

RECOGNIZING DEE CORK AND THE
DENTON COUNTY VETERANS ME-
MORIAL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Dee Cork for his years of service in the United States Armed Forces, and for his continued service to our country by building a memorial to veterans from Denton County, Texas.

Working along with Mr. Monty Slough, Mr. Cork identified the names of nine fallen servicemembers and created a personal way to memorialize their service. Without prompting or financial support, Mr. Cork began building a granite-tiled memorial to Denton County soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who died in service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Mr. Cork has taken up the honorable but unfortunate task of paying respect to fellow veterans who pay the ultimate price while serving our country. In his own eloquent words Dee said, "It would be nice to see no one else on it, one is too many."

The mobile memorial built by veterans Monty Slough and Dee Cork is an example of why we hold our Nation's veterans in such high esteem. I believe the character displayed by Mr. Slough and Mr. Cork should be highlighted as an example of American civic duty and community support; I rise here today to show them that courtesy.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Dee Cork for his dedication to veterans and their families. I thank him for his work, I support his mission, and I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize him today.

BLOCK BURMESE, JADE (JUNTA'S
ANTI-DEMOCRATIC EFFORTS)
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of extending additional import sanctions against the repressive Burmese military junta. This regime has steadfastly refused to make progress—not only with respect to its abhorrent and inexcusable human rights record, but also in preventing democracy to take root in Burma.

This past July, the House and Senate passed a bill which renewed our import ban against all Burmese products. Unfortunately, shortly after our renewal of the ban, the situation in Burma took a grave turn for the worse. As we all know, in September 2007, Buddhist monks led demonstrations in Burma, which ultimately culminated in an estimated 100,000 people marching through Rangoon. The peaceful protestors called for improvements in human rights, democratic processes, and the release of opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who still lives under unjustified house arrest.

The Burmese regime responded to these peaceful demonstrations with a violent crack-

down that led to deaths and hundreds more injuries. In addition, according to human rights groups, thousands of individuals have been arrested, tortured, or otherwise intimidated based on the regime's belief that these individuals participated in the protests.

These recent events make clear that it is time to strengthen our sanctions by putting a full stop on trade in Burmese rubies and jadeite, the sales of which finance the Burmese regime. While we need to act unilaterally, we also need to structure our strengthened import ban in a way that encourages and paves the way for multilateral pressure on the military regime. A multilateral effort that truly squeezes the junta is the only way sanctions will lead to real, lasting reform.

The Committee on Ways and Means, which has jurisdiction over import matters, has done just that. Working with the Foreign Affairs Committee, my committee was able to refine provisions so that all Burmese rubies and jadeite—and jewelry containing these Burmese stones—could fall under the purview of the current ban, even if the jewelry was made in, and exported from, a third country.

While we believe the changes the Ways and Means Committee made to this legislation maximize our compliance with U.S. international obligations, the added provisions also open the door to building a multilateral consensus at the United Nations and World Trade Organization to prevent trade in Burmese rubies and jadeite. Modeled after the successful conflict diamonds legislation, the provisions my committee added are proven and administrable.

At the same time, however, I am concerned about the provisions relating to the Generalized System of Preferences. While I understand the need to avoid unduly harming third countries affected by this ban, I believe that the approach outlined in this bill creates a number of problems and doesn't create a solid basis for holding these countries harmless. It is our expectation that there will be continued work with Chairman RANGEL and the other body to solve these problems as this bill moves forward.

For these reasons, I urge support of H.R. 3890, as amended.

RECOGNIZING JACOB DANIEL
FICHMAN FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Daniel Fichman, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Fichman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
RENEWABLE HEAT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Renewable and Hydro-electric Energy for Alaska's Tomorrow Act, the Renewable HEAT Act. The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Department of Energy to provide grants for carrying out renewable energy and hydroelectric projects.

Similar, yet more restrictive, language was included in the Senate-passed energy bill, H.R. 6. The bill, written in secret behind closed doors by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, is hardly an energy bill. More accurately described as the "Energy Suicide Act," this bill will do nothing to reduce our dependence on hostile foreign nations, nor will it bring relief to Americans suffering from rising energy costs. In fact, it will do the opposite. The only positive aspect of this bill is the provision providing grants for renewable energy, and more importantly, Alaska small hydro-electric projects.

Madam Speaker, I cannot in good conscience vote for a bill that tries to fool the American people into thinking we are going to be able to lower their energy prices. How can we lower costs and become energy independent if there is no production? Essentially, it is economic terrorism. And who is dictating the terms of this bill? The environmental groups funded by millionaires who don't lose any sleep wondering how they are going to heat their homes, as temperatures drop. We are approaching a state of crisis, where oil is trading for \$90 a barrel.

As I stated earlier, the only real energy provided for in the deceptive H.R. 6 is for hydro-electric power in Alaska. My colleagues seem to think that water is the only resource needed to keep a world power running. Since I cannot vote for this bill in its entirety, I have introduced this legislation to provide grant money for hydropower to my State of Alaska. Hydro-electric power is the Nation's largest renewable energy source and accounts for seven percent of America's electricity supply. Even though Alaska is one-sixth the size of the entire Nation, it is home to about 40 percent of the country's free-flowing freshwater.

Rural Alaskan communities have the highest utility rates in America, paying up to six times the national average, while also suffering the lowest per capita incomes. Currently, heating oil costs between \$3 and \$5 a gallon. The diesel-fired electricity so many Alaskan communities rely upon is not only expensive, it's dirty. The generators are old, unreliable, and release pollutants into the air, and in order to conserve money, are usually turned off at night. The grants this bill provides will assist these areas in the transition to clean, more affordable energy by giving them the funding to harvest the natural flow of water that surrounds them.

It has become clear to me that the United States Congress has no intention of taking care of the American people by making sure

they can heat their homes and put food on their plates. Therefore, I must make sure my Alaskans are taken care of, while they endure some of the coldest temperatures in the country.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2082,
INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Conference Report to the Intelligence Authorization Act of 2008. This legislation authorizes appropriations for the conduct of intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; the Central Intelligence Agency; the Department of Defense; the National Security Agency; and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The legislation touches all aspects of our national security—from preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, to anticipating and addressing developing threats around the world. Additionally, this legislation ensures that intelligence is collected, analyzed, and disseminated in a manner that comports with American law, policies and values.

In conference, we added a provision requiring U.S. interrogation policies employed by our intelligence community to follow those outlined in the U.S. Army Field Manual. The strength of our Nation comes not only from the might of our military, but from the power of our example. Historically, the United States has stood as a beacon for human rights and the rule of law. Unfortunately, that light has been dimmed recently as a result of the Bush Administration's gross indifference to the Geneva Convention and anti-torture regimes. The language was inserted not only to help regain our moral standing around the world, but also as a critical step toward protecting our own troops captured in the field. It is no secret that the world looks to how we treat our prisoners when determining how to treat our troops.

When we practice waterboarding or when we inhumanely parade our detainees around naked before the cameras, the world sees this as the standard to apply to the treatment of American troops.

According to testimony received by intelligence committees in the House and Senate, the U.S. Army Field Manual provides a detailed description of interrogation strategies that can be used to effectively elicit information from detainees while allowing the flexibility to adapt particular approaches to particular situations.

Importantly, the U.S. Army Field Manual also includes a number of specific prohibitions. Acts of violence or intimidation—including physical or mental torture, or exposure to inhumane treatment—are prohibited.

It also explicitly prohibits forcing a detainee to be naked; perform sexual acts; placing hoods or sacks over the head of a detainee; electric shock; burning or other forms of physical pain; waterboarding; using military working dogs; conducting mock executions; and de-

priving the detainee of necessary food, water, or medical care.

Private security companies, funded by billions of dollars in U.S. military and State Department contracts, are performing many of the jobs handled by our troops. Some of these jobs include work assigned to the intelligence community.

This conference report adds an additional level of oversight and accountability of these contractors by requiring the director of national intelligence to provide a report to Congress by April of next year, describing the services performed by contractors across the Intelligence Community.

This conference report seeks to start the process of establishing a clear definition of the functions that may be appropriately performed by contractors employed by the intelligence community. It is key that the intelligence community exercises the will to identify criminal violations by contractors and puts in place procedures to respond to financial fraud or other abuses. Requiring a report of contractor activities will help policymakers determine whether intelligence contractors are performing functions that are legal or that should be performed by government employees.

Passage today of this conference report will correct a three-year failure by Congress to pass an Intelligence Authorization bill. With this legislation, Congress sends to the President an intelligence package that makes new investments in human intelligence training and adds funds for sending analysts overseas while also enhancing oversight and eliminating wasteful spending. This conference report is also a significant move in the direction of reestablishing our reputation abroad as a country dedicated to promoting and observing human rights.

I am happy to support this conference report and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING KYLE JOSEPH KRUG
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Joseph Krug, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Krug for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR
FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS ACT

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fair Funding for Schools Act, a law designed to build upon the important strides for local school districts that have been taken over the past 57 years by the Impact Aid program.

Because people living on Federal property do not pay local property taxes, often do not pay State income taxes, and have the ability to shop for groceries and other necessities at a base PX that does not charge sales tax, local school districts are left without a funding source they otherwise would have. The Impact Aid Program is designed to replace the lost tax revenue that local school districts depend on to provide a free public education to the communities they serve. Impact Aid has provided nearly \$25 million dollars in funding for schools throughout my district, and over \$1.2 billion for the more than 1,400 school districts currently receiving Impact Aid funding.

Impact Aid is the most efficient education program because money is wired directly from the Department of Education to the school's bank accounts, avoiding administrative costs at the State level. There are no strings attached to the money and local schools can use it in any way the school board sees fit. In the past this money has been used for such necessities as construction, salaries and supplies. As a leading member and co-chair of the House Impact Aid Coalition and the father of children receiving a public education, I understand the importance of this money to schools in my district and districts across the country.

The current re-authorization proposed by Congresswoman HIRONO and me makes an already strong program even stronger and more efficient. Our proposal eliminates duplicative provisions that are no longer necessary, corrects a major error in the previous reauthorizations allocation formula, updates the law to meet the challenges of base realignments and troop deployments currently faced by this Nation, and it simplifies and reforms a number of provisions to the law that ensures a smooth road ahead for school districts that rely on this money as an integral part of their budgets.

I would also like to mention the important contributions to this reauthorization made by Congressman CHET EDWARDS and Congressman JOHN CARTER of Texas. The insight they provided proved to be invaluable as we met with people involved in drafting our proposal. The suggestions of Congressman CARTER and Congressman EDWARDS strengthen this reauthorization and ensure that it will meet the needs of all the school districts affected by Impact Aid.

The Congress must continue to recognize the sacrifice our men and women in uniform make for all of us and provide their children with the best education possible. The Fair Funding for Schools Act achieves that goal, in Nebraska, Hawaii and every other State in the Union that receives Impact Aid dollars. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.