to show their support for the men and women serving in the military and for their families.

I was proud to join Joey and his fellow students for this special event. From their homes in Paramus, these students had a front row seat to the horrific terrorist attacks on September 11. Many of their family members and neighbors were there at the World Trade Center that day or were amongst the first responders who rushed into Manhattan to help in the hours and days and weeks that followed. These students approach their work with poise and grace, dedication and commitment. And Joey Rizzolo organized and led this first annual walk as if he'd been doing it for a lifetime.

It was an honor to stand with these students earlier this month to commemorate the sixth anniversary of September 11 and it is an honor to represent these students, their teacher, and their families in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL JASON LAFLEUR

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and sacrifice of CPL Jason K. LaFleur of Ignacio, Colorado.

On August 4th, Corporal LaFleur was killed while on patrol during combat operations south of Baghdad. Corporal LaFleur was a member of the Army's 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Ft. Richardson, Alaska.

Jason LaFleur was an accomplished scholar, athlete, and musician. His family and friends watched with pride as his list of accomplishments grew during his service in the United States Army.

Corporal LaFleur earned many of the Army's distinguished honors, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. In doing so, he has earned the respect not only of his community, but of a proud State and a grateful Nation as well.

Thank you for this opportunity to recognize and honor one of Colorado's fallen heroes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 17, 2007

and missed Rollcall votes 867, 868, and 869. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for each of the three measures.

HONORING CREAM CITY FOUNDATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 25th anniversary of Cream City Foundation. Founded in 1982, Cream City Foundation serves as the leading foundation to mobilize philanthropic resources, build allied coalitions, effect positive change, and advance the dignity, worth, and health of every LGBT person in Southeastern Wisconsin.

This vision is realized through the organization's mission of building a strong foundation and infrastructure in the Southeastern Wisconsin LGBT community by distributing funds to emerging groups and programs that enhance the quality of life for LGBT people.

On the evening of September 22, the community will gather at the beautiful Milwaukee City Hall to note the incredible work of this vibrant foundation. The programs and interests that make up the work of Cream City Foundation are driven by a belief that philanthropy has an immense influence on creating long-lasting social change in our communities. Leadership from the LGBT community and our allies has been essential in bringing about that social change. We've come a long way, but our work is far from over. Despite all of our accomplishments over the years, homophobia is still all too pervasive.

Yet, with the continued help of Cream City Foundation, and the partnership of so many groups and individuals working in the community, there is no limit to what can be achieved in the years to come. These are historic times for the LGBT community. As we work together to build a community of acceptance and inclusion, Cream City Foundation will continue to lead the way.

It is fitting and appropriate that in the same year as the State of Wisconsin celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Nation's first Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act we take time to congratulate Cream City Foundation on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. Your efforts are truly changing the world. I'm delighted to join with all of Wisconsin's citizens in saluting Cream City Foundation.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA HONORAIR VETERANS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from South Louisiana.

On September 22, 2007 a group of 97 veterans and their guardians will fly to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these veterans from my home state of Louisiana to

visit Washington, DC on a chartered flight free of charge. During their visit, they will visit Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II Memorial. For many, this will be their first and only opportunity to see these sights dedicated to the great service they have provided for our nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their unselfish service.

ESTABLISHING A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1657, the Science and Technology Scholarship Program. H.R. 1657 will establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs. I support H.R. 1657 because it allows more students the opportunity to pursue careers in fields that are vital in preserving our world, and will further enhance the knowledge base of our country.

Mr. Speaker, we need to encourage more of our students to enter the meteorology and climatology fields. The young minds of this country are our greatest asset, and I support the effort today to encourage innovation, creative thinking, and academic competitiveness. I am confident we will reap major returns on this program long into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 1657 because it will provide for the recruitment and preparation of students for careers in the National Weather Service and in Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs. The legislation specifies a competitive program to select and award scholarships on the basis of academic merit, with consideration given to financial need and the goal of promoting the participation of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act. Individuals selected under the program agree to serve as full-time employees of NOAA, for a brief period in positions for which individuals are qualified.

Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Science Committee and a strong supporter of higher education, I have been a champion of equipping young minds with the technological and scientific knowledge necessary to compete in a globalized economy. Further, within the context of globalization, I strongly believe that this country's ability to achieve and maintain a high standard of living is dependent on the extent to which it can harness science and technology. Thus, in order to enhance the international competitiveness of the country, it is therefore critical for us to promote and support students pursuing careers in meteorology, climatology and atmospheric research.

For these reasons, I am proud to support H.R. 1657 and urge my colleagues to join me.

AMERICAN HERO FINALLY RECOGNIZED

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it's never too late to say thank you and recognize a hero of our Armed Forces even if it is 62 years later. I had the opportunity to do this when I recently met William Oliver Sievertson, of Kingwood, Texas.

Sievertson served in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1945 during World War II and fought against the Japanese in the Battle of Sugar Loaf Hill in Okinawa, Japan. This battle included some of the fiercest fighting of the Pacific Theater in which his division, the Sixth Marine Division Reinforced, suffered 2,662 casualties.

According to Mr. James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy in 1945, "Units of the division withstood overwhelming artillery and mortar barrages, repulsed furious counter-attacks and staunchly pushed over the rocky terrain to reduce almost impregnable defenses and captured Sugar Loaf Hill."

Sievertson was wounded during this battle on May 19, 1945 and received the Purple Heart. After recovering in a Navy hospital in Guam, he returned to his unit and participated in the occupation of Japan after its surrender to the United States.

Many years later as a civilian, Sievertson learned from the West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars Newsletter that his division had been given a Presidential Unit Citation from President Harry S. Truman. The article described how another Marine had served in the same division during the same time period and had received the award from his U.S. Senator decades later. This inspired Sievertson to contact his Congressman to see if he qualified for the award also.

After some inquiries by my staff, we learned that Sievertson did indeed qualify for the citation and was long overdue to receive it. After 62 years, on August 20, 2007, I had the pleasure of personally awarding Mr. Sievertson the Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle of Sugar Loaf Hill. Along with his wife Joy Sievertson, their children and grandchildren, we held an award ceremony in my district office in Humble, Texas, to finally present the award to him.

Mr. William Sievertson is a shining example of America's Greatest Generation. He courageously served his country in a time of World War to battle America's enemies abroad. It is my honor to finally give recognition to this American patriot for his heroic service to our great nation.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND FRED AND JACQUELYN ROGERS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Reverend Fred and Jacquelyn Rogers. As the love between Fred and