

INACTION AND OVERREACTION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, depending on what day it is, the House Democrat energy policy can be described one of two ways—either inaction or overreaction. On the one hand, with gas prices over 4 dollars per gallon and a growing global demand for oil, House Democrats refuse to lift the moratoriums against exploring for new oil and natural gas reserves here in the United States. On the other hand, having now failed to lower gas prices by doing nothing, we hear Members of the majority saying we should nationalize the American oil industry. Since when did the United States start following the example of socialist regimes like that of unstable Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez?

House Republicans have a plan that will not surrender our freedom and innovative spirit to the limits of big government. We want to lift the unnecessary restrictions on energy exploration. We want to invest in alternative energy sources and use the power of the free market to drive innovation forward and energy prices down.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th. I am grateful that World War II veteran, Sergeant William E. Durkes, Sr., is visiting Washington today continuing to celebrate his 92nd birthday.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LINDA DAVIS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the outstanding residents of the community where I live and enjoy the friendship and fellowship of my neighbors and friends. Madam, I cannot pinpoint exactly when or where I first met Ms. Linda Davis; however, I do recall that we immediately connected and soon were communicating and working together on various issues and projects.

Linda Davis had an outstanding personality which was infectious. She could be warm and disarming but at the same time tough and intimidating. She was energetic and in addition to looking after her home and family, she was a regular attendee at community meetings and events. Mrs. Davis was involved with her block and immediate neighborhood; I was privileged to attend meetings and coffees in her home. She worked with the Community Bank of Lawndale, the Austin Bank of Chicago, the Chicago Board of Education and Loretto Hospital as well with the Austin Chamber of Commerce and many other entities.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to take note of some of the contributions of this noteworthy citizen, a great wife, wonderful mother and superb human being.

HONORING MARGARET "MAGGIE" TRUPP FOR HER 41 YEARS OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Margaret "Maggie" Trupp upon the occasion of her retirement following 41 years of meritorious service for Continental Airlines.

Ms. Trupp's life experience truly represents the American Dream. After immigrating to the United States from Holland in 1961 at the age of 16, she attended Dan McCarty High School and Indian River Junior College before moving to my hometown of Houston, Texas, in 1967. Almost immediately, Texas International Airlines, an airline in its infancy, recognized her talents, work ethic and enthusiasm and hired her to help move the company forward. Ms. Trupp has participated in Texas International's growth into Continental Airlines, a major international carrier.

Ms. Trupp achieved great success during her tenure, once receiving the airline's annual customer service award and spearheading its unaccompanied minor system, which has facilitated successful travel for young people. On a personal note, she has helped me numerous times over the years in my travel experiences and has always shown me tremendous generosity and kindness.

Ms. Trupp will officially retire effective July 1, 2008, bringing her impressive and successful career to a close. I would like to congratulate her for her decades of excellent work and to wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement.

COMMENDING REEVE FIDLER OF GROTON

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Reeve Fidler of Groton, Massachusetts, who will receive the Congressional Award bronze, silver and gold medals. It is my privilege to honor Reeve who has worked to better himself and his community.

The Congressional Award recognizes initiative, achievement, and service in young people. Reeve exemplifies all of these qualities. The award's recipients represent the best of America—they are committed to self-improvement, hard work, and community service.

Reeve performed over 400 hours of community service, managing the snack shack at his town's athletic fields. The profits he earned selling concessions went to fund the town's youth soccer program. Reeve also volunteered as a teacher's aide at the Groton Children's Center.

In addition to helping his community, Reeve set personal development goals. He received certification to become a soccer referee and subsequently worked as an official for youth games in his town. To complete the physical fitness goal, Reeve played for his high school's varsity tennis team, and for his expedition requirement, Reeve explored the coast of southern Maine.

It is also important to acknowledge that Reeve and the other extraordinary young people receiving the Congressional Award were not alone in their work to achieve their goals. Along the way, they were guided by the helping hands of parents, teachers, and mentors, who provided constant encouragement and support.

Today, I honor Reeve's hard work and dedication. His dedication to community service and personal development should be admired and emulated.

HONORING SAINT JAMES PARISH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saint James Parish in Bay City as they dedicate the new parish center, Langley Hall. Bishop Robert J. Carlson will preside over the dedication ceremony on Sunday, June 22, in Bay City, Michigan.

Reverend Henry Schutjes founded Saint James Parish in 1868 in response to the needs of a growing Irish community. The parish quickly became the center of life for the Irish settlers in the Bay City area. In 1873 the new pastor, Reverend Thomas Rafter, welcomed four Sisters of Charity to teach in the parish school. On August 25th of that year, Saint James Parish opened the first 12-grade, coeducational parochial school in the United States. The Sisters of Charity had to send additional teachers as the enrollment grew to 400 students within a month.

Education has always been very important to the parishioners of Saint James. In preparing the next generation for the challenges of life the school has gone through several transformations. The high school is now part of All Saints Central High School and the middle school is part of Holy Family Middle School. Since 1873, the Sisters of Charity have continued to serve Saint James Parish, preparing students for an abundant temporal and spiritual life.

The first wooden church was destroyed by fire in 1884. The second church was struck by lightning and burned in 1978. After each tragedy the parishioners came together and continued a vibrant parish life. They found other places to celebrate Mass and worked to rebuild the sanctuary. The current church was completed in 1980 and the first Mass was celebrated on Christmas Eve. This sacred tradition continues under the leadership of the pastor, Reverend Robert J. DeLand, and associate pastor, Reverend Andrew D. Booms.

On June 22nd the parish will come together again to celebrate the dedication of the new parish center, Langley Hall. The parish center is made possible by the bequest of the late Norbert Langley and Elizabeth Langley. The Langley family exemplifies the best of Saint James Parish life. Their parents, John and Anna Langley, were married at Saint James Catholic Church in 1911. They had five children, all baptized at Saint James, and four children graduated from the parish high school. Elizabeth and Norbert stayed on the family farm and continued to attend Mass at Saint James. Elizabeth passed away in 1998 and Norbert died in 2004. The estate was bequeathed to Saint James, enabling the parish

to build a parish center to provide a gathering place for the parishioners to come together in fellowship.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me today and applaud the clergy, staff, and parishioners of Saint James Parish. For over 100 years Saint James Parish has been a center of worship and praise for the Bay City area and may it continue to bring the joy of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, to the community for many, many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEWARK ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to recognize and honor a great institution of higher learning, Rutgers University-Newark as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. A gala being held on June 19, 2008 at the Paul Robeson Campus Center in honor of this important milestone will feature a variety of distinguished alumni, supporters, faculty, staff and students. The theme of the centennial, "A Century of Reaching Higher," celebrates the transformation of two law schools, a business college and two colleges of arts and science into one of the Nation's leading urban research universities.

Rutgers University-Newark has a rich and illustrious history. Founded in 1908 as a law school by New York attorney Richard Currier, the university has a rich tradition of diversity. The law school, the Seth Boyden School of Business and the Dana College merged in 1936 and became the University of Newark. In the 1940s, the University of Newark and Rutgers University joined together to form a geographically diverse public State university with programs in a broad variety of undergraduate and graduate disciplines. In the 1960s the university acquired a large parcel of land in what is now known as the University Heights District and construction began on the modern campus. Today, Rutgers University-Newark is a modern urban research university of 38 acres where 10,500 students pursue degrees in business, law, the arts and sciences, nursing, criminal justice, public administration, and global affairs. During its 100 years of existence, Rutgers University-Newark has been inclusive in its recruitment which has in turn created a mosaic of student diversity.

The gala will celebrate the university's legacy in the State's largest city, particularly in the areas of educational opportunity, urban engagement, diversity and research. Proceeds from the gala will support scholarship funds, including scholarships for students in the State's first undergraduate major in public service, to be offered by the Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration beginning in the fall of 2008.

Madam Speaker, I am sure my colleagues agree that Rutgers University-Newark deserves to be feted at the gala in honor of its 100th anniversary. I am proud to have this fine university in my Congressional district and wish everyone associated with Rutgers Uni-

versity-Newark continued success in the future.

GRANTING A FEDERAL CHARTER TO KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1692, a bill to grant a Federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association.

Just a few short years after World War II, our government again called on hundreds of thousands of Americans to serve their country in a distant conflict. Over 1,700,000 American soldiers were sent halfway around the world to fight a Communist threat in Korea. Over 40,000 would never return—giving their lives on the battlefield or going missing to this day. Another 100,000 were wounded. Today, my state of Vermont alone is home to almost 10,000 Korean War veterans.

The Korean War Veterans Association exists to remember those lost, to honor the service of the thousands of living veterans, and to support Korean freedom. For over six years, the organization has fought for Federal recognition. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and the Vietnam Veterans of America have received a Federal charter, but up until this point veterans of the Korean War could not claim this honor. H.R. 1692 finally remedies this.

Under the charter provided in this bill, the Korean War Veterans Association will provide assistance to veterans of the Korean War and to all those who have subsequently served there, including helping those men and women receive the veterans benefits they have earned. The organization will also preserve the camaraderie forged between those who served, and honor the memory of those fallen. It is my great pleasure to support this well-deserved charter.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that my vote today against Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations Act is a vote against further unconditional funding for the war in Iraq. However, I would also like to make clear that this is not a vote against funding our troops fighting in Afghanistan. In fact, I believe that my vote today against amendment No. 1 is indeed a vote that supports our mission in Afghanistan because I believe the failed war in Iraq has greatly hurt our ability to defeat our enemies who attacked our Nation on 9/11.

I cannot vote to continue funding for the war in Iraq because it has not been fought for the purpose that was stated to the American peo-

ple back in 2002 and it has not achieved the goals that were set out by this Administration. The war in Iraq has lasted far too long and has recklessly put the lives and livelihood of too many American troops in danger. With over 4,000 of our brave sons and daughters killed and more than 30,000 diagnosed with injuries, it is time they come home. After 5 years, this war has lasted longer than America's military involvement in World War I, World War II, the Korean war and the Civil War. I remain fully committed to the withdrawal of America's troops from the war in Iraq and am greatly disappointed that a timeline for withdrawal has not been included in this emergency funding measure. To be certain, a timeline is the only way that the current Iraqi Government will understand the dire need to unify and stand together to build their nation. Our brave men and women of the Armed Forces can not and should not have to hold Iraq together indefinitely. My vote today against this amendment is strictly a vote to bring our troops home from Iraq.

While I strongly oppose continued funding for our war in Iraq I am an even stronger supporter for greater funding and resources to win the battle against Al Qaeda and Taliban extremists in Afghanistan. I have stated unequivocally on multiple occasions that Afghanistan is the central front in the war on terror. In fact, just 2 months ago I joined my colleagues Representatives CAPUANO and LOBIONDO in a congressional assignment to Afghanistan and Pakistan. I had the honor to meet our troops stationed in Afghanistan and see the battle conditions they faced high up in the mountain ranges of the Afghan-Pakistan border. Despite the extreme conditions and dangerous assignments they were engaged in, I was encouraged by the troops' morale and unwavering commitment to their mission in Afghanistan. I told them I would continue to do everything in my power in Congress to provide them with the resources they need to be successful in Afghanistan and I believe I am doing so with this vote today.

It is my regret that I do not have the ability today to vote to reject continued funding for the war in Iraq and still vote to approve greater funding for our efforts in Afghanistan. It is clear to me that the central front in the War on Terror in Afghanistan has suffered due to the singular focus the administration has had on Iraq. It should be deeply disturbing to my colleagues and all Americans that because of this focus on Iraq we are seeing a resurgence of the Taliban as witnessed in the recent suicide bombing of a prison in Kandahar that freed over 400 Taliban inmates. The facts make clear my reasoning as to why I am voting today against Amendment No. 1 in support of our brave troops fighting in Afghanistan.

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Juneteenth holiday which was on June 19th. Yesterday, the House of Representatives