

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

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. HIMES. Madam Chair, I rise today in favor of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act which has been included in the base bill of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2009.

It is expected that more than 12 million Americans will take a cruise vacation in 2009 alone. Passengers on cruises have an inadequate understanding of their potential vulnerability to crime, and those who may be victimized lack the information they need to understand their legal rights or to know who to contact for help in the immediate aftermath of a crime.

Cruise ships, which operate under foreign flags of convenience, are not required under U.S. law to report crimes that occur outside of U.S. territorial waters.

Travelers on water deserve the same protections as travelers on land, and taking a few extra measures to protect passengers will lead to more enjoyable, safer trips and better results for victims of crimes.

To enhance the safety of cruise passengers, the owners of cruise vessels need to upgrade, modernize, and retrofit the safety and security infrastructure on their vessels. They need to install peep holes in passenger doors, raise standard ship railings, install security video cameras and limit access to passenger rooms.

In addition, passenger vessel crew members must be trained on the appropriate methods for prevention, detection, evidence preservation, and reporting of criminal activities. In the event that a crime should occur, it is of utmost importance that the crime scene or any potential evidence is not tampered with before the FBI can begin its investigation.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to mention my predecessor, the Honorable CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, and the fight he began to improve safety on cruise ships and protect cruise ship passengers years ago. Congressman SHAYS took on this charge after one of our constituents, George Smith, was the victim of a crime in international waters while on his honeymoon in 2005. The investigation surrounding Mr. Smith's disappearance remains open to this day. Had the safety improvements and post-incident regulations mandated by the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act been in place in 2005, this horrible tragedy might have been prevented. I proudly stand alongside the Smith family and the Cruise Victims Association as they continue their fight for justice every day. Together, we work to honor Mr. Smith's death so no family will ever have to suffer again from this type of tragic crime.

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE
SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS
OF WOMEN OF THE ARMED
SERVICES AND FEMALE VET-
ERANS**

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution honoring the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans.

Every time I visit military installations, both at home and abroad, I am constantly im-

pressed by the tremendous job our service members are doing.

And I am always particularly struck by the essential and natural role our brave service-women play in so many parts of our Armed Services.

There are close to 350,000 American women currently serving in our Armed Forces.

And it's hard to believe they were only granted permanent status in the regular and Reserve Armed Forces in 1948—because women were certainly making their mark well before then.

Women have voluntarily served in every military conflict in our country's history since the Revolutionary War.

They have been on the frontlines as nurses, waterbearers, and even saboteurs.

For years, dedicated women had to disguise themselves as men in order to enlist in our military.

Today, that's not the case—our service-women play an increasingly important role in America's military forces, and our country is the better for it.

Women are flying helicopters and fighter aircrafts; they are saving lives as nurses and doctors; they are driving support vehicles and policing perimeters.

They do not seek special recognition, but I believe it is important to understand and recognize the additional burdens that are inherent in the many roles they play outside of work—as wives, mothers, and caretakers.

The resolution recognizes the sacrifices our servicewomen and their families make to keep our country safe.

As Chair of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel and Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus Task Force on Women in the Military and Veterans, I am privileged to honor the legacy of servicewomen in the past, the courage with which women serve today, and the enthusiasm of the young women who dream of serving this great nation in the future.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to introduce this resolution today.

**TOM CONNELLY MARKS THIRTY
YEARS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER
OF NAHRO**

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on October 9th of this year, one of the leaders in increasing the supply of affordable housing in the State of Massachusetts, Tom Connelly, marked his 30th anniversary as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials (MassNAHRO). I have benefitted enormously in my work on housing in the Committee on Financial Services from Mr. Connelly's good judgment, his broad and deep knowledge of all aspects of housing matters, and his passion for helping this become a fairer society.

NAHRO nationally has been a great partner for those of us trying to improve the housing

situation for many in this country. One of the strong aspects of NAHRO's work is their continued recognition that for many low-income people, the answer for their housing needs is not homeownership but decent rental housing, and a failure to understand this is one of the contributing factors to the housing crisis that led to our current recession. NAHRO, MassNAHRO and Tom Connelly in particular have been supportive of appropriate efforts to promote homeownership, but they have also understood the importance for a very large number of low-income people of affordable rental housing, so they are not pushed into inappropriate home mortgages.

Madam Speaker, in his thirty years as Executive Director, Tom Connelly has set a high standard for organizational leadership and for housing policy. And I should add that among the contributions he has made to the field of housing is his daughter, Meredith, who works on housing matters for the Committee on Financial Services and carries on her father's tradition of doing excellent work for the housing needs of low-income people.

Madam Speaker, I submit this statement for the RECORD because I hope that people will look at the work that Tom Connelly has done and that it will serve as a model for those interested in helping with housing issues.

**CONGRATULATING IVAN "IKE"
ACKERMAN**

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ivan "Ike" Ackerman on his retirement as Mayor of the city of Waverly. At the end of the year, Ike Ackerman will be retiring after serving 12 years as Mayor.

Over the past 12 years, Mayor Ackerman has been a proven leader in moving the city of Waverly forward and bringing the community together. With Mayor Ackerman's command, the city of Waverly has seen successes from economic development to upgrading the city's wellness opportunities.

Waverly is one of northeast Iowa's fastest growing communities with a highly diversified economic base. Mayor Ackerman has focused on bringing new life to old Waverly through downtown revitalization, economic development and new recreational facilities.

During Mayor Ackerman's tenure the city of Waverly experienced the worst flooding the city had seen in decades. In June of 2008, the Cedar River reached a record high and 25 percent of the community was impacted by the dangerous waters. The city suffered millions of dollars in damages. With Mayor Ackerman's leadership the city is rebuilding, putting in place future mitigation plans, and revitalizing the community one day at a time.

With Mayor Ackerman's retirement we are losing years of institutional knowledge and a champion for the needs of Waverly residents. I am proud to represent Mayor Ackerman and the city of Waverly in Congress. I wish him the best in all his endeavors.