

would like to offer my congratulations for her service as the first woman chairman of BCA and for her many personal and professional achievements.

I know her husband, Joe, her family and many friends join me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts on behalf of Brewton and the state of Alabama.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, due to a flight delay on my return trip from Iowa to Washington on November 5, 2007, I unavoidably missed rollcall votes Nos. 1034, 1035, and 1036.

Had I been present, on rollcall vote No. 1034, I would have voted "yea."

As a co-sponsor of H.R. 513, the National Heroes Credit Protection Act, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 1035. I am pleased that this important bill, which would protect the credit ratings of military servicemembers and alleviate financial stress for troops serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, passed the House unanimously.

On rollcall vote No. 1036, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION ON SEA LEVEL RISE

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, over 160 National Wildlife Refuges exist along the 95,000 miles of United States coastline and are in danger of being seriously affected by global warming. Scientists all around the world expect sea levels to rise as polar ice and glaciers melt, and oceans physically expand.

As we proactively begin to engage to protect our natural resources most susceptible to global warming, it is crucial to consider our coastal national wildlife refuges under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Though uncertainty exists regarding the projected increases in sea level rise and global warming, we know for certain that global warming is occurring and coastal communities and refuges are already being affected.

Studies currently show that the continuation of historical trends of greenhouse gas emissions will result in additional global warming with current projections that the earth will warm between 2.5°F to 10.4°F by the year 2100. Sea level rise induced by global warming will inundate coastal areas, change precipitation patterns, increase the risk of droughts and floods, threaten biodiversity and offer a host of potential challenges and setbacks to public health. Additionally, sea level rise will force recreational beaches inland, exacerbate coastal flooding, and quite possibly even contribute to the severity of natural disasters such as hurricanes.

Refuges in the Virgin Islands and Hawaii face massive coral bleaching as sea tempera-

tures continue to rise. Scientists predict a rise in sea level over the next century significant enough to drown refuges such as Chincoteague on the Virginia coast, Alligator River in North Carolina, Merritt Island in Florida and the Texas home of the whooping crane, Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge. Anticipated changes in climate and rainfall could alter forest makeup and alpine habitats in Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge in the Northeast; interrupt seabird-nesting success in the Oregon Islands refuge; and dry the prairie pot-holes in Devils Lake Wetland Management District, a crucial migratory stopover and nesting ground for waterfowl.

A conservation concept unparalleled, the National Wildlife Refuge System started by President Theodore Roosevelt offers a network of places where the needs of wildlife must come first. Without them, many species simply would not survive. Yet, these important areas are increasingly threatened by forces outside refuge boundaries—global warming and sea level rise being among the most threatening.

It is vitally important that we proactively address the effects of global warming and sea-level rise as they continue to confront our Nation's coastal refuges. In this regard, the resolution I introduce today, expresses the sense of the Congress that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should incorporate consideration of the effects of global warming and sea-level rise into the comprehensive conservation plan for each coastal national wildlife refuge as required by the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1997.

By requiring Fish and Wildlife refuge managers to incorporate consideration of the effects of global warming and sea-level rise, we will not only broaden our overall understanding of how our coastal and marine resources may be affected but also draw more conclusive data which may point to a specific timeframe in which these events are expected to occur.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, due to airline delays, on November 5, 2007, I missed the vote on rollcall No. 1034 (the Motion to Close Portions of the Conference—H.R. 3222); rollcall No. 1035 (H.R. 513, to enhance the protection of credit ratings of active duty military personnel); and rollcall No. 1036 (H.R. 744, recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans). Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yea" on all three.

TRADE AND GLOBALIZATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3920, The Trade and

Globalization Assistance Act of 2007. H.R. 3920 would expand the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which assists workers who lose their jobs because of foreign trade. Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, was first established in 1962, in recognition of the fact that some workers would lose their jobs as a direct result of our national trade policies. The program is designed to assist these trade-dislocated workers by providing them with the opportunity to train for new careers. Although the program currently includes about 80,000 certified workers enrolled in training, there are thousands of other trade-displaced workers who deserve but have been unable to obtain training through the TAA program.

H.R. 3920 makes many long-sought improvements to TAA. The bill allows for industry-wide certification in certain instances, a change that will eliminate the delays and inconsistent results in the current firm-by-firm process. The bill also includes a number of changes that will simplify and improve the process by which eligible workers obtain training.

We must continue to provide our strong support to workers who are faced with the unfortunate event of losing their employment. H.R. 3920 is an excellent bill that will provide much needed and overdue help to displaced and unemployed workers. These programs are essential to the viability and livelihood of thousands of hard-working Americans. As a proud supporter of America's workers, I understand the vital importance of ensuring the social welfare of our labor force. I will continue to work with my colleagues to preserve their social and economic care. America's workers deserve America's support.

IN TRIBUTE TO THOMAS P.
FRIERY AND HIS 29 YEARS OF
SERVICE AS SACRAMENTO CITY
TREASURER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Thomas P. Friery and his 29 years of service as the city of Sacramento's treasurer. Under Mr. Friery's nearly three decades of leadership and dedication, Sacramento has experienced great growth and prosperity. As his friends, family and coworkers gather to celebrate his farewell, I ask all my colleagues to join in honoring his leadership and many remarkable accomplishments.

Since becoming treasurer in 1978, Mr. Friery has worked under 10 mayors, and 72 councilmembers. Upon taking over as treasurer, Mr. Friery inherited the responsibility of managing the Sacramento City Employee's Retirement System and its unfunded liability of \$60 million. The pension fund was expected to grow to a \$170 million deficit, but under Treasurer Friery's superior financial management the deficit was eliminated in 1991, and the system now has \$450 million invested in it. In doing so, Thomas Friery helped re-establish Sacramento's AA credit rating, allowing the city to borrow money at a lower cost.

Mr. Friery's innovative financial strategies have been vital to the prosperity of the city of Sacramento. City leaders and I have always

been confident of Mr. Friery's financial management skills. In 29 years of service, Thomas has always been able to provide a capable solution to the most pressing problems. Under his guidance, Sacramento became the first city pension fund in the State to invest in gold and silver. Those funds delivered 120 percent returns on the investment over a 2-year period. Additionally, over the past 29 years, the city has issued 250 bond offerings, raising more than \$4 billion for the city. In the 18 years prior to Mr. Friery, the city had made only 10 bond issues worth a total of \$70 million.

Mr. Friery also played a key role in the successful transition of the former Sacramento Army Depot into a business and industrial center after the depot was closed. In 1996, Treasurer Friery along with Mayor Joe Serna, assembled a financing package that included a loan of \$17 million to Packard Bell Electronics for improvements to the former Army depot, which included \$9 million for moving and other expenses. In the end, the company moved to Sacramento and at its peak employed 5,000 employees. The plant has since closed, but the company repaid the loan back and over \$400 million in salaries were paid to local reserves. That deal spurred future development at the depot which has now grown to house over 60 companies and is far more diversified.

In another bold move, Mr. Friery was vital in ensuring that Sacramento still remains the home for the Sacramento Kings. In 1997, when the Kings were exploring alternative cities and venues, he crafted a loan that enabled the team to continue building upon its legacy. It was also Mr. Friery who helped develop the financing that was crucial in ensuring light rail was developed in the region. This significant upgrade to Sacramento's transit system has allowed for further city development and an increase in property values throughout the region.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the numerous contributions made by Sacramento City treasurer Thomas Friery during his 29 years on the job. His devotion and love to our city of Sacramento is held in the highest regards. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Friery for his public service as we wish him success in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF TOMBALL, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most extraordinary towns in our country, Tomball, Texas and join them in celebrating their 100 year anniversary. This community began in the early 1800's as a farming community and has grown to be a town encompassing economic growth and core American values which makes our nation a great place to live.

Tomball is known for many things; it began as an agricultural community and has continued to grow expeditiously from day one. Originally this town was known as Peck, but at the

turn of the century in 1907, the town was officially named Tomball in honor of Mr. Thomas Henry Ball; a Congressman, a lawyer, a proud father, and an honorable man.

Tomball saw their first boom in 1906 when the railroad came to town. The first freight train and the first passenger rail rolled through town in 1907. Today visitors can step back in time and enjoy the newly refurbished train depot, in the heart of downtown Tomball, as trains move through town as they did a century ago.

Tomball was also known as "Oil Town U.S.A." in the early 1930's when oil was discovered in a big Texas way with a "gusher." The city was quick to realize the extraordinary asset before them and negotiated a deal with Humble Oil and Gas allowing the company drilling rights within the city in exchange for free oil and gas to Tomball residents for the next 50 years.

Tomball has seen growth in all aspects of the community. Since the turn of the century, there has been the boom of the railroad, the great success of oil and gas, real estate growth, and road improvements all contributing to the strong economic base for this town. Tomball has always been a place with extraordinary schools, both public and private. The city possesses citizens with an eagerness to learn extending to higher education within the college system. Faith is important to this community and is the foundation that enables numerous churches to congregate within the area.

Tomball is an amazing town within Harris County, Texas. It is the residents continued dedication to this town which makes it one of the friendliest places to live not only in Texas but in the United States. Although Tomball has endured many changes over the last century one thing remains the same, the people. The people of this community have always been the most thoughtful and caring individuals a town could ever ask for. As we celebrate the first 100 years of Tomball it is with great joy I say thank you for being a wonderful and compassionate community. I wish this city all the best in the next 100 years, as I know only good things will come from such an amazing place. Happy Birthday Tomball and congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of H. Res. 744, I rise in strong support of this resolution and urge its passage. I want to thank Representative STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN who is an original cosponsor of this resolution and who is a strong advocate for our veterans. I also want to thank Chairman BOB FILNER, who cosponsored the resolution and Ranking Member STEVE BUYER for his commitment to all veterans.

Earlier this year I met with some Native American veterans in my State. They expressed many concerns to me and were worried that all Native American Veterans had not

been recognized for their service to their country.

On October 15, 2007, Congresswoman HERSETH SANDLIN and I introduced H. Res. 744, a resolution that recognizes the contributions of Native American veterans and calls upon the President of the United States to issue a proclamation urging the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans.

Native Americans were participants in the War of 1812, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. During World War I, 12,000 Native Americans served in the United States military and in World War II, more than 44,000 Native Americans served their country in both the European and Pacific fronts of the war. Native Americans also fought in the Korean conflict and the Vietnam war. In Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, Native Americans have made significant contributions.

Native American veterans should be recognized for their service in uniform. This resolution gives all Native American veterans the formal recognition they deserve for their sacrifices and contributions.

I have also introduced H.R. 4012, the Native American Language Assistance Act of 2007, a bill to assist VA hospitals and clinics that treat a large number of Native American patients. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation that will ensure that Native American veterans have access, delivery and follow-up of services at the VA.

The bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to make competitive grants to any VA medical facility that treats a high number of Native American veterans. The grants, up to \$100,000 each, would provide interpreters or other language resources to improve access to, delivery of, and follow-up for medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I am concerned that Indian veterans are not receiving adequate assistance and support for their care at our VA hospitals. This bill will provide help to those hospitals that treat high numbers of Indians. By providing our VA hospitals with funding for language programs and outreach, we can better communicate to these veterans about what services and benefits are available to them and make sure they are getting the care and support they need.

Nationally, there are 195,871 Native American veterans. There are 11,929 Native American Veterans in New Mexico—3.1 percent of the entire American Indian veteran population.

I am grateful to all who serve their Nation and we as a Congress have a responsibility to ensure they receive the best possible care. In this war on terrorism, the greatest burdens have fallen on the shoulders of a relatively small number of Americans who have volunteered to take great risks on our behalf. Events over the last few years have made a new generation of Americans realize just how precious our freedoms really are. We owe our freedom fighters—past, present, and future—a debt of gratitude for their selflessness and sacrifice. I will continue to fight to ensure that our veterans get the benefits they were promised, the health care they deserve, and the recognition that our Nation owes them.

I support passage of this resolution.