

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 PARTNER- SHIP 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.

The need to re-establish labor-management partnerships is clear. In many Government agencies there is a lack of trust exhibited between managers, employees, and their representatives. This has created a morale problem at many mission critical agencies; including the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, which was named in a recent study by the Office of Personnel Management as having the lowest level of morale in the Federal Government.

Now, more than ever, the American people expect Government to lead by example. Therefore, it is imperative to restore labor-management partnerships. Partnership is a proven practice that works. Partnership gives added value to the federal workforce; and it is my fervent belief that partnership is essential for a more productive civil service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BEVERLY A.
SCOTT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Beverly A. Scott's service as General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of the Sacramento Regional Transit District. Dr. Scott leaves a lasting legacy in Sacramento and she will be deeply missed. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest public servants.

Dr. Scott has been a tireless advocate for public transportation. After earning a doctorate in political science from Howard University, she started her career in 1977 at Texas Southern University as one of four national recipients of a Carnegie Foundation Fellowship. Dr. Scott went on to work as the general manager at the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority as well as holding executive management positions with transit agencies in New York, New Jersey and Washington, DC. In New York, Dr. Scott was the first woman appointed vice president of surface transit and she was responsible for the daily transit operations of New York and Staten Island Rail.

With such an accomplished past, Dr. Scott joined the Sacramento Regional Transit District in October of 2002 and increased morale immediately. Using a variety of tools, Dr. Scott created a new strategic plan involving a wide variety of partners, both inside and outside of Regional Transit's organization. Under her leadership, the Regional Transit successfully expanded light rail to Sunrise Boulevard, followed by an extension to the City of Folsom. Light rail has also expanded in downtown Sacramento to the Amtrak station.

Dr. Scott played an instrumental role in the renewal of Measure A, which provides local funding for mass transit and transportation priorities. For the past 3 years, Regional Transit has been awarded a financial accountability award of excellence for their improved budget reporting, and fiscal management. Dr. Scott also created the Regional Transit University to improve employee training. With Transit Etiquette Program forums and the restructuring of RT's Mobility Advisory Committee Dr. Scott's leadership has helped Regional Transit serve all of us in Sacramento that use public transit.

The Sacramento Regional Transit District, also known as RT, has recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of light rail. RT operates a comprehensive public transit system that includes 97 bus routes and 37 miles of light rail, covering a 418 square-mile service area. Buses and light rail run 365 days a year from 5 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., giving riders ample opportunities to utilize their services. Using 76 light rail vehicles, 254 buses powered by compressed natural gas and 17 shuttle vans, RT is not only affordable and convenient but also environmentally friendly.

Personally, Dr. Scott has been a pleasure to work with. Her compassion and spirit has made her a wonderful addition to the Sacramento community as well. She is a caring, smart and thoughtful administrator, who knows how to be tough when needed. I have been told that she is affectionately known as "Hurricane Bev" for her energy, enthusiasm and dedication to getting the job done, while those who work with her also call her "Mummy."

For her work in Sacramento and across the Nation, Dr. Scott has received numerous awards, including awards from the U.S. Department of Transportation, American Public Transportation Association, National Business League, Women's Transportation Seminar, Rhode Island Professional Engineers Society, Sierra Club, Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, the Urban League, City Year, and Paratransit.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. Beverly A. Scott's distinguished commitment to Sacramento's public transportation. Dr. Scott has stood as an instrumental force behind the advancement of the Sacramento Regional Transit District and has helped improve the overall quality of life for generations to come. We all are thankful for her efforts. As Dr. Scott's colleagues, family and friends gather to honor her service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing her continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT THOMAS NEWTON ON
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to recognize SMSgt Tom Newton for his 24 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he serves as the Superintendent, Office of Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force, where he is responsible for Air Force legislative matters and facilitating worldwide Congressional travel. As you know, Madam Speaker, Sergeant Newton has professionally served as your escort for two Congressional delegations this year and a dozen other delegation trips around the world since 2004.

Prior to June 2004, he was the Chief, Workgroup Manager for Headquarters Security Forces, Pentagon, responsible to the Director for network security, antiterrorism, force protection, and supporting Operation Global

Eagle. From 1998 to 2001, Sergeant Newton was the Information Management Superintendent for the Force Structure, Resources, and Assessments (J-8) Directorate, Joint Staff, Pentagon. He served as Deputy Executive and facilitated multiple Joint Warfighting Capabilities Assessments on behalf of the Director. Prior to January 1998, he served as Instructor, Information Management Craftsmen Course at Keesler AFB in Mississippi, where he earned Master Instructor Certification. Sergeant Newton began his illustrious career at the 4th Wing, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC, where he directly supported the 4404th Provisional Wing during Operation Desert Storm/Shield.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to SMSgt Tom Newton for his outstanding service to both legislative branches and our United States Air Force. We wish him the best as he transitions into a new career. Senior Master Sergeant Newton is a true professional and a credit to himself and the United States Air Force.

CODELS FOR SMSGT NEWTON

2004

CODEL Bilirakis—Athens, Greece/Venice, Italy (7-16 Nov).

2005

CODEL Shimkus—St. Louis, Missouri (26-28 Jan).

CODEL Bilirakis—Brussels, Belgium/Paris, France/London, UK (18-28 Feb).

CODEL King—Vienna, Austria/Aman, Jordan/Tel Aviv, Israel/Cairo, Egypt/Rabat, Morocco (30 Jul-7 Aug).

SPEAKER Hastert—Glasgow, Scotland/Luxembourg (15-20 Sep).

2006

CODEL Hefley—San Diego, California (25-29 Jan).

CODEL Hefley—Brussels, Belgium/Paris, France/London, UK (17-28 Feb).

CODEL Goodlatte—Denver, Colorado/San Angelo, Texas (7-9 May).

CODEL Young—Alaska (29 Jul-6 Aug).

2007

SPEAKER Pelosi—Jerusalem, Israel/Damascus, Syria/Riyadh, Saudi Arabia/Lisbon, Portugal (29 Mar-7 Apr).

CODEL Tanner—Lisbon, Portugal/Tunis, Tunisia/Rabat, Morocco (24 May-3 Jun).

SPEAKER Pelosi—New Orleans, Louisiana (12-15 Aug).

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW
RICHARD WILL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Matthew Richard Will, a father, husband, firefighter, and hero who died recently in the line of duty helping to protect the people he had sworn to serve.

Matthew Will was a Heavy Fire Equipment Operator for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as Cal Fire. Will started his career with Cal Fire in 2003 and recently graduated from the department's fire academy in Lone. He was assigned to the Hollister Air Attack Base in Cal Fire's San Benito-Monterey Unit.

Earlier this month a house fire broke out in the heavily wooded and rugged area of Big