

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUGET
SOUND RECOVERY ACT OF 2009

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Puget Sound Recovery Act of 2009.

One of the iconic physical features of my home state is Puget Sound. It is a keystone of our identity in Washington State. In a region known for its beauty, Puget Sound is beyond comparison.

But the postcard image of Puget Sound belies the fact that it is in decline. Over the last 20 years we have seen increasing signs that water quality is deteriorating. We are experiencing low-oxygen zones in a growing number of areas within Puget Sound. Many of our most cherished aquatic species are in trouble with salmon and Orcas listed under the Endangered Species Act. At this point, nearly three-quarters of our original estuaries and wetlands are gone. And as a toxic remnant of its more industrialized past, the bottom of the Sound has many thousands of acres of extreme contamination.

Even with this decline, the Sound remains a natural wonder, and my legislation will provide an increased Federal role to reverse the deterioration. Its 2,800 square miles of inland marine waters makes Puget Sound the Nation's second largest estuary after Chesapeake Bay. There is a strong marine and natural resource industry. The bounty of the Sound includes several hundred fish species, plentiful shellfish and shrimp, 25 different marine mammals and 100 different species of sea birds.

Several years ago, the State of Washington led by Governor Gregoire recognized the dire condition of Puget Sound. In response, the Puget Sound Partnership was set up to lead the state effort to restore the Sound. The Partnership developed the Puget Sound Action Agenda which was recently approved by the EPA as the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. This Action Agenda will serve as the blueprint that local and state government, Tribes, and federal agencies will follow in this cooperative effort to restore Puget Sound. In tandem with these efforts occurring in Washington State, the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee which I chair has approved increasing amounts of funding for Puget Sound in the annual EPA budget. For FY 2010, I am proud that the EPA budget contains \$50 million for Puget Sound. President Obama signed this spending bill into law on October 30th.

The Puget Sound Recovery Act of 2009 sets up an EPA office in Washington State to coordinate the federal effort to implement the Action Agenda. The other Federal agencies that are involved in the cleanup include the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Park Service, the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service within the Department of Agriculture, the United States Geological Survey, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security and Transportation. In addition, this bill authorizes grants to study the causes of the Sound's declining water quality and ways to counter these threats, as well as grants for sewer and stormwater discharge projects.

I am pleased that the 6 Washington State Delegation Members whose districts surround the Puget Sound are original cosponsors of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, the Puget Sound Recovery Act of 2009 is an important step to authorize the federal role in the cleanup of this important water body.

CHERYL ANDERSON PEGUES ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community and my good friend, Cheryl Pegues, as she celebrates her retirement. A dedicated professional, volunteer, mentor and friend, Cheryl has earned the respect and admiration of those throughout our community.

Cheryl has been a member of the Administration at Gateway Community College in New Haven, Connecticut for more than two decades. She spent 18 years as the Director of Financial Aid, a year and a half as Acting Dean of Students, and, today, is retiring from the position of Director of Student Development and Services. Prior to her move to Gateway, she served as Assistant Director of the Connecticut Talent Assistance Cooperative-Education Opportunity Center—a federal TRIO program where she also served as an education counselor. As you know, TRIO programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Throughout her professional career, Cheryl sought to assist young people in their endeavors to further their education. Many of those she worked with would not have otherwise benefitted from a college education. Education is the cornerstone of success and today, more than ever before, our young people are facing weighty challenges as they try to pursue a college degree—and those challenges are even larger for disadvantaged children. Cheryl's work has opened the doors of opportunity for countless young people and made all the difference in their lives.

Cheryl's interest in enriching the lives of young people extends far beyond her professional life. Over the years she has been an active member of the Board of Directors of the Latino Youth Development, the Education Support Services program, the Children in Crisis Coordinating Committee, and the Urban Improvement Corps. Cheryl served on the original Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Conference Committee and has organized financial aid workshops and college orientation seminars upon request from local high schools, churches, as well as civic and service organizations.

In addition to all of this, Cheryl still finds the time to serve as a Deacon and active parishioner at Immanuel Missionary Baptist Church. She also served as a member of numerous professional organizations including the Theta Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha

Sorority, the National Council of Negro Women, the Greater New Haven Chapter of the NAACP, and the New Haven Chapter of the Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Her invaluable contributions have left an indelible mark on our community and I have no doubt that Cheryl will continue in her work to enrich the lives of young people and make our community a better place to live, learn and grow.

Today, as she celebrates her retirement from her professional life, I am proud to join her husband, Elbert, her children, Elbert and Elicia, and her granddaughter, Kaila, as well as the many family, friends, and colleagues in extending my sincere congratulations to Cheryl Pegues. Her extraordinary professional career and infinite generosity touched the hearts and minds of many. I wish her all the best for many more years of health and happiness.

HEALTH CARE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, 4-1/2 decades ago on this very floor, Congress debated legislation closely related to the bill we will consider later this week.

It is said that history is destined to repeat itself, especially when we repeat ourselves. So listen to these statements from the predecessors of my friends in the minority when they debated the bill creating Medicare.

Their arguments sound very familiar—some strikingly similar—to the comments we've been hearing about the Affordable Health Care for America Act:

Quoting Representative Durwood G. Hall, a Republican congressman from Missouri, who happened to also be a medical doctor:

Mr. Speaker, the basis of quality medical care is the voluntary relationship between the doctor and patient. This would begin to disappear as the Government supplants the individual as the purchaser and provider of health services . . .

Are we to tell the people of America, the senior citizens, that they are not capable of determining this matter . . .

The result will inescapably be third-party intrusion into the practice of hospitalization and medicine. The physician's judgment would be open to question by others, not responsible for the patient's wellbeing . . .

Congressman Hall went onto say:

. . . Its adoption would be another downward step toward of loss of freedom of choice.

Consequently, we cannot stand idly by now, as the Nation is urged to embark on an ill-conceived adventure in Government medicine, the end of which, no one can see, and from which the patient is certain to be the ultimate sufferer. For make no mistake about it: The medical profession will never deprive the people of high-quality medical care and the fruits of progress of medical science. That will come when the Government begins meddling and interfering with medical freedom.

Quoting Edward Derwinski, a Republican congressman from Illinois, who made similar arguments:

As we look into the future, we see clear signs of rigid governmental control of our

medical system which can only be detrimental to all our citizens. At the risk of oversimplification, may I state that this bill is a sugar-coated pill that is being swallowed in an easy fashion, but its ill effects will be felt in the ultimate crippling of our medical services and unwarranted regressive tax burden on our citizens.

Quoting Congressman Thomas Curtis, also from the state of Missouri, who has this to say:

What we have done is to take a system that has proved successful for 85 percent of our people, including our older people, in order to solve the problems of the 15 percent.

These arguments were made by Republicans while debating the Social Security Amendments of 1965, commonly known as Medicare—the bill that became law and responsible for the program that has treated and cared for tens of millions of American seniors with the medical care they need.

It is striking but not all too surprising that the Grand Old Party is using the same old arguments on the other side of the aisle today.

I doubt there is any member in this chamber today who would reasonably argue that Medicare has not benefited our Nation. Do they think insurance companies would step in to cover a 75-year old cancer patient if it were not for Medicare?

Madam Speaker, the specter of a government takeover of health care has been part of the Republican playbook for nearly 45 years. It wasn't true then and it isn't true now.

Medicare is the life blood of today's seniors. It put the 'great' in LBJ's Great Society. History is destined to repeat itself—not just the mistakes, but the triumphs as well.

HONORING THE LATE ANTHONY T. KAHOOHANOHANO ON BEING AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the late Anthony T. Kahooohanohano for his extraordinary heroism while serving during the Korean War. Private First Class Kahooohanohano's service was recently acknowledged with our Nation's highest award of merit, the Medal of Honor.

I am grateful to my colleague Senator AKAKA for inserting a provision in this year's defense authorization bill that awards the Medal of Honor to Mr. Kahooohanohano and to President Obama for signing the bill into law.

Awarding the Medal of Honor to Anthony Kahooohanohano has long been overdue. A 19-year-old soldier from Wailuku on the island of Maui, Kahooohanohano bravely sacrificed his own life to protect fellow soldiers in the area of Chupa-ri, Korea on September 1, 1951.

After ordering members of his machine-gun squad to take up more secure positions to provide cover as U.S. forces withdrew, Kahooohanohano bravely stayed behind to fight the enemy on his own, even fighting in hand-to-hand combat after he ran out of ammunition. He was killed in action, but his courageous actions inspired other American troops to launch a counterattack against the enemy.

On behalf of Anthony Kahooohanohano's family and the State of Hawaii, and in honor

of the service and sacrifice of our servicemembers and veterans, I thank my colleagues for supporting this measure.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was \$11,978,953,722,825.90.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

The national debt has increased by \$1,340,527,976,532.10 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

COMMENDING WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP'S SALUTE TO OLD GLORY PROGRAM

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the House for one minute.

On Wednesday, November 11, Veterans' Day, there will be a special celebration entitled a Salute to Old Glory in Woodbridge Township, New Jersey. The goal of the program is to refurbish all American flags and flag poles throughout the Woodbridge Township School District. This is a huge undertaking; Woodbridge Township is the largest municipality in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

A Salute to Old Glory began is a vision of Woodbridge Board of Education Member George Yuhasz, a lifelong resident of Woodbridge Township. With the help of community activist Charlie Shaughnessey of Colonia, New Jersey the program to replace and preserve American flags throughout the Township has become a huge success.

Veterans as well as civic organizations have joined in this effort in making Salute to Old Glory a positive initiative throughout the community.

The American Flag stands for many things in our beloved Nation. It also serves as a great inspiration for those who want to become part of our great democracy.

Educational involvement incorporated into the program included student essays and artistic presentations that allowed for involvement of students throughout the school district.

The program has been successful because it has been a total community effort. In fact, Salute to Old Glory will become an ongoing effort not only for the Woodbridge Board of Education but for all public buildings in Woodbridge Township that may need a replenishment of an American flag or flagpole.

All of those involved in with the Salute to Old Glory program in Woodbridge Township should be commended for their efforts.

I am pleased to share their hard work with my colleagues here in Congress and with the American people.

OPPOSING ANY ENDORSEMENT OR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE GAZA CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I am disappointed that we have gotten to the point that the House even has to consider this resolution before us this week. I am inclined to vote for this resolution but not without reservations.

My vote for this resolution should not be read either as an endorsement of Operation Lead Cast or as an endorsement of the position that investigations of serious allegations of war crimes should not be undertaken.

We cannot act as if the devastating war in Gaza in January did not have consequences for Palestinians, Israelis, and the international community. We cannot and should not brush aside legitimate allegations about abuses committed by both sides during this conflict. Yet, now more than ever, we also need to intensify efforts to resolve the very serious issues that had unfortunately led to many needless deaths and continuing tensions and may continue to do so if we let the status quo linger.

I have reservations that the resolution before the House this week would do nothing to defuse the demagoguery that has long plagued the Middle East and to help steer us to a future devoid of more rocket attacks or violence in the region.

Ten months after the "cessation" of overt fighting in Gaza, tensions remain high and both the Palestinian and Israeli people continue to live with tremendous insecurity and fear. I am dismayed that it appears to be only a matter of time until the endless cycle of violence repeats itself again along with the resumption of increased misery for innocent Israeli and Palestinian men, women, and children in the region. We as a Congress, at this point, would be better served by trying to support efforts to reinvigorate the peace process, defuse these mounting tensions, and pressing both parties to meet at the negotiating table.

Nonetheless, the Goldstone report includes some very serious charges relating to possible war crimes or other crimes against humanity committed by Israel, Hamas, and other Palestinian armed groups. To give just one example, there are allegations of deliberate and premeditative efforts to target a wastewater treatment plant—that did not have any link to "Palestinian armed groups or any other effective contribution to military action"—sending over 200,000 cubic meters of raw sewage onto farmland. What is lacking in this report is a full and complete accounting of the reckless, indiscriminate, and ongoing use of rockets by