

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CIRCLE SEAL CONTROLS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Circle Seal Controls, which celebrated its 60th anniversary in Corona, California. On November 29, 2007, I was proud to attend the anniversary celebration.

Circle Seal has a long, proud tradition of quality manufacturing in southern California. Circle Seal's home for the last 15 years is also my hometown—Corona. The state-of-the-art facility has 300 employees and provides equipment for military and commercial aircraft, U.S. Navy ships, the Space Shuttle, and other rocket and missile applications.

The evolution of the industrial defense base has allowed the U.S. government to get out of the manufacturing business and let contractors, who can do it better and cheaper, provide essential platforms and components. Without Circle Seal's expertise, our F-18s, Global Hawks and V-22s don't get off the ground. Right now, our troops are relying on the products made by Circle, and the pride the employees take in their work is a part of the success on the battlefield. I thank Circle Seal for all their hard work and their relentless pursuit of excellence.

Circle Seal's past successes have ensured a continued relationship with the U.S. government—I'm proud to see that the company also contributes to the C-17, the KC-767 Tanker and the Navy LCS programs. Their demonstrated reliability and quality are exactly what the government needs. I look forward to a continued strong relationship with Circle Seal and, again, I commend the company on their anniversary and—most importantly—the people who make Circle Seal a valued and integral part of the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE MIDLAND ROCKHOUNDS

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute my hometown baseball team, the Midland RockHounds, as they received the John H. Johnson President's Trophy honoring them as the best team in Minor League Baseball.

The Midland RockHounds, owned by Miles Prentice and Bob Richmond, are a community institution in the Permian Basin. Miles and Bob both have a deep passion for America's pastime, and it shows in the success of the RockHounds. Together with their management team, headed by longtime General Manager

Monty Hoppel, Miles and Bob have created one of the most successful teams in the history of the Texas League.

Under the direction of Miles, Bob, and Monty, the RockHounds have twice won the Texas League Championship and have been honored as the Double-A organization of the year. In choosing the RockHounds as the recipients of the President's Trophy, Minor League Baseball has recognized the many years of hard work and deep community involvement as the best in the nation.

The RockHounds would not be the team they are today without the people of the Permian Basin who have generously rewarded their efforts with over 270,000 clicks of the turnstile this year alone—a franchise attendance record.

In addition to fielding a great ball club, the RockHounds management works tirelessly to raise money for the community—especially local schools and youth sports organizations. Led by the hugely successful West Texas Sports Banquet and Memorabilia Auction, the RockHounds participated in over 80 fundraisers this year and helped to raise over \$100,000 this year for programs in the Permian Basin.

The President's Trophy is the most coveted award in Minor League Baseball as it is given in recognition of "overall franchise excellence". It takes into account the success of the franchise, its relationship with the surrounding community, and its contributions to baseball. On all of these measures, the Midland RockHounds are a model team and I am honored to represent the organization and its fans here in Washington.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and tremendous respect that I recognize the achievements of the Midland RockHounds today. Their successes on and off the baseball field have made the Permian Basin a better place to live and I can think of no team more deserving to earn the 2007 John H. Johnson President's Trophy.

TO HONOR PAUL VICTOR LINSTROM

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Victor Linstrom who was born May 31, 1926, in Whitewood, SD. Paul attended school in Sturgis, SD. He joined the Navy in August of 1943, finishing his high school GED and naval training at the U.S. Naval Training Station at Farragut, ID. He was listed as a graduate of the class of 1944 at Sturgis High School. He was assigned to the *Pierre Victory* troop transport ship as a signalman and spent his military tour in the South Pacific. Paul was honorably discharged from the Navy in July 1946.

Paul married Isabelle Gerhard on September 21, 1946, in Sturgis, where he started

his truck driving career for his Dad's business. Paul and his family moved to Rapid City in 1950 where he started a 25-year career as an over-the-road, sleeper, truck driver for United Buckingham Transport. He also drove for AMOCO Oil Co. of Rapid City from 1975 to 1990, when he retired.

He loved fishing, hunting, traveling and camping in the Black Hills as well as and throughout the American West, Mexico, and Canada. In 1965, he helped organize the "Black Hills Hillbillies", a camping club associated with the Red Dale National Campers Club, serving as the Head Scout for the Hillbillies and hosting a number of National Rallies in South Dakota, as a 36-year member.

Paul and Isabelle spent 10 years wintering in Apache Junction, AZ, meeting many new friends in the RV Park and taking bus trips in Arizona, California and Mexico. Paul and Isabelle raised two daughters, Paula Kay LaPorte, who is married to John LaPorte, and Deborah Ann Phelps, who is married to Mike Phelps. They have four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, we are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed to live in a country whose citizens willingly volunteer to put themselves in harm's way to defend and protect our great Nation.

I am proud to honor Paul for his dedicated service to our Nation. Paul is an American hero who left his home to defend our Nation, and then returned home to be a valued member of his community, showing his children and grandchildren how to live meaningful lives of service. Paul truly is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great Nation it is today. May God bless Paul and his family, may God bless our precious veterans, and may God bless America.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act. Although this bill includes some very important provisions, like the private security contracting language I fought so hard to include, I am unable to support this legislation because it authorizes \$41.8 billion to continue the war in Iraq. It is unfortunate that this funding was part of this bill because otherwise I would have been proud to vote for this legislation. Nevertheless, I am very proud of the provisions to increase oversight and transparency over private security contractors, which Representative PRICE, Senator OBAMA and I worked so hard to include in this bill.

• 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.

This bill contains important provisions to regulate private security contractors, including nearly all of the provisions from H.R. 897, the Iraq and Afghanistan Contractor Sunshine Act, which I introduced in February to give Congress access to the basic information necessary for us to do our job of providing gravely needed oversight of private contractors. The Defense Authorization Act would give Congress access to information about contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan including a description of each contract, the value of each contract, the total number of personnel employed on contracts and the total number of contractors killed or wounded. I am happy to see these provisions from my legislation included in today's bill.

The series of lethal incidents involving private security contractors in Iraq over the past 2 months have made it crystal clear that we must provide oversight of private contractors. This National Defense Authorization Act would increase oversight by the Department of Defense and the Department of State by mandating that they create clear regulations to govern contractor conduct, investigate any violent incidents like the September 16th Blackwater shooting, and clarify contractors' use of force.

Further, any new contract signed 180 days after the bill is enacted would have to contain a clause saying that contractors must comply with the new regulations and that all contract personnel performing private security contracts understand that they must comply with U.S. laws and the laws of the host country, orders issued by the combatant command, rules on the use of force, and any investigation into violent incidents conducted by DOD. If they do not comply, their contract could be terminated. This will create a powerful tool that the United States could use to ensure that private security contractors follow the law and are held responsible for their actions.

The National Defense Authorization bill also goes a long way toward restoring troop readiness. It includes a badly needed 3.5 percent pay raise for servicemembers and prohibits increases in TRICARE and pharmacy user fees. The bill also includes the Wounded Warrior Act to address the problems experienced by wounded and injured servicemembers that became apparent earlier this year at Walter Reed.

I also support the increase in the number of visas for the brave Iraqis who have worked with the United States and have been targeted for their efforts.

While I cannot vote for the bill because it includes \$41.8 billion for the war in Iraq without a withdrawal deadline, I would like to thank Chairman SKELTON for addressing so many of my concerns about bringing accountability to private contracting and to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

RECOGNIZING DAVID LOUIS RELIC FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Louis Relic, 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.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years David 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 David Relic for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS OF THE EARTH BY LANDSAT SPACE- CRAFT AND LOOKING FORWARD TO SUSTAINING THE LONGEST, CONTINUOUS RECORD OF CIVIL EARTH OBSERVATIONS OF THE LAND

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a House resolution to celebrate 35 years of space-based observations of the Earth by Landsat spacecraft, an accomplishment that has helped revolutionize our understanding of the Earth's land surface as well as enable a wide range of applications of Landsat data that have had significant societal benefits.

The Landsat program began with the launch of the first civilian Earth observation satellite on July 23, 1972, by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA. The satellite, originally known as the Earth Resources Technology Satellite, was later renamed Landsat 1. Since the first Landsat satellite, five follow-on spacecraft have been successfully launched to continue the space-based collection of land data. This series of Landsat satellites has established the longest, unbroken record of data on the global land surface.

The extensive three and a half-decade record of Landsat data has allowed scientists to study changes to the Earth's land cover over time, including changes influenced by both human and natural causes. The applied uses of the data have served numerous purposes, including natural resource management, land use planning, cartography, and food security, to cite just a few examples.

The data collected through the Landsat program are being used by many Federal agencies including NASA, the Department of the Interior and its U.S. Geological Survey, the Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Homeland Security and its Federal Emergency Management Agency, among others. In addition, academic institutions, State, county, and local governments, private industry, foreign governments, and non-governmental organizations are users of Landsat data. The broad application of these

data for scientific and societal benefit testifies to the Nation's sound investment in a public good.

My home State of Colorado has two companies that demonstrate the excellent commercial applications that have developed from the initial Federal investments made in space-based remote sensing exemplified by the Landsat program. DigitalGlobe in Longmont and GeoEye in Thornton have both become international leaders in the remote sensing fields.

I think it is important for this body to express our collective thanks to the many scientists, engineers, and program personnel who have contributed to Landsat's success over the past three and a half decades. As a result of their efforts, Landsat data has become an indispensable source for a host of beneficial applications that have improved our quality of life and enhanced our economic vitality. In addition, Landsat data are important scientifically. For example, the U.S. Climate Change Science Program has recognized the significance of the Landsat program, noting that "Landsat data are invaluable for studying the land surface and how it affects and is affected by climate."

However, while today's resolution recognizes the benefits we have accrued from past investments in the Landsat program, it is clear that more can be gained from this program in the years to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring that the benefits that are possible from civil space-based land observations, as well as from commercially available remote sensing systems, continue to be realized. By supporting the research, technology, education, and tools required to improve Landsat data collection and applications, we can look forward to further scientific advancements and societal benefits from this critical national asset.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I again want to salute all those who helped make Landsat possible and who work to maintain its continued successful operation, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on December 17, 2007, I was unable to be present for two rollcall votes due to technological complications with my vote notification system.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 1163—"aye"; rollcall No. 1164—"aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make the following rollcall votes on December 17, 2007:

H. Res. 856, Resolution expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the