

"Yea"—H.R. 816—to provide for the release of certain land from the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area in the State of Nevada and to grant a right-of-way across the released land for the construction and maintenance of a flood control project (Representative PORTER—Natural Resources).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 88 on H.R. 1143, I am not recorded because I was absent due to flight delays returning to Washington. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 89 on H.R. 1311, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 90 on H.R. 816, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, had I been present today, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 88, "yea" on rollcall No. 89, and "yea" on rollcall No. 90.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 88, 89 and 90.

HONORING JUDITH HOPKINS

(Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Judith Hopkins, Social Security Administration level 1 district manager in Richmond, Virginia, who is retiring from Federal service after 33 years. A dedicated and selfless individual, Judy has devotedly served the public since 1975.

Judy's tenure with the Federal Government began as a Social Security claims representative trainee in Richmond, soon advancing to operations supervisor, operations officer, assistant district manager, and the position she retires from this month as district manager.

Judy's outstanding leadership, communication, and coalition-building skills were recognized by the agency as she was asked to serve on many regional and national Social Security workgroups. As the district manager of the Richmond complex, she was responsible for four offices and approximately 70 employees.

Constituents in the First District of Virginia greatly benefited from Judy's positive attitude and conscientious work ethic. My staff and my fellow Virginia colleagues' offices always received courteous and prompt attention from Judy whether the question was a simple issue or an intensive, complex case. The commitment to public service was always apparent in the way she

treated her co-workers, employees, and the citizens of Virginia.

I am thankful to Judy Hopkins for the assistance and attention she provided my constituents, and I would like to wish Judy all the best as she embarks on this new chapter in her life.

SUPPORTING H.R. 1922

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1922, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Act of 2007. As one of its cosponsors, I applaud my good friend, Representative TIM MAHONEY, for shepherding this bill through the House.

H.R. 1922 will establish the Jupiter Lighthouse and the surrounding 126 acres as an "outstanding natural area," only the second in the country and the only one east of the Mississippi.

The lighthouse area is well-deserving of this designation. It is home to a wide range of endangered species of flora and fauna, and it tells a rich story of Florida's history and pre-history.

The Jupiter Lighthouse is the epicenter for education, history, ecology, science, and recreation. This legislation will elevate this local and regional site to national prominence and help an important part of Florida's history become a valuable part of our shared American history.

FIGHTING CRIME

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening in my hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, there was a senseless killing of six individuals. Four adults and two children were shot and/or stabbed in the Binghampton community.

We have seen more and more and more urban crime in this country, and the response has not been sufficient from the Federal Government to help the locals with law enforcement funding. This House has passed a COPS bill that is still pending in the Senate and is opposed by the administration. We need to see that the COPS bill becomes law and we have an opportunity to help fund the policemen on our streets in our urban centers, and all over this country.

We also need to help the Second Chance programs to see that people don't resort to crime. Crime must stop, Mr. Speaker, and we must do our part.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO ZIMBABWE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-99)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions has not been resolved. These actions and policies pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue this national emergency and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication, stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2008.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 4, 2008.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TANKER SHOULD BE BUILT BY AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we should all be deeply troubled by last week's decision by the Air Force to choose a French-built air refueling tanker.

The European Aeronautics Defense and Space Team, known as EADS, found a front American company, Northrup Grumman, to bid their foreign-built tanker. When the Air Force chose this French tanker, they chose to outsource our national security and to send American jobs overseas.

This contract award has rightly created outrage all across the United States. It is just another example, and perhaps the best example, of how our own government is putting the United States at an economic disadvantage. At a time of economic insecurity, it is mind-boggling that the Department of Defense would send at a minimum 19,000 jobs overseas.

We should have an American tanker built by an American company with American workers. Instead, the Air Force awarded this contract for a French tanker built by Europeans. How could this happen? Well, first, the Department of Defense has created an unlevel playing field that favored foreign companies. We should have known something was wrong when the replacement for Marine I, the President's helicopter, was awarded to a European company. If that wasn't enough, we should have known it was fixed in favor of foreign companies when the Army awarded a French company the contract to build the light utility helicopter. The light utility helicopter is for domestic use here in America, awarded to a French company. And, now, the third big contract in a row goes to a French company to build a French tanker.

First it was the Presidential helicopter went to a foreign company, then it was the light utility helicopter went to a foreign company, and now our air-refueling tanker. We need an American tanker built by American companies with American workers. The Air Force rules do not consider the loss of American jobs. The Air Force rules do not consider illegal subsidies given to foreign companies. The Air Force rules do not consider that NATO allies, the French company, do not have to comply with the same American regulations as American contractors do. The Air Force does not consider the loss of Federal revenue, because French workers do not pay American taxes. But the Air Force will have to consider the outrage of outsourcing our national defense.

The Air Force will have to consider that we need an American tanker built by American companies with American workers. To help the Department of Defense and the Air Force understand this nationwide outrage, I have set up an online petition that all Americans can participate in.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to go to the Web site, www.House.gov/Tiahrt, and sign a petition expressing their own outrage at outsourcing our national security and outsourcing American jobs.

We need an American tanker built by an American company with American workers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUPPORTING H.R. 1922

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAHONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1922, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Act of 2007. And I would like to also thank Chairman RAHALL and Subcommittee Chairman GRIJALVA and my good friend, Congressman RON KLEIN, for helping me get this bill passed today in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1922 is an important piece of legislation, as it will establish the Jupiter Lighthouse and the surrounding 126 acres as an outstanding natural area, only the second in the country and the only one east of the Mississippi.

□ 1930

An outstanding natural area is a congressional designation to protect the unique, scenic, scientific, educational, and recreational contributions of a natural area to this and future generations.

One of the reasons why I enthusiastically support the designation is because Florida's rich and diverse history is sometimes overlooked by the millions of tourists who visit from all across America. Of course, it's not hard to see why. With our pristine coastline, trendsetting hotels and restaurants, and ample eco-tourist activities, a typical family vacation in south Florida can pass, and very quickly without having the chance to see all other amazing aspects of Florida's ecology, culture, and history.

The Jupiter Lighthouse area is one such example. It is a local and regional icon, and with this new designation, the United States Congress can say that Florida's rich history should be celebrated as an integral part of our larger American history.

Situated where the Loxahatchee River and the Indian River Lagoon meet, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse area is home to a wide range of endangered species of flora and fauna, and it is one of the true scenic gems of south Florida.

The lighthouse also tells a rich story of Florida's history and prehistory. Native Americans first used the area around the Jupiter Lighthouse over 4,000 years ago, and Europeans made contact with it in the 17th century. As trade increased in the 1800s, the need for the lighthouse became more urgent as shipwrecks increased off Florida's coast and, in particular, off the dangerous reefs near Jupiter.

The United States Congress responded in 1853 by providing \$35,000 to establish a lighthouse in Jupiter. Despite an intervening war with the Seminole Nation, the lighthouse was finally completed in 1860, the first built along Florida's coastline. I think it's fitting that 155 years later the same distinguished body is poised to make

the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse an outstanding natural area. Doing so will preserve the natural and cultural significance of the area for future generations and will reaffirm that Florida's history is an important part of American history.

Again, I'd like to thank my colleagues for passing this important legislation.

FOREIGN SHORTFALLS IN IRAQ AID PLEDGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONNELLY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House and to the American people a disturbing situation involving a shortfall in Iraq aid pledges. I also brought this issue to the attention of Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, for whom I have great respect, during a hearing last month of the House Armed Services Committee.

On January 30 of 2008, USA Today reported that allied countries have paid only 16 percent of their pledge. Their pledge was \$15.8 billion, and they have only paid \$2.5 billion.

The article further reports, and I quote, "The biggest shortfall in pledges by 41 donor countries are from Iraq's oil rich neighbors and U.S. allies," namely, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Yet, the United States has already spent \$29 billion to help rebuild Iraq, and Congress has approved an additional \$16.5 billion.

Mr. Speaker, it is troubling that some of the countries that may benefit from a secure and stable Iraq, particularly its neighbors in the region, are not providing the money they pledged to help achieve the goal to rebuild Iraq.

Unlike the United States, which is borrowing money from foreign governments to pay its bills, many of Iraq's neighbors are running record surpluses because of profits flowing into their government coffers by their national oil companies. These countries have the economic resources to meet their commitments.

In a letter on February 8, 2008, I expressed these concerns to Secretary Condoleezza Rice and to President Bush.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2008.

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,
Secretary of State,
Washington, DC

DEAR MADAM SECRETARY: I am writing to express my concern over information reported January 30, 2008, in the USA Today article, "Allies fall short on Iraq aid pledges." According to the article, during and after an October 2003 conference in Madrid, allied countries pledged \$15.8 billion to help rebuild Iraq. Now almost five years later, allied countries have paid only 16%, or \$2.5 billion, of those pledges. The article also states: "The biggest shortfalls in pledges by 41 donor countries are from Iraq's oil-rich neighbors and U.S. allies."