

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"

orchestra level of the theatre. In their pursuit to end racial discrimination, the Smiths endured numerous death threats, many arrests by the police, and the tragic murders of their friends Dr. Martin Luther King and Medgar Evers.

In 1973, Dr. Smith became the first African-American elected to an at-large position on the Shelby County Commission where he served until 1994. Dr. Smith was a compassionate and effective County Commissioner. He and I served together as Commissioners from 1978 to 1980. During this time on the Commission, we worked together to build the Regional Medical Center, our charity hospital and trauma center in Shelby County that serves people who would otherwise have no access to health care. He and fellow County Commissioner Jesse Turner, Sr., who also served as National Treasurer for the NAACP, were known as "the freedom fighters." They fought for civil rights in Memphis and stood up when others did not. They were always the voices of conscience, reasonableness, and morality in our community.

Vasco Smith was a loving husband to Maxine Smith. As Wendi Thomas of the Commercial Appeal noted, it is difficult to think of either Smith without the other because they were a team; indeed, together they were a force for change and progress. Maxine Smith served as the Executive Secretary of the Memphis branch of the NAACP for more than forty years and continues to serve on the NAACP National Board of Directors. For two decades, Maxine Smith served on the Memphis City School Board. She served on the Tennessee Board of Regents for over a decade. Married 56 years, Maxine and Vasco Smith were true soulmates. Together, they had one son, Dr. Vasco "Smitty" Smith, III, a dentist like his father, who made his parents very proud.

Dr. Vasco Smith was a special man to me because he showed moral rectitude of a type that's rarely seen. He knew justice beyond color and will be remembered in Memphis as a great civil rights leader, a husband, a father, a professional, and a great Memphian.

He will be buried Friday. I will be there with him. His was a life well lived.

HONORING THE SECOND HONOR FLIGHT OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

HON. HARRY TEAGUE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of the World War II veterans from my district who are traveling to Washington, D.C. today on the Second Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico.

The Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico was established by business and community leaders in my district who are devoted to honoring our veterans. The aim of the program is to provide as many World War II veterans as possible with the opportunity to see the World War II Memorial here in Washington, D.C. at no cost to them. Last October, Southern New Mexico had its First Honor Flight, which was a great success. Southern New Mexico's Second Honor Flight departed from El Paso International Airport this morning carrying World

War II veterans from my district who have never had an opportunity to see the World War II Memorial that was built in their honor. These veterans, who risked their lives to defend the freedoms we enjoy today, will land at Reagan National Airport where they will be greeted with a grand salute. From there, they will have an opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial for the very first time. At the memorial, there will be a wreath laying ceremony in honor of veterans who have passed away, a memory session for the veterans to share their World War II stories, and a group photo so that they can remember this day for the rest of their lives. They will return home this evening.

These veterans fought nobly for our freedoms and we cannot even begin to repay them for their sacrifices. The least we can do is try to show them the depth of our gratitude by providing them with this once in a lifetime opportunity to visit their memorial. I am proud that every dollar that is paying for this honor flight came from private citizens who recognize the immense sacrifice these veterans made to ensure their liberty. This flight would not be possible without the dedication of Judge Robert Brack and Judge Leslie Smith of Las Cruces, who initially spearheaded the idea of bringing the Honor Flight program to Southern New Mexico. In addition, the Honor Flight Board of Directors comprised of Chairman Bill Mattiace, Vice-Chairman Darrell Wall, Treasurer Gary Lenzo, and Secretary Patsy A. Duran contributed much time and energy to advocating for this cause, and to recruiting board members. Board Members Steven Alexander, Walt Baker, Pat Carr, Jag Cheema, Denton Holmes, Dolores Connor, J.R. Turner, Susie Cordero, Carrie Contreras, Debbie Hanssen, and Dolores Archuleta have also made invaluable contributions through their tireless efforts to expand the Honor Flight program and seek out donors. The generosity these private citizens have shown is an example of the bigheartedness that is a true part of the American spirit, and I am touched by their willingness to provide such a rare and meaningful opportunity to their friends, neighbors, and even perfect strangers.

From the Western Front to the Eastern Front, from the Pacific and Asian Theatre to the African Theatre, Americans from our "greatest generation" risked life and limb to halt the rise of fascism. We owe them more thanks than we can ever express. I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, I was not present in Washington, DC to cast the following votes, because I was attending a ceremony to commemorate the first operating day of Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst in New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District. Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst is the first tri-service base in the country, and today was significant for my district and the United States military. If I were present, I would have voted the following way.

1) Republican Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2892—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010—I would have voted yes.

2) H. Res. 517—Congratulating the University of Washington women's softball team for winning the 2009 Women's College World Series—I would have voted yes.

3) H. Res. 487—Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the State News at Michigan State University—I would have voted yes.

4) H. Res. 788—Rule providing for consideration of the Conference Report on H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010—I would have voted yes.

5) H. Res. 692—Supporting the goals and ideals of Tay-Sachs Awareness Month—I would have voted yes.

6) H. Con. Res. 151—Expressing the sense of Congress that China release democratic activist Liu Xiaobo from imprisonment—I would have voted yes.

7) Final Passage of the Conference Report on H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010—I would have voted yes.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding project funding I received as part of H.R. 3293, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Rep. WALTER B. JONES

Project: Metabolic Institute

Recipient: East Carolina University

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services

Amount: \$222,000

Explanation: The funding will allow the Metabolic Institute at East Carolina University to develop a clinical research center and laboratory to advance the Metabolic Institute's study of new technology and medical treatments for obesity and diabetes. Diabetes is an epidemic: diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S., afflicts more than 7 percent of the population, and cost our economy about \$174 billion in 2007 alone, according to the American Diabetes Association. The Metabolic Institute will continue to build on East Carolina University's pioneer metabolic advancements, including the Greenville Gastric Bypass, to explore the question of why diabetes disappears in four out of five patients with the disease after they undergo gastric bypass surgery.

HONORING WOODY WATSON

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, my grandmother taught for 40 years and my sister Beverly, taught for over 30 years in the public