

Passing any legislation that would give foreigners veterans benefits from the American taxpayer without providing just compensation to our citizen veterans is unfair. These are Americans who in the Bataan Death March were tortured, imprisoned, and starved; and, to date, have been denied benefits Congress would grant to Filipinos. Does the United States Congress have no conscience? Furthermore, it is incredible that the Japanese Diet is considering giving benefits to the Japanese captors who are responsible for torturing and maiming our own men. Now the U.S. Congress is adding another insult to those who suffered in the Bataan Death March. The provision that was not included in H.R. 6897, the Filipino Benefits bill, is included in H.R. 1570, The Samuel B. Moody Bataan Death March Compensation Act, which I have introduced year after year. A copy of a previous "Dear Colleague" letter that I sent to Members of Congress and the Veterans' Affairs Committee contained the following information.

BATAAN DEATH MARCH SURVIVORS DESERVE JUST COMPENSATION

Dear Colleague: In 1942, American and Allied troops fought bravely against the Japanese army during the Second World War on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. Due to the low supplies and no hope of reinforcements, these men fought valiantly until they were forced to surrender to the enemy. Our troops were corralled in the Mariveles, just south of Bataan, and were forced to endure the journey of their lives—the Bataan Death March.

Treatment by their Japanese captors was inhumane and often fatal as those who could not continue marching were summarily beaten or executed on the spot. Many marchers attempted to escape into the jungles and some succeeded; however, most were forced to continue on their journey. Once they reached the railroad sidings, the troops were crammed into railroad cars like cattle. After reaching Camp O'Donnell in the jungles of Arlac Province, our soldiers were held as prisoners of war (POWs) for over 3½ years.

Over the years, Congress has adopted provisions concerning the pay, allowances and benefits of members of the uniformed services in "missing status" and "POWs". As a general proposition, the provisions are intended to leave members of the uniformed services who are in "missing status" and "POWs", including their dependents, in the same position they would have been if the members were not missing. Unfortunately, veterans of the Bataan Death March were never given their due allowances or benefits. It is only fitting that those soldiers who bravely fought and sacrificed for our freedom be appropriately compensated for their service to our country.

In an effort to give these brave men their just benefits, I have introduced H.R. 1570. This legislation would provide compensation to those individuals who were forced to partake and held imprisoned following the ruthless procession. I ask you to join me in this effort by cosponsoring this legislation and ensuring that those who gave so much in service to our Nation receive just compensation for their sacrifice and valor. Today a grave injustice was committed when American POW Bataan Death March Survivors were ignored and left behind.

While this statement is in opposition to the action approved by the U.S. House today, I in no way want to imply that the military service sacrifice by Filipino nationals to the United States should not be recognized, appreciated or properly compensated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to preparations for and recovery from Hurricane Ike, which impacted my Congressional district, I unfortunately missed the following votes on the House floor on Thursday, September 11, Monday, September 15, Tuesday, September 16, Wednesday, September 17, Thursday, September 18, and Monday, September 22.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote those days, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 586, 587, 589, 590, 591, 602, 603, 604, 607, 613, 615, 617, and 618, and "no" on rollcall Nos. 585, 588, 592, 593, 594, 605, 606, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 614, and 616.

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes Compact before the House today is the result of years of efforts by the Great Lakes governors, other elected officials including state legislators from both sides of the partisan divide, and others who live, work, or recreate in the region to work together to help ensure a set of shared principles and protections for the Great Lakes.

The collaboration that has produced the compact that is before us today was undertaken because of concerns that without a comprehensive and basin wide approach to the current and future threats to these bodies of water, we would lose them.

These threats include a growing demand for water by users—including utilities, agriculture, manufacturers, concerns about the impacts of climate change, declining water levels of the Lakes, and pollution.

While the agreement has widespread support among elected officials, environmental groups, and others, I do understand that some have raised concerns about some aspects of the agreement.

That is to be expected because while this is a good agreement it is by no means a perfect agreement. It wasn't meant to be perfect. If it was, we would still be waiting for an agreement.

But it is a good agreement, especially since we know that simply doing nothing is not an option or solution. This agreement was good enough to bring governors from eight states and both sides of the aisle together. It was good enough to win the approval of legislatures in eight states (with a combined 1,300 legislators.)

Together with companion efforts in the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the Compact would place new emphasis on a shared commitment to conservation and set new decision-making standards for Great Lakes water use.

The compact would require each state to use a consistent standard to review proposed uses of basin water, ban new diversions of water from the basin, and calls for the development of regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency.

This legislation before us today would formally give Congress's assent to the compact, as required by law.

The document before us today also is a recognition by the stakeholders who are bound by its terms—and with approval by the House, the Congress as well—that we all have a shared duty "to act together to protect, conserve, restore, improve, and effectively manage the waters and water dependent natural resources" of the Great Lakes basin "for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of all citizens, including generations yet to come."

One of the most effective means to do this is through unified and cooperative policies and programs as outlined in this agreement. It would be a shame if after the hard work and negotiations and compromise that has shaped this process from day one, that Congress would let this opportunity slip away.

The Senate has already approved this bill and I urge my colleagues here in the House to do likewise.

TO HONOR ZACH SMOTHERS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on August 23, 2008, Zach Smothers celebrated his 12th birthday in Galveston, Texas and possibly gave more than he will ever receive. Early in the party, Zach's 3-year-old-cousin, Gianna, fell into a swimming pool and sank straight to the bottom. Fortunately for her, someone close by was watching and took immediate action.

Twelve-year old Zach sprung up, saved the little girl from the pool, and proceeded to do what he had seen on television—CPR. Although the young man did not know it was CPR he was performing, he did know the practice could save a person's life. As Zach pumped hastily on his young cousin's chest, a dark liquid came from her blue lips and she began to breathe. He yelled for help and grabbed the attention of the adults, who rushed young Gianna to the hospital where she was given a clean bill of health.

It is a sincere pleasure to recognize Zach Smothers today. This young boy knew his younger cousin was in danger and came to the ultimate rescue. People like Zach make America proud and remind us that people do extraordinary things every day. Surely Zach Smothers knew on his birthday that it is truly better to give than it is to receive.

HONORING BILL GATES, SR.

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, from those to whom much has been given, much

will be expected. Bill Gates Sr. knows it, and has spent his life ascribing this principle and instilling it in his children. I stand here today to honor this extraordinary civic leader, champion for education, and lion of the causes of the powerless. His commitment to improving the lives of not only the children of our state, but all children no matter the circumstances of their birth, is deserving of our highest recognition. Therefore, I have joined with my colleagues in nominating Bill Gates, Sr. for the Presidential Medal of Freedom—our Nation's highest civilian honor.

As the co-founder and CEO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, one of our Nation's leading charities, Bill Gates Sr. has shown dedication to improving the lives of people he has never met. As our Speaker recently quoted, "It is the mark of a truly intelligent person to be moved by statistics." Bill Gates Sr. shows his compassion increasingly, as he works to bring vaccines to suffering peoples, education and access to underserved communities, medical relief to the sick, and opportunities to the optionless every day. The impact of the Gates Foundation is immense, but its guiding philosophy is simple, and one that Bill Gates, Sr. has always espoused: every life has equal value, and all people deserve the chance to live a healthy, productive life.

As a Seattleite and a Washingtonian I have had the opportunity to see his work in my own backyard. Bill Gates Sr. might have the most visibility as co-chair of the Gates Foundation to the rest of the world, but he also has a long record of leadership in our community. He once remarked, "Your wealth is a function of being an American", insisting that businesses and individuals have an obligation to give back to the society that enabled them to prosper. Most recently he led the University of Washington's exceptionally successful Creating Futures capital campaign, which will breathe life into "The Husky Promise", ensuring that academically deserving low- and middle-income Washington state students will have their tuition costs covered at the University of Washington. Whether as a lawyer in the 1970's leading the Seattle school levy campaign, in his role as founder of the Technology Alliance, or now as a regent for the UW, Mr. Gates has a demonstrated record of commitment and passion for giving back to his community.

I am very proud to honor Bill Gates, Sr. for his unstinting commitment to service in communities all across the world. A low-income student from Washington State can attend college because of his dedication to ensuring academic opportunities are available to all; a child in Africa received lifesaving drugs and with them, a life touched by kindness. Libraries in rural towns are connected to the world through information technology donated under Mr. Gates' care, while young students in my own district have the incentive to reach higher and grasp the promised fruit of a college scholarship. He has changed many lives and communities for the better. With my gratitude and great esteem, I commend Bill Gates, Sr. for his lifetime of service.

HONORING PERSON-TO-PERSON

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Person-To-Person, an organization dedicated to supporting people in Fairfield County.

For 40 years, this important organization has made profound contributions to our society by offering individuals assistance through their many programs designed to help improve lives. Person-to-Person has reached out teaching independent living skills to individuals who may be facing homelessness, severe financial challenges and through helping citizens cope with these problems.

Person-to-Person is a pillar of strength because of their commitment to help people put their lives back together facing severe challenges. I am grateful for the members of this important organization who have helped to make Fairfield County a better place to live and work.

SUSAN MARONE'S RETIREMENT FROM FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the upcoming retirement from federal service of Susan Marone who has served the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the House since April 1995. Since returning to Congressional service on Capitol Hill in 1995, Susan has been responsible for the day-to-day management of the Resume Referral Service/Outplacement Resource Center—a service of the Chief Administrative Officer providing vacancy announcement and placement services to Member and Committee offices, while assisting individual House employees and prospective applicants from outside the Congress with the process of applying for positions in the House. In her capacity of overseeing the Resume Referral Service, Susan has brought her considerable experience in the political arena to her work for the House which has enabled her to provide a strong understanding of the functions and day-to-day operations of a Congressional office in assisting Members, Chiefs of Staff and Staff Directors in finding ideal candidates for their office positions.

Susan's retirement marks a milestone of her long history of service to the Nation and its citizens. In addition to having previously worked for a United States Congressman and two United States Senators, her career of public service includes work with the New York State Legislature and the Mayor's office in New York City. She has also worked for two U.S. Presidents, a U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and the U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO in Paris.

As Susan marks her retirement from the Federal Government and the House, she can do so in knowing the gratitude that we have for the exceptional service that she has delivered to the Members and Committees of the

House through the Resume Referral Service, where she created a vacancy announcement posting process that has been both timely and responsive to the fast-paced environment of Capitol Hill. In 2007 alone, Susan posted 486 positions for over 227 different offices, a thirteen percent increase in the number of postings over the previous year and a twenty-six percent increase in the number of Member and Committee offices served in that same year. This extent and volume of service is indicative of Susan's track record over her thirteen years with the Resume Referral Service in expanding its capability and responsiveness in serving the needs of Congressional and Committee offices and in positioning it as a vital resource in helping to meet the critical hiring needs of the Members of the House.

As Susan prepares for her retirement later this year and her move to Montepulciano, Italy next year, I extend to her the best wishes of the House and our appreciation for her years of dedicated and unwavering public service to the Congress and our Nation.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD L. ELLEBRUCK

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Edward L. Ellebruck of Springfield, Ohio. Throughout his lifetime, he served his country and his community with dignity and honor.

Mr. Ellebruck began his career in public service by serving in the United States Air Force, where he was trained as an interpreter at the U.S. Army Language School in Monterey, California. There, he learned Russian, and was later assigned to serve in northern Japan with the Air Force Security Service to monitor Soviet military operations. He was also part of space exploration history. In 1961, he intercepted the voice transmission of the second Russian cosmonaut launched into space, Gherman Titov. Mr. Ellebruck also used his linguistic skills to assist Japanese students and their families in studying the English language.

Upon his return to civilian life, he spent the remaining 43 years giving back to his community and country in other ways. This included his work to help provide opportunities for individuals who were mentally retarded or had developmental disabilities. For many years, he served as a member, and later as the Chairman of the Clark County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD).

Mr. Ellebruck was also instrumental in the establishment of a not-for-profit work center for the mentally retarded known as Town & Country (TAC) Industries. The facility, located in Springfield, Ohio, employs an estimated 400 handicapped individuals from throughout the region, and provides them with employment opportunities that help them develop marketable and life skills.

For 25 years, he served as President of the Board of Directors of TAC Industries, where he and others helped to secure work contracts involving the U.S. Air Force and other government agencies through the National Industries