

IN RECOGNITION OF GENERAL C.
ROBERT KEHLER

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate General C. Robert Kehler being promoted General and becoming Commander of the Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base.

Prior to assuming command of AFSPC, General Kehler served as the Deputy Commander for U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. Entering the Air Force in 1975 upon his graduation from Pennsylvania State University as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, General Kehler went on to graduate from missile operational readiness training. This area of expertise has enabled him to serve in various roles from missile crew, to instructor, to evaluator and in wing-level staff positions.

After completing an Air Staff Internship and tour at Strategic Air Command headquarters, General Kehler served in the Office of Legislative Liaison of the Secretary of the Air Force, a capacity in which he was the expert on Capitol Hill for issues regarding the ICBM Modernization Program. While serving on the Joint Staff, General Kehler aided in the overhaul of the nuclear war plan structure and targeting. In addition to his recent position as Director of National Security Space Integration for the Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force, General Kehler was also the Deputy Director of Operations at Air Force Space Command at Peterson where he was Commander of the 21st Space Wing.

It is a pleasure to welcome General Kehler back to Colorado. I know that AFSPC will benefit tremendously from his capable leadership.

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM AND PATHFINDER MODIFICATION AUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman RAHALL, Ranking Member YOUNG, Subcommittee Chairwoman NAPOLITANO, Subcommittee Ranking Member MCMORRIS RODGERS and all of the staff for their work on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and Pathfinder Modification Authorization Act.

It is encouraging to see this longstanding issue finally reach a settlement. After years of study and review by the states, Federal Government, water users, land owners, and other interested parties, the time has come to resolve this matter once and for all.

I cosponsored this legislation as part of the consensus to recognize the reality of the challenges before us with collective decision-making and cooperation. However, this agreement does impact some of our farmers and ranch-

ers, and we must continue to be cognizant of the impact of the Endangered Species Act. As we move forward with the implementation of the Program, positive and negative economic impacts must be assessed and considered in order to minimize adverse effects of the recovery efforts.

I support moving forward with this legislation as the first step of many to protect and recover species and provide long-term water use for our communities.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3963, CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3963, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007.

For the past several months, Congress has debated an issue that should not be considered controversial—the healthcare of our Nation's most vulnerable children. The reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, is vitally important for the Nation and particularly my district of El Paso, Texas, where currently, over 14,000 children in El Paso County are enrolled in the program.

In El Paso, with thousands of children who rely on SCHIP for a scheduled checkup or to receive items like eyeglasses and prescription drugs, this program is critically important. Health care is extremely expensive, and SCHIP is not only vital to children and families, but is important to our health care infrastructure overall. Our health care delivery system in the border region and across the country is already challenged as it is. Cutting SCHIP funding would only result in a greater burden on our hospitals. Without access to doctors for regular checkups and routine appointments, families would potentially wait until health problems reach catastrophic level and then seek care at the local emergency room. This is dangerous for children and families, and would also result in a much more expensive form of health care delivery.

Today's bill reauthorizes SCHIP for 5 years while providing health care coverage for 10 million of our Nation's children. The bill does not expand coverage; rather it allows those currently eligible, but uninsured, the opportunity to enroll. Two-thirds of uninsured children are currently eligible for coverage through SCHIP or Medicaid, and today's bill provides the funding necessary to administer proper outreach to those qualified for the program.

I applaud Mr. DINGELL and Mr. RANGEL for their leadership in reaching an agreement that included some of the concerns voiced by Republicans who originally voted against the legislation.

The health and quality of life of our children must be a priority, and I firmly believe that this bill addresses the need to provide quality healthcare to our Nation's uninsured children. This legislation received strong bipartisan sup-

port in the House, and I call on President Bush to stop playing political games with our children's healthcare.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

**THEODORE L. NEWTON, JR. AND
GEORGE F. AZRAK BORDER PATROL STATION**

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, "We cannot dedicate . . . we cannot consecrate . . . we cannot hallow . . . this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

The words of Abraham Lincoln hold as much meaning today as they did when he spoke to them in Gettysburg in 1863. Today we remember two men who gave their lives for our protection. Border Patrol agents Theodore L. Newton, Jr., and George F. Azrak, are 2 of the 104 Customs and Border Patrol agents who have been killed in the line of duty.

Madam Speaker, today we will have the opportunity to honor the lives of two brave public servants when we vote to designate the United States Border Patrol Station in Murrieta, CA, as the "Theodore L. Newton, Jr. and George F. Azrak Border Patrol Station."

Border Patrol agents Newton and Azrak selflessly gave their lives in the line of duty. During their patrol on the morning of June 17, 1967, Agents Newton and Azrak stopped an old military ambulance at a checkpoint, and inside the vehicle, they found 800 pounds of marijuana. There were two men in the ambulance and two in a car following behind, all were convicted felons and all were well armed. The four armed men overpowered the two agents and forced them to drive to a remote cabin where they handcuffed and murdered Agents Newton and Azrak. Over 400 law enforcement agents and volunteers searched the remote terrain for 2 days before the agents were finally found.

The murders of Agents Newton and Azrak prompted the Border Patrol to adopt new safety measures—including increasing manpower, adopting more up-to-date technology and implementing a new policy requiring at least three agents and a backup unit to work at each checkpoint—to ensure that this terrible incident would not be repeated.

United States Customs and Border Patrol agents have a long history of working tirelessly to make our country safer. Every day they protect our borders against terrorism and, when needed, step in to assist in the face of national disasters. Just last week, San Diego area CBP personnel were deployed to assist in wildfire emergency response.

However, it has not been tradition to name Border Patrol stations after people; they are instead named for location. Undoubtedly, the

Newton—Azrak Station will continue to be referred to by its Murrieta location, but its official title will be the “Theodore L. Newton, Jr., and George F. Azrak Border Patrol Station,” in honor of the heroes who gave their lives for the safety of others.

As we honor and remember the fallen agents, I would like to thank all of our Border Patrol agents and Customs and Border Protection personnel for their service and commitment to the safety and security of all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on October 29, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall 1010 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 3224)—“nay”; rollcall 1011 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended—H. Res. 573)—“aye”; and rollcall 1012 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 747)—“aye.”

IN MEMORIAM OF LOUIS S. BLANCATO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Louis S. Blancato—an anesthesiologist, professor, proud World War II veteran, and citizen of the world. In his memory, I introduce his New York Times obituary published on October 25, 2007.

Dr. Blancato practiced and taught medicine, earning over the span of his career illustrious posts as department chair at St. Luke’s Hospital and president of the New York State and American Society of Anesthesiologists. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, and maintained a professorship at Columbia University.

He was a lover of his family, country, and Italian-American roots. A native New Yorker, he stepped outside the bounds of his home often, globetrotting in pursuit of good work and good friends.

OBITUARY: LOUIS S. BLANCATO

BLANCATO—Louis S., M.D. On October 23 in Rye, NY. Beloved husband of the late Nancy. Survived by Louis S., Robert, John and Amy and beloved grandchildren Celia and Carly. Also supportive three daughters and son-in-law.

Dr. Blancato was a dedicated practitioner and teacher of medicine with a long and distinguished career as an anesthesiologist. Department Chair at St. Luke’s Hospital and President of New York State and American Society of Anesthesiologists are among his many accomplishments. He was also a Professor at Columbia University. He received many awards and inspired many. Dr. Blancato was a graduate of Fordham University and the Flower Fifth Avenue Medical School and a proud World War II veteran of the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

Dr. Blancato’s family, country and Italian American heritage were the foundations of his life. A lifelong New Yorker and a citizen of the world through work, travel and many friendships.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 27 at noon in the Osborn Auditorium, 101 Theall Road in Rye. In lieu of flowers the family recommends individuals make a donation to a charity of their choice in the name of Dr. Louis S. Blancato.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT AND HELP END THE WORSENING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H. Res. 573, a resolution that recognizes the tremendous efforts put forth by public advocacy groups to raise awareness and help end the worsening crisis in Darfur.

My district is home to many of these advocates, who work tirelessly to inform their neighbors and bring greater attention to this humanitarian emergency. Their work to end the genocide in Darfur is a critical part of our combined effort to stop the violence and the bloodshed that has claimed entire families.

In this time of international conflict, it is so important for us to educate and inform our neighbors about what we can do to help those in need. I am thankful for all of the people in my district who are working toward a peaceful resolution in Darfur. Their dedication to this cause is singular in its commitment, and I am deeply grateful for their contributions.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTH CAROLINA BEACH HOUSE FIRE VICTIMS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to memorialize the lives of Justin Anderson, Travis Cale, Lauren Mahon, Cassidy Pendley, William Rhea, Allison Walden, all students at the University of South Carolina, which I proudly represent here in this body, and Emily Yelton, a student of Clemson University.

Madam Speaker, when young men and women go off to pursue an education, their families hope for them a bright future and a long life. All seven of these young men and women lost their lives in a fire this weekend and I join with those that I represent at the University of South Carolina in offering condolences to these families. And I also say to the families of Clemson University, our heart goes out to all of them.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and this body join me in a moment of silence in memory of these young people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1012, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

HONORING THE UTTAR PRADESH ASSOCIATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA’S DIWALI FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Uttar Pradesh Association of Greater Philadelphia for bringing Diwali to Delaware County.

The U.P. Association of Greater Philadelphia is a non-profit organization formed 4 years ago to connect and provide a forum for people from the State of Uttar Pradesh and the surrounding regions in India. The association brings Indian culture to the community, adding to cultural understanding and awareness throughout the region.

One of the group’s main events is the celebration of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. Diwali is one of the few holidays celebrated throughout India, bringing people together in the spirit of the season. The origin of Diwali is unknown, although there are various legends and customs associated with it.

In Northern India, where Uttar Pradesh is located, Diwali marks the return of Lord Rama after 14 years of exile and his defeat of the demon Ravana of Lanka. This represents the triumph of good over evil and of light over darkness, a theme that is common to Diwali stories from other regions of India.

The UPAGP, along with the Indianica Academy in New Jersey, reenacted the story of Lord Rama on Saturday night, and put on a spectacular cultural program that transcended religion, race, and nation. The message of light as a symbol of knowledge and goodness driving away darkness and ignorance is one we would all benefit from hearing more often.

I ask that everyone join me in commending the UPAGP for bringing Diwali and its message to Upper Darby, Delaware County, and the Greater Philadelphia area, in recognizing its contribution to the community, and in acknowledging the hard work and dedication of its members.

HONORING MINNIE COX

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation designating the United States Post Office located at 100 W. Percy Street in Indianola, MS, as the “Minnie Cox United States Post Office”.

Minnie M. Geddings Cox, a graduate of Fisk University, was appointed postmistress of