

As a prerequisite to expansion, my bill requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to implement an effective biometric air border exit system, US-VISIT air exit, so we can know at all times who is in our country. My bill also requires that VWP travelers be screened against terrorist and criminal watch lists and that VWP countries report all lost and stolen passports, so these passports cannot be used by terrorists and criminals. We must also improve information-sharing with our VWP partner countries to be able to know whether a traveler might present a threat to the U.S. In addition, before admitting new countries to the VWP, DHS must consider other security factors, such as the country's passport standards, airport security, whether the country has an effective air marshal program, and whether its nationals have a history of compliance with our immigration and other laws.

My bill maintains the requirement that the nationals of a VWP country demonstrate they will comply with our immigration laws. Some who advocate expanding the Visa Waiver Program say that preventing terrorism should be our only concern and that we should not consider whether a country's nationals have a history of immigration violations or visa overstays. While preventing terrorist travel is our primary security concern, it is not our only security concern. As we have seen in recent worksite enforcement actions, persons living and working in the U.S. illegally can also present security risks to our citizens and our economy, such as engaging in identity theft, or they can be exploited by criminal or terrorist elements. Robust border security, where we have control of who enters and leaves our country and know they are here for legitimate purposes, must be central to any expansion of the VWP. To that end, I am pleased to offer an approach to accomplishing this goal—the Secure Visa Waiver Travel Act of 2007.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, due to being unavoidably delayed, I missed votes on H.R. 1677 (rollcall No. 214) and H. Res. 196 (rollcall No. 215). I would have voted in favor of both H.R. 1677 and H. Res. 196, had I been present to record my vote.

HONORING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the African American Association. Throughout its extraordinary history, the Association has been known for promoting equality, diversity, social justice, and African American community empowerment. This year the Association celebrates the 45th anniversary of its founding.

The African American Association was first organized in the early 1960s by African Amer-

ican students at the University of California, Berkeley. Among the founding members were community leaders such as Khalid Al-Mansour (known then as Don Warden); future Judges Henry Ramsey and Thelton Henderson; future Congressman and Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums; and future Black Panthers Huey Newton and Bobby Seale.

The Association's founding occurred in the midst of a turbulent time for African Americans and for our country. Malcolm X was fearlessly expressing his views on race relations. Many African nations were being liberated after years of colonial rule and oppression. The civil rights movement was gaining national momentum, and many young African Americans were feeling a newfound source of pride in their African heritage. A primary impetus for the group's establishment was an interest in learning the real history of Africa and slavery in the United States. Not having the resources for a mass media campaign, group members took their message to where the people were: they took their message to the streets.

Of central importance to Association members were questions related to the African American self-image. Members wanted to address the negative light in which many African Americans viewed themselves, specifically in the context of their African heritage and physical features. Moreover, the Association's mission was to help African Americans cultivate the sense of self-love that for many had been missing as a result of slavery's destructive legacy within the African American community and throughout our country.

After being met with skepticism initially, the Association began to reach more and more people with their message of empowerment. Members began reaching a wider audience by broadcasting a half-hour radio show on Oakland KDKA, entitled We Care Enough To Tell It Like It Is. After approximately a year of meeting in various locations, the Association established regular meeting facilities on Grove Street in Oakland. The best known and most attended events were the Association's weekly Monday Night Lectures and Friday Night Forums. These gatherings featured discussions of books on African and African American history, religion, architecture, current events, and other topics. People of all ages attended these lively meetings because they always represented an opportunity to learn, and to look at things from a new perspective.

Over the years, the Association continued its advocacy for social, political, economic, and educational equality for African Americans. Members urged African Americans to establish businesses, and the Association formed its own employment office to match members with job opportunities. The Association also remained centrally involved in the struggle to promote education among young African Americans, urging them to not only complete their education but to obtain the highest grades at the highest level of education that they could. In addition, the Association organized to address countless other issues, including community safety, the devastating impact of the Jonestown Massacre, and social justice in African countries.

Today the members and supporters of the African American Association have come together to celebrate not only the organization's 45th anniversary, but also the group's permanent and positive impact on our community. On this very special day, I join all of the mem-

bers in thanking and saluting the Association for its profound contributions to California's 9th Congressional District, our country, and our world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall votes during the week of April 16, 2007. On rollcall vote No. 214, the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 1677, the Tax Payer Protection Act, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 215, the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 196, supporting the goals and ideals of World Water Day, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 216, the motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended, to H. Con. Res. 100, condemning the recent violent actions of the Government of Zimbabwe against peaceful opposition party activists and members of civil society, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 217, the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 273, supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 218, the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 76, honoring the 50th Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 219, ordering the previous question, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 220, agreeing to H. Res. 301, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1257, Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 221, the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 306, offering heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families regarding the horrific violence at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 222, agreeing to the Chabot of Ohio Amendment No. 1, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall vote No. 223, agreeing to the Chabot of Ohio Amendment No. 2, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 224, the motion to recommit, with instructions, H.R. 1361, the Relief for Entrepreneurs: Coordination of Objectives and Values for Effective Recovery Act, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 225, passage of H.R. 1361, the Relief for Entrepreneurs: Coordination of Objectives and Values for Effective Recovery Act, I would have voted "yea"; On rollcall vote No. 226, the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 300, commending the achievements of the Rutgers University women's basketball team and applauding the character and integrity of their student-athletes, I would have voted "yea"; On rollcall vote No. 227, the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 293, supporting the goals and ideals highlighted through National Volunteer Week, I would have voted "yea"; On rollcall vote No. 228, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 317, I would have voted "yea"; On rollcall vote No. 229, agreeing to H. Res. 317, providing for consideration of H.R. 1905 and H.R. 1906, I would have voted "yea"; On rollcall vote No. 230, the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 1905, I

would have voted "no"; On rollcall vote No. 231, passage of H.R. 1905, the District of Columbia Voting Rights Bill, I would have voted "yea"; On rollcall vote No. 232, passage of H.R. 1906, Adjustment of Estimated Tax Payment Safe Harbor for Individual Taxpayers with Adjusted Gross Income Greater than \$5 Million, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 233, the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act, I would have voted "no"; On rollcall vote No. 234, passage of H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act, I would have voted "yea"; On rollcall vote No. 235, the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1591, I would have voted "yea"; On rollcall vote No. 236, agreeing to the Sessions Amendment, I would have voted "no"; On rollcall vote No. 237, agreeing to the Garrett Amendment, I would have voted "no"; On rollcall vote No. 238, agreeing to the Campbell Amendment, I would have voted "no"; On rollcall vote No. 239, agreeing to the McHenry Amendment, I would have voted "no"; On rollcall vote No. 240, agreeing to the Price Amendment, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 241, agreeing to the Putnam Amendment, I would have voted "no"; On rollcall vote No. 242, agreeing to the Price Amendment, I would have voted "no"; On rollcall vote No. 243, the motion to recommit H.R. 1257, I would have voted "no"; On rollcall vote No. 244, passage of H.R. 1257, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the Mott Community College basketball teams. This season the men's team won the National Junior College Athletic Association Men's Basketball National Championship. The women's team finished third in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Championship Tournament.

The Mott Community College men's team is led by Head Coach Steve Schmidt. Coach Schmidt has guided his team to the second championship title in 5 years. The hard work by Coach Schmidt and the players has paid off. Mott Community College made history this year by becoming the only team that has played in four title games. The men's basketball program has the highest winning percentage in National Junior College Athletic Association Division II National Tournament play with a record of 16–3 since 2001. Overall the Mott Community College Bears have an 84.4 percent win record in the Michigan Community College Eastern Conference during the same time period. The team members are Terrence Watson, Jeremie Simmons, Willie Mustin, Darius Brents, Rob Giles, Lorenzo McClelland, LaMarr Drake, Thomas Kennedy, Alvin Pegues, Greg Hamlin and Kevin Tiggs. This year the NJCAA bestowed the 2007 Most Valuable Player Award on Kevin. The coaching staff consists of Assistant Coaches Carl

Jones, Yusuf Harris, Nate Brown and Athletic Trainer Dick Benson.

The women's basketball team, under the leadership of Head Coach Letitia Hughley, has worked diligently to bring about their 3rd place finish in the women's division. The team members are Tishara Fields, Lakeara Leslie, Alicia Bouldin, Sadé Butler, Tara Smoots, Nicole Holmes, Janee Williamson, Sheria Hatcher, Michaella Weekes, Cari Pigott, and Shaquetta Mance. The coaching staff includes Assistant Coaches Lloyd Nicholson, Latisha Berry, and Athletic Trainer Dick Benson. Tom Healey is the Mott Community College Athletic Director.

The players on both teams communicate effectively with each other and assess the strengths and weaknesses of their opponents. Coupled with outstanding basketball skills honed through years of practice, and inspired coaching, this teamwork has made them winners. A community-wide celebration was held in Flint, Michigan on April 4 to honor the players, coaches, and staff with the Mott Community College basketball teams.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the dedication of the Mott Community College basketball teams and congratulate them on their achievements.

HONORING ROBERT SPEED

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man whose bravery in the face of danger is now being honored some 63 years later.

Robert Speed served in the Air Force during World War II. During a bombing mission over the Ploesti Oil Fields on July 15, 1944, the B-24 that Mr. Speed and his crew were flying in came under heavy anti-aircraft fire. The plane lost an engine and lost contact with their squadron. Although the aircraft took on significant damage, the crew managed to evade enemy aircraft, complete its bombing mission and return to Pantanella, Italy.

The Ploesti Oil Fields, located in eastern Romania, were a significant source of petroleum Hitler used to fuel his war machine. The bombing runs well into enemy territory were dangerous, but crucially important to the Allied effort.

The very next day after the Ploesti bombing mission, Mr. Speed and his crew were shot down and held as POWs for the remainder of World War II. This turn of events resulted in an administrative oversight on the part of the Air Force and Mr. Speed and his crew went unrecognized for 63 years.

The oldest in a family of 9 children, Mr. Speed was born May 21, 1922, in Blue Mountain, Alabama. After the war he moved to Mobile, AL to get a job at Brookley Air Force Base where he was employed as a civilian until he retired. He still lives in Mobile. His son describes his father as typical of his generation in that "he never talked much about what happened in the war and never asked for anything. He really is just a regular guy who found himself in extraordinary circumstances while serving his country."

I am pleased that Mr. Speed will finally be recognized with the Distinguished Flying Cross

award on April 24. I congratulate Mr. Speed on the long overdue reception of his award and I thank him for his honorable service to our Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN K. VAN DE KAMP

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to John Van de Kamp upon being named recipient of the Jim Pfeiffer Award for the year 2007.

John Van de Kamp's long and distinguished commitment to public service began following his graduation from Stanford Law School. Mr. Van de Kamp's career started in Los Angeles where he worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office from 1960 to 1967. After briefly serving as U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, he relocated to Washington, DC. and became the Director of the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys. In 1971, Mr. Van de Kamp returned to Los Angeles to become the Central District's first Federal Public Defender. John was appointed Los Angeles County District Attorney in 1976, and subsequently elected to the position. In 1982, he was elected California's Attorney General, where he served for 2 terms. Mr. Van de Kamp later joined the Law firm of Dewey Ballantine LLP, where he is currently of counsel.

In 1999 Mr. Van de Kamp was appointed by National Association of Attorneys to The Strategic Contribution Fund Allocation Committee to recommend distribution of the \$8 billion of tobacco settlement proceeds. He served on the Board of the State Bar of California, was elected as the 80th President of the State Bar of California, and served nearly 30 years as an L.A. County Delegate to the Conference of Delegates.

John's strong commitment to community service can also be seen in his dedication to nonprofit organizations. His board affiliations include The Planning and Conservation League, Norton Simon Museum, and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. Mr. Van de Kamp has served on the ABA's Special Committee on Criminal Justice in a Free Society, ABA's Task Force on the Federalization of Criminal Law, and the ABA's Commission on Effective Criminal Sanctions. He is Chair of the Community Campaign for Schools for the Pasadena Education Foundation, the RAND's Advisory Committee on Infrastructure, Security and the Environment, City of Pasadena's Task Force on Good Government, and the Chair of the Commission on Fair Administration of Justice.

John Van de Kamp lives in Pasadena with his wife Andrea. They have one daughter, Diana.

I ask all Members of Congress to join with me today in honoring an outstanding individual of California's 29th District, John Van de Kamp. The entire community joins me in thanking John for his success and continued efforts toward making the 29th District a more enjoyable place in which to work and live.