

HONORING DONALD GUIMOND

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Donald Guimond, Town Manager of Fort Kent, Maine.

On May 1, 2008, the town of Fort Kent suffered from severe flooding that impacted businesses, apartments, homes and elderly housing. Mr. Guimond oversaw an orderly evacuation and quick response by emergency teams. Despite working without sleep for more than thirty six hours, Mr. Guimond always knew which residents and businesses had been impacted, where individuals sought shelter, and what further assistance was necessary. His well-coordinated reaction prevented serious injury and the loss of life.

Mr. Guimond continued to show his dedication to the residents of Fort Kent long after the flood waters receded. Through his efforts, the town provided the space necessary for disaster assistance teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration and other entities. He and his staff coordinated an effort to provide emergency heaters to residents whose furnaces were damaged by the disaster. He played an active role in the town's Long-term Recovery Committee, making sure that residents and business owners applied for the assistance that they needed and that the town is ready to respond to ongoing issues which have arisen from the flood. The Small Business Administration has recognized Mr. Guimond's significant contributions by presenting him the Phoenix Award for Disaster Recovery as a Public Official.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Guimond's dedication to the residents of Fort Kent, Maine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to personal reasons.

On Monday May 19, 2009 I missed rollcall votes 267, 268, and 269. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on those rollcall votes.

128TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF KEMAL ATATURK
FOUNDER OF MODERN TURKEY**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today, May 19, to commemorate the 128th anniversary of the birth of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. Ataturk was a

unique and inspirational figure who laid the foundation for the Republic of Turkey. He was a post World War I revolutionary leader who understood that Islam and modernity are not inconsistent—an important factor to reinforce today with democratic leaders throughout the Muslim world.

By any measure, Ataturk was an historic reformer. In the space of two decades, he built the nation of Turkey from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire—a nation that was based on secular principles and with a foundation that was fertile for democracy to take root and prosper. He held true to his fundamental vision for his overwhelmingly Muslim nation, namely that it be guided by two overarching concepts: secularism and progress. Just as is the case today, he understood that advances in science and technology would enhance the nation and the Turkish people.

To enable Turkey to reap the benefits of such advances, he set about enacting major reforms in all aspects of Turkish life—political, cultural, legal, educational, and economic all with an eye toward creating the architecture of the new Turkish nation that would raise it to the level of what Ataturk referred to as "contemporary civilization." These reforms touched on all aspects of Turkish society from abolishing the caliphate, recognizing equal rights for men and women, replacing the Arabic alphabet with Latin letters, and instituting secular law to reforming traditional styles of dress and mandating surnames.

Ataturk was an impatient reformer. His handling of the reform of the alphabet is one example of his impatience. The language commission he appointed to review the reform recommended that the alphabet reforms be phased in over a fifteen year period. Ataturk had a much different timeframe in mind. He set about traveling throughout the country, personally instructing crowds in the new alphabet, and within six months he had accomplished his goal. With the acceptance of the Latin alphabet, millions of Turks would be poised to turn westward for their second languages and the learning to which those languages are the key.

Ataturk championed women's rights, encouraging them to pursue careers as doctors, lawyers, scientists, writers and politicians. He did so because he wisely understood that by doing so he was unleashing the talents of all Turks and thereby making the nation stronger. Because of his vision and determination, Turkey is today a strong and vibrant democracy and a model for others in the Islamic world to emulate.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that Muslim leaders throughout the region will reacquire themselves with Ataturk's revolutionary leadership and take inspiration in the courageous reforms he undertook more than seventy years ago so that they too can preside over nations that are secular, democratic and prosperous.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRET

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, May 18, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall vote 267 (Motion to suspend the rules and Agree to H. Res. 300), "nay" on Rollcall vote 268 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to S. 386), "aye" on Rollcall vote 269 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 442).

HONORING ANDREA MACKENZIE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I, along with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, rise today to honor a dedicated and beloved advocate for preserving both agriculture and the environment of Sonoma County, California. Andrea Mackenzie is leaving the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and we celebrate her 12 productive years, especially the last eight years as General Manager.

Andrea was born in upstate New York and grew up in Los Angeles. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Natural Resources from the University of California at Los Angeles.

With her love of both the coast and the rugged mountains of the High Sierra, it is no surprise that Andrea worked for over 25 years in land use and conservation-related positions, including the East Bay and San Francisco where she began to develop a focus on collaborative public/private projects and regional approaches. She also loves walkable communities, old barns, hiking and kayaking, country rock, and nature writers.

Andrea first served the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District as project manager for the strategic conservation plan update, creating documents that have become models for other public land conservation agencies. In 2000, she was appointed General Manager by the Board of Supervisors.

The mission of the District is to "permanently protect the diverse agricultural, natural resource and scenic open space lands of Sonoma County for future generations." Funded by a quarter cent sales tax, it is the only such district in the state of California and is overwhelmingly supported by Sonoma County's residents.

Andrea helped direct the 2006 campaign to renew the sales tax, which passed overwhelmingly. Voters value the organization's mission and its programs including: matching grants to partner with local cities and agencies for land acquisition, preservation and enhancement; stewardship in managing these lands and various easements to protect them, as well as to allow for public access; land leases to local growers; and public and educational outings, including a focus on underserved populations. Andrea has played a key role in developing these programs as well as increasing the amount of open space from 25,000 acres to 75,000 acres (including 33,000 acres of farmland).

In 2007, in testament to Andrea's management, the District was selected for the National Leadership in Conservation Award from the

National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Trust for Public Land in Washington, D.C. She was also one of 36 Fellows selected to participate in the National Conservation Leadership Institute program, is a member of the Executive Committee and future President of the Bay Area Open Space Council and served on the both the Urban Rural Roundtable (formed by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom) to create a Bay Area Regional Food System) and on the Statewide Watershed Advisory Committee.

Madam Speaker, Andrea Mackenzie's combination of visionary and practical leadership has made the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District a vital player in our community. Sonoma County could have gone the way of other growing counties in California with sprawl from end to end. Instead, it remains blessed with green open space, productive agriculture, and many unique and intact ecosystems. We thank her for her great contributions to our children's natural inheritance and wish her luck in her new position where she will be continuing her good work closer to her family.

“HOW TO AVOID A BAD DOUBLE
DIP”

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, Alan Blinder is a man of great intelligence, excellent judgment, and considerable experience in both making and analyzing national economic policy. In this article from last Sunday's New York Times, he draws on all of these qualities to give us some excellent advice. I can think of no more relevant subject for my colleagues to contemplate as we deal with important economic choices.

[From the New York Times, May 17, 2009]

IT'S NO TIME TO STOP THIS TRAIN

(By Alan S. Blinder)

Contrary to what you may have heard from some doomsayers, 2009 is not 1930 redux. What we must guard against, instead, is 2010 or 2011 becoming another 1936.

Realistically, there is little danger that the economy is heading toward a repeat performance of the Great Depression—when real gross domestic product in the United States declined 27 percent and unemployment soared to 25 percent. What we have is bad enough: our worst recession since the 1930s. But unless our leaders behave unbelievably foolishly, we will not repeat the tragic slide into the abyss of 1930 to 1933—for two main reasons.

First, our economy has many built-in safeguards that did not exist back then—like unemployment insurance, Social Security and federal deposit insurance, to name just three. These programs serve as safety nets that cushion the fall. And while they are certainly not strong enough to prevent recessions, they should be enough to prevent another depression.

The more important reason is that Barack Obama, Timothy F. Geithner and Ben S. Bernanke are not Herbert Hoover, Andrew Mellon and Eugene Meyer. (Who's that? Mr. Meyer was the Federal Reserve chairman from September 1930 to May 1933.) In stark contrast to the laissez-faire crowd that ruled the roost in 1930 and 1931, our current eco-

nomics leaders are not waiting for the sagging economy to right itself. Rather, they have taken numerous extraordinary steps already—and stand ready to do more if necessary.

That's the good news. But even if another depression is next to impossible, there is still the danger that next year, or the year after, might turn into 1936. Let me explain.

From its bottom in 1933 to 1936, the G.D.P. climbed spectacularly (albeit from a very low base), averaging gains of almost 11 percent a year. But then, both the Fed and the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt reversed course.

In the summer of 1936, the Fed looked at the large volume of excess reserves piled up in the banking system, concluded that this mountain of liquidity could be fodder for future inflation, and began to withdraw it. This tightening of monetary policy continued into 1937, in a weak economy that was ill-prepared for it.

About the same time, President Roosevelt looked at what seemed to be enormous federal budget deficits, concluded that it was time to put the nation's fiscal house in order and started raising taxes and reducing spending. This tightening of fiscal policy transformed the federal budget from a deficit of 3.8 percent of G.D.P. in 1936 to a surplus of 0.2 percent of G.D.P. in 1937—a swing of four percentage points in a single year. (Today, a swing that large would be almost \$600 billion.)

Thus, both monetary and fiscal policies did an abrupt about-face in 1936 and 1937, and the consequences were as predictable as they were tragic. The United States economy, which had been rapidly climbing out of the cellar from 1933 to 1936, was kicked rudely down the stairs again, and America experienced the so-called recession within the depression. Real G.D.P. contracted 3.4 percent from 1937 to 1938; the total G.D.P. decline during the recession, which lasted from mid-1937 to mid-1938, was even larger.

The moral of the story should be clear: Prematurely changing fiscal and monetary policies—from stepping hard on the accelerator to slamming on the brake—can be hazardous to the economy's health.

Wow, we've learned a lot since the '30s, right? Well, maybe not. For the echoes of 1936 are being heard right now, even before the current recession hits bottom.

If you've been paying attention, you know that a number of critics of the Fed are sounding alarms over the huge stockpile of excess reserves it has created—more than \$775 billion at last count. What these critics are fretting about now is exactly what goaded the Fed into action in 1936: that the vast pool of loose money will ultimately be inflationary. The clear inference is that some of it should be withdrawn before it's too late.

On the fiscal side, many of President Obama's critics are complaining vociferously about the huge federal budget deficits. Try to ignore, if you can, the sheer hypocrisy of many Congressional Republicans who, having never uttered a peep about the huge deficits under George W. Bush, are suddenly models of budget probity. But whatever the motives, the worries of today's deficit hawks sound eerily reminiscent of Roosevelt in 1936 and 1937.

Fortunately, Mr. Bernanke is a keen student of the Great Depression who will not allow the Fed to repeat the errors of 1936-37. But his critics, both inside and outside the Fed, are already branding his policies as dangerously inflationary, and no Fed chairman wants to be called an inflationist.

Similarly, I hope and believe that President Obama will not transform himself from the spendthrift Roosevelt of 1933 to the def-

icit-hawk Roosevelt of 1936—at least not until the economy is back on solid ground. That said, a growing flock of budget hawks are already showing their talons. They will have their day—but please, not yet.

To avoid a replay of the policy disasters of 1936-37, both the Fed and our elected officials must stay the course. Mark Twain once explained that, while history does not repeat itself, it often rhymes. We don't want any rhymes just now.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS INAUGURATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou will mark his first year anniversary in office on May 20, 2009.

Under President Ma's leadership, Taiwan has become an observer at the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, Switzerland. By enabling Taiwan to participate in this part of the World Health Organization (WHO), the health of 23 million Taiwanese people can benefit from what will be learned at the WHA. Historically, China has blocked Taiwan's access to this very important forum, and through President Ma's effective diplomacy, Taiwan has ended a 38 year absence from the WHA.

Madam Speaker, President Ma has also taken great strides in improving Taiwan's relationship with China. Taiwan and China now have direct flights back and forth to each country. This was unheard of before President Ma took office and travelers were previously required to make an inconvenient stop at another airport and switch planes before these direct flights were available.

Furthermore, China has given Taiwan two of its prized Pandas. Pandas are extremely rare and very important to the Chinese culture, and the amicable trade between the two countries is a positive indication for building a cordial relationship between the two nations. These and other efforts by President Ma are helping the two neighbors enter a time of peace, security and stability.

Madam Speaker, the United States and Taiwan continue to share a strong bilateral relationship. As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I congratulate President Ma on a very successful first year in office and look forward to continuing to work in making sure that our relations are preserved and strengthened.

COMMENDING AMY ISAACS, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Amy Isaacs, National Director of Americans for Democratic Action, on the occasion of her retirement.

For 20 years Amy has led ADA, the nation's most experienced organization dedicated to