LEGISLATION TO DESIGNATE THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE IN SANTA FE, NM, AFTER JUDGE SANTIAGO CAMPOS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Santiago Campos by reintroducing legislation to name the Federal courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after him. We are approaching the sixth anniversary of his passing, which occurred on January 20, 2001, and naming this courthouse after the first Hispanic appointed to the Federal bench in New Mexico is a long overdue tribute. I am again pleased to be joined in introducing this legislation by Representatives GONZALEZ, GRIJALVA, MCDERMOTT, GREEN, and PASTOR. They have all cosponsored in the past and I thank them for cosponsoring again.

Judge Santiago Campos was the first Hispanic appointed to the Federal bench in New Mexico, serving from 1978 until his death in 2001, including as chief judge from 1987 through 1989. Judge Campos' career of public service only culminated with his service as a United States District Court Judge, as he also served in the United States Navy as a seaman first class from 1944 to 1946, as the Assistant and First Assistant Attorney General of New Mexico from 1954 to 1957, and as a District Court Judge from 1971 to 1978 in the First Judicial District in the State of New Mexico. Judge Campos served with distinction on the bench and displayed both firmness and compassion with those who entered his courtroom. He was a life long resident of New Mexico and graduated first in his law school class at the University of New Mexico.

Judge Campos was very active in his courtroom, often exercising his right to question witnesses in the middle of cross-examinations. Many agree that he became more involved in a case than other judges, but still let a lawyer try his own case. One of his most memorable cases ordered the Gannett Co. to return the New Mexican, Santa Fe's daily newspaper, to its former owner, Robert McKinney, due to a breach of contract.

During his career, Campos was an honorary member of the Order of the Coif. He also received the Distinguished Achievement Award of the State Bar of New Mexico in 1993, and in the same year the University of New Mexico honored him with a Distinguished Achievement Award.

Madam Speaker, following his passing, the New Mexico State legislature passed a joint memorial requesting Congress to name the Federal courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after Judge Campos. Judge Campos had his chambers in this courthouse for over 22 years. In addition, the judges of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals who reside in New Mexico and the district judges of the District of New Mexico unanimously requested and support congressional action to name the Federal courthouse after Judge Campos. I am pleased to once again take up this effort.

I am hopeful this will be the year to get this legislation passed and signed into law to honor this great man with a small token of appreciation for the remarkable life that he lived.

IMPLEMENTING THE 9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on September 11th, 2001, my congressional district lost well over one hundred people; and tens of thousands of lives were shattered.

So it is on their behalf that I rise today and support passage of this bill, to implement the recommendations of the bipartisan 9–11 Commission.

I am grateful that the first bill to be passed in the first hours of a new majority is this one. Because America can't afford to wait another minute. We've had 5½ years of excuses, delays, postponements and lobbying. That's 5½ years too long.

Even today, Mr. Speaker, there are some who doubt we can meet the deadlines to screen air cargo in 3 years and shipping cargo in 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, America's greatest triumphs were not achieved by saying ''it's too hard.'' They were secured by refusing to take no for an answer.

In 1962, 5 years after Sputnik was launched, John F. Kennedy said, ''By the end of the decade we will land on the moon.''

In 2007, over 5 years after 9–11, we are saying, ''by the end of the decade we will screen all air cargo on our planes.''

If we could research, develop, engineer and build the systems that lifted people into space, out of orbit, propel them to the moon, land them on the moon, bring them back to their capsule, return to earth, survive a fiery reentry and deposit them safely in the ocean—then we should be able to figure out how to screen air cargo in a way that minimizes risk and inconvenience to people who get on planes.

Mr. Speaker, when it came to securing America's place in the world, President Kennedy didn't say ''I wish we could land a man on the moon but it's not easy enough, so instead we'll send a bus to Des Moines.''

Mr. Speaker, when it came to preserving our national survival, President Roosevelt didn't say, ''Yesterday was a day of infamy, so let's spend 5½ years figuring out how to respond with the least inconvenience to the American people.''

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the safety and security of my constituents, there can be no more excuses, no further delay, no higher priority.

And to those who disagree with me, who earnestly and honorably believe we must continue to study feasibility and practicalities, I will share other words of President Kennedy, from that same speech when he told America we would go to the moon:

> We choose to go the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which is a companion measure to legislation introduced by Senator DANIEL AKAKA in the Senate this morning. This measure is called the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007. The purpose of the bill is to provide a process for the reorganization of the Native Hawaiian governing entity for the purposes of a federally recognized government-to-government relationship.

On this day 114 years ago, the monarchy of the Kingdom of Hawaii was overthrown by agents of the United States. This injustice created wounds and issues that have never been healed or resolved. Fourteen years ago, the United States government took a step toward reconciling this part of history by passing a resolution which acknowledged the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and offered an apology to Native Hawaiians.

The Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act would take another step in the reconciliation process by providing Native Hawaiians the same right of self-governance and self-determination that are afforded to other indigenous peoples. Since Hawaii was annexed as a territory, the United States has treated Native Hawaiians in a manner similar to that of American Indians and Alaska Natives. This bill would formalize that relationship and establish parity in federal policies towards all of our indigenous peoples.

This bill will also provide a structured process to address the longstanding issues resulting from the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii. This discussion has been avoided for far too long because no one has known how to address or deal with the emotions that arise when these matters are discussed. There has been no structured process. Instead, there has been fear as to what the discussion would entail, causing people to avoid the issues. Such behavior has led to high levels of anger and frustration, as well as misunderstandings between Native Hawaiians and non-Native Hawaiians.

The bill provides a structured process to negotiate and resolve these issues with the federal and state governments and will alleviate the growing mistrust, misunderstanding, anger, and frustration about these matters.

This measure is supported by Hawaii's Governor, Linda Lingle, Hawaii's Congressional delegation, and the Hawaii State Legislature. The bill is also supported by a number of organizations in Hawaii who have passed resolutions in support of enacting this bill.

I ask my colleagues to support this measure and advance the reconciliation process for our people.