

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HIRE A VETERAN WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 5, which would direct the President to establish Hire a Veteran Week.

As a veteran, I want to thank my colleague, Representative HOLT, for introducing this resolution on behalf of our brave troops who fight for our freedom.

Madam Speaker, unemployment rates for veterans in their twenties are almost twice as high as their civilian peers.

This is unacceptable.

We're sending 18- and 19-year-olds to fight in a mistaken war in Iraq.

The least we can do is make sure that they have a good job when they come home.

The system is broken, Madam Speaker. And our veterans are paying the price.

Our veterans show us excellence in the battlefield—they will show us excellence in the workplace.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to give our veterans the dignity and respect they deserve.

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL GATHRIGHT

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Daniel Gathright, who passed away January 25, 2007, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Dan Gathright was a pillar of the community of Arkadelphia and of Southern Arkansas for decades. While attending school at Southern State College, now known as Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Dan worked as a dispatcher at the Magnolia Police Department. Upon graduating, he worked at Washington Regional Hospital in Fayetteville before being named Assistant Administrator at Crittenden Memorial Hospital in West Memphis. In 1979, Dan moved to Arkadelphia and joined the Baptist Medical System where he served as Administrator of Twin Rivers Medical Center. He was later named Administrator and Senior Vice President of Baptist Health where he served until his death.

Dan Gathright was a member of the First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia, the Arkadelphia Rotary, the Clark County American Red Cross and a Board Member of the Arkadelphia Chamber of Commerce. Dan also served as President of the Clark County United Way and

the Arkadelphia Band Boosters. His dedication to making Arkadelphia a better place to live could not have been greater. I am glad our paths crossed and I had the honor of knowing and working with Dan on health care issues.

My deepest condolences go to his wife, Shayron Looney Gathright of Warren; his son Michael Gathright of Frisco, Texas; his father, Archie Gathright of Magnolia; his sister Maretta Bullock of McNeil; and to his 2 grandchildren. Dan Gathright will be greatly missed in Arkadelphia and throughout the State of Arkansas.

COMMENDING DONALD HOFFPAUR

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the devoted service of Donald Hoffpaur to the people of Acadia Parish. Donald recently retired following twenty-two years of dedicated work in the Acadia Parish Tax Assessor's Office, where he served as a Personal Property Manager.

Throughout his career, Donald was known as a skilled and loyal manager, always willing to assist his co-workers and the many customers who called upon the tax assessor's office.

I ask my colleagues to join me and the people of Acadia Parish in wishing Donald Hoffpaur a happy retirement, and congratulating him for his invaluable accomplishments for the state of Louisiana.

EFFECT OF BUDGET RESOLUTION ON FORT KNOX

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. I rise to register my strong disappointment over the dramatic cuts made to the Military Construction account in this year's budget for military installations affected by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

I am proud to represent Fort Knox. The overwhelming support demonstrated by local citizens, base officials and elected leaders continues to cement Fort Knox's position as a premiere military installation surrounded by communities that are wonderful places to live, work and raise families.

As a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations, Fort Knox is presently transforming from an institutional training installation to a multi-functional installation that will include an active duty infantry brigade combat team and the Army's Human Resources Command.

Construction has already begun on base to align infrastructure and industry to accommo-

date these new military operations. Simultaneously, many of the communities that surround Fort Knox are preparing for the arrival of thousands of new military and civilian employees and their families; negotiating contracts for new homes, schools, businesses and road improvements. These are indeed exciting times for the region.

The Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 budgeted approximately 5.6 billion dollars for military construction at BRAC impacted bases. House Leaders are now proposing budget cuts that would reduce promised funding by approximately 3 billion dollars. This funding shortfall would seriously impede necessary preparations at a number of bases including Fort Knox, leaving the installation and community ill-equipped to accommodate requisite changes.

Democrat leaders moved unilaterally to cut these funds, contradicting Speaker PELOSI's pledge to ensure an "open, honest and full debate" on all matters before the House. If my colleagues and I in the minority were allowed due consideration in the process, preserving full funding would have been our top priority.

In the face of significant changes, Ft. Knox and other installations need our full commitment to provide in full resources that will allow them to set new standards of excellence and grow as an integral part of our nations defense capacities.

ADMINISTRATION INTERFERENCE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I gave the attached statement, in opposition to the Administration's interference in Climate Change science on January 30, 2007.

Hearing on "Political Interference with Science: Global Warming" January 30, 2007.

I want to first thank the Chairman for holding this hearing that, like so many other hearings we will be having, is long overdue. Global warming will be a defining issue of this generation and of many to come.

There is substantial scientific certainty around climate change. Scientists are confident that global warming is happening. Similarly, the vast majority of experts on the issue agree that human activities are to blame. If that was not obvious already, it will be after this week when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change releases its long awaited report.

The only uncertainty to be debated is the pace and intensity of warming that will face us. Will the pace of warming remain steady or accelerate predictably? Or can we expect

● 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.

more abrupt changes as enormous stores of methane hydrate, a gas with several times the heat retention capacity of carbon dioxide, is released from the ocean floor and expanses of permafrost? These gases are released as the natural mechanisms keeping them sequestered are broken down by warming. Permafrost melts. Ocean temperature and acidity rise. The historical record contains strong evidence that abrupt climate change has corresponded with a single release of vast stores of methane hydrate.

This uncertainty is real. It stands in stark contrast to the alleged uncertainties that have been manufactured by those who stand to profit by perpetuating the status quo as long as possible.

To resolve and manage the real uncertainty, we must have the best scientific information possible at our fingertips in order to weigh risks and benefits of all available policy responses. That is only one of the reasons that the casualness with which this Administration sends unqualified political appointees to edit scientific findings is so pernicious. It is also destructive because accurate information is the bedrock of any democratic society. Without it, citizens cannot hold their leaders accountable for their actions, or in this case, inactions.

Sadly, such distortion of the truth has a proven track record of effectiveness. Indeed an entire industry has been created to manufacture scientific doubt where there is none. It is a technique that was mainstreamed by the tobacco industry and refined by others who stand to profit from scientific obfuscation like the chemical industry and the pharmaceutical industry. In fact, an entire industry that specializes in creating scientific uncertainty has taken root. It consists of PR agencies, pseudo scientific consultants and well paid think tanks. The strategy not only works, but is profitable.

Making matters worse, today we will see evidence that the taxpayers have been subsidizing the distortion of the findings of world class scientists on the topic. At best, it is corporate welfare. At worst, it undermines democracy and puts the delicate ecosystems on which we all intimately depend, at risk. My hope is that this hearing marks the beginning of the end of this practice.

TRIBUTE TO HRANT DINK

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on January 19, 2007, Hrant Dink, a distinguished Armenian journalist, was shot dead outside the offices of his newspaper Agos in Istanbul, Turkey. A progressive voice of reason and hope for Armenians living in Turkey and around the world, Hrant Dink fought tirelessly to engage the Turkish community in open discussion of the many injustices Armenians have experienced in the past and present including the Genocide of 1915 and current human rights violations.

Hrant Dink struggled daily with the difficulties of disclosing the Armenian Genocide to the public in Turkey, yet he continued to make the difficult his lifelong passion. In his weekly columns, Dink often spoke of the complexities

he felt being an Armenian who happened to be a citizen of Turkey—a country that fails to acknowledge that the Armenian Genocide occurred. As a result, Dink was charged and convicted of insulting Turkey's identity. In October 2005, after writing about the Armenian Genocide, he was given a 6-month suspended sentence.

Hrant Dink was killed because he was a courageous and outspoken journalist and continued to write his columns in hopes of educating and informing the people of Turkey. As Turkey continues to evolve as a modern secular state, it must understand that democracy requires more than free elections; freedom of the press is essential.

I express my condolences to the family, and colleagues of Hrant Dink. He was a courageous, committed columnist, and a mentor and friend to many. He will be remembered and missed.

HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF STAFF SERGEANT EVERETT PATTON

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Army Staff Sergeant Everett Patton for his courageous service to our country during his recent deployment in Iraq. Staff Sergeant Patton, a resident of Owensboro, Kentucky, is currently recovering from severe burns at the Brooke Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas following an IED attack.

Staff Sergeant Patton began his military career in the United States Marine Corps. After a brief tenure working in civilian construction, Mr. Patton and his wife Christy enlisted in the Army in January 1999. He was first assigned as a Specialist in the heavy construction equipment operator field with C Company 5th Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Staff Sergeant Patton reenlisted in 2002 and was placed in the 562nd Engineer Company in Alaska as squad leader. He was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in July 2005 for his first six-month tour as part of the 172nd Stryker Brigade. He returned to Iraq for a second tour in 2006.

While operating a bulldozer, Staff Sergeant Patton struck an IED that exploded and quickly engulfed his vehicle in flames. Gratefully, he survived the explosion but suffered severe burns over almost 70% of his body.

Staff Sergeant Patton is making a remarkable recovery in the burn unit at Brooke Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. On January 29th, he was honored with the Purple Heart Award. He remains in high spirits with the love and support of his wife and five children.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Staff Sergeant Patton for selflessly standing in harm's way to protect our freedom and way of life. His courage and sacrifice represent the very best of what it means to be a United States soldier and citizen.

It is my great privilege to recognize Staff Sergeant Everett Patton today, before the en-

tire U.S. House of Representatives, for his generous service and unflinching duty to our great country. My colleagues and I wish him a quick return to good health.

IN MEMORY OF NATHAN BARRETT

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Nathan Barrett, who passed away January 25, 2007, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Nathan Barrett was a pillar of the community of Warren and Bradley County for decades. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, Nathan returned to Warren where he was the owner and operator of Barrett-Pirtle Pharmacy since 1960. In 1964, Nathan received the A.H. Robins Bowl of Hygeia Award, one of the most prestigious professional pharmacy honors in Arkansas. In 2005, Nathan was honored by the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy for 50 years of service as a certified pharmacist.

Nathan was a member of the First Baptist Church of Warren where he served as Deacon, Sunday School Director and member of the choir. Nathan was also a member of the Warren Rotary Club, past President of the Bradley County Chamber of Commerce, an Eagle Scout and a member of Order of the Arrow in the Boy Scouts of America. His dedication to making Warren and South Arkansas a better place to live could not have been greater.

I am glad our paths crossed and that I had the honor of knowing Nathan and calling him my friend.

My deepest condolences go to his wife, Mary King Barrett of Warren; his two daughters, Edie Coleman of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Laurie Moore of Ruston, Louisiana; his sister, Peggy Barrett of Greenbriar; and to his 4 grandchildren. Nathan Barrett will be greatly missed in Warren and throughout the state of Arkansas.

HONORING ACADIANA HIGH SCHOOL'S WRECKIN' RAMS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Acadiana High School Wreckin' Rams for winning the 5A Louisiana State Football Championship in the Superdome last month. The Wreckin' Rams defeated Sulphur High School 13–10 to win their first-ever state title. The victory was capped off by a last minute 32-yard field goal by Drew Alleman.

After kicking a 42-yard field goal to tie the game at 10–10, Alleman split the uprights on the game's final play to seal Acadiana's win. The championship ended a 13–2 season for the Rams.

Acadiana's coach, Ted Davidson, expressed his excitement after the game. "This is the most competitive team I've ever coached. This