

REMEMBERING FORMER PRESIDENT OF AZERBAIJAN HEYDAR ALIYEV

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, On May 10, 2008, we commemorated the 85th Jubilee of the late President Heydar Aliyev. When Azerbaijan reclaimed independence in 1991, most Americans had never heard of the country. Soon after, the country found itself involved in a war with neighboring Armenia over Nagorno Karabakh, which resulted in one million refugees and 20 percent of Azerbaijani soil occupied by Armenian forces.

Out of chaos, economic turmoil, and questions about the viability of the country's independence, President Heydar Aliyev emerged as the President of the Republic. He was re-elected in 1998, and served until he passed away in December 2003. In May it is the 85th anniversary of his birthday, and it is fit to note the milestones that were reached under his leadership. The first state visit by a President of an independent Azerbaijan to the United States was realized July 27–August 7, 1997. Prior to this visit, little knowledge, understanding or relations between the two countries existed. On August 1, 1997, a meeting at the White House between President Aliyev and President Clinton took place. It was a historic occasion where the two leaders signed a joint declaration that read:

Presidents Clinton and Aliyev agreed on the importance of expanding the partnership between the United States and the Republic of Azerbaijan through strengthening bilateral cooperation in the political, security, economic and commercial spheres.

The U.S. also reaffirmed support for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. Under President Aliyev's leadership, Azerbaijan emerged as a critical player in the East-West Energy Transport corridor. The early oil pipeline, the Baku-Tbilisi-Supsa oil pipeline was completed in 1997. Azerbaijan signed over 19 production sharing agreements with international energy companies.

The decision to build the Maine Export Pipeline, MEP, was not an easy one.

Despite great obstacles, Azerbaijan, under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, and with the support of the United States and Turkey, realized the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline which now runs from the Caspian through Georgia to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. This pipeline helps to guarantee Azerbaijan's independence and support of pro-Western foreign policy, provides energy resources to U.S. allies like Georgia and Turkey.

The late President Heydar Aliyev was a strong friend of the United States. Azerbaijan was one of the first countries to offer unconditional assistance to the United States after 9/11, and sent troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. President Aliyev's significant contributions to the country of Azerbaijan provided a fertile ground for the seeds of democracy to flourish after Soviet rule, and have paved the road for Azerbaijan's regional and international success.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF EARL MORSE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I along with Mr. HOBSON rise today to recognize Mr. Earl Morse, an Ohioan who has dedicated himself to honoring World War II veterans from across the country by making it possible for them to visit the national memorial built and dedicated in their honor.

Mr. Morse is a physician's assistant and a retired Air Force captain from Enon, Ohio. While working at the Department of Veterans Affairs, he realized that most of the veterans he took care of were not able to make the trip to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Since Mr. Morse was also a pilot, he offered to personally fly one of his patients to visit the memorial.

Upon realizing the desire to visit the memorial was so great, Mr. Morse started to ask for help from other pilots to make these trips a reality. During an aero club meeting in January of 2005, he outlined a volunteer program to fly senior World War II veterans to visit their memorial with no cost to the veteran. The pilots would be asked to volunteer the use of their aircraft and their time. After Mr. Morse spoke, 11 pilots who had never met his patients signed up to establish the first of what would be many "Honor Flights."

In 2005, the Honor Flight program took 137 World War II veterans to visit their memorial. As the popularity of the program grew, the need for more volunteers and the use of commercial aircraft became necessary. By 2006, an estimated 300 Ohio veterans made the trip to visit the World War II Memorial.

The mission and ideals of Mr. Morse's Honor Flight soon spread across the Nation, and a network of community leaders and volunteers became established to form the Honor Flight Network. The program presently has 69 hubs in 30 States, and is working to establish hubs in all 50 States by the end of 2006.

Madam Speaker, on the eve of Memorial Day, we feel that it is only fitting to pay tribute to Mr. Morse, who has demonstrated his patriotism and his respect for a generation of men and women who sacrificed so much to ensure the security of this world, and to guarantee the freedoms that we enjoy today.

We thank Mr. Earl Morse for his outstanding effort to honor the legacy of one of our Nation's most valuable resources, our veterans. We wish him, and his organization, all the best with his continued effort to ensure his objective is completed.

HONORING MARILYN SPIEGEL

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, today I stand to recognize an outstanding public servant in my district. She is a woman who has dedicated her life to not only raising her own three children, but also teaching and nurturing many children in her community. I wish to recognize

Marilyn Spiegel, who was recently named Teacher of the Year in the San Juan Unified School District.

As a sixth grade teacher at Earl Le Gette Elementary School, Marilyn has touched countless lives, both directly and indirectly. She began teaching in 1998 after a successful career as a professional chemist and parasitologist. After being an active parent volunteer in her sons' classrooms, she decided to obtain a teaching credential and share her passion for science with students. Voluntarily and independently, Marilyn developed a creative energy program designed to enhance a student's understanding of science and the environment through innovative teaching ideas. In the last six years, she has secured nearly \$30,000 in educational grants for her energy education program. This program has inspired students to examine the role of energy in our Nation and how it relates to their individual lives. Unselfishly, Marilyn continues to share her grant information and educational program with teachers from other schools.

In her spare time, Marilyn serves on the San Juan Unified School District's science adoption committee and the California Department of Education's content review panel for the STAR exam. She is also an active member of the Le Gette teacher/student guitar ensemble, and continues to offer before-school, after-school, and lunch-time tutoring.

Marilyn has earned praise from students, parents, and colleagues for her inspirational style of teaching. In fact, the Teacher of the Year Award process begins with a parent nomination. She sets clear boundaries for the children and reinforces positive behavior through praise. "I treat students with respect, I hold them accountable, and I challenge them," wrote Marilyn in her application. "I do not accept wasted time and talent. I celebrate their success and help shoulder their disappointments and sorrow." Marilyn has the ability to motivate students beyond their natural abilities and helps them reach their greatest potential.

As we continue searching for ways to better the educational system, we need to look at the positive things happening in schools across the country. I believe that Marilyn Spiegel is an excellent example of what is right with America's schools. Congratulations to my friend Marilyn Spiegel, the San Juan Unified School District Teacher of the Year.

NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of H. Con. Res. 334, honoring the Armed Forces of the United States of America during "National Military Appreciation Month." During this month, we Americans honor and recognize all the military members who serve and have given their lives in defense of the freedoms we enjoy today. This bill recognizes those on active duty in all branches of service, the National Guard and Reserves, retirees, veterans, and all of their families.

We must continue to impress upon our children and grandchildren the sacrifices that our armed services have provided this country. We must be diligent in reminding all Americans, young and old, that the price of freedom is paid for everyday, through the blood, sweat and tears of our brave men and women of the Armed Forces and the sacrifices made by their family members.

Additionally, our Education System has the duty and the responsibility to continue to highlight the historical impact of the military throughout the last 230 years. Americans must never forget the historical impact of the military in United States history and the role they played in ensuring the American way of life. Events like the American Revolution, the Civil War, Pearl Harbor, Normandy, and World War I and II, must always be remembered for the important role they played in making the United States of America the greatest country in the world.

Finally, while we understand and praise the personal sacrifices our brave men and women make in defending our great Nation, we frequently forget that duty is a 24–7, 365-day commitment for the soldiers and their families. As we continue our Global War on Terror, military members of the Armed Forces will continue to shoulder the burden of freedom and independence. A month-long dedication to their tireless efforts is the cast we can do as Americans.

Americans, during the National Military Appreciation Month, should go out of their way to shake the hand of a military member, say a special thank-you, and continually pray for our soldiers and their families.

The Armed Forces of the United States of America continue to play a vital role in the defense of this country. Their contributions and sacrifices have not gone unnoticed and designating May as National Military Appreciation Month is a perfect opportunity for us as a Nation to pay great tribute to their tremendous sacrifices.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important resolution and am pleased that today the House recognizes the valuable contributions of the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, consistent with the Republican Conference standards established earlier this year, I submit the following information regarding the Metals Affordability Initiative that I support.

Bill: H.R. 5658, Duncan Hunter Defense Authorization.

Account: Air Force Research, Development, Test and Evaluation.

Legal name of receiving entity: Metals Affordability Initiative Consortium.

Address: MAI Program Management Office, Pratt & Whitney, c/o Thomas Rupprecht, Mail Stop 114–45, 400 Main Street, E. Hartford CN.

Anticipated sources of the funding for the duration of the project: MAI operates under a Technical Information Agreement (TIA) with a

total project cost cap of \$75,000,000 through FY 13. AFRL has budgeted approximately \$13.5 mil through FY 2011 from limited discretionary funds for developing advanced structural metals technology.

Percent and source of required matching fund: MAI participants cost share 10 percent on AFRL-directed Type I projects and at least 25 percent on industry-directed Type II projects, funded by congressional directions.

Justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars:

The mission of MAI is to maintain U.S. leadership in the strategic aerospace metals industrial sector by using technology innovation to maintain global competitiveness while improving performance and increasing affordability of weapons systems. This sector includes the entire domestic specialty aerospace metals industrial manufacturing base, representing all elements of the supply chain, which produce aluminum, beryllium, nickel-base superalloys, and titanium.

MAI is a model for government/industry collaboration. MAI programs have already accomplished 47 current or planned technology insertions into military systems.

MAI provides innovation, rapid development and implementation of new metals technology. Many of the MAI programs impact sustainability of the aging Air Force fleet. The authorization provided for in this bill will allow for the initiation of 6 new programs, as well as sustaining ongoing programs, directed at sustainment and life extension, fuel savings/energy management and access to space.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 343, the Motion to Recommit H.R. 6049 with Instructions, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

On rollcall No. 344, on Passage of H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

On rollcall No. 345, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1771, the Crane Conservation Act of 2008, as Amended, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

On rollcall No. 346, on Passage of H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act, Objections of the President Not Withstanding, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

On rollcall No. 347, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3819, the Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act of 2008 as Amended, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

On rollcall No. 348, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5826, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2008, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

On rollcall No. 349, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5856, the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Authorization and Lease Act, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, consistent with the House Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, to the best of my knowledge this request (1) is not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; and (2) is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark. As required by earmark standards adopted by the House Republican Conference, I submit to the House an explanation and justification of this funding in an effort to provide as much public disclosure and transparency as possible on congressionally directed funding and earmarks. I hereby submit the following information on a project I requested and the House Armed Services Committee included in H.R. 5658, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Air Force; Research, Development, Test & Evaluation.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Oregon (on behalf of the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnology Institute (ONAMI) which consists of the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and Portland State University).

Address of Requesting Entity: Attn: Rich Linton, Vice President for Research, 203 Johnson Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403.

Description of Project: H.R. 5658 has authorized \$1,000,000 for the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnology Institute (ONAMI) Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative. 26 percent of the funds will be used for equipment and 74 percent will be used for project expenses associated with personnel, including: salary, benefits, travel, and tuition off sets for research assistants.

The ONAMI Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative develops inherently safer and greener nanomaterials and nanomanufacturing methods, which directly impact the military's need for high performance materials that do not emit unintended wastestreams or material hazards. Three general areas of activity included within the Initiative are: (1) rational design of safer and greener materials based upon unique properties found at the nanoscale, (2) systematic assessment of the biological impacts of engineered nanomaterials, and (3) development of technology for high volume manufacturing and application of high-performance nanomaterials. Examples of nanomaterials and manufacturing of importance for military technology include nanoelectronics and nanophotonics, thermoelectric coolers, medical diagnostics and therapeutics, drinking water purification and