

with the purpose of developing the overseas mission work.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Evangelical Mission and Seminary International, as well as the Reverend Moses Yang, on the celebration of 40 years serving Morris County and people around the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES WEILAND'S CIVIL AIR PATROL SERVICE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the long and committed service of Lieutenant Colonel James Weiland to the Illinois Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, CAP. It was in April 1956 that Jim joined the CAP as a cadet and through his high school years he attained the rank of cadet captain. He then served his country in the U.S. Air Force for 3 years before joining the CAP as a senior member.

During his service as a member of the Illinois Wing, Lt. Col. Weiland held several leadership positions including Group Commander, Cadet Program Development Officer Wing Director of Cadets. Prior to these challenges he served with distinction as Wing Assistant Director as well as Communications, Licensing and Radio Maintenance Officer. These challenges led to his being named CAP Communicator of the Year in 2008.

Beyond these significant accomplishments, Lt. Col. Weiland will again distinguish himself at the conclusion of the July 26, 2008, Illinois Wing Summer Encampment making this the 60th summer encampment he has attended since 1956. Since his first, Jim has missed only 1 year but served at two different encampments from 1962 through 1968. Through these many years Jim has led cadets as Encampment Commander 3 times, Deputy Commander 6 times, Financial Officer 44 times and Tactical Officer 6 times. These leadership roles have led him to eight different CAP encampment sites within the Illinois patron area. While these leadership positions were ample commitment alone, Jim also helped out with other responsibilities such as serving the encampment's communications and many administrative needs.

It is my honor, Madam Speaker, to recognize Lt. Col. Weiland's long service, unselfish dedication and hard work in support of the Civil Air Patrol and the Illinois Wing Encampment Program for nearly five decades. It can be said of this truly committed patriot, the Civil Air Patrol and many fine young cadets can all be said to have benefited tremendously from the distinguished commitment of Lt. Col. James Weiland.

IN HONOR OF CONRAD SMITH

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend and

constituent, the late Conrad Smith, and his contribution to both Arkansas and Missouri.

Conrad was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, the son of Arthur and Wilma Lee (Fullerton) Smith, and was the proud husband of Virginia Dell Hall, and the proud father of four children: Cathryn Orr, Art C. Smith, Julie Wideman, and Jeffery Smith.

He began preaching in the Missionary Baptist Church by age 15, and was later ordained and preached all over Arkansas.

In December 1978, he moved to House Springs, Missouri and became very active in Jefferson County, MO, community affairs. He was the minister for the Calvary Baptist Church in House Springs for almost 30 years, where he rarely missed a service, and even preached the week he died, this past June. He founded several businesses in the area, including R S Heating and Cooling, and was an auctioneer for over 20 years.

Former State Representative Harold Selby, for whom Conrad served as district coordinator, from 1999 to 2006, said that "Conrad did all the work to make other people look good."

Among the many other ways Conrad gave back to his community were by serving on the board of directors of Big River Ambulance District for almost 10 years; serving on the board of directors of Jefferson County 911 for 4 years; being a founding member and leader of the Highway MM-W Task Force for over 10 years.

Many will remember his work on the Highway Task Force. Conrad made it a mission in his life to make roads safer. He worked tirelessly with me, as his Representative in Congress on the Transportation Committee, and with others to obtain the needed funding to improve these roads for the entire community.

Conrad Smith was a leader in Jefferson County, and his legacy lives on in the hearts of his family, his community, and the people of the Highway MM-W Task Force. His legendary determination will continue to inspire us to carry on the work he started.

INTRODUCTION OF "RELIEF NOW ON THE ROAD TO RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT OF 2008"

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Relief Now on the Road to Renewable Energy Act of 2008."

I believe this bill will provide relief now from soaring gasoline prices and also accelerate our pace down the road to alternative energy and energy independence. Few things affect American consumers like high energy prices. Higher gas prices strain the budgets of America's working families, raise the cost of goods and services, increase harvest costs for America's farmers, and negatively impact the economy and the livelihood of working Americans.

According to the latest figures from the Department of Energy, the retail cost of a gallon of gasoline breaks down as follows:

53 percent—Crude Oil.

19 percent—Refining. (This component varies from region to region due to the different formulations required in different parts of the country.)

9 percent—Marketing and Distribution.

19 percent—Taxes. (This component also varies depending upon whether States have also enacted sales tax on gasoline and whether local counties and cities have levied their own gasoline excise or sales tax.)

As you can see, the single biggest factor affecting the price of gasoline is the cost of a barrel of oil; oil which largely comes from politically unstable regions of the world, such as the Persian Gulf, Nigeria and Venezuela. Unfortunately, we find ourselves so heavily dependent upon these expensive sources of oil because decade after decade Congress has established legislative and regulatory roadblocks to prevent exploration for and refining of domestic supplies of oil and natural gas.

I believe it is time to invest more now into conservation and energy efficiency. My bill, for example, includes provisions that would increase alternative energy sources and diversify the energy grid with currently available alternative energy technologies. As a nation, we waste far too much energy with inefficient engines and machines. That is why my bill provides tax incentives for companies to produce fuel efficient vehicles. In fact, it provides a \$1,000 tax credit for individuals who purchase hybrid cars produced by American corporations. I believe that as we work with the market demand, these energy-efficient changes will work to stimulate domestic economic growth.

The fact of the matter is that wind and solar power cannot bring down the cost of the gasoline we need to power our cars, trucks, planes, trains, boats and power plants while we are developing greater efficiency. The cost of gasoline is a simple economic debate, oil supply and demand. We need more supply. The answer, I believe, is to end our dependence on expensive foreign oil by developing our own domestic supplies of oil and natural gas. My bill will open up new areas for oil and gas exploration.

For example, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) holds the single largest deposit of oil in the entire United States. Its 10.4 billion barrels of oil is more than double the proven reserves of the entire State of Texas and almost half of the total proven reserves in the U.S. (22 billion barrels). Had President Clinton not vetoed ANWR energy production in 1995, the United States could be getting nearly 1.5 million barrels of oil per day from the Arctic right now.

There are also vast oil and gas deposits along our coastlines that are completely off limits to development because of government interference. In fact, the Department of the Interior (DOI) conducted a comprehensive inventory of oil and natural gas resources located off our coastlines within the last 2 years. According to the Department of the Interior there is an estimated 8.5 billion barrels of known oil reserves and 29.3 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of known natural gas reserves along our coastlines; with 82 percent of the oil and 95 percent of the gas located in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM). However, even more importantly, the Department of the Interior estimates that there are untapped resources of about 86 billion barrels (51 percent in the Gulf of Mexico) and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas (55 percent in the Gulf of Mexico) out there.

Similarly, the U.S. has been called the Saudi Arabia of oil shale. It has been estimated that oil shale deposits in Colorado,

Utah, and Wyoming hold the equivalent of as little as 1.8 trillion barrels of oil and potentially as much as 8 trillion barrels of oil. In comparison, Saudi Arabia reportedly holds proved reserves of 267 billion barrels. Unfortunately, oil shale is roughly equivalent to diesel fuel and a number of Clean Air Act regulations—such as low-sulfur diesel—and Federal motor fuel taxes, which favor gasoline over diesel fuels—have created a strong financial disincentive regarding the production and use of oil shale fuels. In addition, many of these deposits are on public land making it more bureaucratically complicated to exploit this resource. My bill provides a financial incentive for companies to invest in and produce more oil from oil shale.

Getting more domestic oil on the market is only half the solution. We haven't built a new refinery in this country in more than 25 years because the approval process for new refinery construction is estimated to require up to 800 different permits. While existing refineries have undergone significant expansion over the years, even as others have been shuttered, our aging refinery infrastructure leaves little margin for error. If we begin to produce more domestic crude oil we would need to turn it into home heating oil, gasoline, or diesel through the refining process. The ability to refine oil must keep pace with the demand for gasoline and diesel. My bill would expedite the construction of new refining capacity by streamlining the permitting process and opening up closed military bases for construction.

Clearly, developing new oil fields and refineries will take some time. In the interim my bill will help promote the switch to flexfuel and hybrid cars and trucks; extend important alternative energy tax credits; and provide individuals and truckers a vitally needed fuel price tax relief package. It also opens up land for the production of biofuel crops in order to provide relief from high food prices as a result of ethanol production.

Again, I believe in conservation, I believe in energy efficiency, and I believe in diversifying our energy supply by using wind, solar, coal-to-liquid technologies, ethanol and other renewable energy sources. But the fact of the matter is that oil and natural gas are still going to be a part of our energy mix for a long time to come and we must give our constituents some relief now.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS WATSON
MOSS, JR.

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, tomorrow would be the 83rd birthday of Thomas Watson Moss, Jr. However, Mr. Moss passed little more than 1 month short of starting his 83rd year. I rise today to offer my condolences and prayers to his family and share the story of a remarkable man. It is an honor to have this opportunity. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a member of the "Greatest Generation" and a unique and notable individual.

Thomas Moss was born in Forsyth County, Georgia, on July 18, 1925, and grew up in the midst of the Great Depression. Like many of his generation, he answered the call of his

country and proudly served in World War II after graduating from Gainesville High School and attending North Georgia College. During his service as a medic in the U.S. Navy, during which he was attached to the Marine Corps, he participated in some of the seminal battles in the Pacific theater, including the invasion of Okinawa. He received two Purple Hearts and a Presidential Military Citation for his exemplary service.

After returning from the Pacific, Mr. Moss joined the family business, Moss Equipment Company, in Buford, Georgia. In addition to his success in business, Mr. Moss was active throughout in his community and state. The dedication to his country and his value of serving others was clear through his time with the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce, Buford Kiwanis Club and the Georgia Farm Equipment Dealers Association. He was one of the founding members of the Gwinnett County Fair Association, served in the Georgia legislature and on the Buford school board.

The tremendous impact he had on his community is incredible and indicative of his generation; where service, duty and honor were the guiding principles. Despite the demands on his time in business and civic activities, Mr. Moss was the pillar of his family and is survived by his wife of 58 years, Martha Smith Moss, two children, Mark and Lisa, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Tom and Martha's daughter Linda preceded Tom in death many years ago.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues and the American people will pause with me in recognition of a life well lived and learn from the example Mr. Moss set for his family, his community and his country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 503 on the Bishop Amendment to H.R. 415, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CLARIFY AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE REGARDING ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL USES OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS SUBJECT TO SKI AREA PERMITS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to revise the 1986 law dealing with use of National Forests for ski areas in order to reflect current ways those areas are used and to provide clear authority for the Forest Service to allow additional recreational uses of those areas.

I have long thought it is in the national interest to encourage Americans to engage in outdoor recreational activities that can contribute

to their health and well-being, and that National Forest lands, including ski areas, can play a role by providing opportunities for such activities.

And my interest in the subject was heightened earlier this year when representatives of the National Ski Areas Association brought to my attention the fact that the National Forest Ski Areas Permit Act of 1986, which speaks only to "nordic and alpine skiing," does not reflect the full spectrum of snowsports for which ski areas are now used, and what they described as the absence of clear authority for the Forest Service to permit use of ski areas for other summer, seasonal, or year-round outdoor recreational activities and facilities in support of those activities.

To better understand the matter, I sent a letter asking the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment whether current law could be clearer on those points. Under Secretary Mark Rey replied that the 1986 legislation indeed did not address those matters and that, if requested, the USDA "would be happy to work with you to amend" the law to provide the Forest Service with clear authority regarding such activities and facilities.

I did request and receive technical suggestions from the Forest Service, and have considered their input as well as suggestions from the National Ski Areas Association and other interested parties in developing the bill I am introducing today.

The bill intentionally uses a number of terms and phrases based on the terminology of the Forest Service's regulations, manual, or other official documents because those terms and phrases are familiar not only to the Forest Service but also to permittees and others with an interest in the management of the National Forests. Thus, as used in the bill the term "developed recreation" means recreation that occurs at an area which has been improved or developed for that purpose—such as camping in constructed campgrounds or developed opportunities for off-highway-vehicle use as well as downhill skiing. Similarly, the term "natural-resource-based recreation" is intended to have the same meaning as when used in the Forest Service manual 2300 (Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management).

It also should be noted that the bill deals only with the 1986 National Forest Ski Areas Act, and would not in any way affect any other law applicable to management of the National Forests or any permits issued under any of those laws.

Ski area permits under the 1986 law do give their holders a priority with respect to commercial use of the lands subject to the permits, but they do not preclude general use of those lands by the public for compatible, non-commercial uses, and the bill would not change that. In fact, the bill does not affect the status, the duration, or any other provision of any permit already issued under the 1986 law, nor does it provide for any new permits. Instead, it makes clear that the Forest Service is authorized—but not required—to allow a current or future holder of a permit under the 1986 law to provide opportunities for additional developed recreational activities (and to place associated facilities) on the lands covered by that permit if the specified requirements are met and if the Forest Service decides it would appropriate for that to occur.