

TRIBUTE TO ED KNIGHT AND C.J.
BROWN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of several individuals and groups in Boone, Iowa, for their contributions to the Muscular Dystrophy Association: Fire Chief Ed Knight and the Firefighters of Boone, and interim Wal-Mart manager C.J. Brown and Wal-Mart of Boone.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) is a national voluntary health agency which is dedicated to conquering neuromuscular diseases and is funded almost entirely by individual private contributors. MDA seeks no government grants or fees from those it serves. Muscular dystrophy is not a specific disease, but actually a term that encompasses a variety of hereditary muscle destroying disorders that vary in inheritance pattern, age of onset, initial muscles attacked, and rate of progression. These muscle debilitating diseases affect over one million Americans including 560 families in Central Iowa and 38 families in Boone County.

The Boone Firefighters recently raised money for MDA through their annual golf tournament, and Wal-Mart of Boone generously matched the first \$1000 raised. I admire all the hard work and contributions made during this fundraiser to aid those who are stricken with this disease. It truly is a sign of the great compassion lowans show to those in need.

It is a great honor to represent the Boone Firefighters and all the employees of the Wal-Mart of Boone in the U.S. Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in recognizing them for yet another job well done.

REDUCING RECIDIVISM RATES TO BETTER PROTECT OUR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge that more be done to reduce the rates of recidivism in our Nation's swelling prisons. We must work—intelligently and compassionately—to better reintegrate former prisoners into our society, and the Second Chance Act of 2007 is effective on both counts. It intelligently saves taxpayer dollars and works to bolster public safety, investing resources in a consortium of services proven to keep ex-offenders on the right path. It compassionately addresses the prevalence of substance abuse and poor mental health in that group, and strives to strengthen broken families so that children may stand to benefit.

Our prison system is a revolving door, leaving many without the ample skill or support necessary to become productive members of society. It's why a staggering majority of state prisoners are released only to find themselves back behind bars at least 3 years later. An increasing number of formerly incarcerated citizens are without suitable education, physical and mental health, employment, or mentoring services—the kind this measure would assist in providing.

A central tenet of our criminal justice system is rehabilitation. We must not abandon that fruitful and moral imperative. About 650,000 people are released from prison each year, and it is incumbent upon us to take preventive measures for the sake of our communities and our children. We owe it to them to do far, far more.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3222, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this FY 2008 Defense Appropriations Conference Report because it ensures that our troops get the protection they need and the benefits they have earned. Additionally, as an opponent of the decision to go to war in Iraq, and an advocate of the responsible redeployment of our combat forces, I appreciate that the contentious question of how Congress will proceed with the President's pending funding request for the Iraq War will be addressed in another legislative vehicle, on another day.

H.R. 3222 fully funds the increased personnel, equipment, and training costs associated with growing the Army and Marines by 7000 and 5000 troops, respectively. Moreover, and importantly, it allocates \$11.6 billion in emergency funding for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles that are playing such an important role protecting our troops from deadly IEDs. And it responds to the historic strain on our National Guard and Reserves by providing an additional \$980 million to meet the equipment demands of their deployment overseas and first responder role at home.

In recognition of our military's service and sacrifice to country, this spending bill provides our military families with a 3.5 percent pay raise—5 percent above the President's request. It rejects the President's proposed \$1.9 billion increase in premiums and fees in the TRICARE program and adds \$900 million to strengthen military health care for our servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. And it provides critical support to our military families through an infusion of \$237 million for counseling and child care, as well as \$615.7 million for facility and infrastructure upgrades throughout our bases in the United States, Europe, and Korea.

Finally, H.R. 3222 affirms American values by banning the use of torture while including important accountability measures for military and security contractors. It asks the DoD to include the entirety of its war funding in the President's 2009 Budget Request. And it meets important emergency needs in Louisiana and elsewhere as our fellow citizens continue the hard work of rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report is worthy of the broad, bipartisan support I expect it to receive.

HOMEOWNERS EXEMPTION UPDATE ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, 1997 brought a presidential crisis, Slobodan Milosevic, and Princess Diana's death. It wasn't the greatest year, but it was the last time Congress managed to update the homeowners' exemption for the sale of a residence. It should not take more than five Congresses and over a decade to update the homeowner's exemption.

Since that time, the average value of an American home is up 104 percent. A \$500,000 home in 1997 would now cost over \$1 million. A decade later, middle-class homeowners in high-cost areas are handed a tax bill when they sell their homes because the home ownership exemption is still stuck at \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for a couple.

What does \$250,000 buy for a growing family in today's market? Less than they need.

It is time to update the exemption for homeowners so that they are not pushed into higher tax brackets because Congress failed to update the law. That is why I am introducing the Homeowners Exemption Update Act of 2007, which raises the exemption to \$500,000 per individual and \$1,000,000 per couple.

Local leaders in Illinois are proposing more than ten new taxes of over \$1 billion. Today, this body passed a \$72 billion tax increase. Taxpayers deserve relief as the economy begins to slow, not a smattering of new taxes. My legislation eases the growing burden facing American families today.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and stand up for homeowners across the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I stayed at home due to an ongoing medical condition of a family member. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

“Aye” on Closing Portions of the Conference Report Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 (rollcall No. 1034)

“Aye” on a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended National Heroes Credit Protection Act (rollcall No. 1035)

“Aye” on a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans. (rollcall No. 1036)

“Nay” on a Motion to Table a resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House. (rollcall No. 1037)

“Nay” on ordering the previous question on a resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House. (rollcall No. 1038)

“Nay” on a resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House. (rollcall No. 1039)

“Aye” on Passage, Objections of the President Not Withstanding, of the Water Resources Development Act (rollcall No. 1040)

“Aye” on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, to Expressing the sense of Congress that Congress and the President should increase basic pay for members of the Armed Forces. (rollcall No. 1041)

“Aye” on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, to Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act (rollcall No. 1042)

“Nay” on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, to Kids in Disasters Wellbeing, Safety, and Health Act of 2007 (rollcall No. 1043)

“Nay” on Will the House now consider the resolution providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies. (rollcall No. 1044)

“Aye” on Motion to Instruct Conference on the Improving Head Start Act (rollcall No. 1045)

“Aye” on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended, to Congratulating Nicolas Sarkozy on his election to the presidency of France. (rollcall No. 1046)

“Nay” on Ordering the Previous Question Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies. (rollcall No. 1047)

“Nay” on Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies. (rollcall No. 1048)

“Aye” on Motion to Adjourn (rollcall No. 1049)

“Nay” on Agreeing to the Conference Report Making appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (rollcall No. 1050)

“Aye” on Motion to Adjourn (rollcall No. 1051)

“Nay” on Ordering the Previous Question Providing for consideration of H.R. 3685, to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. (rollcall No. 1052)

“Nay” on Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 3685, to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. (rollcall No. 1053)

“Aye” on Agreeing to the Amendment of Rep. GEORGE MILLER (rollcall No. 1054)

“Aye” on Agreeing to the Amendment of Rep. MARK SOUDER (rollcall No. 1055)

“Aye” on Motion to Recommit with Instructions the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) (rollcall No. 1056)

“Nay” on Passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) (rollcall No. 1057)

“Aye” on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended, to recognizing the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino. (rollcall No. 1058)

“Aye” on motion to Instruct Conference on Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2008 (rollcall No. 1076)

“Nay” on Ordering the Previous Question for Providing for the consideration of H.R.

3996, Temporary Tax Relief Act (rollcall No. 1077)

“Nay” on Agreeing to the Resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3996, Temporary Tax Relief Act (rollcall No. 1078)

“Nay” on Approving the Journal (rollcall No. 1079)

“Aye” on Motion to Adjourn (rollcall No. 1080)

“Nay” on Passage of the Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007 (rollcall No. 1081)

IN MEMORIAL OF SHERIFF JOHN HAYWOOD BAKER, JR.

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Sheriff John Haywood Baker, Jr., who died October 31, 2007. In his passing I lost a good friend, and North Carolina lost one of its most outstanding citizens and a man who was instrumental in his community, county, and State.

A native son of Raleigh, North Carolina, Sheriff Baker was known for his larger-than-life, 6-foot-7 stature and booming voice. John became the first black sheriff in North Carolina since Reconstruction and held the office from 1978 until 2002. During his 24 years as Sheriff he helped create the John H. Baker Jr. Charter School. This school allows young jailed offenders to get an education. John wasn’t the only law enforcement officer in the family as the son of the late Louise S. Baker and John H. Baker, Sr. John, Sr. was the first African American police officer in the city of Raleigh. At an early age John was taught to have compassion, gentleness, sensitivity for others. These were life skills that he carried with him throughout his life.

John grew up in the Oberlin community of Raleigh and attended Ligon High School. He graduated from North Carolina Central University in 1958. That same year, he was drafted 56th overall by the Los Angeles Rams. Over the next 11 years, the defensive end/defensive tackle went on to play for the Philadelphia Eagles, Pittsburgh Steelers, and Detroit Lions. While playing in the NFL, John displayed his leadership abilities. He was named defensive captain of the Pittsburgh Steelers, MVP of the team, and selected as a NFL All-Star. He was inducted into the North Carolina Hall of Fame, in 1972, for one of the most defining moments of his career. While a Pittsburgh Steeler John tackled football legend Y.A. Tittle, quarterback of the New York Giants, leaving him bloody and battered in the end zone. The tackle is the subject of a famous picture that became part of sports history.

In the off season, John would work with the Raleigh Police Department as a youth counselor. When he retired from the NFL, he became the first black man appointed to the North Carolina State Parole Board, as the Associate Director for Training and Standards Council. He was also an Administrative Aide to U.S. Senator Robert Morgan. John was a member of several organizations; he was a life member of the NAACP, a member of the Board of Trustees of Shaw University, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, just to name a few. John leaves to cherish his memory a

devoted wife of forty-eight years, Juanita H. Baker, his two children Jonnita B. Williams, John H. Baker, III, and his Goddaughter Ada H. Roach.

Madam Speaker, Sheriff John H. Baker had a commitment to excellence in everything he did, and he had a way of bringing out excellence in everyone around him. He was a respected and a successful dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor him and his family today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1056, the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 3685, I was not present. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

TRIBUTE TO WALTER M. DUZZNY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Walter M. Duzzny. Walter, who has served as the Director of Mahoning County Emergency Management and Communications for 25 years, is retiring at the end of this month.

Walter Duzzny has dedicated over thirty-four years to public service. He began his career in Emergency Management and has made great contributions to the field ever since. As the first Director of the Disaster Services and Preparedness Agency, Walter influenced the Agency to adopt an “all-hazards” concept, which resulted in the development of a County HazMat team and Safety Service and Support Centers. Thanks to Walter’s hard work and dedication toward the Agency, Mahoning County has the proper tools to implement preparatory, response, and recovery strategies in the event of an emergency.

Walter has contributed to Mahoning County in more ways than one. He has remained an active member of the community through his participation in several organizations. As a retired Army Reserve Colonel, Walter serves as the President of the local chapter of the National Reserve Officers Association. He also serves on the Board of St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church and remains a member of several other organizations.

Walter’s accomplishments have positively impacted Emergency Management on local and national levels. His innovative drive and valuable contributions will be greatly missed.

I wish Walter all the best in his retirement.

HONORING CENTRAL VALLEY SAFETY SOCIETY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Central Valley Safety