

It is an honor to recognize Burke Feaster for his 30 years of involvement in one of America's proudest traditions for our youth, the Boy Scouts of America. The Mountain State is proud to call Burke one of our own.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Each year, the National Cyber Security Division, NCSA, of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, joins with the National Cyber Security Alliance, NCSA, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, MS-ISAC, and other partners to support National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The goal of National Cyber Security Awareness Month is to show everyday Internet users that by taking simple steps, they can safeguard themselves from the latest online threats and respond to potential cyber-crime incidents.

It would be dangerous to believe, however, that simple steps by end users will sufficiently combat the larger threats associated with a growing networked society. As Chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology, I have held a number of hearings this year on our Nation's cybersecurity posture and the various vulnerabilities in our critical information infrastructure. Cybersecurity vulnerabilities can significantly impact our national and economic security. This issue has been largely ignored and misunderstood for too long. The oversight that the Homeland Security Committee is undertaking will help change that, but much work remains to be done.

I thank my colleagues for cosponsoring this resolution, and look forward to working with them on these critical issues in the future.

WELCOMING THE TROOPS BACK HOME

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the aviators and sailors from Strike Fighter Squadron VFA 14 and VFA 41 along with the Fleet Readiness Center West Sea Detachment Personnel and the staff of the Carrier Air Wing 11, all of Naval Air Station, Lemoore in my district in California who returned home safely this past weekend after a 6-month deployment aboard the USS *Nimitz* in Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition to combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, these units participated in Exercises Valiant Shield and Malabar. In all, a total of over 550 sailors from Naval Air Station Lemoore deployed.

Successful deployments depend not only on military skills, but also on support from three

important groups; families, employers and the community. The community of Lemoore is extremely proud of its servicemembers and hosted a grand welcome home celebration on base to greet the pilots and sailors. Anxiously, children, spouses, parents, aunts, uncles, and friends all waited for their loved ones to arrive.

It is happy homecomings like this that remind me of how proud I am to represent the 20th Congressional District and remind all of us why we live in a free country. These men and women have made great sacrifices in defending our freedom. Therefore, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome home to these fine men and women from NAS Lemoore and very proud to recognize their dedicated service.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RESTORE ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I'm proud, to join with Intelligence Committee Chairman REYES today in introducing legislation that will give our intelligence community needed tools to combat foreign threats while preserving civil liberties. Making sure that surveillance activities protect freedom as well as security is critical to waging an effective fight against terrorism.

The RESTORE Act extends the ability of the Government to acquire communications of persons abroad for the purpose of terrorism and other national security threats. Earlier this year, in the Protect America Act, PAA, amendments were made to the long-standing consensus approach set forth in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA. Responding to what the administration characterized as pressing concerns, the PAA gave the Government enhanced flexibility to collect foreign intelligence information. But the broad scope of the authority and procedures that allowed the Government to collect this information without up-front court approval raised grave concerns about the need for more safeguards of innocent Americans' communications. The RESTORE Act improves upon the PAA by providing a series of checks and balances while still allowing maximum flexibility. It limits the Government's authority to what the Director of National Intelligence told us he needed—a means to acquire information from telecommunications companies about physical threats to the Nation in which the target is overseas. The RESTORE Act does not require individual warrants when persons reasonably believed to be abroad, but it is firm that a FISA warrant is required to obtain communications of people in the United States. The RESTORE Act settles that FISA is the exclusive means of electronic surveillance, and that no modifications can be made without express statutory authorization. The RESTORE Act will also provide additional resources for the National Security Agency and Department of Justice to ensure that there are no backlogs of critical intelligence gathering.

Congressional oversight and full knowledge about surveillance activities is critical in ensuring the Nation's safety. Both the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees need access to court orders, Presidential authorizations, and details

of and legal justifications for past wiretapping efforts. The RESTORE Act provides for audits and congressional reports of surveillance programs past, present, and future. Through these reports and audits, with nonclassified aspects where appropriate, Members of Congress and the public will have the opportunity to assess whether the program works as designed. Chairman REYES and I are committed to vigorous oversight, constant dialogue, and statutory improvements as needed to meet our duty to ensure safety and liberty for all.

The administration has continued to deny us the information that Congress is entitled to and which is necessary for a full understanding of the issues at stake. Nevertheless, I believe this legislation will allow us to move forward and respond to the concerns of the administration. This bill will require that information be made available to us and give the Congress the opportunity to assess these procedures and the program on the basis of a complete record. The RESTORE Act's important audit and reporting provisions are essential for when the program will sunset in 2009. At that time, with a new Congress, a new President, and the results of these provisions, we will again strive to provide additional protections for the rights of Americans. For this is an ongoing responsibility that all of us in Congress are working toward—a foreign intelligence gathering system that is effective and flexible, yet bound by procedure and law.

CONGRATULATING REV. LOUIS S. GARBACIK FOR BEING NAMED "GUEST OF HONOR" BY THE GREATER HAZLETON AREA POLONAISE SOCIETY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Louis S. Garbacik, pastor emeritus of St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church in Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who will be the guest of honor at a celebration hosted by the Greater Hazleton Area Polonaise Society on Sunday, October 14, 2007.

Father Garbacik is being honored for his dedication and support of Polish tradition, heritage, and culture during his 53 years in the priesthood.

A son of Polish immigrants, Father Garbacik grew up in a loving home where his mother cared for the family while his father labored in the anthracite mines of northeastern Pennsylvania and also worked as a talented carpenter making and repairing violins.

Throughout his years as a parish priest, Father Garbacik has endeavored to educate his parishioners in the customs and traditions of Poland.

From numerous trips to the country of his ancestors, Father Garbacik has collected a variety of Polish artwork which he proudly displays in his church rectory and shares with all who express an interest.

Father Garbacik was honored when he met with the late Pope John Paul II, himself a native of Poland and the only non-Italian to hold the position of Pope since the 1520s.

Committed to teaching members of his parish about Polish spiritual traditions, Father

Garbacik routinely shares with his flock information about Polish worship services rooted in his ancestral homeland.

A humble man who enjoys the love and devotion of his parishioners, Father Garbacik demonstrates through his own life the true meaning of Christian love which leaves those whose lives he touches inspired and comforted.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Father Louis Garbacik and the Greater Hazleton Area Polonaise Society which has recognized the value of Father Garbacik's ministry.

SUPPORTING THE CARIBBEAN AS ITS WORKFORCE BOOMS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the article, "Caribbean Call Centers Booming," published in New York CARIB News on September 19, 2007. The piece notes that American corporations are increasingly setting up centers in the Caribbean, breathing new life into the region's workforce and diversifying its economy.

A drop in communication costs has ushered in newfound competition, willing the area's island nations to extend tax incentives in search of business—and it's working. For those economies with the smallest populations, it's made a world of positive difference, injecting droves of new workers and reducing rampant unemployment.

CARIBBEAN CALL CENTERS BOOMING

CASTRIES.—In a global search for low-cost customer service, AOL considered call centers in India and other hotspots—then settled on the tiny island of St. Lucia.

In choosing the Caribbean island, AOL, a unit of Time Warner Inc., joined other U.S. companies that have made the region a new global hub for call centers.

Plunging communication costs, workers who relate easily to American customers and the region's famed hospitality are attracting American corporations, boosting the work force in the "nearshore" service industry in the Caribbean.

Jamaica is one of the leaders with about 14,000 employees in the sector. In the Dominican Republic, 18,000 agents, many of them bilingual, are handling calls in English and Spanish. Call centers dedicated to customer service have also opened in Barbados, Trinidad, and Dominica.

According to Robert Goodwin, the AOL manager who chose a call centre in St. Lucia, the islands all seem to be really positive as opposed to the surly attitudes you have in some of the other places. AOL still uses call centers in India and elsewhere for technical support and other services—taking advantage of that country's large numbers of workers with technical and advanced degrees.

But the Caribbean is becoming increasingly competitive in the call centre industry, with island governments offering tax and other incentives to lure companies to their shores.

Jamaica, for example, granted call centers "free zone" status that allows owners to repatriate 100 percent of their earnings tax-free. The Caribbean has taken only a tiny share of the market from still-hot India and

the Philippines, but the impact is huge on islands with tiny populations. In Montego Bay, a resort area on Jamaica's north coast that accounts for about half the island's call centre jobs, developers have rapidly built thousands of concrete, single-family homes to accommodate the workers.

The industry owes much of its success to a telecommunications liberalization that began sweeping former British colonies in the Caribbean about six years ago. As new suppliers have challenged the monopoly of Britain-based Cable & Wireless PLC, lower prices allowed the region to compete.

The collections and call-centre firm KM2, which holds the AOL contract in St. Lucia, has opened a site in Barbados and, according to owner David Kreiss, the firm is looking to expand again as new telecoms install fiber optic cable.

The number of people working at Caribbean call centers has increased from 11,300 in 2002 to a current total of 55,000, with an annual economic impact of US\$2.5 billion. Large American companies including Verizon, AT&T, Delta Air Lines, AIG and Nortel have used Caribbean call centers, while often keeping operations in Asia or elsewhere. While much of the profits go to U.S.-owned operators, the islands welcome the business to diversify their economies and counter high unemployment.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY NURSES WEEK

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize October 7 through October 13 as Emergency Nurses Week.

As a nurse for over 40 years and the co-chair of the House Nursing Caucus, I have a longstanding commitment to the work nurses do and to highlight the impact they have on other important issues, such as homeland security preparedness efforts.

There are approximately 100,000 emergency nurses in the United States. Emergency nurses make a difference each day in peoples' lives, both within and beyond the traditional boundaries of the hospital emergency department. Working in areas such as critical care, research, technology, flight and ground transport and injury prevention, emergency nurses combine state-of-the-art skills with heartfelt compassion for those they serve.

Since 1989, the Emergency Nurses Association has celebrated the second Wednesday in October as Emergency Nurses Day, a day set aside to honor emergency nurses for their commitment to patient care. Starting in 2001, because 1 day is simply not enough to recognize all contributions made by emergency nurses, the Emergency Nurses Association expanded the celebration to devote an entire week to honoring emergency nursing.

This week is particularly important as evidenced by a survey conducted by the Emergency Nurses Association last year showing that 86 percent of emergency nurses had been victims of assault on the job at least once in the past 3 years. Nonetheless, a vast majority say they will continue to be emergency nurses in the years to come. This is a noble profession practiced by noble women and men and they deserve our recognition and thanks.

Emergency Nurses Day is Wednesday, October 10, and this year's theme, "Stepping into their lives when they need you the most" reflects the dedication of emergency nurses in the United States and around the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Emergency Nurses Association for its work to define the future of emergency nursing and emergency care. Founded in 1970, the Emergency Nurses Association serves as the voice of nearly 33,000 members and their patients.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I encourage all of our colleagues to help spread the word about the critical importance of nursing to our Nation's health care system. Also, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me and my cochair, Congressman STEVE LATOURETTE, in the work of the House Nursing Caucus.

I thank my colleagues for their attention to this important public health issue and again am pleased to recognize October 10 as Emergency Nurses Day and this week, October 7 through October 13, as Emergency Nurses Week.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE DIVERSITY ASSURANCE ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that Senator DANIEL AKAKA will be joining me today in introducing the Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act. The act addresses the extremely important issue of diversity in the Senior Executive Service, SES. Senator AKAKA and I plan to continue our collaboration in the future, introducing additional legislation that will make a difference in the lives of Federal employees.

Our introduction of the Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act would not have been possible without the hard work of the African American Federal Executives Association, the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives, the Asian American Government Executives Network, Federally Employed Women, Blacks in Government, and the Senior Executive Association. I applaud them for not only raising the lack of diversity in the SES as an issue but for devoting their time and energy to work with our subcommittees to rectify it.

The lack of diversity in the SES has been a longstanding concern of mine. As a first step toward doing something about it, I asked the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to investigate the situation. GAO subsequently issued two reports—in 2001 and 2003. Both reports documented a poorly diversified SES. The 2003 report was entitled "Senior Executive Service: Enhanced Agency Efforts Needed To Improve Diversity as the Senior Corps Turns Over" (GAO-03-34). As the title suggests, this report revealed that while there will be a large amount of turnover in the SES in the years ahead due to retirements and attrition, it will not result in greater racial diversity. While there are numerous minorities in the pipeline ready to be promoted, to few are being given the opportunity to advance. Well, you might ask, why not, and what can be done about it?