

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PRODUCTS AGENCY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I join a bipartisan team of my colleagues to introduce a resolution to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

October 1957, the Soviet Union ushered in a new dimension to the Cold War with the United States when it successfully launched Sputnik I, the world's first artificial satellite, into space.

So, on this day, in 1958 the Department of Defense established the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) to serve under the secretary of Defense as the specialized technical engine for the United States Military. The threat of Soviet technological superiority and space domination could not be tolerated amid the growing tensions and developing arms race between the two superpowers. DARPA was tasked to confront this threat.

As DARPA focused its technological strengths on the space mission, the agency achieved the unimaginable. The Saturn V rocket, which enabled the United States to launch the Apollo missions to the moon originated on a DARPA drawing board. Perhaps more important, DARPA developed the first surveillance satellites that gave our Nation accurate intelligence on Russian missile program activities throughout the world.

As the military mission evolved throughout the last half century, so too did the DARPA focus. Recognizing the changing nature of warfare well in advance of today's battles, DARPA revolutionized the way our Nation fights wars. Instead of sacrificing more troops by putting them in harm's way, our military now uses stealth technology in our aircrafts, advanced precision munitions that can be dropped into theater without dropping in troops, and now the Predator and Global Hawk unmanned air vehicles dominate the world's airspace.

DARPA's ongoing commitment to the military is not limited combat. The agency's programs are developing real-time accurate language translation, prosthetics that can be controlled by the brain, and alternative fuel sources for military vehicles that will help eliminate our Nation's dependency on foreign sources of oil.

Of course, DARPA's success has not been limited to military innovation. ARPANET, the world's first operational packet switching network, led to the development of today's Internet. Since DARPA engineers first started to connecting remote computers to each other to talk about their shared ideas and work, the Internet has revolutionized the world with the creation of endless possibilities.

The reason that DARPA's work engages the cutting edge of technology is a result of its unique business model. By limiting project managers to 4 to 6 year terms, DARPA optimizes the flow of new ideas by empowering industry experts to take risks, think outside the box and advance ground breaking research projects.

DARPA continues to meet the growing needs of the Nation as it develops significant cutting edge technology elevates the U.S. to the forefront of innovation and propels our military to be the most superior fighting force in the world.

I am proud to recognize DARPA's 50 years of innovation, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AUTOMOBILE ARBITRATION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2008

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Automobile Arbitration Fairness Act of 2008. This legislation will extend to certain consumers what Congress granted to automobile dealers in 2002: freedom from mandatory binding arbitration agreements.

Automobile manufacturers imposed mandatory binding arbitration clauses in their dealer contracts to forego forums otherwise available under state law. Unfortunately, states could not effectively address the increasing imposed use of mandatory arbitration clauses because the Federal Arbitration Act preempts such state laws. As a result, auto dealers had no legal recourse and were bound to using arbitration. Automobile dealerships voiced their plight to Congress, which in 2002 passed the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act. This legislation included language to allow arbitration only if both parties to a motor vehicle franchise contract consented in writing to arbitration and if the consent was done after a controversy arose out of that contract.

Although automobile dealerships now have the option not to enter into mandatory binding arbitration agreements, many dealers require such binding agreements in their sales or lease contracts with automobile purchasers and lessees. This legislation would connect the chain from manufacturers to dealers and from dealers to consumers, by requiring the consent of both parties to enter into contracts with binding arbitration clauses in automobile sales and lease contracts.

I urge my colleagues to join as cosponsors of this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, I was not present for votes due to a delayed United Airlines flight.

Had I been present for rollcall 29, Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 30, Recognizing the significance of Black History Month, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 31, Remembering the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster

and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 30, H. Res. 942, recognizing the significance of Black History Month, I was absent due to inclement weather grounding flights from Wisconsin.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

ARLENE PIAZZA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today in remembrance of a distinguished member of the Fontana community and a dear friend, Arlene Piazza.

Due to complications following surgery, Arlene passed away the night of February 5th. Her death comes 3 years after the death of her beloved husband, Mr. John Piazza. Together the Piazas were key players in our Fontana school district and city governments. Their absence will be felt by many.

For 18 years Arlene worked in business and industry. Later this dedicated woman extended her talents to our Nation's academics where she dedicated 20 years to education. We were honored to have her in our Fontana Unified school system for 13 of those years. Her zeal and passion for educating our children is reflected in those 20 years through the numerous roles she took on.

Arlene served as a gifted counselor and in 2003 was elected to the Fontana School Board. There she served as a caring and committed member who was known for loving every child. Her work ethic was continuously commended and her priorities were always focused on what was best for our young students. Her passions were to open doors of opportunity and extend a helping hand as she pushed our youth to explore a fulfilling educational future. This commitment was made apparent in 2006, when she fought to ensure voters approved a \$275 million bond measure going towards the physical improvement of schools.

While it is with sadness that we say goodbye to an incredible woman, we remember the positive change she made while she was with us. The use of her life to benefit her community is unquestionable and has served to nurture a sense of priority towards education and our young generation's future opportunities. Although now gone, in her absence she will continue to serve as an inspiration to us all.

I thank Arlene Piazza for dedicating her life to service in the Fontana community. I am honored to consider Arlene a colleague in the fight to improve education and I truly appreciate all she has given to our community and our country. She will be greatly missed. Barbara, my family, and I extend our deepest condolences to her family.

Arlene's life was dedicated to family, friends and her community. Her memory lives on in our thoughts and prayers. She will always have a special place in our hearts. She was special to all of us. She is now in a better place with her heavenly Father and at peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, a snowstorm in Milwaukee cancelled all flights to Washington, DC yesterday, and I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 29, 30, and 31. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on all three.

RECOVERY REBATES AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act, and to commend Speaker PELOSI and Minority Leader BOEHNER for their bipartisan, timely action to get our economy moving.

In Minnesota, median household income has decreased 6.8 percent since 2000, job growth is lagging, and families are being squeezed by increasing gas, health care and education costs. While the cost of the Iraq war has grown to \$36,900 per Minnesota household, over 400,000 Minnesotans live in poverty, families are losing their homes, and a growing number are uninsured.

This bill provides a recovery rebate check for 117 million families to help with rising costs and reinvigorate the economy. These rebates are targeted to middle-income Americans and additional assistance is provided for families with children. In Minnesota, the average rebate will be \$952 and over 2 million families will benefit from this tax relief. H.R. 5140 also provides tax incentives to small businesses to help create jobs, and it increases access to affordable refinancing opportunities to help families keep their homes.

H.R. 5140 is timely, targeted and temporary. While enactment of this package will give the economy a needed boost, it is not the end of our efforts. Congress needs to have a serious discussion about unemployment benefits, food stamps and aid to states facing deficits. And in order to truly grow our economy we need to invest in our infrastructure, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, educate our children, address the health care crisis and end the war in Iraq.

There are significant challenges facing this country, and I am pleased that all parties were able to work together to put together this positive first step. I urge my colleagues to take real action today and to support H.R. 5140.

NANDO GOMEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my most trusted staff members, my Chief of Staff, Fernando P. "Nando" Gomez, Jr. After working in Congress for 7 years, the past 2 as my chief of staff, Nando will be joining the private sector.

Nando's dedication to and interest in public service has led him from the small town of Gregory, TX, to the corridors of two Capitols. During his senior year at the University of Texas in 1994, he began working for the Texas House Speaker James E. "Pete" Laney. Nando worked for Speaker Laney for nearly 5 years and was appointed the House reading clerk during the 74th and 75th Legislative Sessions.

He then moved to Washington, DC in 1998 and worked for Congressman Martin Frost, serving as legislative assistant and then as legislative director. He joined my staff in 2005 and rose from Legislative Director to Chief of Staff.

Words cannot begin to describe what Nando has meant to me, my staff, and the people of the 27th district of Texas. I have relied on Nando for his professionalism, work ethic, and friendship. He takes pride in his work, which is especially personal to him because he was born and raised in the district I represent. For him, it has not just been about serving as my chief of staff—it is about advocating for the issues of his hometown, his family, and his roots.

Nando has also taken an active role with local youth. He serves in Big Brothers/Big Sisters Mentor program, where he has had the honor of serving as big brother to his little brother, Franklin, for nearly 5 years. Nando is an avid sports fan whose allegiances lie with the Texas Longhorns, Houston Astros, San Antonio Spurs and the Dallas Cowboys.

Though I bid Nando a sad farewell from my office, it will certainly not be a good bye. I look forward to seeing him around the Capitol when he comes up to catch up with old friends.

Nando remains a trusted member of my family, and I will always seek his counsel on matters political and personal. I wish him, his wife Kristy and son Dominic the best of luck during the new phase of his life.

HONORING LEGO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for the past 50 years LEGO has transformed childhood play and provided invaluable academic and economic contributions to local communities around the globe. On January 29, 2008, LEGO celebrated its 50th anniversary. I rise today to recognize 50 years of LEGO innovation and contributions.

LEGO USA headquarters is located in my district in Enfield, Connecticut. Over the past

three decades since headquarters moved from Brookfield to Enfield, Connecticut in 1975, the company has made substantial contributions to the local community. Today it remains the town's largest employer. Although the Enfield offices have struggled in recent years in light of increasing globalization pressures, I remain hopeful that it will continue to innovate and thrive as part of Connecticut's economy. Education and family programs, which have been highlights of the corporation in the past, will continue to have positive lasting impacts on the community in the future.

The LEGO Creative Child Care Center KinderCare@Work program, which accommodates children ages 6 weeks to 12 years of age, has received national accolades for quality childhood development services. LEGO's KinderCare@Work program incorporates an engaging, thought-provoking curriculum into a healthy and safe environment for children from the local community. Quality early education programs, like LEGO's KinderCare@Work, are essential for promoting academic and professional success in latter years and should be a model for other private and public early education programs.

Programs geared towards middle and high school students, such as the FIRST LEGO League (FLL), also provide impetus for academic success and an environmentally and socially conscientious society. FLL programs encourage students to look at problems currently affecting global communities from a pragmatic and analytical perspective. LEGO USA has been a regular host of FLL tournaments. In 2007, students from Enfield and all of Connecticut joined students from around the globe in addressing a fundamental question that continues to be the focus of leading environmentalists, engineers, scientists, and politicians: the economic, environmental, and social impact that our energy consumption choices have on our global community.

From, simple yellow and red blocks to black knights and ninjas, the iconic toy has remained a classic, thought-provoking source of play for children around the world. For providing positive academic and economic development in communities around our globe and inspiring generations of artists, architects, and engineers, I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in honoring LEGO's 50th anniversary.

HONORING ANDREW "JACK" FULTZ

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great Kentuckian.

Andrew "Jack" Fultz served Carter County for most of his life. He coached the Olive Hill High School basketball team from 1951 to 1968, leading the team to the State tournament in 1955, 1956 and 1959. He became a good friend and father-figure to many of his players and maintained that connection long after they were finished playing. Jack ended his career with an impressive win-loss record and was inducted into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.