

MILITARY BASE REALIGNMENT
AND CLOSURE PROJECTS FOR 2007

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the upcoming 2007 fiscal year supplemental appropriations bill.

Much of the debate on this bill has focused, quite rightly, on the provisions that codify President Bush's benchmarks for Iraq into law. That is an important subject that I plan to discuss in depth tomorrow.

But for now I wish to spotlight another element of this legislation, a fulfillment of a promise to America's military installations. The supplemental bill will fully fund Base Realignment and Closure projects through 2007, and in so doing, it will close the books on one of the 109th Congress's most shameful failures.

As you may know, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission was charged with restructuring the American military to better prosecute the war on terror. In the course of their work, the Commission discovered that certain American bases have outstanding strengths that are uniquely valuable in modern-day wars. The Commission asked these installations to scale up their operations, and Congress, in turn, promised to fully fund these expansions.

Among the targeted bases were three in my district: Fort Leavenworth, Fort Riley, and Forbes Field. The base commanders promptly enacted plans to build new facilities and house new personnel—all in the name of protecting America, trusting Congress to fulfill its promise.

But a promise made is not always a promise kept, and the 109th Congress was well known for breaking its word. In their 2 years in office, they cast aside promises to veterans, to schools, to farmers and ranchers, to children and seniors—and, sadly, to America's military bases as well.

For the 2007 fiscal year, when BRAC projects needed \$5.6 billion to move forward as planned, the last Congress appropriated only \$1.5 billion. Worse, they attached strings to what little funding they provided, which essentially blocked all new construction on BRAC projects for 6 months. As of October 1, 2006, all new construction came to an immediate halt. Worse yet, the bases most impacted by underfunding were those that stood to gain the most from BRAC—that is, the very bases at the frontline of the war on terror.

I cannot find words to express the scale of this catastrophe. The last Congress left our Nation less secure and our troops less supported. They closed their wallets and their hearts to the soldiers who so courageously fight the war on terror.

When Democrats took over Congress in January, we acted immediately to right this grave wrong. We passed a further \$1 billion in BRAC funding by the end of January, and we promised to move promptly to fully fund BRAC through supplemental funding. More importantly, these funds allowed new construction to start.

And unlike the last Congress, when this Congress makes a promise to our soldiers, we deliver.

The bill now under consideration will fully fund BRAC for the current fiscal year. It will

help the United States military better fight the war on terror, and it will strengthen and secure our great nation. I urge all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, to keep their word to our troops and support this critical legislation.

HONORING LISA HUSSUNG

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Lisa Hussung, an exemplary citizen from my Congressional District who was recently named Elementary Music Teacher of the Year by the Kentucky Music Educators Association.

A music teacher at Rich Pond Elementary School in Warren County, Kentucky, Mrs. Hussung demonstrates a special ability to relay her passion for music on to her students. She consistently engages students with her interactive teaching style, instilling an appreciation for music that often continues many years after they have left the classroom.

Mrs. Hussung's influence extends outside of the classroom, particularly through her work with other music professionals to build a stronger music curriculum in Warren County. She often leads student groups in choral, instrumental and dance performances, providing opportunities for young artists to publicly showcase their talents.

The combination of Lisa Hussung's two greatest passions, music and teaching, has made her career as a music teacher the perfect job. In her words, "There is nothing better than singing and dancing all day while still teaching and seeing my students learn."

It is my great privilege to recognize Lisa Hussung today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for her excellent work in public education. Her unique dedication to the development of young people and the communities they will someday serve make her an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

HONORING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK DAVID C. MABIE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Mr. David Mabie, of Nokesville, Virginia, on the occasion of his retirement after over four decades of public service.

After serving three years in the U.S. Army, Dave and his wife Copper moved to Waynesboro, Virginia, in 1967 where Dave joined the Waynesboro Police Department. Then in 1970 he became a police officer in Manassas, Virginia, and served as one of the original members of this newly formed Prince William County department. Dave served as a detective and eventually was assigned to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office where he specialized in trial preparation for capital murder cases.

In 1992 Dave was elected to serve as clerk of the Circuit Court in Prince William County, from where he will be retiring on April 1, 2007. Through the years Dave has been an active member of several organizations including the United Way, Regional Jail Board, and Chamber of Commerce. Dave has dedicated his professional life to public service and will be sorely missed by Prince William County and the northern Virginia community as a whole.

I cannot say enough about Dave and how honored I am to have worked with him throughout his career. I would be remiss today in didn't also recognize Dave's dedication to his wife Copper, and how proud he is of their children, Andrew, Meredith, and Christopher, and their many grandchildren. I suspect that as Dave prepares for retirement he is looking forward to spending more time with his family. We wish him the best and thank him for his dedicated service to the people.

CALLING FOR RELEASE OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS HELD CAPTIVE BY HAMAS AND HEZBOLLAH

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I join with my good friend Congressman GARY ACKERMAN in calling for the unconditional release of the three kidnapped Israeli soldiers held hostage for more than six months by Hezbollah and Hamas. I am proud to co-sponsor it, and to have our Committee bring it up for consideration by the House.

A few weeks ago we were honored by the presence in the Capitol of Karnit Goldwasser, whose husband Ehud remains in Hezbollah's hands. She is a model of strength, courage, and loving commitment.

I put my arm around this young woman—having recently celebrated my 57th anniversary with my own lovely wife—and I assured her that we in the Congress will do our best to see to it that she and her beloved husband Ehud also will have the opportunity to celebrate many anniversaries together in the years ahead.

As everyone knows, Mr. Speaker, Hezbollah and Hamas are the guilty parties in the outbreak of violence in the Middle East last summer. They committed acts of war by crossing into Israeli territory, acts of terror by taking three young Israeli soldiers captive, and vicious unprovoked attacks against Israel's civilian population.

While the immediate fighting between Israel and these terrorist organizations has subsided, the initial causes for the violence, lamentably, have not yet been addressed. Primary among these is the fact that the three young men, Gilad Shalit, Eldad Regev, and Ehud Goldwasser, remain in captivity.

Mr. Speaker, the fighting last summer ended when the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1701, which imposed a ceasefire on the Hezbollah attacks against Israel. That resolution unequivocally called for—and I quote—"the unconditional release of the abducted Israeli soldiers."

Therefore, their ongoing captivity is not only immoral. It is also illegal, and it represents

characteristically contemptuous disregard by the terrorists for the will of the international community.

Contrary to the most basic standards of humanitarian conduct, Hamas and Hezbollah have not even allowed access to the Israeli captives by competent medical personnel and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, this appalling conduct underscores the cruel and sinister nature of the enemies that The United States and Israel face in this troubled region.

The resolution we are considering today expresses this Congress's vision for "a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state living in peace alongside of the State of Israel."

I share this vision, but we all know that this vision cannot be achieved—nor can Israeli confidence be won—by sweeping under the rug the transgressions of terrorists like Hamas and Hezbollah.

Mr. Speaker, these terrorists attacked Israel from land that the Israeli army unilaterally evacuated—evacuated in the expectation of peace. But the borders traversed by Hamas and Hezbollah have been anything but peaceful. As one insightful observer aptly described it, "Israel pursues land-for-peace, while Hamas and Hezbollah pursue land-for-war."

Our own American soldiers are being victimized by terrorists every day in Iraq—terrorism sponsored by the same two nations that sponsored the kidnapping of the Israeli soldiers, Iran and Syria. So we cannot turn a blind eye when citizens of a fellow democracy fall prey to the machinations of savage terrorists.

The Israeli soldiers must be released without delay and without preconditions. That is the Security Council's demand, and it is our demand as well. We will remain committed to the soldiers' freedom—for the sake of the fight against terrorism and for the sake of peace.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution and I urge all my colleagues to do likewise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, I was unable to attend votes due to illness.

Were I present, I would have voted in the following manner: H.R. 1254—Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2007—"yea"; H.R. 1255—Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007—"yea"; H.R. 1309—The Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 2007—"yea"; Stupak amendment to H.R. 985—"yea"; Sali amendment to H.R. 985—"no"; On Motion to Recommit H.R. 985 with Instructions—"yea"; H.R. 985—Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2007—"yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Ms. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I was not present to vote on Monday, March 12,

2007 because my flight from my district was delayed.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way:

(1) H.R. 85—Energy Technology Transfer Act—"yea".

(2) H. Res. 136—Commending the Girl Scouts of the United States of America on the occasion of their 95th anniversary, for providing quality age-appropriate experiences that prepare girls to become the leaders of tomorrow and for raising issues important to girls—"yea".

(3) H. Res. 89—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as Dutch-American Friendship Day to celebrate the historic ties of the United States and the Netherlands—"yea".

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH FIRST ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, we are here because we need to provide affordable healthcare options for children. There are 9 million children uninsured in the United States today. There is no excuse for a country that is spending \$1.9 trillion on health care to have even one uninsured child, especially when it costs a mere \$3.50 a day to cover a child.

Who are these children? Nearly two-thirds are low income children and more than half are children in working families. Moreover, over half are minorities. But most importantly, these are children that are significantly less likely to make it to a doctor when they have an acute earache or even recurrent asthma and even die.

I am introducing the Children's Health First Act with Representatives DIANA DEGETTE, FRANK PALLONE, HENRY WAXMAN, and others, to provide every child in this country access to affordable health insurance. Senator CLINTON is introducing the companion bill in the Senate as well.

This bill builds on successful public programs such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program by offering States financial support to expand coverage to working families making approximately \$70,000 a year.

This bill allows employers and families to access good health insurance by buying into an affordable insurance pool. And the bill even goes further by allowing States to help employers retain coverage they already have through a 50-percent subsidy of the cost the States are spending on coverage for a child.

This bill provides States with new tools to help them find and enroll qualified children and ensure benefits and services are available once the children are enrolled. The tools include things such as allowing States to enroll children in schools and hospitals in public programs, allowing States to simplify their applications and renewal forms, and allowing children to enroll in coverage for a full year, as in most private plans.

The bill also makes numerous other improvements to Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program. This bill allows States to expand coverage to legal immigrants, young adults up to age 25, and offers

incentives for States to cover pregnant women.

Health care is every person's problem. It costs our country to have parents staying home to care for sick children, for the insured to pay higher premiums, for hospitals to provide uncompensated care, and for us to have a unhealthy younger generation.

We cannot continue to ignore a problem as large as 46 million uninsured people and certainly not the 9 million vulnerable uninsured children. To cover all children, it will cost us a fraction of what it cost to provide prescription drugs to seniors. I think it is time we agreed to make that investment for our future.

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY DONATION REFORM ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker our Nation's Presidential libraries are a priceless resource for researchers, historians, and the public. They serve as legacies to our Presidents, repositories of history, and a source of tremendous pride for local communities. At the same time, they have become elaborate institutions, housing official papers, museums, classrooms, conference facilities, and even gift shops.

With this expansion, however, come additional costs. As the costs increase, so does the pressure to raise private funds. But under current law, those contributions do not need to be disclosed.

The gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. DUNCAN, worked to close this loophole. He has been a leader on this issue, drafting and moving legislation to an overwhelming House vote.

But we should keep politics out of this. The bill before us applies to the current President and future Presidents. I offered an amendment in Committee to make this law effective for the next elected President. I hope we again will resist inserting politics into a bill the House passed by a vote of 392 to 3.

With this legislation we are recognizing the perception of impropriety that contributions to a presidential library can raise. We don't need to re-open old wounds or begin inflicting new ones today. Presidents leave their mark on our rich history, and those giving to presidential libraries should be proud to have their donations publicly disclosed.

Mr. Speaker, our goal should be a unanimous vote on the House floor—anything less is a step back. I know my colleagues will agree: The cost of building presidential libraries: millions. The value of disclosing contributions to those libraries: priceless.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARCUS MOSIAH GARVEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the record an article by Michael