

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MARGE TRACEY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, Marge Tracey, who retires this year, first came to work as a secretary at the AFL-CIO over 35 years ago. She has spent her working life at the AFL-CIO advancing the interest of America's working families. During that time, she has been an integral part of every fight over the last three decades on labor law reform, minimum wage, trade, health care, retirement security, and more. She has been witness to and a key part of many chapters of labor and Congressional history, often working behind the scenes, but always an integral part of progress.

So on the occasion of her retirement, I join with her family, her friends, and all of her colleagues at the AFL-CIO in congratulating her and expressing deep appreciation for all of her dedicated work. Marge Tracey has lived a remarkable life of service to working men and women, and I wish her all the best in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO REMEMBER FRANK MICKENS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Frank Mickens, the celebrated former principal of Boys & Girls High School.

Mr. Mickens took over as principal of Boys & Girls in 1984. At the time, it was considered one of the worst high schools in New York City. Cutting class was rampant, students were often robbed, and there were few consequences for misbehavior.

Mr. Mickens was undeterred by the challenge. He understood that education meant more than just teachers and tests. He was out to change the culture of the school, to give his students and faculty the supportive learning environment they needed to excel.

Mr. Mickens cared deeply about the well-being of every student. He spent his time motivating students in need of encouragement. If a student needed lunch, often Mr. Mickens would give him the money to buy it. And if a student did not own a tie, Mr. Mickens had a closet full of ties for him to choose, teaching him how to tie it if necessary.

His years of tireless dedication paid off. When Mr. Mickens retired in 2004, Boys & Girls was known as the "Pride and Joy of Bed-Stuy". The graduation rate had improved dramatically and was now sending its students to some of the country's best universities.

Frank Mickens has left behind a living legacy to his lifetime of achievements: The many

thousands of lives he touched and a community reborn.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering Frank Mickens.

WILLIAM BENEDICT JAMES RESSLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Ressler of Kansas City, Missouri. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 215, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. He was also the recipient of the Eagles Soaring High award.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Ressler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information in regards to the Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Rep. JO ANN EMERSON
Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

Account: Surface Transportation Priorities
Requesting Entity: Missouri Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 105 West Capitol P.O. Box 270 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0270

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$650,000 for an environmental study, engineering design work, and construction work on Route 25 in Jackson, Missouri. The funds will be used to alleviate traffic and dangerous conditions on Route 25 between Jackson Trail and the city limits of Jackson, Missouri. The State of Missouri will provide 20% match. All federal funds received will be spent on Route 25 in Jackson, Missouri and will not be transferred to another project.

Request Member: Rep. JO ANN EMERSON
Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

Account: Surface Transportation Priorities
Requesting Entity: Missouri Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 105 West Capitol P.O. Box 270 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0270

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 for the expansion of four-lane highway south of Poplar Bluff, Missouri to south of Route 160. The funds would also be used to rehabilitate dangerous intersections on Route 67 at U.S. 160, as well as Missouri Highway 158. The State of Missouri will provide 20% match. All federal funds received will be spent on this project and will not be transferred to another project.

Requesting Member: Rep. JO ANN EMERSON
Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

Account: Surface Transportation Priorities
Requesting Entity: Missouri Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 105 West Capitol P.O. Box 270 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0270

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 to rehabilitate the Chester Bridge which transverses the Mississippi River from Perry County, Missouri to Randolph County, Illinois. The bridge is vital to the region's transportation needs. The State of Missouri will provide 20% to match the federal contribution. All federal funds received will be spent on rehabilitation of the Chester Bridge and will not be transferred to another project.

Requesting Member: Rep. JO ANN EMERSON
Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

Account: Economic Development Initiatives
Requesting Entity: Washington County, Missouri

Address of Requesting Entity: 102 N. Missouri Street Potosi, MO 63664

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$300,000 for renovations to make the Washington County, Missouri Building accessible to individuals with disabilities. The Washington County Building is outdated and many sections are inaccessible to individuals in wheelchairs. The federal funds would provide the means for Washington County to bring the building in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Requesting Member: Rep. JO ANN EMERSON
Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

Account: Surface Transportation Priorities
Requesting Entity: Missouri Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 105 West Capitol P.O. Box 270 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0270

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 for right of way improvements and

• 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.

engineering design to the narrow portion of Route 63 in Phelps and Maries Counties. This project will improve the overall safety of the roadway. The State of Missouri will provide 20% to match the federal contribution. All federal funds received will be spent on right of way improvements and engineering design. None of these funds will be transferred to another project.

Requesting Member: Rep. JO ANN EMERSON
Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

Account: Transportation & Community & System Preservation Requesting Entity: Missouri Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 105 West Capitol P.O. Box 270 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0270

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 to improve shoulders, as well as widen and straighten curves along Route 34 in Cape Girardeau and Bollinger Counties. This segment of Route 34 is heavily traveled by commuters and there are serious safety concerns with the roadway. The State of Missouri will provide 20% to match the federal contribution. All federal funds received will be spent on improving Route 34. None of these funds will be transferred to another project.

NORTH KOREA'S HARD-LABOR CAMPS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, Monday's Washington Post featured a comprehensive piece by veteran reporter Blaine Harden headlined, "N. Korea's Hard-Labor Camps: On the Diplomatic Back Burner," documenting the horrific nature of North Korea's gulag system, and the failure of this administration to raise this issue with the North Korean regime. I submit the article for the record.

We have known for some time about the true nature of the cruel and inhuman system of labor camps maintained by the totalitarian regime in North Korea. And yet somehow, almost inexplicably, these horrific camps have failed to inspire collective outrage on the part of the West, and have been sidelined to the point of irrelevance in successive U.S. administrations' dealings with North Korea.

The U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea published a report in 2003—six years ago—about these camps. It was written by David Hawk, quoted in Monday's article, and called *The Hidden Gulag: Exposing North Korea's Prison Camps*. It contains a full description of the camps, the worst of which are called kwan-li-so, which is translated as "political penal-labor colonies," and where, according to the Committee's report, scores of thousands of political prisoners—along with up to three generations of their family members—are banished without any judicial process and imprisoned, typically for life-time sentences of slave labor.

The report also contains prisoners' testimonies and satellite photographs of the camps, whose very existence continues to be denied by the North Korean government, which is why the committee described the gulags as "hidden."

Defector testimony, satellite images and in depth reporting have left no doubt about the camps' existence and the horrors of life there. The real question is what do we do about this abomination? What do we do about the regime that sustains and perpetuates this evil?

Because North Korea possesses nuclear weapons and threatens not only to use them against neighboring countries but also to share nuclear weapons technology with such rogue states as Burma and Syria, the international community, the U.S. included, has tended to ignore the horrendous human rights abuses in North Korea in the interest of trying to negotiate through the so-called six-party talks an end to its nuclear program.

But nothing has been achieved by these negotiations and North Korea has formally withdrawn from the six-party process.

And so while efforts continue, the diplomatic process on the nuclear front appears to have reached an impasse.

Frankly, I don't expect much to come from these efforts. The possession of nuclear weapons is simply too important to the North Korean regime, if only to deflect attention from its cruel and oppressive system of camps and the famine that it has brought upon its people at an estimated cost of anywhere from one to three million lives.

Human rights activist and 2008 Seoul Peace Prize Laureate Suzanne Scholte recently wrote in the Korea Times that both the Clinton and Bush administrations "intentionally sidelined human rights concerns, making them secondary to addressing North Korea's nuclear ambitions."

The young Obama administration appears to be in status quo mode, adopting the same failed approach.

This approach hasn't succeeded in curbing North Korea's nuclear ambitions. And it hasn't brought relief to the thousands that languish in unimaginable conditions. A new North Korea framework is long overdue. Ignoring or downplaying the human rights situation for one more day is unconscionable.

Ronald Reagan negotiated with the Soviet Union to reduce nuclear weapons throughout the 1980s, but that did not stop him from speaking about human rights, calling upon the Soviets to tear down the Berlin Wall, and predicting that communism would end up on the ash heap of history. His outspoken support for human rights had an effect, accelerating the demise of communism and, in the process, making it easier to resolve nuclear and security issues, since the main cause of Soviet aggressiveness was the communist system it was intended to defend and extend. Further it reminded those living behind the Iron Curtain that America was a friend, not an enemy, despite Soviet propaganda to the contrary.

We should be doing the same thing with North Korea today.

Just last week my good friend Carl Gershman, the president of the National Endowment for Democracy, spoke at the Korean Embassy's KORUS House in Washington about North Korea. His talk was titled, "Contending with the North Korean Dictatorship: A Perspective from the National Endowment for Democracy." Mr. Gershman acknowledged the diplomatic impasse with North Korea, but he didn't stop there. He said that in his view the North Korean totalitarian system was undergoing an inexorable process of erosion, marked by a sharply reduced ability to impose

a complete information blockade on its population, increased traffic across the border with China, the growth of an exile population of defectors that has now reached 16,000 from almost zero less than a decade ago, and even local uprisings as the regime has tried to suppress informal markets that have emerged as a way to cope with the famine and economic hardship.

He pointed out that what makes the North Korean system especially vulnerable is the existence just across the southern border of a free, successful and affluent South Korean society. For decades now the regime in Pyongyang has told its population that the people of South Korea live in hell while they live in a communist paradise. As the population learns that the truth is exactly the opposite, they will become increasingly restive, resentful, and rebellious, he noted.

In his talk Mr. Gershman quoted from a report by a senior researcher for the Korea Institute for National Unification which spoke of the dormant reality of "cracking the myth of permanent stability in North Korea" and pointed to the "danger of minor clashes to play a role of a primer for mass protest against excess of governmental indiscretion."

Mr. Gershman said that the NED, with the support of the U.S. Congress, would continue to support organizations in South Korea set up by North Korean defectors to reach back into North Korea by providing information to the people. He urged the U.S., in the absence of a six-party process, to convene the other members of those talks (South Korea, Japan, China, and Russia) to discuss with them not just the security situation, but to prepare for a possible collapse in North Korea by considering now what would need to be done to aid the reconstruction of the country.

I agree that this would be a good starting point for the administration as would appointing a special envoy on North Korea human rights as is mandated by Congress.

Further, any future talks with the North Koreans, be it the six-party process or some other forum, must include human rights on the agenda.

Additionally, the administration ought to be pursuing a policy which places a high priority on working with other countries in the region to champion the rights of North Korean refugees. China is among the biggest obstacles. Its current policy of repatriating North Korean refugees violates China's international treaty obligations. A grim fate awaits those who are returned to North Korea.

Similarly, if North Korea continues to refuse U.S. food aid, the administration should urge those countries that do provide aid, which again includes China, to press for International Red Cross access to the camps and monitors from the World Food Programme to ensure that the aid goes to its intended recipients.

Ultimately, we need to look forward. The North Korean regime will not be there forever to oppress its people. Just like the gulags and the regimes in Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, that preceded it, this evil empire, too, will fall.

In the meantime we must champion the rights of the people who wither under this regime. I'll close with the words of Anne Applebaum in the hope that they inspire the administration's approach to North Korea moving forward. She writes in the introduction of *The Hidden Gulag*, "This is not to say that