

H.R. 905, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve Boundary Modification Act.

Roll 741, September 29, 2009: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree: H. Res. 16, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Roll 742, September 29, 2009: On Motion to Instruct Conferees: H.R. 2997, Making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

FISCAL NEW YEAR

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, Happy New Year.

Today is October first, the start of the 2010 Fiscal Year. That means it is also Fiscal New Year.

My short time here in Washington has convinced me that many inside the Beltway are out of touch with the real day-to-day lives of those in the rest of the country.

So we should do what many Americans do, and use the New Year as an opportunity to reassess how we are doing, and to make resolutions to improve our behavior.

Today, I offer some Fiscal New Year Resolutions for Congress:

Number One: Balance the budget.

CBO estimates that the 2009 deficit will be 1.6 trillion dollars, and the cumulative deficit over the next ten years will equal 9.1 trillion dollars.

Number Two: Lower our debt.

Even if we stop deficit spending, we already carry 11 trillion in debt. We should be addressing this burden, not increasing it.

Number Three: Act responsibly.

We need to make sure Congress can and does read the bills they pass. We need time to study and evaluate them before a vote.

Number Four: Study economics.

Congress obviously needs some lessons in how markets work. We need to recognize that Government control in what should be the private sector destroys efficiencies. We need to reward success, not bail-out failure. And we need to understand that government competition destroys markets.

Madam Speaker, I hope Congress can so resolve.

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE
ON H.R. 2918, LEGISLATIVE
BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I strongly support many provisions in H.R. 2918, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 2009, including funding for the Census Bureau, the U.S. Capitol Police, the Government Account-

ability Office, GAO, and the Ryan White AIDS Program. I cannot, however, support the inclusion of approximately \$10.8 billion in war funding and as such, I oppose the bill.

As an ardent supporter of the U.S. Postal Service, USPS, I commend the inclusion of provisions in this bill that would reduce the amount USPS must contribute to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund to \$1.5 million from \$5.4 million, ensuring its survival through the end of this month. Congress has a responsibility to the communities it represents to ensure that the USPS and the irreplaceable services it provides as a universal mail delivery service are maintained.

This legislation appropriately increases the funding for the U.S. Census Bureau to \$7.1 billion to ensure that the agency can meet the demands of the upcoming census in 2010. The census is vital in fulfilling our Constitutional duties under Article 1, Section 2, which are intended to ensure that the people have equal representation in government at the state and federal level. I also fully support the provisions in this bill providing \$328 million for the dedicated men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police and \$572 million for the GAO.

I strongly oppose the inclusion of funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in this bill. The war in Iraq was based on false intelligence and an inaccurate, government sponsored, propaganda campaign. This body was given a mandate by the American people in 2006 to get out of Iraq. Congress has the ability, through the power of the purse, to end the occupation of Iraq and bring all troops and contractors home immediately. Failure to do so continues to put our brave and honorable troops in harm's way.

I also oppose dedicating more resources to Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan are suffering horribly from 8 years of war. During that time, the Afghan central government has become increasingly corrupt and has failed to meet the needs of the Afghan people.

Violence in Afghanistan continues to grow. The United Nations General Assembly Security Council reports "an average of 898 incidents in the first seven months of 2009, compared to 677 during the same time frame in 2008. Incidents involving improvised explosive devices have risen dramatically, to an average of more than eight per day, 60 per cent higher than the average during the first seven months of 2008. Complex attacks now average one per month compared to one per quarter in 2008." This past August was reported to be the "deadliest month since the beginning of 2009."

I am also dismayed by the inclusion of language that unilaterally bars all funding for Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, ACORN. I have serious concerns that such language constitutes a bill of attainder. The Constitution expressly prohibits Congress from legislatively punishing an individual or specific class of people, and I believe that this action is an effort to circumvent the protection that the Constitution affords to all people and organizations. This country has a robust judicial system that has been created precisely for this purpose; we ought to let it do its job. If a crime has been committed, we should prosecute the people who have committed that crime.

Congress and the American public simply will not tolerate an open-ended commitment of money and troops while millions of Americans

are losing their health care, their homes, their jobs, their pensions, their investments. I support the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill by itself. I cannot support it when it is used as a vehicle for perpetuating the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

HONORING COMMANDER SETH
FOSTER HUDGINS III, UNITED
STATES NAVY, FOR 22 YEARS OF
HONORABLE SERVICE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize CDR Seth Foster Hudgins III, United States Navy. Commander Hudgins is retiring from the Navy after 22 years of honorable service as a commissioned officer. Commander Hudgins is the eldest son of Seth and Joy Hudgins of Cornwall, NY and is a 1987 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. Shortly after graduation, Commander Hudgins entered U.S. Navy undergraduate flight training, and in 1989, he earned Naval Aviator wings as a jet pilot.

Since that time, Commander Hudgins has served his country in many different capacities, most notably serving as his squadron's Operations Officer and Acting Executive Officer in Operation Enduring Freedom. Throughout his sterling service to our Nation, Commander Hudgins has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Medals, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, among others. He has accumulated over 3000 flight hours and more than 500 carrier landings. Commander Hudgins has served our great country with honor and distinction. I wish him and his wife Jennifer all the best as he retires from the Navy and continues to serve our nation at the Joint Interagency Task Force South in Key West.

ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP WITH PAKISTAN ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1707, the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009, a bipartisan bill designed to forge a true strategic partnership with Pakistan and its people, strengthen its democratic government, and support Pakistan so it may become a force for stability in a volatile region.

This legislation triples the authorization for U.S. economic, social, and democratic development assistance to Pakistan to \$1.5 billion a year for fiscal years 2010 through 2014. The bill provides that this aid be provided with a particular focus on strengthening democratic institutions, promoting economic development, and improving Pakistan's public education system.

The bill also authorizes military assistance to Pakistan to help it disrupt and defeat al

Qaeda and relevant insurgent elements, and requires that such assistance be focused primarily on helping Pakistan with its critical counterinsurgency and counterterrorism efforts.

The security of Pakistan and the United States is closely linked. We cannot succeed in defeating al Qaeda by ourselves. Therefore, it is critically important that we develop a robust, long-term relationship with our strategic partners to prevail against those who threaten our national security.

S. 1707 is an essential tool in our efforts to dismantle terrorism and underscores the United States' long-term commitment to the people of Pakistan.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1707, the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009.

GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION EXPANSION ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, today, I introduced the bipartisan Geothermal Production Expansion Act with Representative MIKE SIMPSON, and I thank him for his leadership on this issue. Our bill will ensure that we tap into clean geothermal energy using on-the-shelf technologies.

Geothermal energy has great potential to add clean energy to American electricity supplies. It is especially promising as a renewable resource because it is a base load power which doesn't require any fossil fuel backup.

However, at this point in time, proven geothermal resources have at times gone undeveloped in instances involving adjoining federal lands because speculators increasingly drive up the cost of federal lands adjacent to a geothermal development site. This hurts developers who take on the upfront cost of exploration and developing a site because when an exploration proves fruitful, the developer is bid out of the market due to extremely high leasing costs for adjacent lands. In many cases, the end result is that the development is halted and no clean energy comes online.

Already under EPACK 2005 amendments, BLM is allowed to issue three different non-competitive leases for geothermal resources, which include: non-competitive geothermal leases to mining claim holders that have a valid operating plan (having invested capital), direct use leases and leases on parcels that do not sell at a competitive auction.

The Geothermal Production Expansion Act is a targeted approach to the aforementioned speculation problem, simply creating a fourth category whereby the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may issue a non-competitive geothermal lease, allowing qualified companies who hold legal rights to develop geothermal leases on certain adjoining lands.

An added benefit, the bill will significantly accelerate the development of geothermal projects by reducing the time spent on nominating and waiting for an auction, which can add a minimum of one-to-two years to the development phase of a geothermal resource.

This bill is a reasonable policy to ensure that developers who have invested substantial

capital and made high risk investments can secure and develop geothermal discoveries. Additionally, it will help add renewable, domestically produced energy resources to the American consumers' electricity supply. I believe that this is an important issue and I hope that the House will soon consider this legislation.

HONORING OUR NATION'S ICBM FORCE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the 20th Air Force as we prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the nation's nuclear Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) force. I have had the privilege of working with the Airmen who maintain this critical piece of our nuclear triad throughout my career in Congress and have seen first hand the commitment and dedication of all of those involved in ensuring that this crucial capability remains ready to respond on a moments notice.

The history of our ICBM force began in 1954 with the establishment of the Western Development Division. The Western Development Division was responsible for the development of the first generation of underground ICBM's, the Titans, and the above-ground Atlas.

This development led to the initial alert of a nuclear warhead equipped ICBM, an Atlas D, at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, in October of 1959. Soon after, work began on the Minuteman I missile, a second generation ICBM that would be on alert by the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. Within three years the Air Force had replaced all of its first generation ICBM's with Minuteman I and a newer more advanced version, the Minuteman II. The Minuteman II would remain in service for the next 30 years.

By the 1970's the Air Force had developed the Minuteman III with the first squadron of Minuteman III missiles at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota reaching operational status by the end of December 1970. With the threat of the Soviet Union developing and deploying an increasing number of multi-warhead ICBM's the Air Force began to develop a third generation ICBM that would become the Peacekeeper. The Peacekeeper would ultimately be deployed in 1987 at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming.

For the past 50 years, the ICBM fleet has provided an important nuclear deterrent, which at its peak included more than 1,200 missiles. Today the Air Force has 450 Minuteman III ICBM's on alert in North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska. As the Air Force activates Air Force Global Strike Command, a brand-new command committed solely to the nuclear deterrence mission, the 20th Air Force and the ICBM mission will transfer from Air Force Space Command to Air Force Global Strike Command.

Madam Speaker, the citizens of the United States have been lucky to have the Airmen of the 20th Air Force diligently working to operate and secure this vital component of our nation's security for the past 50 years. These Airmen

have maintained a constant state of vigilance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, performing vital operations, maintenance and security missions across the missile fields in areas that to the untrained eye look just like any other place in America. This is a mission that demands a constant level of alert to respond in an instant should it ever become necessary to employ our arsenal. This constant vigilance has served America so well in the past is poised to continue well into the future. I know my fellow Members of the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the Air Force's 50 years of commitment to the ICBM mission with the highest standards of performance.

ANTHONY P. DEANGELO

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Anthony P. DeAngelo, a valued member of my staff. Tomorrow, October 2, is Anthony's last day as the Staff Assistant/Press Assistant in my Washington, D.C. office. His dedication to serving the people of the Illinois Fifth District is very much appreciated, and he will be greatly missed.

Anthony joined my staff prior to my election to Congress in April of this year. He then made the trip to our nation's capital and was instrumental in establishing my Washington, DC office. He helped establish our new media programs, press operations and intern program. He always took the time to make constituents feel at home in our office and ensured that their trips to Washington were memorable and worthwhile.

Tomorrow he leaves to take a position as Deputy Communications Director in the Office of Congresswoman DEBBIE HALVORSON. I am pleased he will continue to serve the people of Illinois, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. VASCO SMITH

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a great Memphian and a great American, Dr. Vasco Smith. Dr. Smith was one of the true stalwarts of civil rights in the city of Memphis and in the nation. Dr. Smith lived a life of service and sacrifice.

Vasco Smith served our nation in the Air Force in the Korean War. A graduate of LeMoyne College in Memphis and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Dr. Smith was a dentist by profession. In 1955, he and his wife, Maxine, returned to their beloved Memphis, completely segregated at the time, and used their passion and commitment to become leaders in the Civil Rights movement.

In 1962, Dr. Smith convinced the owner of the segregated Malco Theatre in downtown Memphis to gradually integrate by selling tickets to African-Americans in the "whites only"