

RECOGNIZING THAT VIOLENCE POSES AN INCREASINGLY SERIOUS THREAT TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA

SPEECH OF
HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res 564, and would like to take this opportunity to commend the countries in Central America that have pooled their time and expertise to discuss common goals through the Central American Integration System (SICA)—which is an inter-governmental organization comprised of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama (with the Dominican Republic as an Associate Member).

I would also like to commend the United States government for its effort in addressing the issues of gangs, drug trafficking and arms trafficking through the Dialogue on Democratic Security that was held with the Central American Integration System countries in Guatemala City this past July.

Violence in Central America is a grave threat to the entire region. Recent numbers from the Andes and parts of Central America show that the murder rate is above forty per 100,000 people, and does not appear to be on the decline. The increasing prevalence of violence in this region raises serious concerns with high levels of insecurity and weak state capacity to deal with criminal activity. The transport of drugs and widespread gang activity create additional problems that must be tackled sooner rather than later.

It is this reason why I support H. Res 564, commanding action taken to Combat Criminal Gangs from Central America and Mexico and encouraging regular meetings in which countries can build on existing cooperation toward this end.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

RECOGNIZING ULTRA MACHINING COMPANY OF MONTICELLO

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I come to the House floor today to congratulate a small business in Monticello—a growing community in Minnesota's Sixth District.

Ultra Machining Company (UMC) was recently 1 of 5 companies nationally to receive the prestigious Secretary of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Freedom Award.

The Award was created to recognize employers who provide exceptional support to their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. It's the highest in a series of ESGR awards.

Sergeant Lou Jacobson, who works at UMC and recently returned from a 22-month deployment in Iraq, nominated UMC for the Freedom Award.

Jacobson wrote, "UMC has made up the difference in my pay while I am deployed. Last summer, a storm knocked down our fence. UMC put out a sign up sheet and the next Saturday 40 of my co-workers showed up at my house . . . UMC paid for all the materials. They said that is what family does, they help."

Madam Speaker, family does help. Minnesota helps. Americans help. Congratulations and thanks go to Terry and Mary Tomann—founders of UMC, all the employees of UMC and Sergeant Lou Jacobson for his service to our country and for letting all Americans know what it means to be family.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RESOLUTION HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAWN OF THE SPACE AGE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the 50th anniversary of the dawn of the Space Age, an event that took place on October 4, 1957 with the launch of Sputnik 1. To recognize the importance of that event, I also am introducing a House Concurrent Resolution, and Reps. MARK UDALL, RALPH HALL, TOM FEENEY, and NICK LAMPSON are joining me as original co-sponsors of that resolution.

Madam Speaker, 50 years ago America found itself in the midst of the Cold War, and the launch of Sputnik 1 was seen as yet another challenge in our ongoing and deadly serious rivalry with the Soviet Union. In the aftermath of Sputnik 1, America rose to the challenge that it faced. We invested in our own space program, and we undertook a fundamental reexamination of the Nation's educational system, focusing increased attention on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education—what we now call "STEM" education.

America prevailed. Moreover, our accomplishments in space exploration opened a new era for humankind. Forever after, human aspirations and activity will extend beyond our home planet. Equally importantly, the exploration of space has evolved from Cold War competition into an endeavor that has been marked by significant international cooperation, with results that have benefited all humanity.

For example, our meteorological and environmental satellites have monitored weather and climate, ocean currents, polar ice, fires, and pollution. Communications satellites—or "comsats"—have linked the people of the world in ways not thought possible five decades ago. Precise positioning provided by navigational satellites has brought dramatic benefits to a wide swath of human activities, and "GPS" has become a household word.

Our understanding has been irreversibly enhanced by the many scientific satellites and space probes that have enabled significant advances in our knowledge of the universe. In addition, human spaceflight, including the successful Apollo lunar landings, has inspired successive generations of young people to pursue careers in science and engineering.

Finally, our national security space systems have helped defend the Nation and have pro-

vided us with the means to monitor the actions of potential adversaries.

Madam Speaker, today we again find our Nation locked in a competitive struggle. A "flat" world, an increasingly technological world, has America competing economically in the global marketplace against well trained and well educated rivals.

The competition that accompanied the dawn of the Space Age 50 years ago reinvigorated the Nation's interest in science and technology, leading to an increased investment both in research and in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

These investments contributed to the development of a technologically skilled generation of Americans that has led the world in innovation and accomplishment.

The new global competition for preeminence in science and technology and innovation has led to a call for a renewed commitment to research and to STEM education akin to that which followed the dawn of the Space Age. Congress has responded by renewing our national commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education with the recently enacted America COMPETES Act, but we will need to sustain our efforts in this area year after year—there is no "quick fix".

Madam Speaker, I believe that America has received a significant return on its past investments in the Nation's space program, and we need to continue to maintain our commitment to a strong and productive space program. As a result, I and my fellow cosponsors want to honor this historic anniversary by offering the concurrent resolution that I have introduced today. To that end I would just like to close by quoting a few of the key phrases of that resolution, namely:

"Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, that the Congress—

Honors the fiftieth anniversary of the dawn of the Space Age;

Recognizes the value of investing in America's space program; and

Declares it to be in America's interest to continue to advance knowledge and improve life on Earth through a sustained national commitment to space exploration in all its forms, led by a new generation of well educated scientists, engineers and explorers."

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

COMMISSION ON THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of H.R. 3432, the 200th Anniversary Commemoration Commission of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Act of 2007. The transatlantic slave trade was the forcible capture and procurement of more than 12 million Africans. These men, women, and children were transported in bondage from their African homelands to the Americas for the purpose of enslavement between the sixteenth and late nineteenth centuries. The actual

transport is often referred to as "The Middle Passage." During this transition, many Africans suffered abuses of rape and perished as a result of torture, malnutrition, disease, and resistance. If these individuals survived the trip, their fate was a life of slavery.

I recently visited Ghana. During this trip, I toured the former slave dungeon, Cape Coast Castle. I also had the opportunity to stand in the "Door of No Return" where captives were held with little light, water, and absolutely no toilet facilities. Over 125 million West Africans died during the Middle Passage, and more than one-third of the people captured died within the first 3 years of their life on a plantation. The importance of this legislation lies in the fact that the slave trade and the legacy of slavery continue to have a profound impact on social and economic disparity, hatred, bias, racism, and discrimination. This legislation underscores the fact that the legacy of the slave trade continues to affect people of African descent today. One of the key purposes of this act is to ensure a suitable national observance of the 200th anniversary of the end of the transatlantic slave trade. By sponsoring and supporting commemorative programs, we raise awareness of the transatlantic slave trade and its effects, as well as recognize the experiences of all people during this period in history. I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3432 in creating this commission that would not only celebrate the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, but also educate citizens regarding a significant part of our Nation's history.

RECOGNIZING THE 2007 NATIONAL LEAGUE CENTRAL CHAMPION CHICAGO CUBS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding season put together by the 2007 Chicago Cubs. Last week, my hometown Cubs clinched the National League Central title with a regular season record of 85–77, and tonight they head to Phoenix to take on the National League West Champions, the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Led by Manager Lou Piniella, the Cubs stormed back from an 8½ game deficit to edge out the Milwaukee Brewers for the division title, their first since 2003. In just Piniella's first season at the helm, the Cubs had the biggest win increase in the Majors from last season to this season, winning 19 more games than in 2006.

In a year marked by adversity, the Cubs overcame injuries, some internal strife, and the possible sale of the team to band together with the right blend of strong veterans like Derrek Lee and Aramis Ramirez, young players like Ryan Theriot and Carlos Marmol, and key offseason acquisitions Alfonso Soriano, Mark DeRosa, and Ted Lilly.

I proudly represent Wrigley Field in the Fifth Congressional District, and I am excited to see the return of postseason baseball to the Northside of Chicago.

Carlos Zambrano will set the tone tonight in game one in Arizona, and Rich Hill and Ted Lilly will take the ball after that to lead our Cubbies to victory in the NLDS.

Congratulations are in order to each and every player, coach, and employee of the Chicago Cubs. I wish them all the best of luck against the Diamondbacks, and I look forward to watching them do their best to reverse the curse of the billy goat.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION TO DISAPPROVE USDA RULE ON CANADIAN CATTLE IMPORTATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, on September 18, USDA Issued a final rule that will permit the importation of live Canadian cattle into the U.S. provided they are born after a date determined by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to be the date of effective enforcement of a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban in Canada. Expanding imports of Canadian livestock and beef is likely to have serious repercussions for the American cattle industry and I, along with my colleague DENNIS REHBERG, are introducing this resolution to disapprove that rule.

Over the past several years, Canada has discovered no fewer than 11 cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE, including many that have occurred in cattle born after that country was purported to have implemented a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban. Given this fact, it is clear that Canada has not taken the necessary steps to protect its herd from the spread of BSE and that a feed-ban date should not be the trigger for allowing Canadian beef into the U.S. Increasing U.S. imports of Canadian cattle and beef at this critical time would have significant negative impact on the economic well-being of American cattle producers, and could seriously disrupt our efforts to expand U.S. beef exports overseas.

Expanding Canadian cattle imports increases the possibility that a future case of BSE in a Canadian animal may be found in the United States. Five of Canada's BSE cases occurred in cattle born after March 1, 1999, the date that appeared in the proposed rule as an appropriate age trigger for importation eligibility. There is a very real possibility that USDA's proposal would lead to the importation of additional BSE-infected animals from Canada, which would destroy years of hard work by the American cattle industry, the administration, and Congress to restore the confidence of our trading partners in the safety of American beef.

Given the uncertainty still surrounding the health of the Canadian cattle herd and the drastic negative repercussions that could befall U.S. cattle producers if this increased trade fosters an occurrence of increased BSE outbreaks in this country, I introduce this resolution today and urge my colleagues to support its prompt passage.

RECOGNIZING THE NAVY UDT-SEAL MUSEUM IN FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AS THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NAVY SEALS AND THEIR PREDECESSORS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of a resolution to recognize the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida as the official national museum of Navy SEALs and their predecessors. As an original cosponsor of this legislation, I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts of my good friend from Florida, Congressman TIM MAHONEY, for introducing this important legislation and the House Leadership for bringing it before the House floor for a vote.

The Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Piece, located adjacent to the District I represent, is in close proximity to the birthplace of the World War II underwater demolition teams or the "Navy Frogman." These "Navy Frogmen" have since evolved into the U.S. Navy SEALs, one of the most elite and distinguished fighting forces in the entire world. This museum is currently the only one of its kind in the world that honors and preserves the Navy SEALs legacy. The museum's mission is essential, and through its daily work to educate the public, continues to recognize the contributions of the brave men and women serving our Nation.

The Navy SEALs are an elite fighting team that have operated in almost every environment known to man—from humid jungles to space stations orbiting the Earth. We owe it to these brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day for the United States' democracy our sincerest gratitude and respect. We owe it to them to memorialize their contributions and their legacy on a national scale.

Since 1985, the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum has been at the forefront of educating our Nation on the historical importance of these special forces. The museum currently contains thousands of artifacts, declassified documents, weapons, and photographs that are a true testament to the courageous exploits of the Navy SEALs and their predecessors.

This legislation before us today would make the museum the Official National Museum for Navy SEALs in the United States. I urge a swift passage of this significant legislation to properly recognize and memorialize the heroic acts of past and present United States Navy SEALs.

TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO MOORE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Antonio Moore, a 16-year-old student at Mt. Vernon Township High School in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.