

In recognition of her indelible impact on the community, Martha Flores was the first woman enshrined in the "Calle Ocho Walk of Fame." Throughout her distinguished career, she has received many accolades, but this has not deterred her from her main objective: to humbly serve her community. One of her first radio shows, "La Voz de la Mujer (the Voice of a Woman)," was the first Spanish radio program that raised issues concerning the plight of Cuban exiles. She never forgot her homeland and for nearly 50 years now she has been at the forefront, while working alongside numerous community organizations, of bringing to light the repression of Castro's Cuba.

Martha Flores has selflessly given of her time and resources to volunteer for many humanitarian causes including the League Against Cancer and League Against Blindness. In addition, she also helped St. Jude Children's Research Hospital raise much needed funds. She has been instrumental in bringing public attention and awareness to the needs of the elderly and disabled adults through her radio program and volunteerism. She will also be the first ever recipient of the Claude Pepper Memorial Award in the Media category.

Martha has also made her radio show available to those who work on behalf of a free and independent Cuba, the sacred land of her birth. She sends a nightly message of hope and solidarity to her multitude of fans, many from the oppressed island nation.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Martha Flores for her recent honor as well as for all the service and activism she has undertaken. South Florida is honored to have her and the example she has given all of us.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHAD WATSON'S SERVICE TO THE U.S. MARINE CORPS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of Cpl Chad Michael Watson who lost a leg in an improvised explosive device attack. While on patrol in the Anbar province in Iraq on November 29, 2006, Chad's vehicle came under attack and he was severely wounded and later lost his right leg.

The son of Mike and Gina Watson, Chad was born in Mount Zion, Illinois on February 8, 1983. He attended Mount Zion High School graduating in 2004. Chad joined the Marine Corps May 17, 2004 and was trained as an infantryman. Following his initial training he deployed to Iraq with Charlie Company, 1st Infantry Battalion, and 24th Marines where he served until his injury.

During the twenty months of recovery, Chad maintained a positive and even uplifting attitude which reflected well among those fellow marines and soldiers passing through the recovery process at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Mr. Albert Caswell of the U.S. Capitol Guide Service, a friend of his, penned the following poem as a fitting tribute to Chad for his sacrifice and unrelenting commitment to his long and enduring recovery.

BREAKING CHAD. . .

Breaking Bad!

Breaking Chad! He's Good, but he's the good king of Bad. . .

A Marine's Marine, one Fine Fighting Machine! The kind of son, you wish you had!

First in boot camp. . .

First in his class in military school . . . training with his brothers in arms, as number one he'd rule. . .

Wherever hearts of courage roam, men like Chad have come home with but their hearts of heroism full. . .

A Hero who went off to war. . .

Who lost a leg, but came back with so much more!

With his courage full, over our hearts he rules . . . as he takes us all to school . . . is that not what heaven is for?

Upon, battlefields of honor seen!

Running towards death, as he was strong . . . fast and lean . . . a real bad fighting machine! Upon the scene!

The kind of guy you'd fight for and not ask why . . . ready to die for you and his United States Marines!

For in our Country Tis of Thee. . .

There have been many heroes such as these who heard the call . . . who did not pause, as did he!

Who are but rough & ready, while in the face of hell were ever steady . . . for their colors did not run, you see!

And now his new fight. . .

To rebuild his life, with his fine and future wife . . . teaching us all what is right!

'Oh what a heck of a sight, bringing tears to eyes . . . as he does not ask why . . . bringing to our world his light!

SORRY!

Is a word, from him . . . you shall never hear! For he is man of courage and convictions so very clear!

Which will teach us, which will reach us . . . into our souls so beseech us here!

In our lives, and in our times. . .

What have we've so done, which so survives . . . which will live on long after we have died?

For it's all about what we've said and done, and for whom we've so bled. . . Which tells the world, Who Am I!

For in That Moment of Truth. . .

How will you break? What is your truth? All in your actions you take, as so lies the proof!

You may stand, or you may run! You may fade, or shine like the morning sun! In heroic truth!

How will you break?

What steps will you take? What hearts will you break? While all in your actions state. . .

God is Good, and God is Great . . . all in heroes as Chad he creates!

Uraaaahh Jar head. . .

You have fought and you have bled . . . Breaking Bad . . . all in what your fine heart has said!

What a hero is, and what you must have to break great and break bad in the fight ahead. . .

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

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus I would like to honor the 60th anniversary of the

integration of the United States Armed Forces, which began on July 26, 1948. When talking about an issue that happened in the past, we tend to think of it as something that happened overnight or that it was easy. Integrating the military was not at all easy, but it was a critical step to moving our nation forward in terms of civil rights.

President Harry S Truman initiated the effort to integrate the Armed Forces at the request of many black civil rights leaders. Not too many people expected the President to embrace integration within the military. Truman was born in Missouri, and his opinion on the issue was that of any average Missourian of his time. However, as he learned about the atrocities that were being committed against blacks, especially against those that had served in World War II, he became much more committed to civil rights issues and integrating the military. Indeed, President Truman outlined in his administration's policies key civil rights efforts, including forming agencies to address voting rights and fair employment. The most progressive of his actions was the desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces, which was proposed by the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

Support, however, did not come readily from Congress which was uninterested in civil rights issues. Indeed, the civil rights of Truman's priorities drew widespread criticism from Southern Democrats. Members of the military also were skeptical, with particular concern about legislation that would end racism overnight rather than more gradually. The argument offered by opponents was that, if blacks were allowed to be integrated into the Armed Forces, many whites would not want to join. Proponents of integration countered that the Federal government must take a leadership role in integrating; if Congress did not integrate Federal jobs, the private sector would definitely avoid doing so. To achieve advances in civil rights, Truman appointed The President's Committee on Civil Rights, which was charged to determine how to strengthen and improve Federal, State, and local laws to safeguard civil rights. The Committee identified multiple policies for Congressional action; however, Truman asserted that civil rights in the services fell under executive purview. On July 26, 1948, Truman signed Executive Order 9981 which mandated equal treatment and opportunity for black members in the Armed Forces. In the end, it was through the commitment and persistence of various leaders that we have an integrated military.

The world would be a different place today if such proposals were not made against the status quo. The integration of the Armed Forces served as an instrument of social change. As we see from the civil rights movement, sometimes the best choices require going against the majority. So, tip my hat to the many leaders who made the integration of the military a reality, and I celebrate this integration on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of its enactment.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE POLICY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, which will bar the collection of co-payments from veterans for hospital and nursing home care if the veteran is considered catastrophically disabled. I strongly advocate a noninterventionist foreign policy that would result in far fewer wars and, thankfully, far fewer catastrophically disabled veterans. But I also strongly believe that we must take care of those veterans who have been so severely wounded or otherwise disabled. Too often those who are most vocal in support of foreign military action are most silent when it comes time to take care of those who have paid a very high price for these actions. This legislation will provide at least a little relief to the most seriously injured veterans.

I am concerned, however, that this bill incorporates language from H.R. 6114, which rescinds a current law requirement that the VA obtain a signed consent form from a veteran before conducting an HIV test. We have seen veterans punished severely for attempting to avoid the required but controversial myriad of inoculations they are required to receive. Now we see that they will have less control over what medical tests to which they might be subjected. I am concerned over this loss of control over one's healthcare decisions among those who voluntarily join the military, and I urge the adoption of a more flexible policy. I would also urge my colleagues and the American people to contemplate this deprivation of medical and privacy rights on a massive scale should we ever reinstate the draft. I believe taking care of veterans should include both providing promised benefits and protecting their privacy rights.

INTRODUCING THE "PROHIBITING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S SECRET RULE ACT"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to stop the Department of Labor from proceeding with a new proposed rule that would seriously undermine the ability of the Federal Government to protect workers' health. The Department's proposal is the product of a flawed, politicized process.

On July 7, 2008, the Department of Labor submitted a proposed regulation entitled "Requirements for DOL Agencies' Assessment of Occupational Health Risks" to the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, for E.O. 12866 regulatory review.

This proposal is being made in contravention of a number of rules and processes. No notice of this rule was published in the semi-annual Regulatory Agenda as required under Executive Order 12866. Furthermore, unlike all other DOL regulatory submissions to OMB,

the information provided on the OMB Web site did not originally contain the rule's abstract, legal authority, timetable, agency contact, and other information required by the Executive Order. Although the intent is to finalize this rule before the end of the Bush administration, this submission violated the White House's own directive prohibiting submission of new regulations to OMB after June 1 except in "extraordinary circumstances."

What are the "extraordinary circumstances" that are being used to rush through this last minute, secret regulation on a subject as arcane and technical as "risk assessment?" Assessing risk is the backbone of any OSHA or MSHA standard that addresses hazards posed by chemicals or other health hazards. Changing the assumptions underlying risk assessment to those favored by industry can seriously erode the effectiveness of all future OSHA or MSHA standards far beyond the life of this administration.

The Department claims that this proposal was not published in the most recent regulatory agenda because when the last regulatory agenda was issued, they had not yet decided whether they would issue a proposal. But the Washington Post has revealed that they have been working on this regulation as far back as September 2007, when they paid \$349,000 to outside consultants to conduct a study of the risk-assessment process.

The entire proposal appears to have been designed and originated by political appointees at the Department of Labor, bypassing the real experts at OSHA and MSHA. According to the Washington Post, when a draft was finally shown to health scientists in MSHA and OSHA, they objected to both the legality and substance of the proposal and suggested that the proposal not be issued. The political appointees at the Department went ahead anyway.

In the last 7½ years, the Department has only managed to issue one health standard—and that was done under court order. It has failed to meet its own deadlines on regulations to protect workers against the health effects of silica, against the health effects of beryllium, or against the serious health effects of diacetyl, which causes popcorn lung.

Yet, suddenly, the Department of Labor has decided that further weakening the ability of OSHA or MSHA to issue any future health standards has become its highest priority.

No one is arguing that OSHA or MSHA do not need guidance for risk assessment. But the Department of Labor already has such guidance. This new regulation, however, which clearly has the potential to weaken worker protections, will be codified, binding all future administrations. Other agencies that have such guidance, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, note that "because the science of risk assessment continues to develop rapidly . . . risk assessments will be modified to use different approaches if appropriate."

The new Labor regulation, on the other hand, would add an entire additional layer of review to the already overstressed regulatory process by requiring notice and comments for all risk-related studies before a proposal can be issued. This would be in addition to numerous economic reviews, small business reviews, OMB reviews, public comments and public hearings that are already required before a standard is issued.

This Congress will not stand for further weakening of worker protections, particularly when it's done secretly—as this administration heads out of town. This bill would forbid the Department of Labor from issuing, administering or enforcing any rule, regulation, or requirement derived from the proposal submitted to the Office of Management and Budget. The Department's proposal is the product of a flawed, politicized process that has failed to properly consider the views of experts or the consequences for workplace health.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PILOT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Pilot Mountain State Park in Surry County, North Carolina.

Pilot Mountain rises above the North Carolina Piedmont to a height of 2,421 feet and has been a local landmark since the first settlers came to the region. It's been said that climbers can see more than 3,000 square miles of beautiful North Carolina country from the peak when skies are clear.

The mountain received the name Pilot Mountain in 1753 and the State of North Carolina designated the mountain a State park in 1968. Before becoming North Carolina's 14th State park, it was privately owned and changed hands many times.

Pilot Mountain is a distinctive and beautiful piece of North Carolina's natural heritage. Its peak, a bald crop of quartzite, stands in stark contrast to the farmland and wooded areas that surround it.

According to local lore, the Saura Indian tribe employed the mountain as a very intuitive guide to the outlying lands and it is their use of the mountain that may have contributed to its eventual naming.

Today the Pilot Mountain State Park takes in more than 3,600 acres and attracts more than 400,000 visitors a year. It is undoubtedly one of North Carolina's greatest natural treasures and I join the county and State in celebrating 40 years of conservation and public enjoyment of this wonderful State park.

CONGRATULATING BUSKEN BAKERY

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Busken Bakery on their 80th birthday. Busken Bakery is truly an American success story. From humble beginnings, Busken's has grown into a Cincinnati institution through hard work, innovation, and a commitment to the local community.

Joseph and Daisie Busken began their business in 1928, opening their first bakery in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Cincinnati. Their goals were modest. According to Busken's