

FLOOR STATEMENT HONORING OUR NATION'S WOUNDED SOLDIERS

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor over 20 brave men and women of our armed forces that were wounded in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan and enjoyed some rest and relaxation in Fort Myers last weekend.

The soldiers are currently recuperating at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and came to Fort Myers for the weekend because one man, Cliff Naylor, wanted to show his appreciation for the sacrifices these soldiers have made.

Mr. Naylor was injured himself during the Vietnam War. During his recovery, he spent a restful weekend in Miami, thanks to the hospitality of local organizations in the area. Now, 30 years later, Mr. Naylor repaid the same favor to a group of Iraq and Afghanistan war soldiers in his hometown.

Thanks to the generosity and kindness of the people of Fort Myers, these heroes were able to enjoy some much-deserved rest as well as some of what Southwest Florida has to offer, including our sunny weather and beautiful beaches. Local businesses and veterans organizations, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, offered free meals, lodging, transportation, and activities for each soldier. The entire weekend would not have been possible without the support and generosity of these businesses and organizations, and in particular, Mr. John Ebling, the Director of Veterans Services for Lee County, who assisted with preparations for the event.

I was fortunate to have met these gracious soldiers during a special event that was held in their honor on Monday. I was struck by their perseverance, determination, and commitment to their fellow soldiers. Their strength and hope is an inspiration to us all, and I hope they were able to feel the love and appreciation of our grateful community.

The 24 soldiers that Fort Myers honored with its generosity are: SFC Edgar Abrams, SSG Bernard Behrens, SSG Gregory Burton, SPC Amos Casillas-Hernandez, SPC Denver Dalton, SPC Crystal Davis, SSG Kevin Elliott, 1SG Joseph Gardocki, SPC Ephraim Giron, SGT Matthew Goodwin, SGT Joseph Gose, SPC Nash Marlow, SSG Paul Mullis, CPT Simon Obeng, SPC Andres Perez, SSG Hugh Pettigrew, SGT Tommy Richardson, SFC Corey Robinson, CPL David Rodrigue, SGT Scott VanNatta, SPC Marcus Varnell, SSG Carl Watson, SGT Safari Williams, and SSG Calvin Wilson.

Madam Speaker, I join all the people of Southwest Florida in thanking these courageous men and women for their service to our Nation. They've given so much in defense of our freedoms, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude for their personal sacrifices.

TRIBUTE TO ALLISON AND JERRY SOKOL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Allison and Jerry Sokol for their devotion and dedication to the south Florida Jewish community, Hadassah, and Israel. They are being honored by the Galim Chapter of Hadassah at their First Annual Benefit Dinner on Thursday, October 11, 2007.

Mr. Jerry Sokol has been extremely active in numerous charitable and community endeavors for many years. Mr. Sokol co-founded the Future Generation Division of the International Israel Bonds Organization and has been bestowed volunteer leadership positions in the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, the Israel Bonds Organization, the Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI) program, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee, and the Miami Beach Jewish Community Center. Mr. Sokol is currently spearheading the efforts to raise the funds to build a brand new state of the art facility for the Miami Beach Jewish Community.

In addition to his work for the Jewish Community, Mr. Sokol contributes substantial time to a number of community causes. He is currently a Member of the City of Miami Beach Parks and Recreation Board and dedicates a considerable amount of time to coaching youth football and basketball. Professionally, Mr. Sokol is a Partner with the International law firm of McDermott, Will & Emery and is currently a Board Certified Healthcare Lawyer as well as a licensed CPA.

Mrs. Allison Sokol has been very active in a number of Jewish organizations most of her adult life. Mrs. Sokol's charitable involvement began right out of college, where she co-founded the Future Generation Division of Israel Bonds which spread nation wide. She was also part of the inception of Survivor Alone, an organization dedicated to helping Holocaust Survivors who currently live below poverty level. Mrs. Sokol currently contributes and volunteers with the Miami Beach Jewish Community Center, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, the Beth David Gordon Day School Board, as well as the Miami Beach Fine Arts Board.

Over the past several years, Mrs. Sokol has been a member of Ort America, Mount Sinai's Young President's Board, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee and the New World Symphony. Mrs. Sokol is also a Lifetime member of Hadassah and a founding member of the South Miami chapter of Hadassah.

After being a partner in two very successful business ventures, Manamana, a successful children's clothing manufacturer and Magic Box, one of the largest network integration companies in the Southeastern United States, Allison and Jerry Sokol started a family and are the proud parents of four children: Jake, Sophie, Caroline and Isaac.

It is a privilege to rise in honor of their tremendous philanthropic efforts and commitment to our community that has made such a positive impact on the 17th Congressional District.

HONORING 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF ANNUAL FLORESVILLE PEANUT FESTIVAL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 63rd anniversary of the Annual Floresville Peanut Festival, which celebrates the farming and harvesting of the peanut crop in Wilson County.

The Floresville Peanut Festival was first established on July 29, 1938, and has been held on the second full weekend in October every year since its inception. It is a grand celebration that recognizes the importance of the peanut as a crop staple to the South Texas agricultural community. The festival is started with the annual Goober Games on Tuesday afternoon, which is held on the grounds of the court house in Floresville, followed by the coronation of the Queen Tunaep and the Royal Court during the carnival on Thursday. Each member of the Royal Court receives a scholarship from the Floresville Peanut Festival Association.

On Friday, the full festivities begin for the weekend with rides, food booths, and the Kiddie Parade, in which the children of the City of Floresville are given the chance to show off their floats and costumes. Saturday marks the Grand Peanut Festival Parade, and the day's activities also include the annual raffle, arts and crafts vendors, dance groups, and other forms of entertainment that take place in the town square. The Floresville Peanut Festival has drawn in thousands of visitors from all over the great State of Texas, and other states, to celebrate the peanut as one of the most important crops in South Texas.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 63rd anniversary of the Annual Floresville Peanut Festival, and I thank you for this time.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TODD O'MALLEY FOR HIS TENURE AS PRESIDENT OF WORKERS INJURY LAW & ADVOCACY GROUP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Mr. O'Malley has shown an extraordinary commitment to his community by serving millions of workers across the United States in need of legal assistance through the Workers Injury Law and Advocacy Group (WILG) where he has been president; and

Whereas, Mr. O'Malley has demonstrated values of hard work and service throughout his life, always maintaining a positive outlook; and

Whereas, Mr. O'Malley has served as the Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America; and

Whereas, Mr. O'Malley serves on the Board of Directors of the Executive Committee for Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers and is a counsel member of the Workers' Compensation section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; and

Whereas, Mr. O'Malley is currently a member of the Board of Directors for Interfaith Workers Justice, a group that uses faith and education to bring awareness about issues concerning wages, rights and benefits for hard-working people; and

Whereas, Mr. O'Malley has 30 years of experience and a very successful track record of helping workers and their families; be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Todd O'Malley on a lifetime of service. We recognize the tremendous impact he has had in his community and in the lives of those people he has touched.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE TOWN OF GOLDSTON, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Centennial celebration of the town of Goldston, North Carolina in my congressional district. Goldston was settled in 1884 and became a charter town in Chatham County in 1907.

When Goldston was settled in 1884 it was first named Corinth, the name of a local church. The town was developed soon after the railroad began operating through the area in 1884. The town is located on a spur of the Norfolk Southern Railway that runs between Greensboro and Sanford. The railroad has been historically important to the growth of the town. The area is also an interconnection point for the Aberdeen, Carolina and Western Railway. Much of the rail traffic that comes through town is composed of grain hopper cars going to local poultry feed mills.

Corinth was later renamed Goldston in honor of Joseph John Goldston who donated the land for the railway station and made other substantial contributions toward the development of the town. Some of the early business enterprises were Bynum & Paschal, A.J. Goldston's general store, W.E. Goldston & Co. Goldston has always been a predominately rural town and most of the business and industry over the years has been centered on the area's agricultural heritage, mainly the poultry industry. Goldston had its first post office by 1889 with N.F. Barber as postmaster. Goldston soon became a trading center for the surrounding region and has long had a substantial lumber business. The town became incorporated February 20, 1907, at which time Walter L. Goldston became interim mayor until elections were held later that year.

Small towns like Goldston, NC are the heart and soul of America. Here, folks learn early values like hard work, faith in God and country and support of one another. These characteristics help make the Second District of NC such a special place to live, work, and raise a family.

Madam Speaker, the Town of Goldston has a rich history with strong family ties. It is an honor to represent this great town and it is fitting that we take a moment today to honor the Centennial celebration of the Town of Goldston.

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD INTRODUCTION OF CLEAN WATER ACT RESOLUTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to join with Representatives VERN EHLERS, JAMES OBERSTAR, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, JOHN DUNCAN, JOHN DINGELL, WAYNE GILCHREST, JOHN HALL, and others to introduce a resolution honoring the 35th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

Nothing is more critical than water, which has always been essential to our survival. It sustains human life, and its patterns have dictated the development of species and ecosystems.

Passed in 1972, the Clean Water Act has been one of our nation's most successful environmental laws. Even as the population of the United States has increased by close to 50 percent, our waterways have shown dramatic improvement in water quality. In 1972, only one-third of the country's waters met water quality goals—today two-thirds do.

However, with one-third of the country's waters still not meeting water quality goals, we cannot simply rest on our laurels. The issues confronting us today and over the next 35 years are even more complex. Our demand for water, coupled with its destructive potential, magnifies our past challenges. There are 6.5 billion people already on the planet and the population is expected to reach 9 billion or more by mid-century, with all of the additional population concentrated in metropolitan areas.

In addition, recent studies have documented a declining Federal investment in our Nation's water infrastructure systems, despite growing needs. Over 72,000 miles of pipes in this country were put in the ground over 80 years ago and are increasingly in need of repair. Our decaying water infrastructure was recently given a grade of D- by the American Society of Civil Engineers. I believe we need a sustainable, reliable, and dedicated revenue source that will help communities address these important needs.

Clean water is critical to environmental and public health; but it can also play an important role in bringing people together. As shown by this resolution, clean water is not a partisan issue. Recent polling has shown that more than eight in ten Americans are very or somewhat concerned that America's water will not be clean or safe for their children or grandchildren. Eighty-nine percent of Americans say that "federal investment to guarantee clean and safe water is a critical component of our nation's environmental well-being."

This is why I am pleased, in recognizing the success of the last 35 years, that we have the opportunity to recommit ourselves to the goals and objectives of the Clean Water Act, dedicate ourselves to working toward a sustainable, long-term solution to the Nation's decaying water infrastructure, and encourage the public to do the same.

I hope the House will move quickly on this important statement in support of clean and safe water.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 949 and 950, I missed these votes because my flight to Washington arrived after votes had concluded.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSISTANCE TAX ACT

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, 46 years ago, space was the next frontier and President Kennedy focused our Nation on the space outside our planet's atmosphere.

Today's Apollo mission is focused right here on planet Earth. Our challenge is the Renewable Energy Revolution. And nowhere is that call to action being answered better than in Southern Arizona's "Solar-con Valley."

In my home state we are once again proving that American innovation can meet any challenge. There, the leading solar experts who compose my Solar Advisory Council published a detailed assessment of Southern Arizona's solar landscape from research to market development and consumer awareness. Building on some of their recommendations, today I am introducing the Renewable Energy Assistance Tax Act.

My bill ensures that we do not let the sunset on valuable tax incentives for consumers and businesses who invest in renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies.

By extending these tax credits for 8 years, we will spur the innovation and investment vital to creating a reliable market for new solar technology.

Please join me answering this call to action and supporting solar and energy efficient technology.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING DON MYERS ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE FARM SCIENCE REVIEW HALL OF FAME

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Don Myers is appreciated for his dedication and contributions to Farm and Science Review; and

Whereas, he has been described as one of Farm Science Review's, "original three musketeers"; and

Whereas, he is recognized for his research and educational programs; and

Whereas, he has served the organization and his community selflessly and tirelessly; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Don Myers on his