A CHILD IS MISSING ALERT AND RECOVERY CENTER ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, thank you for your leadership in bringing this very important bill to the floor. I support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same. This bill is good and it is necessary.

The bill is sponsored by Mr. KLEIN and has bi-partisan support. It has 21 cosponsors, including the following Judiciary members: Chairman CONYERS, Chairman SCOTT, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. NADLER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. SUTTON, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

A child goes missing every 40 seconds. The successful recovery of missing children often requires a quick response. In 1997, Sherry Friedlander, the founder of A Child is Missing (ACIM), saw the need for a rapid-response program to persons who go missing, especially in situations that do not involve abductions. In response to this need, she established ACIM, a national non-profit organization that offers free assistance to law enforcement 365 days of the year, 24 hours per day. The program is not limited to children, but extends to elderly persons (suffering from senility or Alzheimer's), mentally challenged or disabled individuals and college students.

When law enforcement receives a call regarding a missing person, the first-responder can immediately call ACIM for help. The officer provides critical information to ACIM, such as the person's age and description and the last time/place seen. ACIM uses that information to record a message that, within minutes, is sent via phone to 1000s of locations within a radius of the last sighting of the person. Through their computer mapping system, ACIM also can identify ''hot spots,'' such as water or wooded areas.

ACIM complements the Amber Alert program by providing different services. While Amber Alert focuses on children who are abducted, ACIM covers all ''persons'' who go missing, including situations where criminal intent may not be at issue. Amber Alert uses television and highway signs to broadcast information about the abducted child and the related vehicle, while ACIM uses a rapid response telephone alert system and covers cases where there is no vehicle involved. The ACIM notification system often can respond more quickly than the Amber Alert program.

ACIM would use the requested money to operate and expand the existing ACIM office in Florida, to develop Regional Centers for on-site training and communication with local law enforcement, to maintain and expand their computer and phone technologies, and to assist the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the AMBER Alert Coordinator, and appropriate law enforcement agencies with training.

H.R. 5464 authorizes $5 million annual grants for 2009 through 2014 to A Child is Missing Alert and Recovery Center (ACIM) to assist law enforcement in the rapid recovery of missing children and other individuals.

I support this bill and I urge my colleagues to support it also.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 88 AUXILIARY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of my hometown American Legion Post 88 Auxiliary.

First, the Post Auxiliary has been a great help to my constituents and me monitoring legislation that benefits veterans and their families.

But Unit 88 also works directly to support our troops overseas. The Post Auxiliary had several mailings of care packages each worth more than $1,500 to servicemen and woman to let them know how proud all of Nashville is of them for giving their time, efforts and sometimes their lives to support our freedom. Besides the care packages, they sent over 900 pocket flags for our service people to carry with them. And the troops appreciate it. Besides many e-mails and thank you letters, the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron sent a proclamation and flag thanking the Post for their efforts.

The Post Auxiliary works diligently to care for our veterans after they return from overseas as well. They visit veterans in the Veteran's Hospital in Nashville and in Murfreesboro, TN each month to give them goodie bags and visit with them. And they held a Christmas party at each facility to let the veterans know how much our country cares for and supports them. They participated in ''Operation Stand Down,'' a 3-day event to assist homeless veterans, by serving meals and donating clothing.

Funds were raised to send veterans' children backpacks for school and we gave needy veterans' children gifts and food at Christmas.

As I'm sure everyone is familiar with, the American Legion sells poppies every May in time to honor our veterans on Memorial Day. This year, the Post 88 Auxiliary raised over $1,300 and then hosted a fashion show to raise an additional $2,000.

Finally, beyond the work supporting our troops and veterans, the Post Auxiliary also serves our local community. The Post 88 Auxiliary raised funds to send 16 girls to Girls State where they learn about government and legislative processes. In December, they held a party for handicapped children complete with live music by the Timeline Band who was generous enough to donate their time. In February, the Post Auxiliary held an essay contest that had over 200 submissions on the theme ''America: Home of the Brave, the Land I Love.''

And as in every year since 9/11, the Post Auxiliary held a September 11 Memorial Ceremony to remember all those who lost their lives in that terrorist attack.

I'm proud to represent Post 88 Auxiliary. They are the best of Tennessee as well as the country.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD MEEK

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold Meek, a community leader and entrepreneur from Bakersfield, CA, on his retirement after over 35 years with the Three-Way Automotive Group.

Born in Oklahoma, Harold moved to Bakersfield in 1958 to work with his brother, Leo, in the automotive industry. After 17 years with his brother's dealership, Harold joined Three-Way Chevrolet, later the Three-Way Automotive Group, in 1973. With his business prowess and entrepreneurial skill, he become General Manager just 2 years later, was made a partner shortly thereafter, and, in 1996, was appointed president/dealer operator.

Under Harold's leadership, the Three-Way Automotive Group, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary by opening a second Chevrolet dealership at the Bakersfield Auto Mall, has been internationally recognized and awarded numerous industry awards for outstanding service. For the past 7 years, Three-Way Chevrolet has been the number one Retail Volume Chevrolet Dealer in California and was the number one Retail Chevrolet Dealer in the world in June and July of 2005. In addition, Harold has received the prestigious Time Magazine 2003 Quality Dealer Award and, for the last 8 years, the General Motors' Jack Smith Dealer of the Year Award, all a recognition of his commitment to exceptional sales performance and superior customer service. Over his long career, he has also served on or chaired numerous State and regional automotive industry dealership associations.

A successful entrepreneur in Bakersfield, Harold has also been active in the local community. Harold has served on the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation, and is a charter member of the Bakersfield Better Business Bureau. He also is a strong advocate for and has supported numerous civic and charitable organizations. Harold has supported and been involved in more than 250 civic and charitable organizations in the community, including numerous youth and sports programs as well as the American Cancer Society, the Bakersfield Women's Business Conference, the Kern County Fair, Relay for Life, Link to Life, the YMCA, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

A dedicated Republican, Harold has been active in local, State, and national Republican politics. He has served on the steering committees of numerous gubernatorial and presidential campaigns in California, and has managed several local campaigns, including city council, county supervisor, and sheriff's races. Harold also served as campaign chairman for former California State Assembly member from 1988 to 2000.

Harold exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit and a dedication to community that has made this country great. I wish Harold the best in this new chapter of his life, and I know he looks forward to spending more time with his wife Kay; children Joi, Mark, and Vivienne; and grandchildren Clint, Cody, Jordan, and Julia.