

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING DR. MARION DOWNS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, Dr. Marion Downs, who has dedicated her life to the service of caring for disabled children.

Marion Downs is a Professor Emerita at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Her laborious efforts and dedication have led her to publish numerous articles and lecture on the topic of hearing loss within infants. She has received copious awards including two gold medals of achievement, one from the University of Colorado and one from the University of Minnesota. In addition, her name adorns The Marion Downs National Center for Infant Hearing which was established to honor Dr. Downs and provide a venue for the continuation of her research and work.

In appreciation of her accomplishments, Dr. Downs has been awarded with the Highest Recognition Award from the Department of Health and Human Services. This award is given to distinguished citizens who have made substantial life-changing advances to the physically handicapped within society. Dr. Downs has made considerable contributions towards the national screening of newborns with real or potential hearing disabilities through early detection methods.

Madam Speaker, we are truly privileged to have individuals who dedicate their lives to others. Dr. Marion Downs is one such individual. It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge her and all of her outstanding achievements.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF HIGHLAND VILLAGE, TEXAS FOR BEING NAMED THE SAFEST CITY IN TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Highland Village, Texas for being named the safest city in Texas.

Highland Village has been named the safest community in north Texas for the past 5 years straight and is now also the safest city in the entire State of Texas. A report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports shows that Highland Village has the lowest index crime rate and the lowest violent and property crime rate for 2006.

Mayor Dianne Costa attributes this award to the outstanding work of the Highland Village police officers and the citizens of Highland Village and their efforts to keep the city safe.

The police department utilizes a community-policing model, which focuses on a proactive approach through crime prevention and education.

I extend my sincere congratulations to the city of Highland Village, Texas for their great achievement. I thank Mayor Costa and the Highland Village police officers in their continued effort to keep the community of Highland Village as safe as possible. It is an honor to have such a great city in the 26th district of Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. GINI BRITTON

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise with Representative MIKE ROGERS of Michigan to honor and acknowledge the distinguished life of Gini Britton, who entered God's eternal paradise far too soon for those of us she leaves behind.

A devoted wife, mother, and friend, Gini dedicated her life to her family and her community. She married her husband Dick on September 4, 1976, and the couple bore their first child, Michelle, in 1980. In 1985, their second daughter, Bridget, was born. The family would soon move to Northville Township, Michigan and Gini decided to enter public service.

In the early 1990s, she was elected to the Northville Township Board of Trustees. As a member of the board of trustees she developed a legendary reputation for the promotion of effective governance and constituent service.

Gini continued her selfless service to her community as a community liaison and assistant to several Members of Congress, including myself and Representative MIKE ROGERS. Her moral and compassionate character made her not only an exceptional employee, but a great friend and a genuine blessing to the State of Michigan.

In 2005, Gini battled breast cancer, and Dick, Michelle and Bridget stood by her side through chemotherapy and at every major consultation or procedure as she fought to defeat the disease. Her unfaltering bravery is an example for all of us.

Madam Speaker, on Thursday, October 4, 2007, Gini Britton passed away. For 56 years, Gini enriched the lives of everyone she met; and, by her absence, we are all diminished. I ask my colleagues to join me and Representative ROGERS in mourning her passing; extending our deepest sorrow to all she loved and all who loved her; and commemorating her lifetime of bringing joy to those whose lives she touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on October 10, 2007, due to a personal obligation, I missed the following recorded votes: Roll No. 959, on the Motion to Recommit on H.R. 3056—Tax Collection Responsibility Act—Motion to Recommit; had I been present, I would have voted “nay”; and Roll No. 960, on H.R. 3056—Tax Collection Responsibility Act; had I been present, I would have voted “aye”.

COMMEMORATING JERI MILSTEAD'S RECEIPT OF CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MARCY KAPTR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Ms. KAPTR. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the distinguished career of Dr. Jeri A. Milstead, professor and dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Toledo in Ohio. Dr. Milstead is to be honored by her peers at the University of Toledo Medical Center with a Career Achievement Award. The Career Achievement Award is bestowed upon senior faculty who are well respected for exceptional academic achievements, strong leadership and who have established prominence in their area of expertise. Recipients are also recognized for outstanding citizenship and the tremendous impact they have had on the institution and the community throughout their career. Dr. Milstead epitomizes these criteria.

Jeri Milstead is internationally known as an expert in public policy and the politics of health care and serves as a health policy expert to the International Council of Nurses in Geneva, Switzerland. She is the editor and senior author of *Health Policy and Politics, A Nurse's Guide*, 3rd ed. that is sold on three continents and *Handbook of Nursing Leadership: Creative Skills for a Culture of Safety*. Dr. Milstead was a policy advisor in the Washington, DC office of Senator DANIEL K. INOUYE, was president of the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, and held leadership positions in the State Nurses Associations in Ohio, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. Her research focused on needle exchange programs in the United States and the Netherlands. She has published in national and international journals, is a reviewer for several refereed nursing journals and was editor-in-chief of *The International Nurse* from 1995 to 2006 when the publication was retired.

Dr. Milstead holds a PhD in Political Science with majors in health policy and comparative politics from the University of Georgia, an MS and BS, cum laude, in nursing

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

from The Ohio State University and a diploma from Mt. Carmel Hospital School of Nursing. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (1600 invited members out of 2.9 million RNs). She is a member of Zeta Theta At-Large chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (the international honor society of nursing) and in 2002 became a charter member of Rho Chi, the first European chapter. She also is a founding member of the Nightingale Policy Institute, a virtual gathering of experienced nurses in the U.S. policy arena. Dr. Milstead received the Gamma Mu Chapter Award for Excellence in Nursing. She also received the first Search for Excellence Award from the American Nurses Association/South Carolina Nurses Association and was honored by the South Carolina General Assembly for her leadership and service. She was awarded a Duquesne University Creative Teaching Award in 1998 for her pioneering work in designing and implementing the first online course taught in the first PhD in Nursing program in the world that is offered completely online. Dr. Milstead served three terms on the AACN Government Affairs Committee, is serving a second term on the Health Policy Council of ONA, and is a member of the Expert Panel on Global Health for the American Academy of Nursing. She was appointed in 2005 to the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority and was a member of a trade delegation to China in April 2006. She and a team of educators evaluated BSN programs in Jordan in November 2006.

Many in our community have sought Dr. Milstead's counsel and leadership, particularly in nursing and psychiatric nursing, but also in matters of health care policy. She is a compassionate and gifted leader who guides people by her own example. She has a deep understanding of the nuances of health care delivery from all perspectives, and is skilled at negotiating the complex system. Her sterling talents, dedication to our community and its health, and commitment to health worldwide have earned her this well-deserved recognition. I am pleased to offer my personal congratulations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately today, October 10, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on the Motion to Re-commit with Instructions on H.R. 3056 and passage of H.R. 3056 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 959 on the Motion to Re-commit with Instructions on H.R. 3056, the Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 960 on passage of H.R. 3056, the Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye."

RESOLVING THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, finding an internationally-acknowledged name for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) is an issue that threatens the peace of the Balkans and the stability of the region.

Particularly troubling is the ongoing insensitivity displayed by officials of FYROM with respect to provocative propaganda and rhetoric that is offensive to Greece.

The latest example of this occurred on September 25, when Dr. Srgjan Kerim, President of the United Nations General Assembly and a native of FYROM, introduced to the Assembly, FYROM's President as "President of the Republic of Macedonia."

Resolution of this issue could bring substantial stability to the region and pave the way for further integration of FYROM into the international community.

I would therefore like to bring to the House's attention excerpts from the following article that appeared in the September 27, 2007 issue of *The National Interest* by His Excellency Alexandros P. Mallias, Ambassador of Greece to the United States.

When U.N. General Assembly president H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim, a native of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), introduced on September 25 the president of his home country, Mr. Branko Crvenkovski, he implied that the national interest of FYROM prevails over his duties to the UN body. He therefore addressed Mr. Crvenkovski as the "President of the Republic of Macedonia."

Some people may think that what happened in the UN constitutes a minor or isolated incident. Nevertheless, this is not the case—this has deeper roots both on a regional and international level. Challenging UN resolutions and decisions and ignoring commitments undertaken through international agreements, as FYROM has systematically done by violating the US-brokered Interim Accord with Greece, is a bad precedent. This is a violation of the principle of good-neighborly relations and puts sustained regional stability in jeopardy.

Dr. Kerim, obviously acting under instructions from his government, has irreparably damaged his standing and credibility as president of the General Assembly. He did not respect the resolutions of the body over which he is presiding nor of the Security Council of the United Nations, the organization he has been called upon to serve.

The actions of Dr. Kerim and FYROM are a clear indication of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's lack of respect for international law and international institutions. They are also a blunt violation of the US-brokered Interim Accord.

Many Americans may think this is a minor issue. But the history of the region, not to mention of Europe as a whole, demonstrates that whenever irredentist claims are left unaddressed, the seeds of future conflicts are sown. Europe today is governed by the rule of law; the completion of the European project in the Balkans—and the extension of a zone of peace and prosperity—rest upon the willingness of governments to live up to their international commitments. Obligations are like a tapestry; even pulling on

what might appear to outsiders to be a small and insignificant thread can end up unraveling the entire work. We have too much invested in the stability of the region to allow this to happen.

TAX COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 3056, the Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007. I find myself in the awkward position of opposing the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, but we are being asked to eliminate the Internal Revenue Service, IRS, program to collect past-due income taxes without an alternative. This program involves the collection of millions of tax dollars, and there are no plans in place to collect this money if the program were to be killed. There are no plans to collect the millions of dollars needed to close the tax gap. Additionally, there is also no alternative to finding employment for the countless disabled veterans and severely disabled Americans.

Before we eliminate this program, there should be an alternative in place. Our colleague in the other body, Senator BEN NELSON of Nebraska, has introduced an initiative that would take the IRS program and use it to create meaningful employment for persons with disabilities and disabled veterans. The Disability Preference Program for Tax Collection Contracts would give an incentive to private third-party collection companies to hire people with severe disabilities and provide them with quality jobs.

Mr. Speaker, one in ten Americans has a disability. While the current unemployment rate in the Nation stood at 4.7 percent in September, the low employment rate of persons with disabilities continues to hover at 70–80 percent. The high number of returning disabled American veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan will only serve to compound this problem.

Currently, there are not enough jobs to provide gainful employment for the severely disabled veterans with only a high school GED. The Disability Preference Program would serve to alleviate the lack of meaningful employment opportunities for these young men and women. Jobs with third-party debt collection agencies can translate to high-paying careers. These jobs pay anywhere from \$25,000 to \$150,000 including health and 401(k) benefits.

Under the provisions of the Disability Preference Program, an initial hire of 750 persons with disabilities would save the Federal Government close to \$350 million over ten years in Supplemental Security Income, SSI, and Disability Insurance, DI, benefits alone. This figure does not include the additional benefits associated with the hiring of people in the \$40,000 salary range. This landmark program would not only create well-paying jobs for our severely disabled Americans, it would save the Federal Government millions of dollars at no cost.