SUPPORTING AMERICAN LEGION DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 679, Supporting the goals and Ideals of American Legion Day.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, war-time veteran's organization, devoted to mutual helpfulness.

The American Legion has been a guardian of our national ensign, and the first ''Flag Code'' was drafted during a conference called by The American Legion in Washington, D.C. The code eventually was adopted by Congress in 1942. And today, the Legion is at the forefront of efforts to gain a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from physical desecration.

The American Legion's voice has been instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, then later advocated for it to become a cabinet level department, creating a GI bill, and fighting for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome.

The American Legion became the largest single contributor to the ''Vietnam Wall'' in Washington, DC—its members collectively donated $1 Million dollars.

And today, the American Legion is a strong advocate for today's servicemen and women returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan—assisting combat wounded veterans receive compensation for their injuries and helping to create a 21st Century GI Bill.

The reason that we are free today is because brave men and women have answered our Nation's call in our time of need. They have sweated, bled and sacrificed for our freedom.

And as it is written on the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C, freedom isn't free—the cost is readily apparent in the rows of crosses in Arlington, where many generations of American warriors have been laid to rest.

We owe our veterans a debt that can never be fully repaid, but I personally want to thank them for your service and sacrifice. I will continue to work to ensure that our veterans get the care, help, and benefits they so richly deserve.

Let us remember our obligations to our Nation's veterans, as Abraham Lincoln said in his Second Inaugural Address, ''to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan.''

The American Legion has been there for our Nation's veterans for over 90 years, and I'm proud to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMEMORATING THE HEROES OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MARYVILLE, IL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the actions of 3 men who unselfishly risked their lives in the defense of others.

At the early service on Sunday morning, March 8, 2009, an armed gunman entered the First Baptist Church of Maryville, Illinois. He confronted, shot, and killed Pastor Fred Winters as he was conducting the service. Three church members, Keith Melton, Terry Bullard, and Patrick Presson, rushed to the aid of Pastor Winters and to subdue the gunman. In the ensuing confrontation Mr. Melton was the first person to reach the gunman. He was immediately stabbed and forced to withdraw.

Undaunted, Mr. Bullard and Mr. Presson, at great personal risk, engaged the gunman and managed to physically subdue him. In the struggle Mr. Bullard was critically wounded. Once the gunman was under control Patrick's attention instantly turned to assisting his friend Terry. With the assistance of another churchgoer, Jason Shutty, Mr. Presson carried Mr. Bullard to the entrance of the church, secured transportation, and took Mr. Bullard to the emergency room of Anderson Hospital a short distance away.

The immediate, decisive, and courageous actions of these three men undoubtedly saved other lives on that Sunday morning. Mr. Presson's continued actions are credited with saving Mr. Bullard's life. These men are the embodiment of courage and heroism. They are deserving of recognition by and in the United States House of Representatives, in order that a permanent record of their individual and collective character can be preserved.

In a time when the term is often overused, these men are true American heroes, who, when faced with danger, unselfishly launched themselves into harm's way. Their actions were taken without consideration or regard for their personal well-being and unquestionably prevented a horrible situation from becoming worse. These individuals should be held up as examples of ordinary citizens whose behavior and exemplary character shined through in a most dangerous situation.

THE REAL STORY ABOUT COPTIC CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, DC, recently sent the following e-mail to their distribution list:

''Egypt has the largest and oldest Christian community in the Middle East, and is home to 2,069 churches.

''The Coptic Orthodox Church was founded in Alexandria by the apostle Mark in AD 57, making it one of the oldest churches in the world.

''A law requiring Presidential approval for church construction was changed in 2005, transferring that duty instead to the country's governors who are obligated to process churches' requests within 30 days.

''In 2003, President Mubarak declared Coptic Christmas, celebrated on January 7, a national holiday.''

In spite of these overtures by the Egyptian government, the situation for Coptic Christians in Egypt is far from ideal. According to the State Department's 2008 International Religious Freedom Report, ''The approval process for church construction continued to be hindered by lengthy delays, often measured in years. Although government officials maintain that President Mubarak approves all requests for permits presented to him, independent critics charge that delays by the MOI and/or local authorities cause many requests to reach the President slowly or not at all. Some churches have complained that local security officials have blocked church repairs or improvements even when a permit has been issued. Others suggest unequal enforcement of the regulations pertaining to church and mosque projects. Many churches face difficulty in obtaining permits from provincial officials.''

On September 7, The Los Angeles Times reported that Egyptian authorities arrested 155 people in Aswan for publicly eating, drinking or smoking during daylight in the month of Ramadan, including non-Muslims.

There is clearly much that needs to be done by the Egyptian government to ensure the preservation of the Coptic community in Egypt.

MEDIA DOWNPLAY 9/12 PROTESTS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, The national media's coverage of the conservative 9/12 protests was scarce and antagonistic, according to an analysis by the Media Research Center (MRC).

According to MRC, the three TV networks did not offer any pre-rally coverage before the 9/12 protests.

And their coverage afterward intentionally tried to paint a negative picture of the protestors.

Furthermore, a regular commentator on MSNBC dismissed the protestors as ''the fringe of the fringe,'' although they were everyday Americans.

And The New York Times buried its coverage of the protests on page A37 of Sunday's paper.

In contrast, the media gave significantly more—and more positive—coverage to liberal protests recently.

The national media should give fair coverage to protests on both sides, rather than downplaying conservative demonstrations.

WES WATKINS AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH LAB AND POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor my

friend and former colleague, Wesley "Wes" Watkins. H.R. 1713 would name the United States Department of Agriculture's South Central Research Laboratory in Lane, Oklahoma, and the facility of the U.S. Postal Service in Bennington, Oklahoma, in honor of the former Congressman Wes Watkins, who represented Oklahoma for 20 years.

Throughout Congressman Watkins's career, he devoted his life to the people of Oklahoma. He began his career of public service in 1974 when he was elected to serve in the Oklahoma State Senate. After U.S. House Speaker Carl Albert announced his retirement after 30 years in office, Congressman Watkins was elected to Congress in 1976. During his time in office, Wes would become the only Oklahoma Congressman to serve on all three major House financial committees, including Appropriations, Budget, and Ways and Means, where he used his influence to increase funding for rural economic development and education programs in the Third District of Oklahoma.

Wes is a man of principal. I am honored to know him and to have worked with him in Congress. He served the great state of Oklahoma and America proudly. I ask that you all join me in supporting H.R. 1713 which recognizes and honors a great public servant to Oklahoma and our Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRAGIN AND PIKE INSURANCE

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the centennial anniversary of Cragin and Pike Insurance in Las Vegas.

In 1909, the first insurance company in Las Vegas opened its doors in newly incorporated Clark County, Nevada. Peter Buol, the original owner, provided real estate and insurance services to the citizens of the newly established City of Las Vegas. The business philosophy established by Peter Buol was carried on by partners Ernie Cragin and William Pike. Their combined dedication to and vision for our community contributed immensely to the political, economical, and environmental development and history of Southern Nevada.

Ernie Cragin served as Las Vegas Mayor for 25 years and was instrumental in establishing the Helldorado Days celebration and parade downtown. He also worked to bring the U.S. Army's Aerial Gunnery School, which is now known as the world famous Nellis Air Force Base to Southern Nevada.

William Pike, who began as an assistant to Peter Buol and would later own the company, witnessed the construction of the Hoover Dam and helped many of the workers meet their financial and insurance needs.

After the passing of Ernie Cragin and William Pike, Paul McDermott and Frank Kerestesi continued the name of Cragin & Pike Insurance. The current partners—Tom Kerestesi, Mark McKinley, Greg McKinley and Tom Burns continue the Cragin & Pike tradition of personal service by providing insurance, risk management and surety products to Southern Nevadans.

On September 24, 2009, Cragin & Pike Insurance celebrates 100 years of continuously doing business in Southern Nevada. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Cragin and Pike Insurance on their 100th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN LINDSAY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of John Lindsay and to wish him well in his next endeavors.

For the past four years, John Lindsay has directed the communications activities of Idaho National Laboratory, INL. During that time, INL has achieved great success as the lead laboratory for the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy. INL has increased the size of its research portfolio, achieved success in its pursuit and receipt of R&D 100 awards, and played a leading role communicating the technical facts behind the growing nuclear renaissance we see developing in the U.S. and especially around the world. John Lindsay has had a steady hand communicating the lab's success, and he has assembled a strong team that will continue on after he departs.

John's most important contribution to Idaho may have been his leading role in the formation of a public organization known as the Partnership for Science and Technology, which seeks to bring balance and facts into the discussion of science and energy matters. The Partnership has become an effective and trusted resource that can respond quickly to misrepresentations and misstatements regarding nuclear power and any other clean energy source. Indeed, the Partnership mobilized the citizens of Idaho to express their views of nuclear issues to such an extent that this visible public support became a major factor in the decision by AREVA to site its next uranium enrichment plant in Idaho.

John Lindsay is a true professional and a valued member of the communities of eastern Idaho. John is recognized and respected as a true gentleman—he always treats everyone he meets with respect and dignity, and he has brought great respect to Idaho National Lab as one of its most visible leaders.

While we will miss them, on behalf of eastern Idaho, I want to wish John and Terri all the best in their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MIKE FUOSS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memoriam of Mike Fuoss, who was shot and killed on Friday, September 11, 2009. Mike was a small business owner, father, brother and friend to many in the greater Owosso community.

Mike was born February 7, 1948, in Owosso. He graduated from Corunna High School in 1966. He went on to study Diesel Mechanics and Business at Ferris State University. In 1999, he married his wife, Barbara.

Mike co-owned a number of small businesses throughout Owosso, including Fuoss Gravel Co. and Eddie O'Flynns.

He was a member of the Owosso Home Builders Association, and the Shiawassee County Chamber of Commerce.

Mike loved restoring old cars and hot rods, enjoyed riding his Harley, and was a fan of NASCAR.

Fuoss was a good American who died tragically. The people whose lives he touched through his contributions to the community will miss him dearly.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. This legislation makes urgently-needed investments in our education system by helping students and their families pay for college, modernizing schools and curricula, and training our future workforce for the 21st Century.

H.R. 3221 will provide reliable, affordable, high-quality federal student loans for all families. Beginning July 1, 2010, all new federal student loans will be originated through the Direct Loan Program, which is insulated from market swings and can guarantee students access to low-cost federal loans in any economy.

I am also pleased that $40 billion of the money saved from switching all loans to the Direct Loan Program will go to boosting Pell Grants. Over the next ten years, this measure will invest more than $154.6 million in Rhode Island to increase the maximum annual Pell Grant scholarships to $5,550 in 2010 and to $6,900 by 2019. In the 2010–2011 academic school year, this will help nearly 12,000 eligible students in my congressional district.

Far too many students face unnecessary barriers when it comes to pursuing a college degree. This measure will make it easier to apply for financial aid by simplifying the FAFSA form, which many families find confusing and overly burdensome, and allowing applicants to use the information on their tax returns. Meanwhile, under this bill, Rhode Island will receive $3.8 million over the next five years for the College Access Challenge Grant program, which will bolster college access and completion support programs, increase financial literacy education, and help retain and graduate students.

H.R. 3221 also strengthens our state's seven community colleges that teach more than 15,000 students each year. Community colleges excel at meeting the needs of students from all backgrounds and work with businesses to ensure students have the skills they need to fulfill local workforce needs. This