

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3619) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the manager's amendment and the underlying legislation.

I thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his hard work on this bill.

As someone who represents over 200 miles of coastline, I am keenly aware of the importance of the Coast Guard and this legislation.

H.R. 3619 provides the Coast Guard, including the 3 stations located in my congressional district, with the resources it needs to meet an ever-increasing workload—from search and rescue and terrorism protection to fisheries law enforcement and oil spill cleanup.

I also want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR for including the amendment I submitted to the Rules Committee within his manager's amendment.

My amendment would require the Coast Guard to report to Congress on the most frequent sources of human error that have led to oil spills from vessels, as well as on the most significant types of "near miss" incidents.

The amendment would also require the Coast Guard to use these findings to take appropriate action domestically and at the International Maritime Organization to reduce the risk of oil spills due to human error.

The consideration of this amendment, Madam Chair, could not be more timely.

Earlier this week we learned that more than 18,000 gallons of fuel oil spilled when two ships collided in the Gulf of Mexico.

By yesterday morning oil covered an area two miles long and a mile and a half wide.

This troubling incident reminds us that our fragile marine resources are still susceptible to disaster.

While efforts by the Coast Guard, states, and industry have reduced spills over the last two decades, accidents still occur and most are the result of human error.

Unfortunately, we currently lack the data and analysis we need to determine the causes of human errors and the ways to prevent them.

My amendment would begin filling in that gap so we can learn from the mistakes that have been made in the past and take action to avoid similar incidents in the future.

Madam Chair, with billions of gallons of oil passing through our nation's coastal waters every year, we must strengthen our oil spill safety programs.

And we must do everything we can to prevent future accidents like this week's collision in the Gulf of Mexico and the resulting spill.

I urge my colleagues to support the manager's amendment which takes appropriate action to reduce the risk of oil spilled because of human error.

HONORING THE SORGE FAMILY OF
SORGE'S RESTAURANT IN COR-
NING, NY**HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a landmark in New York's 29th Congressional District and its proprietors, the Sorge Family of Sorge's Restaurant. Renato and his brother Remo Sorge came to the United States from Italy in 1936 and through hard work and determination realized the American Dream.

On June 5, 1951, Renato and Loretta Sorge opened Sorge's Restaurant at 68 W. Market St. in Corning, NY and it quickly became an area favorite. From its humble beginnings with a counter and 11 booths, the restaurant eventually grew, and expanded to the adjacent building and a seating capacity of 225 persons. Offering quality food and a welcoming atmosphere, it is easy to see how the restaurant became a Corning institution.

A true family business, Renato's sons, Joseph and Michael, followed in their parents' footsteps working in the restaurant part-time while growing up. They both eventually pursued restaurant management degrees at Cornell and SUNY Cobleskill, respectfully. Upon graduation, Joseph and Michael returned to Corning to carry on the Sorge Family tradition of providing the finest Italian/American food, and quality service at reasonable prices.

An unfortunate fire in December 2008 burned the original Sorge Restaurant; yet, this setback has not dampened the Sorge's spirits. Instead it serves as a testament to the Sorge Family commitment to the District as they have chosen to stay and rebuild this community institution. The site is now recognized as an historic landmark.

As friends and family gather in Corning today to celebrate a new beginning at 68 W. Market St., it is my honor to recognize the Sorge Family and Sorge's Restaurant on behalf of the United States Congress.

HONORING THE FISHER HOUSE &
THE REPUBLICAN CLUB OF WEST
PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republican Club of West Pasco County for their support of the Fisher House at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

Military families are the first line of support for our servicemen and women: They sit up at night waiting for their phone call and they send them comforts from home to sustain them while they fight for our freedom a half a world away.

Some families are called on to support and encourage their loved ones long after they've returned from the battles of war. For them, the Fisher House often becomes their "home away from home".

Since it opened its doors in 2007, the Fisher House in Tampa has hosted more than 1,200

people. The 16,000-square-foot house can accommodate up to 21 families at a time, and averages 35 guests per night. The average length of stay is two months, but two families have been there since the house opened.

Nationwide, the Fisher House program has made available nearly three million days of lodging since the program originated in 1990. They are operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs and rely on donations to the Fisher House Foundation so that no family has to pay to stay at any Fisher House.

The Republican Club of West Pasco County continually supports the Fisher House Foundation and our military men and women. This weekend, they will host the 2nd biennial event, "A Night For Heroes" in support of the Fisher House Foundation.

Madam Speaker, just as our military men and women believe it is their duty to serve our nation; it is our duty to support them. The Republican Club of West Pasco County has truly answered the call. On behalf of this Congress, I thank them for their unyielding commitment to this most important cause.

HONORING DR. HO LUONG TRAN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ho Luong Tran, President and CEO of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) on the occasion of her retirement from the Forum to pursue new advocacy opportunities.

Dr. Tran has spent 7 years working with sincere, focused dedication to build APIAHF into a leading policy. Dr. Tran has been leading innovative legislative, policy, and community initiatives with an outstanding ability to establish coalitions among the public, private and community sectors for more than 20 years.

Under Dr. Tran's leadership, APIAHF has partnered with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation on a groundbreaking initiative, Health Through Action, to provide local communities with funding, training, and technical assistance to address health issues and strengthen a national network of advocates to create a broader health movement. During her tenure as the President and CEO of APIAHF, Dr. Tran has helped create the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Alliance and the National Council of API Physicians.

Furthermore, she led the development of a national policy blueprint for Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islander health and enhanced the organization's national presence and reach in Washington D.C.

She has worked in health care since earning her degree at the University of Saigon in 1972. Her family fled Vietnam as refugees in 1978, an experience which has shaped and deepened her commitment to the health of her community. I have worked with Dr. Tran and the APIAHF since I was elected to Congress. Her leadership and the excellent work of the Health Forum have enabled the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and Congressional Black Caucus to help significantly positively impact health policy and the conversation around health disparities.

Her leadership has been critical in the fight for greater understanding of the challenges facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. I know the APIAHF will carry on her legacy of excellence and thank her for her unfailing commitment to improving the health of all Americans.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3619) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2009, which directs the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to conduct a study and submit a report to Congress examining the Coast Guard's ability to respond to the effects of possible changes to U.S. immigration policies toward Haiti.

While it is certainly responsible to examine a worst-case scenario, my amendment also asks that the study look at what has happened in past experiences as we discuss the anticipated repercussions of changes in our immigration policy.

Changes in policies affecting Haiti are nothing new. In fact, it was just over 10 years ago that we here in Congress passed the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act, which affected far more Haitian nationals than any of the currently proposed policies would affect.

I firmly believe that what happened then and our current relations with the Haitian government will result in little change, if not a decrease, in Haitian interdictions.

However, my assurances are not enough.

Those who are critical or skeptical of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians often claim that any change could result in a massive surge, or might completely overwhelm the Coast Guard.

This is in spite of the fact that when we last adjusted the status of thousands of Haitian immigrants, we actually saw a decrease in interdictions, and despite the assurances from the Haitian government that they will do their part to ensure their citizens are aware that no new immigrants would qualify.

However, as of now, we have little more than speculation to ascertain what the results would be.

My amendment will help provide us with an objective perspective on the Coast Guard's expectations and their ability to continue to effectively guard our maritime borders.

TPS, or some other comparable relief, for our Haitian neighbors is long overdue and this administration has been stalling for far too long.

This study will hopefully help us show that our government has rationally and realistically examined all possible scenarios and we are well equipped to contend with any possible effects.

Mr. Chair, my amendment furthers this bill's commitment to ensuring the safety of those

traveling on the high seas and protecting our national security, and I respectfully urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, yesterday I missed the final three rollcall votes of the day. Unfortunately I missed these votes because I had to return to my district.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 809, On Ordering the Previous Question—H. Res. 853—Providing for consideration of H.R. 3619, Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 810, On Agreeing to the Resolution—H. Res. 853—Providing for consideration of H.R. 3619, Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 811, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 836—Expressing support for Teen Read Week.

HONORING SANDOR KIRSCHKE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sandor Kirsche. Mr. Kirsche was born in Czechoslovakia in 1926 and arrived in Chicago after surviving Nazi persecution in concentration camps at both Auschwitz and Bundenwald. Sandor overcame his personal struggles, including the deaths of his brother and father, and dedicated his life to making the lives of Jewish Americans easier. To that end, he opened the first full-service kosher supermarket in the Chicago area and gave back to the community with a life's worth of charity and philanthropy.

In 1971, Sandor opened a kosher butcher shop, which initially lost money. But through his hard work, long hours, and perseverance, he expanded the store to include kosher fish and packaged goods. The existence of a kosher supermarket was invaluable to the Jewish community, who now had a place where people could purchase kosher goods. Today, the store is known as Hungarian Kosher Foods and is still family owned.

Anyone who met Sandor knew he was much more than a businessman, and understandably, everybody knew him. At his stores, he never just sold meats and canned goods. He was always ready with a smile and a story, and a piece of candy for his younger patrons. He kept up on issues in the community, history, politics, and spoke seven different languages. He fought tirelessly to bring his sisters to the United States, and after twenty years of never giving up, he was successful in bringing them here from Soviet Russia in 1972.

I am honored to recognize and remember Sandor Kirsche today. He exemplified family

and community values even after overcoming great hardship. His uniquely American story is an example to not only the Chicago and Jewish communities, but to everyone who has ever faced long odds.

**HONORING JACK E. ATCHISON,
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American Hero and Purple Heart recipient, Jack E. Atchison of Spring Hill, Florida. Wounded during an enemy attack in Vietnam, Sgt. Atchison's service to our nation will forever be remembered by this Congress.

Born in Oskaloosa, Iowa on March 11, 1934, Jack attended Park College in Missouri where he studied Hospital Administration. Following his schooling, he courageously served 21 years in our nation's military.

In December of 1965, Sgt. Atchison bravely participated in an attack to repel enemy forces from a strategic location. During the battle, a bomb exploded in close proximity to Mr. Atchison, causing shrapnel wounds to his legs. In a genuine act of valor, despite his injuries, Mr. Atchison remained with his fellow wounded soldiers, and prepared them for transport via helicopter back to Flagon Embassy Hospital. Fortunately none of the 17 wounded American soldiers perished from this attack. The professional skill and personal devotion displayed by Sgt. Atchison reflect his immense commitment and sacrifice.

In addition to his Purple Heart, Sgt. Atchison was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal Bronze Clasp with 5 Loops, the National Defense Service Medal with OLC, the Korean Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 1960, the Honor Medal 2nd Class (Vietnam), the Parachutist Badge, and the Combat Medical Badge.

Following his service in the military Jack went on to a successful career as the President of the South Georgia Real Estate Association. Jack has been married to his wife, Virginia, for 56 years and they have 5 children, Jackie, Katie, Cindy, Jack Jr., and Donna.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Jack E. Atchison. He is a beloved American hero. On behalf of a grateful nation, this Congress, his family and friends, I thank him for his service and sacrifice to our country.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

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