

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOHN R. SMITH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to COL John R. Smith, Chief of the Air Force Programs and Legislation Division, for his 25 years of service to the U.S. Air Force and our country. A command pilot with over 3,600 flight hours, Colonel Smith has supported combat operations around the world to include Operations Desert Storm, Restore Hope, Allied Force, Northern and Southern Watch, and Desert Fox. He has also flown numerous presidential support missions as well as humanitarian missions in relief of the devastation from hurricanes George and Mitch, flood relief in Mozambique, and earthquake relief in Turkey.

COL John R. Smith was born into the Air Force, the son of a World War II pilot and former prisoner of war COL Darrell Smith (ret.) and his wife Helen. Following his father into the Air Force, after high school he earned an appointment to the Air Force Academy and graduated in 1982 as a distinguished graduate. Upon completion of pilot training, he returned as a T-37 instructor pilot to teach and mentor future aviators first at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, and then at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, home of the Pilot Instructor Training School. In 1987, he was selected as Randolph's Instructor Pilot of the Year. Following his tour in Air Training Command, Colonel Smith was selected to represent the United States Air Force as an exchange officer with the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force. In 1992, Colonel Smith was selected to fly the C-5 at Travis Air Force Base, California. From the C-5, Colonel Smith was assigned to the Pentagon in the Air and Space Operations directorate where he served as the C-5 and C-141 Program Element Monitor directing over \$1.5 billion in funding for these two fleets. He was then reassigned as a Joint Warfighting Capabilities Analyst where he prepared recommendations on Department of Defense budgets, programs, and force structure alternatives for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Colonel Smith was selected to command the Third Airlift Squadron, flying C-5s out of Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. Under his leadership, the Third overcame low aircraft maintenance reliability rates to support 17 major contingencies, exercises, and relief operations including critical taskings in support of operations in Iraq, Bosnia, and the Far East. The squadron was twice selected as the best operations squadron of the year at Dover, garnered 18 higher headquarter aircrew awards, and earned the year 2000 nomination for the best airlift squadron in Air Mobility Command. Following command, Colonel Smith attended Air War College and was then selected for a tour in the Secretary of the Air Force's Office of Legislative Liaison where he served as the Deputy Chief of the Weapons Systems Division. For the last 2 years Colonel Smith has served as the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division. There he is responsible for Air Force legislative engagement with the Senate and House Armed Services Committees.

Madam Speaker, I know the members of the House will join me in offering our sincere

thanks to Colonel Smith, his wife Jana, their four daughters, Renae, Elayne, Claire, and Pamela, and four sons Benjamin, Zane, Chad, and Kyle, for their service to our Nation. I would like to especially remember Zane, their second son, who died from leukemia at the age of 2. We wish the Smith family the best of luck in all future endeavors and congratulate Colonel Smith on the completion of an outstanding and successful active-duty career.

CALLING ON THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 7, which calls on the League of Arab States to acknowledge the genocide in Darfur and step up its effort to stop the genocide. I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Rep. BARBARA LEE, for bringing this important resolution to the House floor.

Since 2003, more than 400,000 people have been killed in Darfur and an estimated 2.5 million have been displaced. More than 3 million other Darfurians depend today on international aid for their survival. The United Nations has identified the situation in Darfur as the worst current humanitarian and human rights crisis in the world. The United States has officially labeled it genocide.

As we learned last week on Holocaust Remembrance Day, the international community must not turn a blind eye to the suffering of innocents. When we say we must "never forget," we must demonstrate that we mean it. H. Con. Res. 7, which has 115 co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle, is an important step in this cause.

This important legislation calls on the League of Arab States to support and accept United Nations peacekeepers as the best option to enforce a cease-fire, protect civilians, and ensure access for humanitarian aid workers; and to work with the international community to bring about a lasting peace in Darfur.

I hope that the Arab League will play a constructive role in ensuring humanitarian assistance in Darfur, insisting that the Bashir government accept more peacekeeping troops, and make a stronger effort to engage Sudan's neighbors in the peace process—which is what this Resolution is designed to do. Finally, the Arab League must work with the United States and the United Nations to work with the Sudanese government to help forge a comprehensive plan for stability and reconstruction across the whole of the country.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 7 and I hope all of my colleagues will lend it their support.

CONGRATULATING SAM BIANCO UPON BEING AWARDED THE UNITED WAY OF AMERICA'S "JOSEPH A. BEIRNE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD"

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Sam Bianco, of Vandling, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, who was chosen by the United Way of America to receive its prestigious "Joseph A. Beirne Community Services Award."

Established in 1974 by the United Way of America, the award annually recognizes a union member or labor leader who has rendered outstanding service to a local United Way community.

The award is named in honor of the late Joseph A. Beirne, co-founder of the Communications Workers of America International Union and the first union member to ever serve as board president of United Way of America.

Mr. Bianco has been a staunch volunteer and supporter of the United Way of Wyoming Valley since 1955. At that time he served as a campaign solicitor at International Ladies Garment Workers Union shops. He also served as business agent for the Pittston ILGWU and, later, as district manager for the Wilkes-Barre ILGWU. He currently serves on the United Way of Wyoming Valley's board of directors, finance committee, campaign cabinet and he has chaired the labor participation committee for the past 27 years.

Under Mr. Bianco's volunteer leadership, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council and United Way of Wyoming Valley were named the 1998 recipient of the "National AFL-CIO Model Cities in Community Services Award" for the outstanding partnership created between the local labor movement and United Way in jointly addressing and meeting human service needs.

Mr. Bianco, as president of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council, has partnered with the United Way of Wyoming Valley on numerous community service projects including the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive; creating the "Unions in the Community Girl Scout Patch" and being a co-sponsor of the annual United Way Labor Christmas Project.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Bianco for giving his community so many years of devoted service. His contributions to the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania are legendary as is his love of helping people in need.

THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAME "AMERICA"

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the fifth centenary of the word "America"—a name that has become

synonymous with opportunity, equality, freedom and hope.

On April 25, 1507, German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller and Vautran Ludd, Chaplain to the Duke of Lorraine, created a map that gave the name "America" to the new world discovered by Christopher Columbus 15 years earlier. According to historical accounts, the name was a tribute to Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine navigator who made 4 voyages to the new world between 1497 and 1504.

Waldseemüller and Ludd published 1,000 copies of the map that first coined the term "America," and I am proud to say that the only surviving copy—a priceless relic of our shared heritage—now resides in the Library of Congress, after being purchased in 2003 from the German Prince Waldburg-Wolfegg for \$10 million.

In the 500 years that have passed since the word "America" was first used, the term has become more of an idea than a name—a concept that celebrates what is best about humanity; a principle that defines what liberty, justice and unity are really all about; and a goal for the people of the world to strive towards.

We have come a long way over the last half-millennium—from a name on a piece of paper to a moral, political and economic leader among nations. And it gives me great pride to mark this momentous occasion on the House Floor and to join people all over the world in celebrating the fifth centenary of the word "America"—a notion that now means so much to so many people from all walks of life.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 328, expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a strong advocate for women and human rights, speaking out against injustice in our country and around the world. She was the first African American woman to chair a Committee in Congress, and will be remembered for her commitment and dedication to ensuring that every American's vote counts.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues in the 107th Congress, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD worked tirelessly to ensure that women from both sides of the aisle participated in the activities of the Caucus. She was a warm and open person, and was a true mentor to me during my first term in Congress.

On behalf of the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, we extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to her husband, Mr. James McDonald, Jr., her children and all of her family and friends. Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be remembered and honored in the highest regard.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE RED CROSS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 90th Anniversary of the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Since President Woodrow Wilson signed its charter on May 17, 1917, the organization has trained thousands of volunteers that have responded to numerous disasters in Humboldt County, California.

The lives of the citizens of Humboldt County have been greatly improved by the presence and benevolence of this organization. Whether disaster struck a single family or the entire community, the Red Cross has provided disaster relief focused on meeting basic human needs of shelter, food, and health services.

In its 90-year history, the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross has responded to hundreds of disasters; playing a critical role after the earthquake, tsunami, and flooding of 1964, four earthquakes that struck during the early 1990s and the New Years Eve storm of 2006. They provided assistance and sent volunteers to help after the attacks of September 11, the Indonesian tsunami of 2004 and Hurricane Katrina.

Leaders of the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross have trained thousands of community volunteers in first-aid, health and safety services and disaster preparedness. They are committed to strengthening the ability of Humboldt County and its communities to prevent, respond and recover from unexpected emergencies and disasters and have led the local effort of a broader campaign of national preparedness.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the commitment, dedication and inspiration of the many individuals who make up the Humboldt County Chapter of the American Red Cross and extend our hearty congratulations on the celebration of its 90th anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE SAVE OUR CLIMATE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a simple solution to the global warming problem, a carbon tax.

This past Sunday, we celebrated Earth Day. Today, in Earth Day's honor, I propose the Save Our Climate Act. The first Earth Day in 1970 led to new laws to improve air and water quality, and was an important impetus for the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. On Earth Day 2007, climate change is the preeminent environmental concern. I hope 2007 will be remembered as the year we ad-

ressed global warming by passing the Save Our Climate Act.

Climate change is a worldwide problem requiring each nation to do its part. The International Panel on Climate Change—600 of the world's leading scientists—suggests that temperatures may increase three to seven degrees Fahrenheit in the next century. Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" may have seemed like a scare tactic, but if we don't wake up to the realities presented in his documentary, we will soon wake up to flooded coastlines, unfarmable plains, and species extinction.

To date, the United States has failed to take necessary steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Though the U.S. emits approximately six billion metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) each year—comprising nearly 24 percent of the world's total emissions—we have failed to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. If we continue our refusal to act, we cannot expect other countries to do their part.

The vast majority of environmentalists and climate change experts agree that we need to reduce CO₂ emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050 in order to stop the current pace of climate change. Every year we delay enacting legislation to slow climate change makes it that much more difficult to stop global warming.

Economists widely agree that a carbon tax is the best way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and save our planet from catastrophic climate change. The Save Our Climate Act is just that, a simple tax on fossil fuels that will decrease emissions and create immediate incentives for green energy. Under this legislation, carbon based fuels—coal, petroleum and natural gas—will be taxed at a rate of \$10 per ton of carbon content. That means coal, which has higher carbon content than natural gas, will be taxed at a higher rate. This tax structure promotes the use of less carbon intensive fossil fuels and creates an incentive to use other non-carbon-based fuels.

The tax will increase by \$10 per ton of carbon every year, making it less affordable to burn fossil fuels as time goes on. When the U.S. reduces its CO₂ emissions by 80 percent, the tax will be frozen at that level. The Save Our Climate Act will generate a small energy price increase each year, equal to about 2 cents per gallon of gas annually. As the tax rate increases, fossil fuel prices will increase, producers will have an incentive to invest in cleaner alternative energies, and those alternative energy sources will become more competitive.

While economists agree that a carbon tax is the best way to reduce CO₂ emissions, few agree on what to do with the revenues raised from the tax. The Save Our Climate Act does not prescribe how we should spend carbon tax revenue, but recognizes the many competing interests for this revenue. Low and middle-income consumers who may face modestly higher energy prices under this system could receive some of the revenue in the form of reduced income taxes or increased tax deductions or credits. We could also spend the money on alternative energy sources, health care, education, or a myriad other domestic environmental and social priorities.

The Save Our Climate Act is a simple solution to a very difficult problem. Some have suggested a system of CO₂ emission caps and a market to buy and sell emissions credits, often referred to as "cap and trade." I