

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

In April 1957, 40 officials from the Washington area established an organization to exchange ideas and work together on regional issues such as transportation, the environment, and public safety. This organization would become known as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments—or COG.

Over the years, COG has facilitated regional responses to such important initiatives as cleaning up the Potomac River, creating more affordable housing for metropolitan residents, and the development and coordination of regional public safety. In addition to helping galvanize the region's response to the September 11 attacks, COG continues to facilitate the region's ongoing emergency preparedness programs.

During its 50 years of existence, COG's activities have touched every aspect of the lives of the citizens of the National Capital region. I rise today to congratulate COG for 50 years of successful and effective collaboration and for the work it continues to do to improve the lives of our citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 744, recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans. These veterans have served with courage, pride, and honor to protect this country and the freedoms we hold dear.

As we approach Veterans Day, it is imperative that we all remember and honor those who have sacrificed their lives and families for the safety and security of this Nation.

I am very pleased that Congress has passed my legislation that honors Private First Class Charles George, a Native American veteran that served in the Korean War. Pfc. George was a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and was raised in the Birdtown community of the Qualla Boundary. He attended Cherokee Schools before enlisting in the U.S. Army and being sent to fight in

the Korean War. Pfc. George left his home to fight for our Nation, but the young man did not return to our mountains.

On November 30th, 1952, while fighting in Korea, Private First Class George was killed in action. He died saving the lives of those around him. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during the Korean War.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina will be renamed the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center" at the end of this month to honor his actions and valor.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Native American veterans for their valiant service on behalf of our Nation.

HONORING JOHN P. CASEY FOR RECEIVING THE WILLIAM CRAWFORD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John P. Casey, President of Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, who has been honored by the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce with its William Crawford Distinguished Service Award.

Each year, the William Crawford Distinguished Service Award is awarded to an individual in eastern Connecticut who exemplifies the spirit of service to their neighbors and who has worked to improve the quality of life in eastern Connecticut. Any who know him should have no doubt that John Casey meets the criteria for this award.

As President of one of the largest employers in the region, John Casey is, by definition, a pillar of the communities of southeastern Connecticut. However, John's impact goes far beyond his role as a corporate executive. Throughout the years he has risen through the ranks at Electric Boat, he has demonstrated a unique brand of leadership which recognizes that more can be achieved when all elements of the workforce are summoned tackle a challenge. This approach is helping to streamline the submarine construction process and reduce the costs to the taxpayer—both critical milestones to increasing our submarine production rate.

John is also a fighter for the causes important to eastern Connecticut. In 2005, he was a key figure in the fight to save Submarine Base New London. His arguments in favor of the synergy that is achieved by locating the "Submarine Capital of the World" next to the nation's premier builder of submarines helped keep the base open. His voice rose above many others in convincing key decision makers that the Sub Base was too vital an asset to Connecticut and our Nation to lose.

John Casey is a true leader in eastern Connecticut, and one I have had the honor and

pleasure to work closely with over the past year. I commend the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce for recognizing his great work on behalf of his employees, the region and our Nation, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring him.

IN HONOR OF THE GARFIELD PARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Garfield Park Christian Church which celebrates its centennial anniversary in the City of Santa Cruz, California this November. Commonly known as the "circle church" the surrounding neighborhoods were designed as a series of concentric circles built around the original tabernacle, making the church and the neighborhood forever linked.

Nestled into the heart of the Westside of Santa Cruz, not only does the Church celebrate a hundred years in our community but the neighborhoods surrounding the building do as well. Today the church grounds are a common meeting place for children, families and pet lovers. The church provides not only a place of worship but a cultural and community center for the surrounding homes and neighborhoods. It is estimated that over five hundred people use the facilities for events, meetings and gatherings each week.

Built in 1890, the church was designed to be a religious center to the unique surrounding neighborhoods that were built in circles around the church and serve as its congregation. When their original tabernacle burnt down in 1935, the spirit of the church did not falter. The loss was turned into a gift when for more than twenty years the site of the original tabernacle was leased to the city to be a park and playground, the original "Garfield Park." Today the Garfield Park Christian Church sanctuary and gym stand on the site of the old Tabernacle, tying the new buildings to their original beginnings.

Although Garfield Park Church does have a legacy of being a place of worship among its congregation, it is also devoted to keeping alive compassion and strength of community in its surrounding residents. Two other congregations meet in the building each week along with the building being home to the annual Hindu Navratri festival and other events. By opening its doors and hearts to so many groups, meetings and people, the Garfield Park Church displays its commitment to open compassion and unity.

With this anniversary the church will adopt a new name in celebration of their centennial celebration. Moving forward they are adopting "A New Vision for a New Century" and a new name "The Circle Church, Disciples of Christ," as they look forward to the next hundred years.

• 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.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize an organization that is so deeply rooted in community involvement and unity. I am excited for this year's celebration and look forward to many more years of gathering in the circle neighborhoods of Santa Cruz.

H.R. 3920, THE TRADE AND
GLOBALIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3920, the Trade and Globalization Act of 2007, and commend the Ways and Means, and Education and Labor committees for their hard work on this legislation.

The health of the American economy depends in large part on trade with foreign markets. As globalization, technology, and trade agreements continue to remove barriers to free trade, we must work to ensure that our workers, farmers and small businesses do not suffer unfairly for this economic growth. This legislation moves the Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, program in a new direction with that sentiment in mind.

The current TAA program was created in a different era, and fails to address the realities of trade in the 21st century. The Trade and Globalization Act expands eligibility for TAA training programs, temporary income support and healthcare assistance to include manufacturing workers who currently are ineligible for benefits for technical reasons, and to service workers who are increasingly losing their jobs to outsourcing. It also significantly increases funding for these programs, without adding to the deficit, or raising taxes on American families. An updated TAA program will allow all trade-displaced workers to acquire the skills they need to reenter the workforce, and the flexibility to choose their most effective path.

Workers facing the loss of a good job face significant challenges beyond the loss of income. To help families prepare for their transition, this bill requires employers to provide adequate notice to their employees before a layoff, and provides an incentive for states to reform their unemployment insurance programs to realize the needs of low-income, part-time and female members of the workforce.

Additionally, this bill recognizes that trade can have significant impacts for entire regions of our country, and that American businesses are critical to helping workers adapt to the global economy. That is why this legislation provides incentives for firms to redevelop and hire workers in those communities disproportionately affected by international trade.

We owe our prosperity to our greatest national asset—our American workers. I urge you to join me in passing this much needed legislation that will assist these workers who keep America's economy strong.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, on November 9, I was on jury call in my district and missed several votes. I would have voted had I been here: rollcall No. 1077, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 809, "yea"; rollcall No. 1078, H. Res. 809, "yea"; rollcall No. 1079, approving the Journal, "yea"; rollcall No. 1080, motion to adjourn, "nay"; rollcall No. 1081, H.R. 3996, Temporary Tax Relief Act, "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD-
CARE AFFORDABILITY ACT OF
2007

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY New York. Madam Speaker, today, on behalf of myself, Rep. YVETTE CLARKE, and Rep. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, I introduce the Childcare Affordability Act of 2007, which will create an above-the-line tax deduction for working parents of up to \$13,000 in childcare expenses for one child and a maximum of \$26,000 for two or more children. This deduction is based on the average cost of childcare in urban areas, which is \$13,000 per year—more than one quarter of the typical family's income. This bill will also make the current Dependent Care Tax Credit fully refundable and expand the qualified actual expenses—now capped at \$3,000 per child with a maximum of \$6,000 to \$13,000 for one child, with a \$26,000 maximum for two or more children. This change more accurately reflects the current costs of childcare for working families, who will now be able to choose whichever option provides them with the greatest tax relief.

Greater tax relief is an important and necessary step toward improving the lives of America's working families. The rising cost of child care is squeezing working families and the amount of assistance the Federal government currently provides to ease the burden of these expenses is inadequate. We can and should do more to support our working families. Quality childcare is essential to healthy child development. This bill will help America's families provide high-quality care for their children, which will pay off in the future by increasing productivity and economic growth, and stemming the tide of rising inequality in the United States. With this initiative, we can ease the burden on working families, while making an essential investment in the future prosperity of our Nation.

IN HONOR OF THE EXTRAOR-
DINARY COMMUNITY SERVICE
OF THE BRAEN FAMILY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Braen family for its tremendous service to its community. Currently in its fifth generation of family management of its quarry and construction business, the Braen family has long typified the "good neighbor."

In addition to the commitment that the individual members of the Braen family pursue in charity work and community service, the company has initiated a program to promote volunteerism with its own employees. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. And, tonight, the Braen family and the Braen family of companies—Stone Industries, Inc.; Van Orden Sand & Gravel; Braen Supply, Inc.; and Braen Aggregates, LLC—will be honored by the Northern New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America for exemplifying that high standard.

The Braen family also dedicates itself to community-friendly business practices that not only add to the value of the local economy but also to the quality of life Braen employees, customers, and others enjoy. They have always strived to meet environmental standards long before the standards are in place, thinking first of the health, welfare, and comfort of their employees and neighbors first. They have been honored for their good work, including as New Jersey Family Business of the Year.

So, tonight, as the Boy Scouts honor the Braen family for the support they have shown Scouts and Scouting, I rise to share in their tribute and to thank the Braen family for its contribution to making north Jersey such a fine place to live, work, and raise a family.

VETERANS DAY PRAYER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as greatful Americans prepare for providing deserved tributes for our courageous veterans, I have fortunately been provided a profound poem from Clinton B. Campbell of Beauford, SC.

MY VETERAN'S DAY PRAYER

Lord, when the pull of my bed
lures me to stay another hour, please remind
me of taps being played for the fallen,
of the tears that reach my cheek
after each name is read, the ones I know personally
and the ones old-timers
talk about in awe.

After the crowd stumbles
through The Pledge of Allegiance
I want to be there
and listen with all my heart
while the winner of this year's
essay contest quiets the crowd
reminding us of why
we are paying our respects.