

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LEAVE NO SAILOR BEHIND

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a resolution calling on the Department of Defense, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Science Foundation to support a mission to recover the remains of three naval aviators in Antarctica.

On December 30, 1946, a Navy aircraft participating in Operation Highjump over Antarctica crashed, killing three of the nine on board. Among those killed in the crash of the "George One," as the seaplane was known, was Radioman Wendell Hendersin, the brother of Betty Jean Spencer of Mundelein, Illinois.

Along with the other casualties, Hendersin was buried in a common grave near the crash site. Although the survivors held a small service, Hendersin never received a proper burial.

After 2 weeks stranded on the ice, the survivors were rescued, but the remains of the three Americans were never recovered. At the time, servicemembers killed overseas were usually buried abroad. Due to the risks involved at the time, the Navy decided against undertaking a recovery mission. In the 61 years that have passed, Department of Defense policy changed and technology now makes a recovery operation likely to succeed at lower risk.

Thanks to the efforts of the U.S. Geological Survey, the location of the George One is known. The USGS estimates that the wreckage is under about 165 feet of ice. With the location known and the technology in place to launch a successful recovery mission, the time has come to bring these brave naval aviators home.

PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF H. RES. 979, RECOMMENDING THAT HARRIET MIERS AND JOSHUA BOLTEN BE FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS, AND ADOPTION OF H. RES. 980. AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO INITIATE OR INTERVENE IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS TO ENFORCE CERTAIN SUBPOENAS

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Many Americans are frustrated and angry because they believe that this administration is not being held to account for its actions. Now, after 7 years, much of the public turns this frustration at Congress because it is the branch with the responsibility for oversight.

Last year, the House Judiciary Committee undertook a very serious investigation into allegations that a number of key law enforcement officers in our country—United States attorneys—were being fired for their unwillingness to respond to political pressure in various cases. This led to information about other actions that were clearly politicizing the work of the Department of Justice. You will hear people on the other side talk about the investigation wasting time. This was no fishing expedition. The fact is that the revelations from this investigation led to the resignation of the Attorney General of the United States.

We are here today because this administration responded to a legitimate investigation—the exercise of our oversight duty—by stonewalling in the extreme. The disrespect shown to this body has been stunning, culminating in the fact that when the committee subpoenaed the testimony of Harriet Miers, neither she nor her attorney bothered to even show up to assert the privilege she claimed.

To justify the administration's behavior, the President has asserted an astonishingly broad theory of executive privilege which claims that any document or information from any individual who has ever worked for the President is covered and therefore immune from being compelled to testify before Congress. This view of executive privilege may be unprecedented in our history, and if accepted, it would chill any meaningful oversight of the executive branch and grant near limitless power to the President to hide information from Congress, the courts, and the American people.

The utter contempt shown by this administration toward Congress and its constitutional duties is unacceptable, and to permit these actions to stand unchallenged would be an abrogation of our constitutional responsibility.

Approving these contempt resolutions would send a strong message to the administration that Congress will not be ignored. At the end of the day, whether civil or criminal action is successful, our most important goal should be getting to the truth.

If we do not respond to the administration's disregard of the legislative branch, we risk rendering permanent damage to our own institution and to this country's cherished system of checks and balances. Failure to act will also set a dangerous precedent that future administrations will almost assuredly seek to exploit. To my colleagues on the other side who are trying to dismiss these resolutions as partisan—I urge you not to be shortsighted. This is not a partisan issue. It is a matter that strikes at the heart of our democracy and the checks and balances on which it depends.

Congress has been eminently patient in awaiting the President to provide information on the U.S. attorneys scandal. Yet, rather than work with us to get to the bottom of wrongdoing in his administration, the President has continued his pattern of actively hiding possible evidence of illegal behavior by high-ranking officials in his Government and stonewalling any inquiries to get to the truth. Because it is each Member's very responsi-

bility to support and defend the Constitution, we have absolutely no other choice than to pursue this action against the President's Chief of Staff and his former chief legal counsel. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

HONORING FLINT SCOTTISH BAND

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Flint Scottish Pipe Band. The Flint Scottish Pipe Band has won several competitions in the United States and Canada over the past year and will celebrate their victories at the annual Ceilidh on February 16, in Davison, Michigan. The Ceilidh will feature traditional music and Scottish food.

Scottish immigrants to the Flint, Michigan, area founded the Flint Scottish Pipe Band in 1916. The Band's Gaelic motto is "Cuidich 'n Rìgh" which means, "Help the King." Their emblem is the stag's head of the MacKenzie Seaforth Highlanders. Composed of both pipes and drums the band is under the direction of Pipe Major Dennis Lowe and Drum Sergeant Teddy Barr.

In 2007, the Flint Scottish Pipe Band won the U.S. championship in grade 5, the Canadian championship in grade 5, the southern U.S. championship in grade 5, and they are the eastern U.S. champions in grade 5. Over the past season the pipe section took first place 9 times, the mid section took first place 3 times, and the drum section swept first place in all competitions.

The members of the Flint Scottish Pipe Band gather every Thursday in Flint to practice and they are preparing to travel to Scotland in 2009 to compete in the world championships. Their membership comes from all over Michigan and is open to persons with a love for the traditional pipe and drum music of Scotland.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the Flint Scottish Pipe Band for their achievements over the past year. I wish them the best success in the upcoming competitions and the world championships. They are to be commended for preserving the traditions of Scotland in the heart of Michigan and bringing the music of the pipes and drums to thousands.

HONORING POTEET HIGH SCHOOL'S AWARD WINNING BANDS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Poteet High School Marching Band for winning the 2007 UIL Class

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

4A State Marching Title and the Honor Band for being named the 2008 Class 4A Honor Band for the State of Texas by the Texas Music Educators Association.

Last fall, the Poteet High School Marching Band secured the state championship title for its division for the second time in 3 years. The marching band received perfect scores from four of the five judges, placing them above 23 other elite bands.

Meanwhile, the Poteet High School Honor Band was named the 2008 Class 4A Honor Band for the State of Texas, the most prestigious honor for a high school concert band. For their achievement, the band will perform at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize the Poteet High School Marching and Honor Bands, both the directors and students, for their talent, dedication to the arts, and their exceptional performance.

CONGRATULATING MICHELE
"MISSY" MANDELL ON HER
SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF
TEXAS

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank and commend Mrs. Michele "Missy" Mandell for her dedication to the people of central Texas. For the past 19 years Missy has worked at the Lower Colorado River Authority, LCRA, most recently as the executive manager of Federal affairs. She departs at the end of this month, but leaves a legacy of tireless work to meet the needs of the communities in the 58 counties where the LCRA operates.

Missy served as a liaison to the myriad of stakeholders in public water service and power generation, including local communities, Federal agencies, industry organizations, and elected officials, such as myself. No matter the issue, she was always able to navigate the complex web of laws, rules, and regulations to help LCRA provide services to its clients. I was fortunate to work with her here in Washington and always found her to be a valuable partner in solving the critical issues facing my constituents. It is likely that the customers of LCRA do not know Missy Mandell, but they all owe her a great debt for her work on their behalf.

In addition to her constant work for the LCRA, Missy also found time to give back to her community. She has donated her time and considerable experience by serving on the board of directors for the Children's Advocacy Council; the advisory board of the LBJ Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy; and the city of Austin's Environmental Board and the Charter Revision Council. Through her selfless giving, the city of Austin is a better place.

I am certain that Missy will prosper in her new career; she has the drive, experience, and intellect to thrive in whatever she chooses. The LCRA is not merely losing a long-serving employee, but a passionate advocate, a tireless consensus-builder, and ever-optimistic citizen, always seeking to improve the

lives of those she worked for. It has been my pleasure to know and work with Mrs. Missy Mandell and I offer her my best wishes and prayers, safe in the knowledge that God will smile on her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARTINEZ OF UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, dreams of higher education have become increasingly elusive for thousands of well-qualified students from low-income and disadvantaged backgrounds. On February 7, 2008, the House passed the College Opportunity and Affordability Act, legislation that will move our Nation one step closer to expanding higher education opportunities for all. I rise today to celebrate this achievement and recognize the role that Dr. Maria Martinez, the University of Connecticut's director of the Center for Academic Programs, has served in delivering higher education outreach services to Connecticut's most vulnerable communities.

For the past four decades, TRIO programs, including Talent Search, Upward Bound, and Student Support Services, have facilitated access to higher education opportunities for disadvantaged students in Connecticut and across the Nation. Dr. Martinez is charged with implementing TRIO and similar programs at the University of Connecticut. On March 22, 2007, in light of pending reauthorization of these programs under the College Opportunity and Affordability Act, Dr. Maria D. Martinez testified before the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Perhaps the most poignant of her testimonials included a reference to one of UConn's TRIO alumni, Dr. Franklin Chang-Diaz. She stated that Franklin struggled with English in high school and was recruited into UConn's Student Support Services program. Upon completing his undergraduate degree, Franklin earned a doctorate in plasma physics at MIT, was recruited by NASA, and became America's first Hispanic astronaut. He currently holds the world record for most space missions flown.

The College Opportunity and Affordability Act strengthens these programs and brings hope to thousands of students just like Franklin. In Dr. Chang-Diaz's words, "TRIO is one of the ways this country really becomes the land of opportunity."

Madam Speaker, education systems form the pillars for potential prosperity and health of any society. Our Nation must remain vigilant of these systems and continue to improve them until they reflect our highest aspirations. Continuing to support programs like TRIO is necessary to ensure these worthy objectives. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing the importance of TRIO programs and Dr. Martinez's role in delivering these services to underprivileged students in Connecticut.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in expressing profound sorrow at the passing of our good friend, TOM LANTOS.

TOM was neither an ordinary American nor an ordinary Member of Congress. His personal experience as a Holocaust survivor—and the only survivor ever to be elected to Congress—defined his work in the House of Representatives. He bestowed on all of us a unique perspective that we both needed and relied on.

As the founding co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, TOM was known to all of us here and throughout the country as the conscience of the Congress. From the genocide in Darfur, to the human rights crisis in Burma, to the global AIDS epidemic, to modern-day slavery and human trafficking, TOM persevered on behalf of the world's most forsaken and most forgotten.

It was an honor to serve with TOM on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and Human Rights Caucus. His contributions to Congress, to our democracy, and to the disenfranchised and dispossessed around the world will remain with us always.

On a personal note, Janet and I will never forget TOM and Annette's love for one another and their complete devotion to their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. We are certain the love of the Lantos family and the reflection in the days ahead on TOM's extraordinary life will carry them through this very sad time.

REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET AND IRAQ

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, this week, the Washington Post listed a number of existing programs that would be eliminated in President Bush's budget. These are programs that make a real difference in people's lives but have gotten less attention than the major cuts in his budget.

For example, the President's budget proposes to eliminate the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides food packages for about 500,000 low-income elderly persons, women, and children each month. The program received \$140 million in 2008. To put that in context, \$140 million is the cost of funding 10 hours of the war in Iraq.

During this economic downturn, the President's budget eliminates the Community Services Block Grant and other community services programs. These programs, which were funded at \$698 million in 2008, reduce poverty