

They were patient as they waited for the assistance that never came in full.

Today they are in the middle of a terrible food crisis—one that we can and must do what we can—and we can do a lot—to abate.

The food crisis in Haiti is responsible for recent riots, killings, and the ousting of the country's prime minister. In just the past few weeks, five Haitians and one United Nations worker were killed in the violent protests stemming from the overwhelming food shortage. The situation, which has been labeled a "silent tsunami" by the U.N. World Food Programme, has not received the attention and action it warrants.

Haiti is our neighbor. In my estimation, we have not done all that we could and should have to avert this and every other crisis it has faced in recent years. The instability that is increasing every day, not only threatens the life of every Haitian but can destabilize the region and send adverse ripples here.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the current administration's commitment to provide \$200 million in emergency food aid. I implore my colleagues to join me in urging the President to commit no less than \$60 million of the \$200 million for Haiti.

We need to pass the HERO Act to provide investment and create jobs.

I am also calling on this Congress to pass Temporary Protected Status for the people of Haiti in this time of great peril. In the face of the inequity in treatment of Haiti under immigration, it is the least we can do.

It is time for the United States to take seriously our obligation as the lead Nation in this hemisphere and assist our neighbor in this time of extreme need.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING FOSTER PARENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 1185, recognizing National Foster Care Awareness Month.

Today, more than half a million children nationwide are living in foster care. Like children everywhere, these vulnerable young people need the safety and security of a permanent family. For many children who cannot be reunited with their parents, that means joining a new family through adoption.

Across the country there are families who have adopted children and youth from the foster care system. One of those outstanding persons is my constituent Ms. Ann Carnegie in Atlanta who has dedicated her life to the service of others. She is one of many hard-working Americans determined to make a difference for the next generation.

Ms. Carnegie became a single mother when she adopted three children. She began as a foster parent for Bernard and Latrice. Both had already spent 5 years in foster care and had special needs; Ms. Carnegie knew that if the opportunity presented itself that she would want to adopt them.

Bernard is an intelligent, artistic young man who aspires to work with computer animation

one day. Latrice is a French honors student who hopes to become a lawyer. Everyone in this loving family takes time to play cars and dinosaurs with their youngest brother Matty. I have faith that all the children in the Carnegie family will fulfill their dreams one day.

Every year, the Carnegie family celebrates the children's adoptions with a special celebration. There are many important pieces of legislation that we both support that will improve child welfare services and strengthen America's families.

I have the privilege to serve on the Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee under the leadership of my good friend, the Gentleman from Washington, Mr. McDERMOTT. I know that all of us on the Subcommittee share a commitment to protect and improve the future of those in the child welfare system.

We must do all we can to help children living in foster care join loving families like the Carnegies, and I look forward to supporting reforms this year. Initiatives like the federal Adoption Incentive program encourages states like mine to finalize more adoptions of children from foster care, but there is more that can be done. Children in foster care have waited long enough.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution today, and to give strong consideration of the many legislative proposals to improve the lives of children in foster care.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF CUBA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today, May 21, is being designated as the International Day of Solidarity with the people of Cuba. On this day we recognize the plight of political prisoners in Cuba and the threats to human rights that still exist in that nation.

For almost 50 years, Fidel Castro ruled Cuba with an iron-fist. While he recently stepped down as President, the Communist dictatorship he headed still remains under his brother Raul. The stranglehold this regime has upon its people, its economy, and many facets of daily life is unacceptable. This form of oppression stifles the human spirit and denies progress and prosperity.

On this date, the international community should speak with one voice to the people of Cuba that we understand their struggle. As a Nation built upon the foundation of freedom from tyranny, the United States must continue to lead the way in bringing democracy and freedom to the people of Cuba.

AIRLINE FLIGHT CREW TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Mr. BISHOP on successfully bringing

this bill to the floor, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation. This change to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is long overdue and clarifies the original intent of the law passed in 1993, to ensure that airline flight crews have access to job-protected unpaid family and medical leave. The Workforce Protections Subcommittee, which I chair, held a hearing in April celebrating the 15th anniversary of the FMLA. And at the hearing we did celebrate the difference that job-protected family and medical leave—even if it is unpaid—has made in people's lives. But we all recognized that the law is in need of improvement.

We need paid leave and we need to expand FMLA to include airline flight crew. Jennifer Hunt, a 19-year flight attendant with U.S. Airways testified at the Subcommittee to the importance of family and medical leave and how thousands of flight attendants, including Jennifer herself, are unable to take advantage of this benefit.

Then she told us her story. In December, 2007, Jennifer's husband, John was diagnosed with prostate cancer and Jennifer needed time out from her full-time schedule to attend his medical appointments and be with him for his surgery and recovery. But without FMLA leave, Jennifer was stuck. She was able to adjust her schedule to be with John during his surgery. However, she returned to work as soon as John was out of the hospital and had to rely on friends and family to assist in his care and the care of her two young children.

FMLA job-protected leave is essential to hardworking airline personnel who face the same challenges as other workers do in balancing their work and family. I am so pleased that Mr. BISHOP's bill will provide them with this important benefit.

SALUTING THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to wish the State of Israel a chag sameach and happy birthday on its 60th anniversary of independence.

Over the past 60 years, Israel has exhibited strong and unparalleled growth in every aspect: governmentally, educationally, culturally, economically, industrially, and militarily. Today she is as strong as she has ever been. The state's population is nine times what it was in 1948, the year she declared her independence. It is hard to imagine that in the earlier part of the 20th century she was nothing but a swampy British colony.

Governmentally, Israel's democracy is alive and well. It is the only democracy with free and fair elections in the Middle East. Israel has some of the world's top universities and its citizenry is highly educated. According to the state's Census Bureau, in 1948, 208 people received degrees from the country's two universities; 2 years ago, 53,000 people received degrees from 62 local colleges and universities. Eight Israelis are Nobel Prize laureates.

Israel's diverse population, which is composed of immigrants from countries throughout

the world, has contributed to its rich culture of arts, music, and literature. Economically, Israel is considered to have one of the most advanced economies in Southwest Asia.

Industrially, Israel has managed to become completely self-sufficient despite its lack of natural resources and small size. This has been thanks to its groundbreaking technological advances in agriculture and its hard-working Zionist pioneers. Militarily, despite the country's size, its army is one of the most superior in the world.

Israel is and will continue to be a key and necessary ally of the United States. The cross-Atlantic friendship shared by our countries is critical to both our democracies. I recognize Israel's contributions toward rooting out terrorism and salute its citizenry for their resilience and bravery.

As the state turns the page and moves into a seventh decade of independence, I hope and pray that a future with peace and prosperity for all of the people in the region is on the horizon.

RECOGNIZING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIVINE PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the Divine Providence Catholic Church as their parish celebrated their 100-year anniversary on April 27, 2008. The church has served as a foundation for the Lithuanian community in Southfield, Michigan.

The parish came to be when an energetic priest, Kazimieras Valaitis, and the Lithuanian Society of St. George, built a wooden church at Westminster and Cardoni, in what is now considered the deep inner city of Detroit. Not surprisingly, it was named St. George's Lithuanian Church. The number of parishioners quickly outgrew the facility, and in 1917 the parish built a new, brick St. George's in the same vicinity. The parish was the center for numerous organizations and activities of the Lithuanian community in Detroit and had committees actively involved in building, fundraising and general governance.

In the 1940's, as the demographics in Detroit were shifting, many of the parishioners were moving into the suburbs around the city. As a result, in 1949, the parish built a new church at Schaefer and Grand River in Detroit. Because the original St. George's church was still active in the local community, the parishioners chose "Divine Providence Lithuanian Church" as the new name.

In 1967, Divine Providence was informed that the church was to be demolished to make way for the Jeffries Freeway. A new site was selected at 9 Mile Road and Beech Daly, and despite the Vatican's attempt to consolidate the church into a territorial parish, the new complex was dedicated on September 8, 1973. Thanks to the tireless work and dedication of parish committees, and later parish councils, Divine Providence continues to be a cultural center to this vibrant community.

Madam Speaker, Divine Providence has been a beacon of hope for the Lithuanian community. I congratulate them on their 100-

year anniversary and wish them many more years of prosperity.

HONORING FATHER MICHAEL ZUFFOLETTO

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor a truly respected and dedicated public servant. Father Michael Zuffoletto who recently decided to retire, has not only served as a teacher and coach, but he has also served as a chaplain for our brave men and women of the United States Navy. Father Zuffoletto a native of Buffalo, New York has been, and will continue to be, an embodiment of compassion and virtue.

Father Zuffoletto was ordained into the priesthood for the Diocese of Buffalo in 1972, and received his Masters in Educational Administration from Canisius College in 1979. He would go on to teach religious studies at local Catholic schools, and coach various sports teams.

In 1984, Father Zuffoletto reported to Navy Chaplain School. Father Zuffoletto quickly began serving on tours of duty; in fact, Father Zuffoletto has served on over ten different tours throughout the world, including to the coast of Japan, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the Arabian Gulf. Father Zuffoletto even served as chaplain for President George H.W. Bush during the 50th anniversary memorial of the attack on Pearl Harbor. As a chaplain, Father Zuffoletto oversaw the religious and spiritual formation of thousands of service men and women as well as provided Mass and the sacraments all over the world.

Of his many service awards, Father Zuffoletto is the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Recently, Father Zuffoletto has also served as Chaplain General of the Navy Order of the United States, chaplain for the Knights of Columbus Council 9486, the Italian Federation, and the John Paul II Foundation of Monterey.

In his free time, Father Zuffoletto has served as an off-ice official for the National Hockey League, the American Hockey League, the East Coast Hockey League and the Atlantic Coast Hockey League.

Father Zuffoletto is remarkable, in every sense of the word, and has shown all of us the importance of true compassion, loyalty, and faith.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of Father Michael Zuffoletto's tremendous contributions to our great nation, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in honoring him, in grateful appreciation for his extraordinary service to the people of Western New York and to the people of this country.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, The following provides information about ear-

marks which I have secured through the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 as reported out of the House Armed Services Committee and which will be considered by the House of Representatives on May 21–22, 2008.

Requesting Member: Congressman Geoff Davis.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Other Procurement, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kentucky Army National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: Boone National Guard Center, 100 Minuteman Parkway, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Description of Request: Authorize \$1,500,000 for the Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer (VCOT). During FY 09 the Army National Guard will begin fielding the VCOT, which is an upgraded version of the previous HMMWV and Tactical Truck Convoy Trainer. VCOT fielding is the Army National Guard's number one priority for convoy training procurement. The VCOT has been enhanced to allow convoy soldiers to leave their vehicles and conduct independent dismounted operations that will greatly assist training in the identification and disposition of IEDs on the battlefield. Also, the VCOT allows training on several types of vehicles and with various types of weapons. Without this program, our soldiers will continue to have fewer trainers than needed to train counter-IED drills, immediate action drills and convoy operations.

This authorization will allow the KYANG to purchase a VCOT.

During current operations in Iraq, more soldiers have been killed or wounded during convoy operations than at any other time. The VCOT provides the best convoy training available, and it includes training in dismounted operations and combat actions on virtual terrain that includes Baghdad, Tikrit, Samarra, Kabul, and Kosovo.

Requesting Member: Congressman Geoff Davis.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Other Procurement, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: DRS Technologies, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7375 Industrial Road, Florence, KY 41042-2911.

Description of Request: Authorize \$2,200,000 for procurement of Multi-Temperature Refrigerated Container Systems (MTRCS). MTRCS is the follow-on generation of refrigeration systems. It provides the capability to transport and store both refrigerated and frozen products in a single container. It consists of an insulated 8' x 8' x 20' International Organization for Standardization shipping container with an engine-driven refrigeration unit that will allow operation on the move. The two compartments are separated by a moveable partition varying proportions of refrigerated versus frozen products resulting in maximum loading of the container.

MTRCS is used principally by subsistence units. It will also be used by medical units for transport and storage of refrigerated medical supplies, including blood products.

The benefit to DOD is more efficient space utilization and reduced transportation requirements. Fewer vehicles will be required to transport food on the battlefield, reducing the number of soldiers exposed to danger from IED's, etc.

The Army Acquisition Objective for MTRCS is 4432 systems, but only 1050 are funded in