

Prior to joining the Defense Department, Secretary Geren represented Texas' 12th District for four terms. During that time, we worked together on the Armed Services committee, where he served with distinction. He also served on the Science & Technology and the Public Works & Transportation Committees.

Secretary Geren's strength of character and visionary leadership has resulted in a better Army and a safer nation. I thank him for his extraordinary service to country, and look forward to applauding whatever new and exciting chapter he now begins.

HONORING GERALD GAW

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable leader in the Clinton Community, Gerald Gaw.

Gerald Gaw, Superintendent of Clinton Public Schools, will be retiring this week after 32 years of service to the children of the Clinton Public School District. Gerald dedicated his career to serving his community, beginning as a middle school math teacher at the age of 27. Throughout the past thirty years, Gerald nurtured students as both a middle and high school teacher before serving as principal of first the Clinton middle school and then Clinton High School. In 2004, Gerald was recognized for his outstanding work when he was selected for the position of Superintendent of Schools, where he has helped the school district thrive.

Gerald was born and raised in the small Clinton community. Throughout his many years in the school district, he would often find himself teaching children whose parents had been his students or interacting with school committee members who had cared for him as a child. Gerald was committed to playing his part in the small community too, nurturing the children of Clinton for the futures that lay ahead of them. Educating children is Gerald's passion, a passion that thousands have benefited from during their time in Clinton schools.

Gerald was one of the first principals to work in the new Clinton High School and was largely responsible for the transformation of the new building into a state-of-the-art educational facility. As the MCAS standardized testing was initiated across Massachusetts, Gerald promoted high achievement throughout the school, implementing new programs intended to prepare students for success.

Among Gerald's many talents, foremost was his compassion and his ability to connect with students. Reaching out to students from difficult backgrounds or those who needed just a little extra help was a mission Gerald added on to his already long list of responsibilities as an administrator. Whether it was talking with students during lunch hour, encouraging them in the classroom, or working out with them in the gym, Gerald was known for befriending children who needed a positive presence in their lives. As principal, Gerald coached a Pop Warner football team, and even as superintendent he tried to spend as much time as possible with the children. As he enters retirement, Gerald is looking forward to going back

to the classroom as a math teacher at a college.

Gerald will be missed by the faculty and thousands of students whose lives he shaped in a multitude of ways. I wish him and his wife Carol, along with their three sons, many happy years in a well deserved retirement.

Madam Speaker, I know all of my colleagues join me in thanking this remarkable man for his many years of dedication to the people of the Clinton.

INTRODUCING A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR HAITIAN NATIONALS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution expressing support for temporary protected status for Haitian nationals currently residing in the United States, and for other purposes.

The creation of TPS was intended to serve as the statutory embodiment of a safe haven for those who are fleeing—or reluctant to return to—a potentially dangerous situation in their country of origin.

According to section 244(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1990, TPS may be granted when: there is ongoing armed conflict posing a serious threat to personal safety; it is requested by a foreign state that temporarily cannot handle the return of nationals due to environmental disaster; or extraordinary and temporary conditions in a foreign state exist which prevent aliens from returning.

Haiti has continued to meet all three of these requirements, and yet, not once have Haitian nationals been granted TPS.

Last summer, only a few months after deadly food riots led to the removal of the country's Prime Minister, Haiti was ravaged by four back-to-back natural disasters. Thousands lost their homes, many were left starving and isolated from humanitarian assistance, nearly 800 lives were taken, and over 300 people remain missing.

How dire must the situation in Haiti become before the United States is willing to extend this helping hand to Haiti as it has done for other nations under similar circumstances?

The Haitian government's ability to provide basic governmental services—clean water, education, passable roads and basic health care—remains severely compromised by these natural disasters. Repatriating Haitians at this time imposes an additional burden on government resources that are already stretched too thin and poses a serious danger to deportees' personal safety. Further, with hurricane season well underway, the Haitian people will only slip further into despair when another storm inevitably hits their nation.

Concerning stability and overall safety, Haiti is still in dire need of an adequate policing force to maintain order and halt the escalation in kidnappings that are plaguing the nation.

As of today, the Department of State's current travel warning advises Americans that

current conditions in Haiti make it unsafe to travel due to the potential for looting, the possibility of random violent crime, and the serious threat of kidnapping for ransom.

Madam Speaker, if it is unsafe for our citizens to travel to Haiti, then those same conditions should make it much too dangerous and inappropriate to forcibly repatriate Haitians at this time. It is unfortunate and appalling that our current immigration policies hold such harmful double standards.

I want to make it very clear that I acknowledge and heartily congratulate Haiti's efforts toward recovery and to a stable democratic government. However, President Prival's nascent democratic government still faces immense challenges with regards to rebuilding Haiti's police and judicial institutions to achieve the fair and prompt tackling of the ongoing political and criminal violence.

In addition to safety and human rights considerations, halting the deportation of Haitians is also an economic matter.

Under the law, TPS beneficiaries are eligible to obtain work authorization permits. The ability for Haitian nationals to legally work in the United States puts them in a position to contribute to their country's recovery and development until such time when it is safe for them to return to Haiti.

Madam Speaker, the Haitian Diaspora has always played a pivotal role in assisting Haiti. It is widely known that Haitians residing in the United States often work three jobs to send money back to Haiti each month. Many Haitians in the United States often send remittances to support family members, and others travel home to lend their expertise toward rebuilding and humanitarian efforts.

Designating Haiti under TPS status would preserve and increase remittances—totaling approximately a third of Haiti's GDP—from the Haitian Diaspora to relatives and communities in Haiti that are key for welfare, survival, and recovery.

Haiti is more dependent than any other country on remittances with nearly a billion dollars a year sent home by Haitians in the United States. In fact, remittances to Haiti far exceed foreign aid.

Now, many Haitian nationals in the United States who previously sustained relatives in Haiti through remittances are being deported, further depriving Haiti of an important source of financial aid that is well-positioned to assist when based here in the United States.

Madam Speaker, there are currently five countries that are protected under the TPS provision: Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Somalia, and Sudan. By refusing to give Haiti the TPS designation, our inequitable immigration policies continue to send the message that the safety of Haitian lives is not a priority compared to that of Salvadoran, Honduran, or Sudanese lives.

We must act to change this perception. Our immigration policies have to change. They must reflect fairness and treat Haitians equally to Nicaraguans, Hondurans, and Salvadorans whose deportations are suspended and who are allowed to work and support their families back home.

Granting Haitians TPS is necessary to achieve fundamental fairness in our treatment of Haitian immigrants and remedy the accurate and widespread perception that U.S. policy has discriminated against them.

Madam Speaker, we cannot deny Haiti this opportunity to help stabilize its economy, recover from devastating natural disasters, rebuild its political and economic institutions, and provide a future of hope for Haiti's people.

I ask my colleagues to support this concurrent resolution and urge the House Leadership to bring it swiftly to the House floor for consideration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT AND FOOD SAFETY INFORMATION ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am proud to reintroduce the Consumer Product and Food Safety Information Act.

This very simple bill creates a comprehensive information process to notify American consumers about food and product recalls. It seems that practically every week there is another product or food recall, but there's no single, comprehensive, federal resource to relay this information to consumers. As a result, many Americans are rightfully concerned and confused about what products might endanger the lives of their loved ones.

In the 110th Congress after a steady stream of countless food and product recalls, I co-chaired a Ways and Means joint Oversight and Trade subcommittee hearing on Import Safety. In that hearing, we learned that there is no collective federal public information process to inform Americans about food and product safety recalls. Instead there is an expectation that press releases and Internet announcements with moderate outreach efforts are sufficient communication tools.

This legislation is not about creating a new bureaucracy; the sole purpose is to establish a process. We must provide consumers with single resources—through various media phone, print, Internet, and radio—to learn exactly what toys are safe for their children, what food is safe to eat, what beds are safe to sleep in, and what medicines won't compromise their health. The Consumer Product and Food Safety Information Act of 2009 presents a clear plan to relay accurate and timely information to all consumers—regardless of age, income or location.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this basic, common-sense legislation. I want to make sure that my constituents—parents, senior citizens, those who have access to the Internet, those who prefer newspapers and libraries—are provided with universal, consistent information about what foods and products are harmful to themselves and their loved ones.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to state that I was on an official leave of absence from the U.S. House of Representatives on account

of the funeral of a close personal friend and unable to vote on rollcall votes Nos. 548 through 572. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Nos. 548 through 551, 554 through 569, and 572, and "nay" on Nos. 552, 553, 570, and 571.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Republican Conference standards on earmarks, I submit the following information regarding a project included at my request in H.R. 3183, the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Congressman JIM JORDAN (OH-04) Bill: H.R. 3183

Account: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Section 205 (Flood Damage Reduction)

Requesting entity: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District (1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207)

Description: The City of Findlay, Ohio, saw three of its worst floods in history in just a 13-month period in 2007–08. These floods devastated the city, causing significant damage to the downtown business district and displacing hundreds of residents. The Army Corps of Engineers has worked diligently since the January 2007 flood toward developing flood damage reduction plans. I requested \$248,000 to complete the Section 205 feasibility study and begin design and implementation work.

I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

NORTH BEND

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the City North Bend, Washington, for reaching its centennial year in 2009.

North Bend, located in the north end of the Eighth District of Washington State, is beautifully situated near the entrance of the Cascade Mountains with majestic Mount Si providing a stunning backdrop. Residents and tourists of all ages enjoy the many outdoor activities this natural, rural setting has to offer, including skiing, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing and swimming. The residents of North Bend are truly caring people who will continue to lead North Bend in protecting their unique rural setting while encouraging residential and business development. I commend Mayor Ken Hearing for his leadership of this town of 4,700.

The Eighth District is a more vibrant area because of North Bend and I rise today to commend the citizens past and present on their success in reaching this milestone.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday July 15, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3183) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I join my colleagues in opposition to the Flake Amendment to H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2010.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I believe it is our duty to work with our colleagues across the aisle in crafting a bill that helps our country in times of economic peril. In a political climate where energy sources and technology have become a central focal point, we must do everything in our power to do what is in the best interest of the constituents in our respective districts, and indeed, the nation as well. This amendment, however, is not in the best interest of our constituents.

The Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research (CPBR), Inc., which is based in the State of Georgia, is an organization which specializes in the transfer of plant biotechnologies from the research laboratory to the marketplace, and in the process, provides expanded economic opportunities through university research. CPBR's research programs and activities are undertaken cooperatively with major colleges and universities around the nation, including Albany State University, which is located in my Congressional district.

In its short history, the CPBR has produced over 2.5 U.S. Patents with every \$1 million dollars of federal funding provided. Through CPBR, every federal dollar is matched at a rate of 130% with non-federal funds. Additionally, the organization has a commercialization rate on successful projects which is over 210% higher than what universities get on their own.

The amendment offered by Congressman FLAKE frankly represents a gross lack of judgment, particularly given the enormous benefits we are continuing to gain as a result of the CPBR's research activities and tangible results being put in practice.

The CPBR has successfully worked with a number of historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) through its HBCU and Minority Institutions Research Fellowship Program. This program provides peer reviewed projects at these colleges and universities which, has in turn, sparked development and growth between the faculty and students.

This also broadens its interaction with its private sector partners, who work closely with the CPBR and its researchers, to carry out the transfer research and technology into the production of new and improved agricultural and manufacturing processes and products. Keep in mind, these are new products which were created and developed by students and researchers at Universities around the country.

These industrial innovations create thousands of new jobs and strengthen our national