

Federal Government coordinate with insurers to provide financial compensation to insured parties for losses from acts of terrorism. It will contribute to the stabilization of the United States economy at a time of national crisis.

Mr. Chairman, I am also in support of this bill because I believe that extending TRIA for 15 years will contribute to the long-term stability of 2 critical American industries, the construction and real estate industries. The long-term stability it provides will allow both industries to engage in large-scale building projects in areas considered high-risk for terrorism.

Mr. Chairman, terrorist attacks target our country as a whole and not individual cities or States. I support the bill because it also exemplifies the critical idea that the risk from such attacks should be dealt with at the national level. H.R. 2761 should be seen as part of our broader efforts to confront and defeat the terrorist enemy.

No legislative initiative, especially in such a critical field related to the security of our country, can become really effective unless it enjoys the support of the private industry it affects.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that H.R. 2761 is broadly supported by insurance companies, insurance agents and brokers, policyholders, commercial developers, and construction companies.

Another important provision in the bill is that it extends TRIA to cover both foreign and domestic terrorism. Currently, it covers only foreign terrorism. It also adds group life insurance to the types of insurance for which terrorism insurance coverage must be made available by insurers. It also sets the "trigger" level—the size of an attack at which the Federal Government would provide aid to insurers—at \$50 million. Current law (P.L. 109–44), enacted in 2005, sets the level at \$50 million in 2006 and \$100 million in 2007. Yet another strong feature of the bill is it requires continuation of studies of the development of a private market for terrorism and risk insurance.

Mr. Chairman, I support the passage of H.R. 2761 and call on my colleagues to do likewise because I strongly believe that it will strengthen our Nation's efforts to confront the terrorist threat in a more comprehensive way and will provide long-term stability for critical American industries.

IN HONOR OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF SUSAN A. DICKEY, WARREN COUNTY SURROGATE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this evening, Susan A. Dickey, who has served as elected Surrogate for the past seven years, will be honored for her record of dedicated service to the people of Warren County, New Jersey. I join my friends and neighbors in commending Susan for her commitment to this office.

The constitutional office of Surrogate is not a glamorous one. There aren't a lot of ribbon cuttings and photo ops to do. There aren't many big ticket items that make it to the front pages of the local papers. But, there are few elected offices that can have a greater impact

on individual lives. We come to seek the aid of the Surrogate and her office when we are in the midst of issues involving trusts, wills, estates, and probate. Our visits to the Surrogate's office are rarely on happy occasions, often following loss of a loved one. And, though winding through the confusing red tape of probate law is just about the last thing we want to do under those circumstances, Susan Dickey and her staff have done all in their power to ease the difficult burden.

Susan has sought to computerize estate processing, to make information and forms available online, and to simplify the process. She has made her office more accessible to those who are handicapped, ill, or homebound. And, she has been working with the County Office on Aging to develop a free-will program for qualified seniors—a program she first introduced as a Warren County Freeholder before she was elected to the Surrogate's Office.

Susan Dickey is a true public servant, and I commend her for her work and for the example she provides.

IN RECOGNITION OF MOLLY P. HOWARD ON BEING NAMED NATIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, Molly Parish Howard, Principal of Jefferson County High School in Louisville, Georgia, was named National High School Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. I had the privilege of attending her recognition ceremony and was moved by her dedication to, and passion for, her students, her school and her community.

Dr. Howard has devoted the past 30 years of her life to the children of Jefferson County, Georgia. In one way or another, she's been walking the halls of the public schools in that area nearly all her life. Dr. Howard began her own education in the schools of Jefferson County. Just three years after her graduation from Wrens High School she returned to become one of the school system's first special education teachers.

Dr. Howard has been serving as Principal of the Jefferson County High School since 1995. When she became principal, she made it her policy that every child in her high school would receive a college preparatory education. Even with an increasingly challenging curriculum, nearly every indicator of the success of a high school has improved since Dr. Howard took that job.

Dr. Howard represents what is best about our best schools. What's more important, she brings out the best in her faculty and staff, her students, and their families. She uses innovation and creativity to inspire excellence in her teachers; she is a conscientious member of her community; and she is a friend, a mentor, and a good example to her students. She is the kind of person I'm grateful to have working on the front lines of our nation's future. I'm proud to represent her and her school, and I congratulate her on this well deserved achievement.

H.R. 1495—THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report for H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act. This important legislation provides overdue authorization for hundreds of critical water projects throughout the United States including several in my district, the Fourth Congressional District of Florida. The bill authorizes 900 flood-control, navigation and environmental projects managed by the Army Corps of Engineers and will authorize \$21 billion dollars. Many of these projects are critical to the safety of our commercial and recreational ship traffic as they navigate inland waterways. I applaud the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee for completing this imperative legislation.

WAGONTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wagontown Volunteer Fire Company in Chester County, PA which will dedicate its new facility and celebrate its 60th anniversary on Saturday, September 22, 2007. This fire company traces its history back to 1947 when it was housed in a single-bay fire station located on Wagontown Road and Route 340.

The original fire station was replaced in 1954 with a larger building located at 416 West Kings Highway with direct access to Route 340. It was designed and built with room for additional equipment that would be needed as the community grew. It was not only used to house the fire apparatus, but also as a meeting, banquet and fundraising facility.

In 1995, the Company decided that in order to keep up with the continuing growth in West Caln and West Brandywine Townships, an additional facility was needed. The small, single-station fire company that started in 1947 had grown into a fully operational fire and rescue company. The fleet at that time consisted of five vehicles. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 23, 2005, with site preparation and building construction beginning shortly thereafter. The building of five bays, offices and a three-hundred seat community banquet facility was then completed and the Company was able to occupy and begin working out of the new facility in September of 2006.

Over the past sixty years, the Wagontown fleet has grown to seven apparatus and the Company is led by the tireless work of Chief Jeff Benach. The Company is 100% volunteer and has been supported by donations from the community and with numerous fundraisers. The Wagontown Volunteer Fire Company has thrived due to the countless sacrifices and endless dedication of the many men and women who volunteer to support this local

treasure and to preserve and protect the lives and property of their fellow citizens.

I know all my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Wagontown Volunteer Fire Company for all the work they do in their community. We wish them another 60 years of heroic lifesaving and honorable stewardship as they continue to keep West Caln and West Brandywine Townships safe.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DREW JENSEN

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, let us mourn the loss of an American Hero.

Just a short time ago, Captain Drew Jensen succumbed to wounds he received in Iraq.

Drew was critically wounded in combat on May 7, 2007 in the Diyala Province while serving with the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment north of Baghdad.

Captain Jensen was an officer in the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry—it is more commonly known as the “Stryker Brigade.”

Forty-eight young soldiers left Fort Lewis and never returned to duty. The Strykers were sent into the toughest neighborhood in Iraq. Their mission was to meet Al Qaeda on its ground and take it back.

It is with a heavy heart the Pacific Northwest welcomes home the Brigade: they served honorably; they left Iraq better than they found it, but the cost was high—the losses irreplaceable.

Captain Jensen knew from an early age he wanted to serve his country: he was a soldier that lived and died with courage, integrity, and selflessness.

As a young man he worked hard and secured for himself the opportunity to attend West Point.

After graduation in 2002, Drew approached the Army with absolute commitment.

Captain Jensen served two combat tours in Iraq—knowing that his men depended upon his willingness to lead from the front and fulfill the call of our Nation.

At home, Stacia did her best to soldier on. An Army family knows the risks of combat. She supported Drew on and off the battlefield through some of the toughest circumstances, the harshest moments any family can encounter.

I ask that we take pause: cease the frenzied activities of modernity for just a moment and reflect upon the sacrifices we are asking of young soldiers like Drew Jensen.

Drew was a casualty of war: he served with distinction, gave his last full measure of devotion, and ultimately sacrificed his life—and his family's future—to answer the call of his men in mortal combat.

Leaders are not born, they are not made—leaders such as Drew Jensen choose.

Drew saw a problem and fixed it. He saw that his men needed help, and he helped. He was a good officer that recognized the burdens of command—an American that made a choice to be a part of something larger—to live a life that mattered.

My colleagues: the legacy of Captain Drew Jensen is a lesson for us all.

Drew made a choice to serve his country; Drew made a choice to serve in Iraq; Drew made a choice to make his community a better place.

There are no words that can heal the wounds of our hearts today; Oregon is far dimmer than it was with Drew a part of our community.

Forever changed are the lives of Stacia, the Jensen Family, and the community of Damascus.

We cannot undo any of the choices that brought us to this moment here, today.

But we can recognize the courage and bravery of one of our own.

We can celebrate the life and legacy of Drew Jensen.

And we can keep his spirit alive through remembering all that he was—all that he meant—all that he believed in.

Let us renew our commitment to making this America, this Oregon, this community a place worthy of such sacrifice.

Let us begin today.

AIRSPACE REDESIGN UNFAIRLY IMPACTS MINORITY COMMUNITIES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my disappointment that I was not permitted to offer an amendment to this bill after testifying before the Rules Committee yesterday. My amendment would have addressed concerns about the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Airspace Redesign. While all of us recognize the pressing need to improve the current system in order to promote efficiency and reduce flight delays, the implementation of this particular plan will have a disproportionate negative impact on some minority communities, including the city of Elizabeth, New Jersey, which is partially located in my Congressional District. Unfortunately, our government has a history of causing minority communities to bear a disproportionate share of undesirable environmental effects, whether it is air noise, air pollution, or toxic waste dumps—these objectionable projects too often end up in poor and minority communities. In response to this injustice, Executive Order 12898, which was signed by President Clinton on February 11, 1994 and reaffirmed by President Bush, aims to ensure that environmental justice is considered when federal agency decisions are made. The population of the city of Elizabeth is about 65 percent non-white, with most minorities being Hispanic or African American.

The Elizabeth community is especially alarmed about the proposed plan because under a previous procedure in the 1950s where planes “fanned out” over Elizabeth, there were three tragic airplane crashes in a very short time period—from December 1951 to February 1952.

Under the Airspace Redesign proposal, high aircraft noise exposure in the immediate vicinity of the airport increases from 53,276 residents to 100,893 residents in Union County, where the city of Elizabeth is located. It also increases from 94,407 residents to 131,916 residents in Essex County. In some neighborhoods, the decibel levels could rise to a de-

gree that the noise will be 5 times greater than it is now. These actions have caused many of us to question whether or not the FAA properly and adequately met their responsibilities under the environmental justice Executive Order. Therefore, my amendment would have stipulated that before implementing the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Redesign project, the FAA Administrator must submit a report to Congress explaining how the agency has met the requirements relating to environmental concerns in minority communities.

Needless to say, I am disappointed that the Rules Committee did not accept my amendment, but I have received assurances that Congress will keep up the pressure to ensure that the FAA meets its responsibilities to all of those who are impacted by the airspace redesign plan.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK BECKMANN

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Frank Beckmann upon the 35th anniversary of his distinguished broadcasting career at WJR, the “Great Voice of the Great Lakes.”

Since his broadcasting career commenced on September 11, 1972 as a WJR news reporter at the age of 22, Frank Beckmann steadily rose through the ranks and served as the station's sports director and only play-by-play announcer to cover all four Detroit sports teams at least once. Today, he stands as a beloved—in most quarters—Detroit radio personality.

Frank's status was cemented in February of 2003, when the Frank Beckmann Show debuted. Over the ensuing years, Frank's commitment to providing fair and candid news coverage has earned him a legion of fans and countless awards, which he is trying to count regardless. Faithfully carrying on the WJR tradition, the Frank Beckmann Show features on-air interviews, in-depth issue analyses, reliable business reports, and continuous sports coverage. Frank's enduring style and popularity with listeners has earned the attention of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters who awarded the Frank Beckmann Show two “Best in Class Awards,” Broadcast Personality/Team of the Year 2006 and Best News Special: 9/11 Anniversary Broadcast From New York City. The Detroit Press Club Foundation also named him the 2007 Michigan Excellence in Journalism winner and he was inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 2007. With a radio personality fans have come to know and love, Frank Beckmann's extraordinary accomplishments are well deserved.

Madam Speaker, over the years, Frank has elated audiences with his laid-back humor, probing interviews, and male pattern baldness. After 35 years of award-winning broadcasts on WJR, Frank truly is the best in his class. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Frank Beckmann's loyalty to his listeners, dedication to truth, and legendary contributions to talk radio, our community and our country.