

stability. This is also typical of how Khartoum has dealt with every important issue in the CPA. To top it off, many of the officers of the 31st Brigade (now renamed) and related militias that destroyed Abyei in May 2008 were promoted, and today hundreds of those men, commanded by thugs like Lt. Col. Thomas Thiel Malual Awak, Major Moyak Mobil Ajak and Captain Joseph Garang Nyoul, among others, are just a short distance north of Abyei town waiting for the next instruction from President Bashir to do their evil deeds. And, in my view, he is preparing to do just that. He has already announced in a very threatening way how he will try to torpedo the Abyei Referendum in 2011.

This is how Khartoum behaves across the board on every important issue. This is the Government our Administration is seeking to "make nice" with. Comparing the problems of the GOSS with those of Khartoum, which really is the failed state? Is it Khartoum, the one rolling in cash, thoroughly corrupt, a killer regime whom WE have accused rightly of genocide, the 'government' that undermines all the marginalized populations in Sudan and never keeps its agreements? Or is it the four-and-a-half year old GOSS, struggling to reconstruct a war-devastated South with an almost 100% war-traumatized population of survivors minus several million that didn't survive? Morally, by any assessment, the South wins hands down. And morally, that's where America's heart should be.

Why? I believe that with all their shortcomings, the SPLM and the GOSS politically are fundamentally democrats and genuinely want to provide development for all the populations for which they have governing responsibility. In my view it is in advancing precisely those commitments that U.S. national interests are ultimately located.

To me that requires a U.S. surge in coming along side in a full-blown partnership with the struggling GOSS to improve its performance in terms of governance quality so it can deliver services to and inspire the hopes of the people of South Sudan and Abyei. While I cannot be comprehensively prescriptive on specific programmatic solutions, there are some that are obvious: improved financial management, establishment of corruption detection and prosecution mechanisms, preparation for managing the South's petroleum sector, enhancing their public information capacity so the public is well-informed, increased training of police, and capacity-building in reducing inter-community violence. For the remaining timeline of the CPA and for sometime thereafter, the U.S. should stimulate capacity transfer by an infusion of capable American, Indian and other nationality expertise to work along side their Sudanese counterparts. It also means Washington confronting Khartoum when in big or little ways they obstruct CPA requirements and undermine GOSS capacity.

To me this is an approach of which the American people ultimately will be proud. It

will free the people of Abyei and the South and will also best secure our own fundamental interests.

RECOGNIZING GAIL BELMONT FROM VALLEY SPRINGS, CA

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize a constituent of mine, Gail Belmont from Valley Springs, CA. Gail is an Operation Officer in the Quilts of Valor Foundation. She will be in Washington, DC next month.

A "Quilt of Valor" is a wartime quilt made to honor our War Wounded. It is given to all wounded service men and women to show these brave young men and women how much their sacrifice and service is appreciated. These quilts are meant to provide comfort, love and healing to those who have given so much. It is a tangible way to say, "Thank you for your sacrifice and service for our country." It is not a charity quilt nor a service quilt. It is a beautifully pieced and quilted wartime quilt. It is a wartime quilt made by wartime quilters. Over 22,000 quilts have been given to the wounded. Gail has quilted over 350 of those herself.

Gail is a native Californian, born in Dos Palos. After graduation from High School she entered the Women's Army Corp Band playing trumpet. She served 7 years active and reserve. She then spent 25 years in civil service; law enforcement; warehousing and production control at Sharp Depot.

Shortly after leaving Sharp Depot, Gail's parents had purchased a longarm quilting machine and curiosity had Gail trying her hand at running it. It was an instant success and led to establishing a full-time business, at first in the family garage. Quickly outgrowing the garage necessitated a move to the present location on Stabulis Road in Valley Springs.

Gail has won numerous awards at Machine Quilters Showcase and all the local Fairs and Quilt Shows. Her work is well known in this community in all charity affairs. Quilts have come to her from all over the nation for her special expertise which is free hand quilting and then have been sent all over the world.

When Gail left Valley Springs for camp Lejeune NC, she and others had 200 Quilts of Valor with them. They stopped at different towns across the country picking up quilts and delivered them to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where they awarded 1,354 quilts to the

3rd Battalion, 8th Marines who just returned from Afghanistan. While in DC, Gail will join Catherine Roberts who founded this organization as they award the Women's Veterans Memorial at Arlington a quilt and will be honored at the Commandant's evening Parade at the Marine Corps Barracks.

On a previous trip to Washington, Gail awarded the Pentagon a quilt she had quilted which is called the "Pentagon Pride Eagle of Valor Quilt of Valor". This quilt is on display at the Pentagon in the 9/11 display case.

IDLING REDUCTION TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2009

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, each year, long-duration idling of truck engines consumes over 1 billion gallons of diesel fuel and emits 11 million tons of carbon dioxide, 200,000 tons of oxides of nitrogen, and 5,000 tons of particulate matter into the air. Also, idling can increase engine maintenance costs, shorten engine life, adversely affect driver well-being, and create elevated noise levels. Some surveys show that trucks idle anywhere from 6–8 hours a day for as many as 250 to 300 days each year.

This legislation provides an important incentive to protect our environment, reduce fuel consumption, and ease the burden of compliance on the trucking community.

The Idling Reduction Tax Credit Act of 2009 provides a 50% credit for the purchase of an idling reduction unit, capped at \$3,000. These units are part of the Environmental Protection Agency's "Smartway" program, which is geared toward improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions, and improving energy security for our transportation system.

According to the EPA, idling reduction units can reduce fuel consumption by 8% each year and generate additional air quality savings by eliminating up to 2,400 hours of idling time each year. Unfortunately, these units can cost up to \$8,500. While there are loan programs available for some truckers to help defray this cost, most are unable to take advantage of those programs. The Idling Reduction Tax Credit Act would make the federal government a full partner in this effort. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 30, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 3

- 2 p.m.
 Environment and Public Works
 Water and Wildlife Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine protecting the Chesapeake Bay, focusing on reauthorizing the Chesapeake Bay Program.
 SD-406
- 3 p.m.
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine eliminating wasteful contractor bonuses.
 SD-342

AUGUST 4

- Time to be announced
 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 Business meeting to consider pending nominations.
 Room to be announced
- 9:30 a.m.
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine strengthening and streamlining Prudential Bank supervision.
 SD-538
- 10 a.m.
 Environment and Public Works
 To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gary S. Guzy, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Environmental Quality.
 SD-406
- Finance
 To hold hearings to examine climate change legislation, focusing on allowance and revenue distribution.
 SD-215
- 10:30 a.m.
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 Disaster Recovery Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine children in disasters, focusing on evacuation planning and mental health recovery.
 SD-342
- 11 a.m.
 Intelligence
 To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.
 S-407, Capitol
- 2:15 p.m.
 Foreign Relations
 Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
 S-116, Capitol
- 2:30 p.m.
 Foreign Relations
 European Affairs Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine Georgia one year after the August war.
 SD-419
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 To hold hearings to examine protecting patients from defective medical devices.
 SD-430

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine rail modernization, focusing on transit funding.
 SD-538

Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine the Performance Rights Act and parity among music delivery platforms.
 SD-226

AUGUST 5

- 9:30 a.m.
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine proposals to enhance the regulation of credit rating agencies.
 SD-538
- 10 a.m.
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kelvin J. Cochran, to be Administrator, United States Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.
 SD-342
- 2:15 p.m.
 Foreign Relations
 Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
 S-116, Capitol

AUGUST 6

- 10 a.m.
 Small Business and Entrepreneurship
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Winslow Lorenzo Sargeant, of Wisconsin, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, and Peggy E. Gustafson, of Illinois, to be Inspector General, both of the Small Business Administration.
 SR-428A

CANCELLATIONS

Judiciary
 Immigration, Refugees and Border Security Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine comprehensive immigration reform, focusing on employment-based immigration to propel America's economy while protecting America's workforce.
 SD-226