

I fully support every American's right to voice concerns over what many see as the steady march of secularism each Christmas season. But I want to assure them that Lowe's had no such intentions in mind. A printing error slipped through the cracks and the company has pledged to redouble its catalogue proofreading processes.

A company spokesperson has even been quoted in the media explaining that the catalogue title was an error and was inconsistent with the company's long-standing practice of referring to its Christmas trees as "Christmas trees." This spokesperson said that Lowe's had intended to convey that family traditions often begin with a Christmas tree.

I hope that now that the facts are out, we can all return to celebrating the birth of Christ this Christmas season, undistracted by this dust-up over a simple copyediting slipup.

THE ALL-AMERICAN HOLIDAY BILL

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and encourage Americans to come together this holiday season and protect the greatest economy the world has ever seen. The American economic experiment that started back in the early 20th Century has proved that freedom, innovation and individual drive have the ability to create a prosperous economy. Our economy has enabled us to build a democracy that so many nations seek to emulate. Yet I am sad to report that many families, particularly in the mid-west, which is the backbone of America, are losing manufacturing jobs to countries with less stringent regulatory systems and cheaper labor.

Madam Speaker, the holidays are upon us and I am troubled by the difficulty to buy American-made goods in my holiday shopping quest. Americans should be able to purchase products that are made by Americans. For many years, I have had concerns over the decrease in American manufacturing jobs and the increase in our trade with China, who sends us unsatisfactory goods that are harmful to our families and children.

Today, I am introducing an important resolution that fulfills what I believe to be one of our most important obligations as patriotic Americans: encouraging Americans to purchase American-made products this holiday season.

China is the second largest supplier of consumer products and an increasingly dependent supplier of agricultural products to the United States. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) stated that to date, in 2007, over 80 percent of CPSC recall notices have involved Chinese-made products.

Specifically, over the past year, pet food laced with chemicals found in fertilizer caused the sickness and death of several dozen pets in the United States. The Food and Drug Administration released warnings on toothpaste products from China that contained poisonous chemicals, as well as farm-raised fish products that contained uncertified antimicrobial agents. Furthermore, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a recall of nearly 450,000 tires suspected to have major safety

defects. Since March 2007, nearly 20 million Chinese made toys have been recalled by U.S. companies due to suspected lead contamination.

It is clear that China's irresponsible regulatory system is not sufficient to keep the citizens of their trading partners safe. In fact they are not able to provide safe products for their own people. In June 2004, the Chinese People's Daily reported that fake baby formula had killed 50 to 60 infants in China. Fish farmers in China reportedly feed various drugs to the fish to help keep them alive in polluted Chinese waters, and in July 2007, the Xinhua News Agency reported that a government survey of 7,200 different products from nearly 6,500 enterprises found that 19.1 percent of products made in China for domestic consumption in the first half of 2007 were sub-standard.

I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the U.S. economy and, in turn, our Armed Forces, by purchasing American products. One of the best things we can do for our returning soldiers is to make sure they have good jobs when they return. Buying American-made products will keep good manufacturing jobs available for our soldiers when they return home. I understand how difficult it will be to purchase all American food and gifts during the holiday season. However, for the 1.8 million American jobs that have been shipped overseas, for the future jobs that are in jeopardy of being lost to cheaper labor and, of course, for the troops serving our country overseas, I ask you to buy for America this holiday season.

ORDERLY AND RESPONSIBLE IRAQ REDEPLOYMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support for H.R. 4156, the Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act, which will begin the redeployment of U.S. forces out of Iraq, strengthen our military and enhance our national security. By passing this measure, the House of Representatives is, yet again, sending a clear signal to the President that we need a new course in Iraq.

Though I opposed the resolution authorizing the use of force in Iraq, I later voted for numerous supplemental appropriations bills to ensure that we provided sufficient equipment and resources for our troops. They have done an amazing job in undertaking a difficult and changing mission, and they deserve nothing but the full support of the Nation and its leaders. However, nearly 5 years after our initial invasion of Iraq, the best way to support our troops is to bring them home. In May of this year, I voted against the supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007 because it gave the President far too much authority to continue a war that had been repeatedly mismanaged by the civilian leadership at the Pentagon.

Unfortunately, 6 months later, very little has changed. The underlying causes of violence in

Iraq, which are ethnic and sectarian in nature, have not been addressed. In September, the Government Accountability Office found that the Iraqi Government had met only 3 of 18 congressionally mandated benchmarks for legislative, economic, and security progress. These problems cannot be solved by U.S. military force, and we should not expect our troops to be involved in a civil war. We need to shift our forces from combat operations and redeploy them out of Iraq while we refocus our Nation's efforts on fostering a political reconciliation among Iraq's tribal, ethnic, and religious groups to end the violence.

The bill before us today provides a blueprint for ending the war and bringing our troops home. It requires the President to begin redeployment of troops immediately, with a goal of completing redeployment by December 2008. It also shifts our forces away from a combat mission to focus on force protection, counterterrorism efforts, and the training of Iraqi security forces. Furthermore, it prohibits the deployment of U.S. troops that are not deemed fully mission capable. This provision is particularly important because our men and women in uniform have faced repeated deployments with insufficient rest and training time, and we must take bold steps now to prevent our military being strained to the breaking point. Our readiness levels are already dangerously low because of operations in Iraq, which endangers our national security in the event of a national disaster, a terrorist attack, or some other contingency.

H.R. 4156 recognizes that we need a new direction in Iraq and does not give the President a blank check to maintain the status quo. For that reason, President Bush has threatened to veto the measure. I am deeply disappointed that he is so out of touch with the American people and their priorities. He has requested nearly \$200 million to continue operations in Iraq with absolutely no strings attached, while he ignores pressing needs here at home. On Tuesday, he vetoed the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008, claiming that it was too expensive. Operations in Iraq have cost a total of more than \$450 billion, yet the President is unwilling to invest \$10 billion in priority areas such as medical research, elementary and secondary education, Pell grants, health services to underserved populations, and heating assistance to low-income Americans.

While it is not a perfect bill, H.R. 4156 is an important step to force a fundamental shift in our Iraq policy and to bring our troops home. I would have preferred to see an earlier deadline for troop redeployment, and I have co-sponsored legislation with that goal. Nevertheless, a vote for H.R. 4156 is a vote for change, and I thank my colleagues for supporting it.

FEDERAL FOOD DONATION ACT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Federal Food Donation Act of 2007. As we prepare to return home to spend time with our families and give thanks

for the blessings we have received, I would ask that we pause a moment and think of those less fortunate among us. Yesterday we learned from USDA's annual hunger survey that more than 35 million people in the United States are food insecure; they either suffer from hunger or must sacrifice other essential items for food. Tragically, of these 35 million individuals, 12 million are children. Unfortunately, the number of the hungry among us is increasing. While we, as a government, are taking steps in the right direction, we have a long way to go.

One step we can take is to pass the Federal Food Donation Act, which I introduced today. This legislation would require executive agencies who serve food on their premises to encourage the donation of excess food to non-profit organizations. Such "food rescue" efforts can be particularly useful to the more than 43,000 soup kitchens and food pantries on the front lines battling hunger. As we have celebrated Veterans Day this week, it is important to remember that one out every four homeless individuals is a veteran. Often, the beneficiaries of food rescue efforts serve the homeless community and these veterans.

I would like to particularly thank the dedicated individuals at Rock and Wrap It Up! for their efforts in conceiving and promoting this legislation. This non-profit organization has specialized in food recovery and has been "thinking outside the box" in the battle against hunger for years. I appreciate their efforts and look forward to working with them for passage of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, the bottom line we must be aware of is this: the cost of food is increasing. As we prepare our Thanksgiving dinners we will likely hear a lot about the impact of inflation, rising transportation costs, and increasing commodity prices on our family budgets. The effects of rising prices have already been felt by our partners who serve the hungry. More resources are clearly needed. The Federal Food Donation Act may be a small step in the overall battle against hunger, but it is one worth taking.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, on November 20, 1917, in Wilkesboro, North Carolina, the world received Cornelius Calvin Sale. Born to a poor, struggling couple, the child was too soon taken from the arms of his loving mother, when she fell victim to the devastating influenza epidemic. The loss of his mother separated him from his siblings and from his father, a man with talented hands and an honest heart, when he was sent to live with an aunt and uncle in the coalfields of southern West Virginia. There his name was changed and so was the course of history for my State and our Nation.

This November 20 marks the 90th birthday of ROBERT C. BYRD. He holds the title of the longest-serving Senator in the history of our Nation. He has held more leadership positions than any other Senator, has cast more rollcall

votes than any other Senator, and served on a Senate committee longer than any other Senator. In fact, he has achieved so many records during his tenure of public service that the Guinness people could devote an entire book just to him.

Here in the Congress, ROBERT C. BYRD has seen majorities come and go. He has occupied the suite of the Majority Leader and been banished to the Elba of the Appropriations wing. He has felt the sting of legislative defeat, relished in legislative victory. He has watched good men, full of hope, come to the Congress and build long successful careers in public service. He has seen many ambitious men leave public life, sometimes bitter and frustrated, sometimes drawn to the big paychecks of the private sector. Through it all, his love of the U.S. Senate and his faith in our constitutional form of government has never wavered.

In both his public and private lives, he has been guided by the old values he learned growing up in the West Virginia hills, reading the Bible, and listening to his "old Mom's" prayers, offered up in dim lantern light.

And he has been the most devoted of husbands. In fact, he remains so. Even after his dear Erma left this Earth to become an angel in Heaven, his love for her—true love—has endured and bolstered him in times of trial.

So much has been written, so many speeches delivered, about the senior Senator from West Virginia, that it may be a fool's errand to even try to say anything about him that has not been repeated many times over. However, in anticipation of this special occasion, I choose to mention one particular thing for which the people of our State are most grateful to him—ROBERT C. BYRD has given us the gift of hope.

From his youthful days of coal camp life in an era of depression, through his climb to the pinnacle of governmental power, ROBERT C. BYRD's life has been and remains an inspiration to me and to every man, woman, and child who has ever doubted themselves, or been afraid to try to overcome life's considerable challenges. He is our hero.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Creator for Senator BYRD and all that he has done for this Nation. May he have the happiest of birthdays, and may he some day look back on his 90th year as just one notch on his way to scoring yet another amazing record.

RECOGNIZING DEBRA BROWN STEINBERG

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the incredible work of Debra Brown Steinberg.

Ms. Steinberg has been an uncompromising advocate for the families of the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center. She was quick to action taking an integral role in creating the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest 9/11 Project in early October 2001. She also drafted the New York City Bar Association's comments for the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund which was vital in creating the fund. This fund delivered a total of \$7 billion to family members of the victims of the 9/11 attacks.

But her work did not end there. For the last 6 years she has continued to care for the families of those who were lost. She has worked tirelessly for the family members of the victims who could not mourn freely—the widows and orphans of the victims who were immigrants on 9/11. Today in New York City there are 9/11 widows and orphans who fear going to the World Trade Center site because they may be identified for deportation.

Ms. Steinberg speaks often with these families offering them her legal expertise. She used this expertise to help draft the September 11 Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act, H.R. 1071. This bill gives Congress the tools to provide legal immigration status to the 9/11 victim's family members. It grants permanent resident status to the spouses and children of undocumented immigrants who died on 9/11. To qualify these families must have been beneficiaries of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001. Ms. Steinberg continues to push for its passage by consistently offering her talent and passion to our offices.

Her selfless and persistent efforts have given these families, victims of 9/11, comfort and hope that they will be able to soon grieve and live without fear. As I recognize her work today I hope we can honor it by passing the September 11 Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act.

THE BOTTLE RECYCLING CLIMATE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Bottle Recycling Climate Protection Act of 2007, which would establish a national program to promote the recycling of beverage containers, including bottled water, iced teas, sports drinks and carbonated beverages, by offering a national 5 cent deposit. This bill would help move the Nation towards a future of less global warming pollution by reducing the energy and related heat-trapping emissions needed to create the materials used in new beverage containers.

Twenty-five years ago, my state of Massachusetts became one of the first states to pass a state bottle bill in order to encourage the recycling of cans and bottles. Since its inception, Massachusetts' bottle law has been a tremendous success. In 2006, over 2 billion beverage containers were sold in Massachusetts and nearly 70 percent of them were recycled rather than littered or incinerated.

Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously called the States "laboratories of democracy"—the places where innovative solutions to the Nation's challenges are developed. Nowhere is the States' pioneering role in our system more vital today than in the area of energy independence and global warming. On these critical issues, the States are in the vanguard of a green energy revolution. In the case of the bottle bill, 11 states have acted as laboratories for more than two decades, very successfully. Now is the time to move this important program onto the national stage.

Recycling and reusing these bottles not only reduces the amount of litter that ends up in