

THE DAILY 45: MAY EBONY AND HER MOTHER REST IN PEACE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. The indiscriminate level of violence knows no bounds as I mark the passing of Miss Ebony Jefferson, 31, who was shot to death 48 hours ago.

Ebony's death violates all standards of human decency. She was, literally, on the porch of her aunt's home, in a quiet Cleveland neighborhood, where she and her family were grieving the death of her mother, 55-year-old Lorena Jefferson, who died last Sunday of breast cancer.

In a brief moment of respite, while sharing a laugh and playing cards to fight back the tears, early Tuesday evening a man dressed in black, carrying a gun, threatened Ebony and her family, telling them to lay on the floor. Bravely, some of her family members told the assailant to leave and, briefly, he did. But, in a senseless instant, he turned around and fired nine shots, one of which struck Ebony. She died a short time later at a local hospital.

Ebony was a caring health care worker who was grieving the loss of her mother. She and her mother will now be buried, together, this Saturday while the gunman remains at large.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

A PROCLAMATION HONORING KARISSA MARTIN FOR WINNING THE TITLE OF MISS OHIO 2008

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Karissa Martin was crowned Miss Ohio 2008; and

Whereas, Ms. Martin won a talent preliminary award and a swimsuit preliminary award at the Miss Ohio contest; and

Whereas, Karissa Martin will use her new title to raise skin cancer awareness; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Miss Ohio 2008, Karissa Martin for her contributions to her community and country.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to President Bush's veto of H.R.

6331. This legislation is a critical bill to ensure that our seniors have access to health care and so I will again vote in its favor. I am disappointed with the President's decision and am compelled to make a stand in support of our seniors.

By the nature of our democratic process, almost no bill considered in Congress is perfect, and H.R. 6331 is no exception. We cannot, however, "let the perfect be the enemy of the good." H.R. 6331 is a good compromise that will help preserve our health care delivery system. This bill will increase investment in preventive and quality care, expand programs in rural communities, expand the patient centered medical home, and begin to transform the health care delivery system through the adoption of electronic prescribing. This investment will yield generations of healthier adults, improved quality of life, and long-term health care savings.

One of the most important pieces of this bill is the physician reimbursement rate fix—which is really an access issue. Perhaps the most critical situation facing our seniors in the coming decades will be access to physicians. Due to the paltry reimbursement rates for their services, more and more doctors are unable to take on new Medicare patients, or even serve any Medicare patients. They simply cannot pay the bills. The formula that CMS uses to determine the reimbursement for physician services is not based on cost accounting standards. No one seems to understand why CMS adopted this formula decades ago, yet no one at the agency seems willing to overhaul it. The result is decreasing reimbursement for physicians. When they cannot cover their own costs, they have to stop seeing Medicare patients and this is a grave concern. We are not only concerned that our parents will not be able to see a physician when in need, but also that there won't be adequate health care access when the baby boomers and our children become Medicare eligible. I'm for a permanent fix, which this House voted for in 2004 as part of the Medicare Modernization Act before the Senate stripped it, but until we get there, preventing the annual cuts must be our priority. This bill prevents a reimbursement cut and helps physicians continue to see their senior patients.

I strongly disagree with the President—and even my own leadership—on his position. Access to healthcare is one of the greatest issues facing our seniors—along with rising fuel costs—and it is irresponsible to stand in the way of providing that access. I urge my colleagues to join me in overriding the veto of H.R. 6331.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5959 INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman REYES and Ranking Member HOEKSTRA for their work on this bill and their commitment to protecting the security of our Nation.

Madam Speaker, recently Americans have read media reports that taxpayer funds are

being used to destabilize or overthrow governments of other countries.

Regardless of the truth of these reports, the perception that they may be true undermines public confidence in U.S. foreign policy and harms the reputation of the U.S. abroad.

That is why I offered an amendment to the bill providing that the United States will not engage in covert activities to undermine or overthrow member nations of the U.N., including democratically elected governments. Such conduct is antithetical to democracy and the rule of law.

Unfortunately, my amendment was not made in order. Consequently, we lost an opportunity to repair some of the damage done to America's international reputation by the conduct of this Administration during the last seven years.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Forces.

On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 which stated that the Armed Services must extend equal opportunity to everyone who served in the military. Although the true fulfillment of this vision finally occurred 15 years after President Truman signed this Executive Order, July 26, 1948 remains a defining moment in our Nation's history because the leader of the Free World made it known that a united Nation needed a united military.

This extraordinary document was signed shortly after World War II when American troops and their allies restored hope, justice, and life to millions of people who were suffering under horrific dictatorship and terror. In the deadliest and most wide spread war in human history, the world had seen the valor, fortitude, and humility of the American military. Upon returning home, however, more than 400,000 African American World War II veterans were faced with the bitter reminder that they did not receive equal rights in the military in which they served and in the country that they loved.

Mr. Speaker, from the Revolutionary War to the present wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, blacks and other people of color have fought and died. In the years prior to desegregation, many black soldiers fought with the hope that if they demonstrated their bravery and dedication in battle, they could obtain the respect and opportunity in the military and civilian sector. Unfortunately, formal and informal practices of segregation and discrimination in the military and in our country prevented this hope from becoming a reality.

In the years leading to an unprecedented time of prosperity, growth, and development in the United States, President Truman dared to sign a document that would position our military and country in a new direction. At last, America would have laws that would ensure

that people would have the right to serve their country and be treated equally regardless of their race, color, religion, or national origin.

Sixty years after Executive Order 9981 was signed and 45 years after the proclamations in this document were implemented, the U.S. military now includes the full spectrum of our great country. More than 1.4 million men and women make up America's active and reserve forces. They can serve with the knowledge that there are laws to ensure that they receive the same rights and liberties that they fought to secure for others.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the initial call to integrate our nation's Armed Forces, we must remember to continue the legacy of eliminating discrimination and bigotry from the institutions that represent our country and make it great. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution and demonstrate our continued commitment to laws that promote liberty, equality and justice in every sector of our society.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SANCTUARY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, which was first enacted by the 92nd Congress as Title III of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-532).

The Nation's first national marine sanctuary was designated in 1975 off the Outer Banks of North Carolina to protect the wreck of a famous Civil War ironclad, the U.S.S. *Monitor*. Since then, 12 other national marine sanctuaries and one national marine monument have been designated. The various sites, ranging from Fagatele Bay in American Samoa to Thunder Bay in Lake Huron, protect deep ocean gardens, near shore coral reefs, whale migration corridors, deep sea canyons, and underwater archeological sites.

These marine sites are managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and activities like shipping, commercial and recreational fishing, boating, scuba diving, and marine tourism are allowed within such sites where determined to be compatible with resource protection. However, drilling, mining, dredging, dumping waste and removing artifacts are generally prohibited in the sanctuaries and considered to be activities inconsistent with the purposes of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

Congress last reauthorized the National Marine Sanctuaries Act in 2000 with the passage of the National Marine Sanctuaries Amendments Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-513). The overall purpose of the legislation enacted in 2000 was to reauthorize the National Marine Sanctuaries Act through fiscal year 2005 and to make substantive changes to the management of existing sanctuaries and the designation of additional marine sanctuaries.

The Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans has held two oversight hearings to date in this Congress to receive testimony

from stakeholders regarding reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. The Subcommittee first convened for this purpose at a field hearing in Santa Barbara, California on November 3, 2007, and more recently in Washington, DC on June 18, 2008. It is generally agreed that the national marine sanctuaries are fulfilling statutory set missions to protect nationally significant areas of the marine environment and are collectively serving as a useful model demonstrating ecosystem-based management. However, since Congress last reauthorized the Act several concerns have emerged and have been raised by stakeholders and the Administration. These issues have been examined by the Subcommittee during both of its oversight hearings. The legislation I have introduced today attempts to address many of these issues.

First, over the past decade the science and theory behind the concept of marine protected areas and marine reserves (MPAs) has developed, and the use of MPAs as a management tool is much more prevalent today than it was at the time the National Marine Sanctuaries Act was last reauthorized. Supporters of the concept consider the existing statutory limitation on new sanctuary designations at odds with current thinking and practice, as well as contrary to the purposes of the Act. The bill I have introduced today, the Sanctuary Enhancement Act of 2008, would repeal the limitation on new sanctuary designations and require the Secretary of Commerce to develop a site selection report for potential new sanctuaries.

Second, despite NOAA's best intentions, the agency has been unable to complete management plan reviews for all sanctuaries within the statutorily-required 5-year period, resulting in a virtually never-ending planning cycle. Furthermore, critics question whether the statutory established timeframe allows adequate time for NOAA to properly evaluate the effectiveness of management plans. In order to allow adequate time for quality reviews, under the Sanctuary Enhancement Act the first management plan review timeframe would be expanded from 5 years to 7 years, and the period for subsequent reviews would be expanded to 10 years.

Another area of focus has been on regulating fishing within marine sanctuaries. Section 304(a)(5) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act formally incorporates Regional Fisheries Management Councils into the process for developing fishing regulations within marine sanctuaries. Various interests believe there continues to be a lack of clarity with respect to such authorities and such lack of clarity has created tensions within some sectors of the fishing community. In an effort to reduce some of that tension, the Sanctuary Enhancement Act would authorize the Secretary to include fishing regulations in the designation documents if the regulations are compatible with the purposes of the sanctuary, the mission of the entire system of sanctuaries and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. The Sanctuary Enhancement Act also clarifies the role and actions of the Secretary in approving or disapproving draft fishing regulations requested from Regional Fishery Management Councils.

Finally, critics contend that the text of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act is misinterpreted and that NOAA's implementation of the Act as a "multiple-use" authority is misguided.

Such critics advocate that the Act be amended to prioritize the protective missions of the sanctuaries and to strengthen the Act in comparison to other laws that authorize activities in the marine environment. To resolve this problem, the Sanctuary Enhancement Act would formally establish a National Marine Sanctuary System and insert a mission statement for the System to "protect, conserve, preserve, restore and recover the biodiversity, ecological integrity, and cultural legacy of the living and nonliving resources within the system for the benefit of present and future generations."

I believe the bill I have introduced today enhances the network of sanctuaries by establishing a unified structure and system for their management and by amending the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to address a variety of concerns raised by stakeholders since its last reauthorization. I am joined today in introducing this bill by Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, a co-chair of the National Marine Sanctuaries Caucus, and ten other colleagues, including Mr. KILDEE, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans. I invite all of my colleagues to join us in the effort to reauthorize and strengthen this essential marine conservation law. Working together we can strive to leave our children and grandchildren a sanctuary system that can grow as a vibrant, healthy and sound system of marine environments.

HONORING FORMER MAYOR BOB JEHN OF CLOVERDALE, CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, together with my colleague MIKE THOMPSON, I rise today to recognize my good friend, Bob Juhn, who retired from public office on July 4, 2008 after serving 14 years on the city council of Cloverdale, California.

During Mr. Juhn's tenure on the council, he served four times as its mayor. He was also a three-term member of the board of directors on the League of California Cities, past chairman and the longest serving member of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, past chairman and member of the North Coast Rail Authority and chairman and member of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit Authority.

He was the driving force behind the establishment of Cloverdale River Park, a 70-acre public access area along the Russian River, and led the successful effort to secure a permanent conservation easement for 250 acres of hillside overlooking Cloverdale.

His other civic duties included service on the Cloverdale Planning Commission and former chair of the Cloverdale Economic Development Commission. He was an active member of the Cloverdale Rotary Club, the Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce, the Cloverdale Historical Society and the North Coast Association of Health Underwriters. He was honored by his community as volunteer of the year in 1994.

Mr. Juhn and his wife of 30 years, Nancy, moved to California in 1977 and to Cloverdale