

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONSERVATION AND DESIGN PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, for the past 20 years, the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Reauthorization Act has been one of the most successful government-sponsored, youth-focused conservation education programs. This dynamic program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into visual arts curriculum in both public and private schools. As a national program, children in all states have the opportunity to learn about bird conservation while simultaneously developing a strong appreciation for art.

I can attest to the success of this program and would like to congratulate the 2009 Wisconsin Federal Junior Duck Stamp competitors and, in particular, the 22 students from Wisconsin's Third District who placed in the contest. I am proud to say that of the over 600 entries from the 53 schools participating in the State of Wisconsin, the "Best of Show" went to Yvette Bauer of Ithaca Public School in Richland Center, located in my District.

The youth of today will become the leaders of tomorrow. We must therefore encourage our youth to become stewards of America's irreplaceable wild places and treasured outdoor heritage.

I strongly support the reauthorization of the successful Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program and look forward to seeing this bill passed in the House today.

AIRLINE SAFETY AND PILOT TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern with certain provisions of H.R. 3371, the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009.

While I strongly support the goal of the bill to increase airline safety and improve pilot training, I am concerned about changing current rules to require an airline pilot to hold an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) certificate, which necessitates a minimum of 1,500 flight hours. During a hearing in September Tim Brady, dean of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's College of Aviation, testified that these added requirements could increase the cost of pilot training fivefold from \$40,000 to \$200,000. I am concerned that these in-

creased costs could encourage pilots to seek less costly training alternatives and potentially be counter to the bills intended goal, of increasing safety.

By dramatically increasing the costs of training we will drive our most qualified potential pilots out of accredited flight schools such as the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences at the University of North Dakota that have produced exceptional pilots for decades. Graduates of these programs receive high quality flight instruction that is much more valuable than a pilot who might just be racking up straight and level flight time that has no increased educational or safety benefits. The focus on total flight hours rather than the quality of those hours will not provide the increased safety and pilot quality that is the goal of this legislation. It could in practice have the opposite effect, by driving students to undertake low value flying at the expense of high quality directed flight training. I believe that as this legislation moves forward some consideration must be given to Collegiate Aviation Programs that have been accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI). This will help to increase the focus of these requirements on quality of training rather than quantity of flight hours.

While I will be voting in favor of this legislation in order to move forward the important process of increasing the safety of commercial aviation, I do so with reservations. Before this legislation becomes law I believe that it is vital that the bill be modified to recognize the tremendous benefits that our nation's accredited flight schools provide.

RECOGNIZING HOLLAND MAYOR ALBERT "AL" MCGEEHAN FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE HOLLAND CITY COUNCIL

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to honor Holland Mayor Albert "Al" McGeehan for his years of selfless service on the Holland City Council.

Mayor McGeehan was born on Staten Island in New York Harbor in October 1944. He first moved to Holland to attend Hope College. He graduated from Hope College in June of 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Michigan Secondary Teaching Certificate.

With his educational preparation and certification, Mayor McGeehan began a teaching career in the Holland Public Schools that spanned five decades.

In the summer of 2004, President George W. Bush, while addressing a crowd of 15,000 Holland residents, shortened Mayor McGeehan to simply, Mayor "Al." The title better suited the Mayor and stuck like glue.

Mayor "Al" was first elected to city council in 1977 where he served four "four-year" terms as a Councilman-at-Large. He is now in his eighth term as mayor of the city.

As a teacher, Al McGeehan served as Chair of the Social Studies Department for Holland Public Schools. Upon his retirement, he worked as a morning radio talk show host for WJQ 1260 AM.

For three years, Al represented the Michigan Municipal League as the League's West Michigan Regional Coordinator. He has served on several committees of the Michigan Municipal League and the National League of Cities. From 2006 to 2008, Mayor "Al" served consecutive terms as President of the Michigan Association of Mayors.

The Mayor's passion for studying and collecting artifacts from the time of the American Civil War is well-known throughout Michigan and beyond. He has taught and lectured on the subject. He has authored a book and several magazine articles relating to the Civil War and he has been known to often occupy the very best parking spaces at local antique shops.

Mayor Al has been married to his wife Marsha for 45 years.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of St. John Lutheran Church in Dieterich, IL.

On January 1, 1860, 14 men signed the constitution of St. John, a document that has continued to govern the church to this day. St. John is one of the oldest churches in the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

I would like to congratulate the members of St. John Lutheran Church for reaching this milestone and wish them a blessed and joyous celebration as they mark 150 years of service to God and their community.

RECOGNIZING JOHN KEETON

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Keeton of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Mr. Keeton has been an outstanding Democratic activist for more than twenty years throughout Worcester County. An attorney in the Worcester area, Mr. Keeton's devotion to the pursuit of justice has portrayed his passions of human rights, social justice, and equality for all. In acknowledgement of his dedication, passionate beliefs, and hard work, Mr. Keeton has been selected to receive the 2009 Eleanor Roosevelt

• 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.

Humanitarian Award from the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee.

Raised in a family devoted to the ideals President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt espoused, John Keeton grew up with and advocated for such beliefs throughout his career as an attorney and political activist. Mr. Keeton, along with his wife Patricia, has been involved in campaigns for prominent figures such as Governor Deval Patrick and Hillary Clinton. I will be forever grateful for his friendship over the years.

Throughout his distinguished career, John Keeton has been involved in both the Westborough and Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committees. Having distinguished himself as the Chair of the Shrewsbury Town Committee, Mr. Keeton not only presided over a period of great success for the committee, but became widely recognized as a loyal and committed Democrat in Worcester County.

John Keeton's dedication to the principles of justice and Democratic ideals has worked to positively enhance Worcester County. His tireless efforts and activism is admired by many, including those who Mr. Keeton has campaigned for. In tribute to his outstanding efforts for the Democratic Committees throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I congratulate Mr. Keeton on receiving this award. I know my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to him today.

HONORING THE SOUTH TEXAS COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse was founded in 1990 by a group of concerned citizens who wished to address issues related to substance abuse; and

Whereas, October 15th is National Latino AIDS Awareness Day; and

Whereas, Latinos represent 15% of the U.S. population, but make up 18% of new HIV infections; and

Whereas, Latino women are infected with HIV at a rate of up to four times greater than other women; and

Whereas, citizens from Hebbronville, Zapata, Roma, Rio Grande established the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse 19 years ago as a nonprofit agency; and

Whereas, the agency was created out of a grant from the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to develop a Statewide Initiative Council for the four county regions consisting of Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, and Zapata; and

Whereas, the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse was established to provide screening, assessment, referrals related to substance abuse, and education services to the region for substance abuse; and

Whereas, the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has expanded its services to include HIV prevention, treatment, and Voces Fronterizas—an HIV prevention and intervention program from the CDC; and

Whereas, the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has expanded their role to encompass not only that of being a Clinical Training Institute but also providing intervention outreach studies to impoverished border communities like the colonias; and

Whereas, the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has served over 12,000 clients through HIV programs in the past 6 years; and

Whereas, the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has invested over \$1,000,000 annually on HIV programs; and

Be it hereby resolved, that Congressman HENRY CUELLAR, in representing the 28th Congressional District of the State of Texas, honors the contributions of the South Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse for their exceptional service to South Texas communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, October 14th, I was unavoidably detained due to official business at the White House and was not present for a number of roll call votes.

Had I been present I would have voted:

"Yea" on Rollcall 776, H.R. 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009.

"Yea" on Rollcall 777, H. Res. 816, mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa and Samoa.

"Yea" on Rollcall 778, H. Res. 786, commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC. to sainthood.

"Yea" on Rollcall 779, H.R. 3371, the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009.

RECOGNIZING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MAHATMA GANDHI

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I join my colleagues in celebrating the amazing life and accomplishments of Mahatma Gandhi. Through his fearless leadership in promoting civil rights and justice for the people of India, he demonstrated the power of non-violent civil disobedience to effect change. He has contributed immeasurably to the legacy of peace.

While I wholeheartedly support this resolution, the best way for this body to recognize Gandhi's accomplishments is to stop funding the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Stability in Iraq and Afghanistan cannot be achieved as long as war and occupation are the tools with which we purport to build peace. When the U.S. kills innocent civilians and destroys families, homes and communities, the results often incite fear and rage. After more

than 8 years of war in Afghanistan and more than 6 years of war in Iraq it is clear that lasting peace and stability cannot emerge from such beginnings.

Rather, stability is best fomented through the seeds of peace such as upholding human rights, promoting social and economic justice, and ensuring education, employment and access to basic goods and services. Regrettably, the billions of dollars of funding that this body has dedicated to the wars have devastated Iraq and Afghanistan. If this body wants to see peace and stability in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. must stop engaging in policies of aggression.

I strongly support this bill, the powerful accomplishments of the great Mahatma Gandhi, and urge my colleagues to honor his vision.

FORT MASSAC

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the unveiling of a commemorative mural at Fort Massac in Massac County, Illinois.

Fort Massac was built on the bank of the Ohio River in 1757 by the French during the French and Indian War. In 1794, during the Northwest Indian War, President George Washington ordered the fort be rebuilt. For the next 20 years Fort Massac protected U.S. military and commercial interests in the Ohio Valley.

In the fall of 1803, the Lewis and Clark Expedition stopped and recruited two volunteers at Fort Massac as they journeyed west. The Fort Massac site was designated a State Park in 1908, becoming the first Illinois State Park.

Every October, the Fort Massac Encampment draws 80,000 visitors to re-create the lifestyles and atmosphere of the late 1700s. As a part of this year's celebration on October 17th and 18th, the Fort Massac Museum is unveiling a mural depicting a restored cabin from the early 1800s. More than 100,000 visitors are expected to attend the celebration to take part in the mural unveiling.

I want to congratulate the volunteers, supporters, and everyone else who helped make this mural and museum such a great success. I wish them my best as they open this new exhibit to offer a glimpse into the fascinating history of the United States and Illinois.

IMMIGRATION LAWS WORK

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the New York Times once again misses the mark with its latest immigration editorial, "Wrong Paths to Immigration Reform."

The Times wrongly suggests that the 287(g) program should be used only for serious criminals.

As one of the authors of the legislation that created 287(g), I can testify that Congress created 287(g) to let state and local law enforcement officials help enforce all immigration laws, not a select few.