

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. DHARMAPURI VIDYASAGER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the service of a distinguished faculty member in the College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Dharmapuri Vidyasager currently serves as the Director of Neonatology and Co-Director of the Perinatal Center at UIC. Hired specifically to establish a Neonatal Intensive Care unit, he began his career with UIC as the Director of Newborn Nurseries in 1974. During the interim 33 years, he became a full professor in 1977 and served as the interim Head of the Department of Pediatrics in 1983. I seek to recognize Dr. Vidyasager today in anticipation of his retirement in November of this year.

Without question, Dr. Vidyasager has contributed significantly to the field of neonatology as a physician, a researcher, and an educator. From establishing the first neonatal care unit in the State of Illinois at Cook County Hospital in 1971 to helping decrease the Illinois infant mortality rate from 25 to 7 deaths per 1,000 births to aiding other nations in reducing neonatal and infant mortality, his medical work has had a substantial, direct effect on newborn children. Dr. Vidyasager's research on surfactant systems in lungs and the treatment of the hyaline membrane disease has proved quite essential to the major advancements that have taken place in the field of neonatology. In addition, Dr. Vidyasager has demonstrated a strong commitment to developing high caliber physicians. During his tenure, Dr. Vidyasager trained more than 70 neonatologists, some of whom are nationally and internationally known academicians. He was responsible for developing the UIC Medical Center's teaching program into one of the most highly recognized physician training centers. Further, he has conducted training sessions and provided free consultations on the establishment of modern neonatal intensive care units across the globe including—but not limited to—China, India, Poland, Lithuania, and Uzbekistan.

In 2006, Dr. Vidyasager's work was honored via his nomination for inclusion in the Castle Connolly Medical Ltd.'s Top Doctors of America and The Best Doctors Directory. His service to the field of neonatology, his patients, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and to the City of Chicago has been quite extraordinary. I honor his retirement in November 2007 with the words of Frederick Douglass as he once said, "Man's greatness consists in his ability to do and the proper application of his powers to things needed to be done." The accomplishments of Dr. Vidyasager over the last three decades have done a great deal to illustrate his greatness.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the Sacramento Public Library's 150 years of providing excellent service to Sacramento residents. In 1857 the Sacramento Library was established by community leaders and has grown to include 26 other branches and bookmobiles. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting 150 years of first-rate service provided by the Sacramento Public Library.

The Central Library, located in downtown Sacramento has evolved since Sacramento's leaders established it as the center for scholarly thought in the region in 1857. Led by the efforts of distinguished Sacramentans such as Leland Stanford, Charles Crocker, Collis Potter Huntington, Mark Hopkins and Newton Booth, the library officially opened on November 6, 1857. At its inception, the library originally served about 40 visitors per day and issued 150 books per week. A decade later the library association's prosperity continued to increase, and they were able to purchase a downtown lot on I Street. Eventually, through donations from the Carnegie Foundation and the city, the Central Library moved into the distinctive 3 story brick building on April 23, 1918. Today, the Central Library's vast collection has grown to include nearly 300,000 volumes, with more than 1,000 periodical subscriptions. Their catalog also includes special collections and a variety of historic government documents.

The Sacramento Public Library provides service to 1,269,000 residents in the Sacramento region making it the fifth largest library in California. Its extensive collection makes it the sixth largest library in terms of materials held. The library's 340 staff members help to operate the 27 branches. The library owns over 100,000 audio-visual items, subscribes to 4,000 periodicals and provides 345 technology workstations for public use.

In 1984, The Sacramento Public Library Foundation was created as a nonprofit corporation to encourage and support the benefits of the Sacramento Public Library. The Foundation has been instrumental in raising money to purchase books, computers, reading enrichment programs, bookmobiles, literacy classes, and after school homework centers. Without the \$7 million raised by the Foundation to date, many of these vital services would not be possible. The Foundation's strength stems from its wide support of over 16,000 donors who have been supportive of the Sacramento Public Library and its abundance of resources.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 150 years of service provided by the Sacramento Public Library. In the coming years

the library will continue to expand its collection and make its services more readily available to Sacramento residents. As the Sacramento Community and library's supporters gather to celebrate 150 years of success, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Sacramento Public Library.

NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS IN REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I recently led a bipartisan House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings in Reykjavik, Iceland, from October 5–October 9. The co-chair of my delegation was the Hon. JOHN SHIMKUS. In addition, Representatives JOHN BOOZMAN, JO ANN EMERSON, JEFF MILLER, DENNIS MOORE, RALPH REGULA, MIKE ROSS, DAVID SCOTT, ELLEN TAUSCHER, and TOM UDALL, and staff, worked to make these meetings a success in the examination of a number of front-line NATO issues.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly brings together members of parliament from all 26 allied states. In addition, observer delegations from such countries as Russia, Georgia, Macedonia, Croatia, and Albania bring a wide range of views to the table in discussion of issues of interest to Americans and Europeans. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly breaks into committees for presentation and discussion of reports by the parliamentary delegates. These sessions provide an opportunity to gauge the issues of greatest interest to NATO governments, and give our own Members not only the chance to voice their own views, but to understand the debates occurring in such key countries as Germany, France, and Britain.

There were several key issues that surfaced in the different committees. NATO's mission in Afghanistan was perhaps the most important. The future of Kosovo, now in the final stages of its quest for independence, was another. Enlargement of the alliance, an important subject of discussion at the coming NATO summit in Bucharest in April 2008, drew considerable attention. Other issues evident in the different committees were Russia's relations with the alliance, energy security, and missile defense.

I have been chairman of the Committee on Economics and Security, and was re-elected to that position in Reykjavik. I will take the opportunity to mention that Rep. BOOZMAN was also re-elected to serve another year as a rapporteur in that committee. Together with a Lithuanian member of parliament, he presented a well-received report on the rise of an east Asian economic system. There was also a report on trends in allied defense management in burdensharing. The report triggered a vigorous discussion of NATO's effort to stabilize Afghanistan. Forces from the United

● 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.

States, Britain, Canada, and the Netherlands bear the brunt of the fighting there, and there was an appeal for other member governments to contribute more troops and other resources. While there is widespread agreement in the alliance that stabilization of Afghanistan is a critical step in the effort to subdue terrorism, some governments with capable forces remain reluctant to put their troops in harm's way.

The Political Committee also saw a contentious debate over Afghanistan. A Canadian delegate ably presented a report calling for a reduction in caveats—the restrictions that some governments place on the use of their forces—and for more troops. There was also a report on NATO's efforts in the conflict against terrorism. The report laid out the good cooperation between the United States and the European Union in law-enforcement efforts to undercut terrorist financing schemes and to intercept terrorists as they move about the world; it also noted that NATO as an institution can bring political pressure to bear on governments around the world that support or turn a blind eye to terrorist activity on their soil. Another subject of vigorous debate was a resolution on the NATO-Russian relationship. The resolution was rightfully critical of Russia's efforts to intimidate such allies as Lithuania through cutoffs of energy supplies, and such friendly governments as Georgia by support for rebel groups within those governments' territories. The Russian delegates defended the actions of their government, and tried to water down the resolution. Mr. ROSS and Mr. UDALL strongly supported the key points of the resolution, which passed with nearly unanimous support from the delegates from the allied states. Mr. ROSS was elected as a rapporteur in the Political Committee, and will present a report on NATO and Iran at the spring meetings of the Parliamentary Assembly in Berlin.

The Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security saw the presentation of reports on Montenegro's role in the Balkans, and on the protection of critical infrastructure, such as oil pipelines and communications networks, in allied states. There were also two presentations by outside speakers that drew considerable interest. Mark Lowenthal, a former staff director of the House Intelligence Committee and later the Counselor at the CIA, made a well-defined presentation on intelligence, terrorism, and civil liberties. The delegates followed his presentation with a discussion of appropriate oversight of intelligence operations by parliaments in the effort to protect personal freedoms. Next, an Icelandic government minister gave a presentation on an emerging issue: as climate change causes the melting of part of the Arctic ice pack, claims by a number of states to seabed resources and the right to move through the "Northwest Passage" have begun to emerge. Transit through the Northwest Passage, if feasible, could reduce the voyage of petroleum tankers from the North Sea, for example, to Asia by approximately 4,000 miles. NATO governments have begun a quiet debate over how to provide security for ships using northern routes around Iceland and through possible sea lanes north of Canada.

Two members of our delegation assumed offices on the Committee on Civil Dimension of Security. JO ANN EMERSON was re-elected a vice-chair of the subcommittee on democratic governance, and DENNIS MOORE was elected vice-chair of the full committee.

The Committee on Science and Technology heard reports on a range of issues, the most

interesting being a report on climate change, and another on proliferation of missile technologies. The discussion on climate change, given the setting in Iceland where glaciers are reportedly melting with unforeseen rapidity, was vigorous and thoughtful. The discussion on proliferation led to a debate over missile defense. Rep. TAUSCHER made several crisp, clear interventions that outlined the U.S. debate over a prospective missile defense against Iran. She also provided a telling critique of a Russian delegate's wandering and often inaccurate presentation on elements of U.S. defense policy. The committee voted not to adopt the Russian delegate's report.

The Committee on Defense and Security also heard a debate, contentious at times, on NATO operations in Afghanistan. The British delegate who presented the report called on allied governments with minimal resources committed to Afghanistan to work to persuade their publics of the importance of the operations of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and to contribute more troops. The alliance needs more helicopters and combat troops, especially for rapid-response actions, in the areas of the country where the Taliban are active. There was also a report on the efforts of NATO's three candidate states—Croatia, Albania, and Macedonia—to receive invitations to enter the alliance at the upcoming Bucharest summit. It is evident that the three governments have made considerable progress in defense reform, but some European parliamentarians questioned their progress in democratic governance. It is by no means a certainty that all three governments will receive invitations at Bucharest. There was also a report on the trip to Afghanistan by a number of parliamentarians, including Rep. SHIMKUS, on the progress to date of the ISAF mission. Rep. SHIMKUS also gave a well-received report on NATO-EU coordination in security matters. He analyzed the positive steps in such coordination, as well as some of the shortfalls, including the difficulties encountered in NATO's efforts to provide security to the EU's important police-training mission in Afghanistan. Rep. SHIMKUS was elected a vice-chair of the subcommittee on transatlantic defense and security cooperation, and Rep. TAUSCHER was elected the chair of the subcommittee on future security and defense capabilities.

It should also be noted that Rep. EMERSON was elected a vice-president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to fill out the term of the late Paul Gillmor. This is a senior position that reflects her dedication to the Assembly's work and her evocation of the importance of the alliance to the United States.

One of the more valuable aspects of Assembly meetings is the opportunity afforded for side meetings with senior U.S. and European officials. Before we left for Reykjavik, we had a briefing on allied matters from our ambassador to NATO, Victoria Nuland, and from Daniel Fried of the State Department and Dan Fata from the Pentagon. Each outlined clearly some of the key issues facing the alliance. In Reykjavik, we had a private discussion with Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, the NATO Secretary General; we discussed Afghanistan, enlargement, and Kosovo's future, as well as other issues. The U.S. ambassador to Iceland, Carol van Voorst, and her staff provided insight into and advice on U.S.-Icelandic relations. We also held a private meeting with the Macedo-

nian foreign minister, Antonio Milososki, where there was a good discussion of his country's efforts to qualify for NATO membership. Before our departure for Reykjavik, staff also held a meeting in Washington with representatives of the Croatian government to discuss Zagreb's efforts to qualify for membership. It must be said that one of the great values of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly is the opportunity to meet our counterparts from the parliaments of allied states. The chance to learn national and regional perspectives provides our own delegation with insights into key allied issues, and how we might resolve a range of questions of great importance to U.S. security.

I wish to add that this was the first meeting in many years that we were without our friend, the late Rep. Paul Gillmor. He had been my delegation co-chair since the beginning of the 110th Congress, and we conducted many meetings together, in harmony and friendship. He served in a number of offices in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and was always the voice of reason and judiciousness. He was widely admired, not only here in the United States, but by his Assembly colleagues across the political spectrum. There was a moving tribute to his memory during the plenary session of the Assembly on October 9. He will be greatly missed.

As always, our military personnel played an important role in the success of the delegation's trip. The air crew came from the 1st Airlift Squadron, which is part of the 89th Airlift Wing located at Andrews Air Force Base. They are all on active duty. In addition, three Air Force active duty personnel and one reservist served as our congressional escort team. All worked long hours to ensure that our trip went smoothly. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL LABOR-MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Former President Clinton once said, "Only by changing the nature of federal labor-management relations, so that managers, employees, and employees' representatives serve as partners, will it be possible to design and implement comprehensive changes necessary to government." With this ideal in mind, I am proud to introduce the Federal Labor-Management Partnership Act of 2007, the Act.

The Act codifies Executive Order 12871, signed by former President Clinton in 1993. During its implementation, labor-management partnerships created a co-equal forum for managers and labor representatives to negotiate, plan, and exercise collective bargaining and effective decision-making. The impetus behind the Executive Order was recognition of the need to transform hostile, adversarial labor-management relationships into valuable problem solving partnerships. This method of bilateral affiliation proved to be successful for the civil service. It helped boost employee morale, and aided agencies in improving and upholding their service missions.