

A RESOLUTION TO URGE THE PRESIDENT TO APPOINT A SPECIAL ENVOY FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution urging President Bush to send a special envoy to the Middle East to focus on solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In my view, we have not committed enough resources to encourage peace in the region.

Maintaining the security of the State of Israel will always remain a priority of Congress and the United States of America.

This resolution does not change our policy for a secure and safe Israel, but acknowledges that we need to play a more constructive role in the region.

I was encouraged to see Secretary Condoleezza Rice make a trip to the region last month.

I was also pleased to see the Quartet recently meet to reaffirm their commitment to the peace process.

These are important steps, but I worry that they will have the same result as similar efforts and we will not see the type of sustained diplomacy required to solve such a complex issue.

I am calling on all my colleagues to help me send a message that we need a new approach. We need a special envoy with the authority to bring all responsible parties to the table.

This role was critical in the 1990s and is necessary today.

This envoy would work with the Secretary of State to ensure a constant, high-level American presence and provide our country with the ability to capitalize on every opportunity for progress.

The United States, Israel and the entire international community cannot afford to miss an opportunity to broker a lasting peace.

A special envoy, with the sanctioned mission of securing a lasting peace through negotiation, must be dispatched to the region.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to introduce this resolution today.

RECOGNIZING PAMELA SIME

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, education is the foundation of a strong nation, and I strongly believe that by investing in education and supporting our teachers, we can maintain American competitiveness in an increasingly global economy.

That is why I am honored to rise today in recognition of Ms. Pamela Sime, a science teacher at Unami Middle School in Chalfont, Pennsylvania. Today, Ms. Sime is here in Washington as one of five finalists nominated for the National Education Association Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence.

Madam Speaker, as a teacher in the Central Bucks School District, Ms. Sime has inspired

students for the better part of a decade, and the people of the Eighth Congressional District are lucky to have her. Ms. Sime teaches students a very modern curriculum, emphasizing ecology, energy, and the use of technology. She employs a hands-on, interactive approach to learning. Ms. Sime's students recently released their own science publication and after studying oil, they wrote letters to soldiers stationed overseas. Every year, her students look forward to investigating the disappearance of Skully, the classroom skeleton. In this exercise, students use modern forensic techniques, incorporating real-life applications in their study of science. I believe that great science teachers like Ms. Sime are a big part of why innovation exemplifies the American spirit.

Were Ms. Sime's excellence limited only to the classroom, we would still be proud, but her activities outside of the classroom are equally impressive. She is involved in all aspects of students' lives, and is always available for extra help. This dedication to her students is one of the most inspiring things about Ms. Sime. In a field where our professionals regularly demonstrate uncommon compassion and dedication, the rarefied few that go beyond set a new standard of excellence. That is why it comes as no surprise, Madam Speaker, that Ms. Sime entered the contest not for her own recognition, but in order to secure a grant to further enrich the educational experience of her students.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I am delighted to honor Ms. Sime's achievements. I wish her luck today regardless of the outcome of the competition's final decision, the people of Bucks County are proud of her accomplishments and grateful for her years of service.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 434, the Short Term Extension of the Small Business Administration, SBA, as amended by the Senate. H.R. 434 will provide for additional temporary extension through July 31, 2007, of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958. This very important extension is crucial to the success of many small businesses across the country. Our entire Nation's economy relies on the success of small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses represent more than the American dream—they represent the American economy. Small businesses account for 95 percent of all employers, create half of our gross domestic product, and provide three out of four new jobs in this country.

Small business growth means economic growth for the Nation. But to keep this segment of our economy thriving, entrepreneurs need access to loans. Through loans, small business owners can expand their businesses,

hire more workers and provide more goods and services. The Small Business Administration, SBA, a Federal organization that aids small businesses with loan and development programs, is a key provider of support to small businesses. The SBA's main loan program accounts for 30 percent of all long-term small business borrowing in America.

Recently, my colleagues and I were able to restore funding to the SBA's main loan program for small businesses for 2005. And I am confident that we will continue to protect loan programs that will create and expand American small businesses. I have worked fervently and will continue to work to make sure small businesses have access to loans. These loans contribute greatly to the viability of many of these small businesses.

Providing loans for small businesses has also played a role in "Rebuilding the Gulf Coast" contracting opportunities. As of March 6, 2006, the Small Business Administration there have been: 55 Disaster Home Loans approved for \$727,000; 27 Disaster Business Loans approved for \$1,750,800; 17 Disaster Economic Injury Loans approved for \$750,100; and 99 Total Disaster Loans approved for \$3,227,900.

In my own district, small businesses are vital to our economy. That is why I have worked to introduce minority, women, and small business owners to contracting officials at NASA to help promote and develop Houston small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked hard to help small business owners to fully realize their potential. That is why I support entrepreneurial development programs, including the Small Business Development Center and Women's Business Center programs. These initiatives provide counseling in a variety of critical areas, including business plan development, finance, and marketing.

I also support investing in the highly successful Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, Program, which offers services to help small U.S. manufacturers stay competitive. These measures are important to keeping jobs here at home, and helping American small business prosper.

Small business owners are leaders in innovation, creative business operations and new technologies and products. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the extension of the Small Business Administration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMMETT TILL UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIME ACT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to join my House and Senate colleagues today in introducing this important and necessary legislation. I would like to thank Senators DODD and LEAHY and Congressman HULSHOF for their commitment to justice and to the passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act.

Nearly 60 Members of the House of Representatives from across the country joined us in cosponsoring this important and historic bill. There is strong, bipartisan, bicameral commitment to passing and enacting this legislation

as swiftly as possible. It is long overdue. The country is ready. The victims' families, friends, and loved ones have been suffering indefinitely, and Congress needs to act.

Our purpose here today is not to open up old wounds. There is a need for those who committed horrible crimes to be brought to justice. This process of seeking justice is not just good for history's sake, but it is good for the process of healing. It will help us to put this dark past behind us and to bring closure to the families of the victims of these age-old and vicious crimes.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act will deliver the added focus and resources necessary to get this job done. It is my hope and prayer that many murders committed during this Nation's struggle for civil rights will be solved as a result of this legislation. I will work tirelessly to see it passed.

SUPPORTING H.R. 365, THE METHAMPHETAMINE REMEDIATION RESEARCH ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of H.R. 365, The Methamphetamine Remediation Act of 2007, which will help communities across North Carolina clean up methamphetamine labs and the dangerous toxins that they leave behind. We must work toward making our communities safer, while also protecting our environment against the harmful effects of methamphetamine.

The chemicals used in the production of methamphetamine are extremely hazardous to our health and to our environment. These chemicals are toxic both during production and in their post-production residue. They can cause soil contamination through chemical dumping, in addition to hazardous waste problems. This residue seeps into carpets, furnishings, drapery and walls, so anyone who occupies the space now or in the future will be exposed to the dangerous toxins. This is extremely alarming since two-thirds of all methamphetamine labs are found in residential areas. Future residents are often exposed to these toxic chemicals without even knowing it, with children particularly vulnerable to harm.

Despite the best efforts of our dedicated men and women in law enforcement, this problem is growing. In 2005 there were 322 methamphetamine lab incidents in North Carolina alone. In 2003, the Asheville Port of Duty targeted large methamphetamine trafficking group in the region that was distributing over 40 pounds of methamphetamine monthly to habitual users in Western North Carolina.

H.R. 365 addresses these problems in several ways. It will help protect innocent families against the after affects of methamphetamine labs and make our communities safer and cleaner places to live. It will direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology to work with the EPA to develop technologies that will detect methamphetamine labs. The bill authorizes funding for the EPA to research the chemical residues and work with State and local officials to ensure that all levels of government are using the best practices for meth-

amphetamine lab recovery and remediation, so that future residents of a home are safe from harmful toxins.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to vote for this important legislation that will help protect our environment from pollution and our innocent families from the dangerous poisons that are imposed unknowingly upon them.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND AMERICAN MONUMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 5 the House unanimously passed H.R. 161, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Monument Act of 2007. This measure would provide for the preservation of a historic site on Bainbridge Island, WA, where the first Japanese Americans were assembled for internment during World War II.

I thank my friend, Congressman JAY INSLEE, for his heartfelt commitment and leadership in introducing this legislation and working so effectively through the years to provide for this historic site. As an original cosponsor of this legislation and supporter of past efforts, I am proud to see its passage in the House. In addition, I wish to thank the Committee on Natural Resources and especially my friend, Chairman RAÚL GRIJALVA of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands for their support and quick action.

During the war hysteria in 1942, Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Roosevelt which effectively trampled on the rights of U.S. citizens by ordering the internment of approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans.

Due to the military importance of Bainbridge Island, WA, lawful Japanese American families of this community were the first to be forcibly removed from their homes and sent to internment sites. These families would not be able to return to the island for more than four years. H.R. 161 would preserve their story.

H.R. 161 would enact recommendations from the National Park Service by extending the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, located in Idaho, to include the Bainbridge Island site as a satellite location. The Minidoka internment camp was the final destination until the end of the war for most of the families from Bainbridge Island. Including the Bainbridge Island site into an existing national monument would make it eligible to receive grants for funding.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly grateful for the support H.R. 161 enjoyed in the House of Representatives, and I anticipate similar endorsement in the Senate. Memorializing the Bainbridge Island site will preserve the stories of injustice fallen on these innocent American families and serve as a reminder of how easily the civil rights can be discarded in guise of homeland security. Appropriately, the Bainbridge Island Memorial will be named Nidoto Nai Yoni, which translated from Japanese means "Let It Not Happen Again."

HONORING THE PADEREWSKI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S FEBRUARY 2007 PRODUCTION OF STANISLAW MONIUSZKO'S OPERA, THE HAUNTED MANOR

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the more than 110,000 Polish and Polish-American constituents of my district, as well as those of Polish descent around the country, I rise today to honor the late Polish composer Stanislaw Moniuszko. On February 10 and 11, the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra will perform Poland's national opera, *The Haunted Manor*, for audiences at the Rosemont Theater.

Considered the father of Polish opera, Moniuszko was born in the spring of 1819 to a patriotic family of Polish landowners living on the eastern edge of partitioned Poland. Revealing a passion for music at an early age, he began taking private piano lessons while still very young. In 1837, Moniuszko traveled to Berlin where he studied composition and choral conducting. By 1840, the young artist had already composed several operas as well as sacred music and secular cantatas.

Moniuszko became well-known for his many songs, operas, and ballets filled with patriotic and Polish folk themes. His music is quite stylistically distinct while incorporating various national motifs including certain Polish dances and folk tunes.

To this day, Moniuszko is considered one of Poland's great composers. One of his most famous operas is *Straszny Dwor*, or *The Haunted Manor*. In it, Moniuszko depicts Polish nobility and gentry while emphasizing Polish customs and traditions. The comic opera is claimed as Poland's national opera, as it encompasses different levels of society, and it has a vitality that speaks to everyone.

During his professional life, Moniuszko traveled numerous times to St. Petersburg to give concerts, so it is fitting that his works are traveling across the ocean to be performed by the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Moniuszko and honor his success, as well as to commend the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra for bringing this important part of Poland's history to the Polish and Polish-American communities in the United States.

RECOGNIZING BENJAMIN LITTLE BEAR BRINK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Little Bear Brink, 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, Troop 388, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities.