

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE PRIVATE CALENDAR

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, we would like to take this opportunity to set forth some of the history behind, as well as describe the workings of the Private Calendar. We hope this might be of some value to the Members of this House, especially our newer colleagues. Of the four House Calendars, the Private Calendar is the one to which all Private Bills are referred. Private Bills deal with specific individuals, corporations, institutions, and so forth, as distinguished from public bills which deal with classes only.

Of the 108 laws approved by the First Congress, only 5 were Private Laws. But their number quickly grew as the wars of the new Republic produced veterans and veterans' widows seeking pensions and as more citizens came to have private claims and demands against the Federal Government. The 49th Congress, 1885 to 1887, the first Congress for which complete workload and output data is available, passed 1,031 Private Laws, as compared with 434 Public Laws. At the turn of the century the 56th Congress passed 1,498 Private Laws and 443 Public Laws—a better than three to one ratio.

Private bills were referred to the Committee of the Whole House as far back as 1820, and a calendar of private bills was established in 1839. These bills were initially brought before the House by special orders, but the 62nd Congress changed this procedure by its rule XXIV, clause six which provided for the consideration of the Private Calendar in lieu of special orders. This rule was amended in 1932, and then adopted in its present form on March 27, 1935. When the House recodified its rules in the 106th Congress, this provision was transferred from rule XXIV, clause 6 to rule XV, clause 5.

A determined effort to reduce the private bill workload of the Congress was made in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Section 131 of that Act banned the introduction or the consideration of four types of private bills: first, those authorizing the payment of money for pensions; second, for personal or property damages for which suit may be brought under the Federal tort claims procedure; third, those authorizing the construction of a bridge across a navigable stream; or fourth, those authorizing the correction of a military or naval record. This ban afforded some temporary relief but was soon offset by the rising postwar and cold war flood for private immigration bills. The 82nd Congress passed 1,023 Private Laws, as compared with 594 Public Laws. The 88th Congress passed 360 Private Laws compared with 666 Public Laws.

Under rule XV, clause 5, the Private Calendar is called the first and third Tuesday of each month. The consideration of the Private Calendar bills on the first Tuesday is manda-

tory unless dispensed with by a two-thirds vote. On the third Tuesday, however, recognition for consideration of the Private Calendar is within the discretion of the Speaker and does not take precedence over other privileged business in the House.

On the first Tuesday of each month, after disposition of business on the Speaker's table for reference only, the Speaker directs the call of the Private Calendar. If a bill called is objected to by two or more Members, it is automatically recommitted to the Committee reporting it. No reservation of objection is entertained.

Bills un-objected to are considered in the House in the Committee of the Whole. On the third Tuesday of each month, the same procedure is followed with the exception that omnibus bills embodying bills previously rejected have preference and are in order regardless of objection. Such omnibus bills are read by paragraph and no amendments are entertained except to strike out or reduce amounts or provide limitations. Matters so stricken out shall not be again included in an omnibus bill during that session. Debate is limited to motions allowable under the rule and does not admit motions to strike out the last word or reservation of objections. The rules prohibit the Speaker from recognizing Members for statements or for requests for unanimous consent for debate. Omnibus bills so passed are thereupon resolved in their component bills, which are engrossed separately and disposed of as if passed separately.

Private Calendar bills unfinished on one Tuesday go over to the next Tuesday on which such bills are in order and are considered before the call of bills subsequently on the calendar. Omnibus bills follow the same procedure and go over to the next Tuesday on which that class of business is again in order. When the previous question is ordered on a Private Calendar bill, the bill comes up for disposition on the next legislative day.

Madam Speaker, we would also like to describe to the newer Members the Official Objectors Committee, the system the House has established to deal with the great volume of Private Bills. The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader each appoint three Members to serve as Private Calendar Objectors during a Congress. The Objectors are on the Floor ready to object to any Private Bill which they feel is objectionable for any reason. Seated near them to provide technical assistance are the majority and minority legislative clerks. Should any Member have a doubt or question about a particular Private Bill, he or she can get assistance from objectors, their clerks, or from the Member who introduced the bill.

The great volume of private bills and the desire to have an opportunity to study them carefully before they are called on the Private Calendar has caused the six Objectors to agree upon certain ground rules. The rules limit consideration of bills placed on the Private Calendar only shortly before the calendar is called. With this agreement, adopted on July 10, 2008, the Members of the Private

Calendar Objectors Committee have agreed that during the 110th Congress, they will consider only those bills which have been on the Private Calendar for a period of seven (7) days, excluding the day the bill is reported and the day the calendar is called. Reports must be available to the Objectors for three (3) calendar days.

It is agreed that the majority and minority clerks will not submit to the Objectors any bills which do not meet this requirement. This policy will be strictly enforced except during the closing days of a session when the House rules are suspended.

This agreement was entered into by: The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER), the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES).

We feel confident that we speak for our colleagues when we request all Members to enable us to give the necessary advance consideration to private bills by not asking that we depart from the above agreement unless absolutely necessary.

RICK BOUCHER.
ADAM SCHIFF.
RAÚL GRIJALVA.
LAMAR SMITH.
STEVE KING.
RANDY FORBES.

RECOGNIZING MITRE'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments achieved by the MITRE Corporation throughout its 50 years of service to our Nation. MITRE has always been one of the leading research corporations dedicated to tackling the difficult technological issues for the Department of Defense.

MITRE was born in the Lincoln Laboratories of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in July 1958 as a non-profit company designed to provide research for America's air defense systems. 50 years later, MITRE thrives as a defense-oriented Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) that provides cutting edge systems including enterprise-wide control, communications, computer, intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities to the Department.

By providing advanced information technology and engineering systems, MITRE contributes to various areas vital to our Nation's defense. MITRE is known for its leading role in many successful defense systems that secure our Nation from attack, including the SemiAutomatic Ground Environment (SAGE), the Cheyenne Mountain and the NORAD complex, Ballistic Missile Early Warning System

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

(BMEWS), Joint STARS Aircraft and the Joint Tactical Information and Distribution System.

The women and men of MITRE provide their sophisticated skills through times of grave conflict. MITRE personnel have been deployed in the combat zones in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, and on September 11, 2001, MITRE teams rushed to Ground Zero in New York minutes after the attacks to offer crucial assistance. The 6,000 professionals employed at MITRE are the essence of this company, dedicating their services whenever and wherever at a moment's notice.

Madam Speaker, I commend MITRE Corporation on its 50 year milestone of services. It is an innovative corporation that channels all of its resources to the defense of our Nation. I wish them great success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GERSON I.
COOPER

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Gerson I. Cooper for his 50 years of service as President and CEO of Botsford Health Care, located in Oakland County, Michigan.

Mr. Cooper has spent the majority of his life working for Botsford Health Care. After 26 years of strong commitment to patients in the community, Mr. Cooper became President and CEO of Botsford Health Care. Following his retirement, Mr. Cooper will take on a new challenge as a leader of a capital campaign in support of Botsford Hospital's new cancer center.

Throughout the years, Mr. Cooper has dedicated his time to improving the community through the Foundation of Youth and Families, a group he helped organize to assist families in need. On a statewide level, he has served on numerous councils and committees, including the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, which advocates for hospitals and patients.

I also want to commend Mr. Cooper on the many awards he has earned recognizing commitment to public service. Just to name a few, Mr. Cooper earned the "Award of Merit" from the American Osteopathic Hospital Association, the "Distinguished Service Award" from the College of Osteopathic Healthcare Executives, and the "Meritorious Key Award" from the Michigan Health and Hospital Association.

Madam Speaker, I want to recognize and thank Mr. Gerson I. Cooper for his many years of dedication to serving Oakland County residents and extend my best wishes.

TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER
TYRONE LOGAN

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Explo-

sive Ordinance Disposal Technician 1st Class (EWS) Tyrone Logan, and commend him on his great devotion to the United States. Named a 2008 U.S. Fleet Forces Command Sea Sailor of the Year by the United States Navy, Petty Officer Logan's dedication and leadership proved him a strong candidate for this extremely competitive award.

Petty Officer Logan is one of six recipients of this prestigious award. Along with the U.S. Navy, the Fleet Reserve Association worked to establish this program in 1972. The esteemed program recognizes the Navy's top Sailors through presentations, awards, and meritorious advancement to the next pay grade.

Serving in both the United States Marine Corps and the United States Navy, Petty Officer Logan has taken a very active role in the defense of our Nation. He has been deployed to such places as Mosul and Baghdad in Iraq, as well as Pakistan and Africa. He has also been awarded various honors including two Navy Achievement Medals and a Purple Heart. Further, Petty Officer Logan's mentorship to colleagues has been noted. These accolades serve as a testament to Petty Officer Logan's strength of character and commitment to our national values.

With this award, Petty Officer Logan has joined an elite group of Sailors who have achieved this goal. I am certain that his incredible accomplishments, dedication to our country and evident leadership talents will continue to speak highly of him, as they do now.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, on Monday July 14, 2008 I missed rollcall votes 486, 487, and 488. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

TRIBUTE TO GEN. T. MICHAEL
"BUZZ" MOSELEY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to General T. Michael Moseley for his long and distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force and for his unwavering commitment to his country. After 37 years of honorable service including over 2,800 hours in flight, General Moseley will surely be missed, but his many accomplishments will always be remembered and surely outlast his service.

General Moseley's vast knowledge and understanding of national security policies can be credited to his tenure at Texas A&M acquiring his bachelors and masters degrees in Political Science. In 1971, during his college career, General Moseley enlisted in the Air

Force, thus beginning one of the most decorated and honorable careers in Air Force history.

After college, his military education continued. He attended Squadron Officer School, Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, Air Command and Staff College, U.S. Air Force Joint Senior Battle Commander's Course, National War College, and Combined Force Air Component Commander Course during his career.

With the knowledge acquired combined with genuine devotion, General Moseley was an obvious choice for demanding positions involving command. His influence had a positive effect with the F-15 Division of the Air Force Fighter Weapons School at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada and the 33rd Operations Group at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. His work with the F-15 was essential to the success the plane had during the wars of the Persian Gulf and Desert Storm. Under his direction as flight and weapons instructor, it was no surprise that the F-15 proved more than formidable with a perfect air to air combat record in the Persian Gulf and in Desert Storm.

His commitment is not constrained to just survival in battle, but for preparing the Air Force for the 21st century. On the day of his swearing in, General Moseley laid out his intentions as the Air Force's 18th Chief of Staff. He said, "We are all going to make it our life's work for you to be proud of us and it is our continued promise that we Airmen will be the best in the world at what we do—dominating air and space."

General Moseley sought to maintain the prestige the Air Force had inherited throughout the years of superior aeronautical innovations. With his many accomplishments and various recognitions both national and international, General Moseley did exactly what he sought out to do: developing and preparing the Air Force for the new century.

His services include Director Liaison for the Secretary of the Air Force; Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs for Asia/Pacific and the Middle East, the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and Chair and Professor of Joint and Combined Warfare at the National War College.

General Moseley was greatly admired by his peers, and received various awards for his efforts during his years in service. His awards include Distinguished Service medals with oak leaf clusters, medals for his efforts on Global War on Terrorism, and from foreign countries such as Korea, France, Brazil, and the Republic of Singapore. General Moseley has even been knighted receiving the title of Knight Commander from Queen Elizabeth II sharing this title with others like Presidents Reagan and Eisenhower.

In the 37 years General Moseley gave to the Air Force, the service has grown stronger, prouder, and more prepared for whatever the future holds. As an Air Force veteran and founder of the House Air Force Caucus, I know what a difficult job General Moseley undertook. And I also know what a great and honorable career he had. He deserves the respect and admiration of all Americans. Thank you General Moseley for your dedication, ideals, and service to our country. America is a better and safer place because of General Michael Moseley's service.