

and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 868. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 868: "yes"—Jack F. Kemp Post Office Building.

CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2868) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to extend, modify, and recodify the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance security and protect against acts of terrorism against chemical facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2869. I voted against the bill during committee consideration. Unfortunately, the bill before us today is even worse than the version reported out of the Homeland Security Committee.

This legislation gives the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to require farms, manufacturing plants, timber companies, hospitals, and thousands of other facilities across the United States to change the way they do business. The Secretary will be able to dictate what chemicals are used, how they are used and how they are stored. The bill tries to cover this government take over of the private sector with terms like "inherently safer technologies" and "methods to reduce terrorists attack."

The Federal Government could impose mandates to adopt unproven technologies and chemical substitutions, but lacks the technical and personnel expertise to evaluate whether these alternatives are effective, productive, and safe across these sectors.

There are over 3,000 facilities in the U.S. that would be covered under this legislation that employ 50 or fewer people. According to experts, mandating inherently safer technologies, IST, could cost anywhere from thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Companies in my district do not have excess funds to alter how they do business because some bureaucrat in D.C. thinks there is a better way to do it.

Another unprecedented measure in the bill is the establishment of a system allowing any person, even nonaffected persons, to file a lawsuit against the Secretary of Homeland Security if IST is not implemented. This bill might as well be called the Homeland Security Trial Lawyer Employment Act.

Citizen suits are not appropriate in a national security context and this would be the first time Congress would be authorizing such citizen suits in the national or homeland security arena.

The Department of Homeland Security has testified that these suits could result in the release of very sensitive security information through the legal discovery process that would be helpful to terrorists.

This legislation is misguided and interrupts actions on-going at DHS to evaluate and enhance security at chemical facilities. I urge a "no" vote.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Conference Report, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Environmental Protection Agency—STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nassau County

Address of Requesting Entity: 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501

Description of Request: \$300,000 will be used to complete the technical design report for the relocation of the Bay Park Sewer Treatment outfall from Reynolds Channel to the Atlantic Ocean.

110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRONX ZOO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110th anniversary of the Bronx Zoo, a milestone in the cultural history of New York City. The Bronx Zoo opened its doors on November 8, 1899, and is the largest metropolitan zoo in the country with approximately 4 million visitors annually and featuring 6,000 animals and 600 species.

The Bronx Zoo continues to win awards for its world class exhibits and is well known for creating naturalistic habitats. Chief among them is the Congo Gorilla Forest which is one of the zoo's most popular exhibits. Spanning more than 6½ acres, the exhibit's main attraction is the western lowland gorillas, making up the species largest breeding group in all of the Americas. The Gorilla Forest is the largest man made rainforest in the world. The rain forest simulation gives visitors the chance to experience the Congo as if they were there. Along with the lowland gorillas, the exhibit is home to white bearded de Brazza monkeys, okapis and red river hogs. Since the opening of the exhibit, it has had 7 million visitors. The exhibit fees go to help conservation efforts in Africa which have helped 18 National Parks in such countries as Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Gabon.

From the zoo grounds, hundreds of conservationists work every day hand-in-hand with more than 3,000 employees located in 65 developing countries around the world. The zoo's first conservation achievement was here in the United States of America, where, by 1905, uncontrolled hunting had reduced the great herds of bison to fewer than 1,000 animals. Theodore Roosevelt, along with William Hornaday, the Bronx Zoo's first director, were founding members of the American Bison Society, ABS, an organization formed at the

Bronx Zoo to preserve this icon of the American prairies. In 1907, the Bronx Zoo sent a group of zoo-born bison to Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Montana to help reestablish the species throughout the plains. Along with its broad conservation efforts, the Bronx Zoo's award winning exhibits and pioneering research has garnered world recognition.

In the Bronx, the zoo's impact is felt in yet another way. In addition to being a cultural staple and headquarters for an international conservation organization, it is an economic cornerstone in the Bronx. On average, the Bronx Zoo employs more than 750 full-time staff per year and is the largest employer of youth in the borough, providing employment opportunities, job skills training, and scholarship opportunities for more than 700 teenagers each year. Two years ago, the Bronx Zoo opened the first New York City public school focused on wildlife conservation. At the school, children can learn math, sciences, history, and arts by interacting with the zoo's animals and experts.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Bronx Zoo on its 110th anniversary and to applaud the institution for its efforts in leading the world in wildlife conservation as well as bringing joy to the millions of visitors who have walked through its gates.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on November 6, 2009, I was unable to be present for all rollcall votes due to the tragic event at Fort Hood on November 5, 2009. I had to travel to Fort Hood in order to be briefed on the latest findings in the shootings investigation, and to determine what steps could be taken to help comfort the wounded and the families of those who lost their lives in the tragedy. If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes: Roll No. 865—"nay"; roll No. 866—"aye"; roll No. 67—"aye"; roll No. 868—"aye"; roll No. 869—"nay"; roll No. 870—"aye"; roll No. 871—"aye"; roll No. 872—"aye"; roll No. 873—"aye"; roll No. 874—"aye"; and roll No. 875—"nay."

COMMENDING THE RABUN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR HOSTING THE 11TH ANNUAL VETERAN'S APPRECIATION DINNER

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on December 23, 1776, just days before the Continental Army won a great victory at the Battle of Trenton, General George Washington asked aides to read passages from Thomas Paine's *The Crisis*. That great book, which lifted the spirits of the army from the darkest depths, famously begins, "These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that

stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

On November 11, Veterans Day, many celebrations will be held to honor those who have served this great country. We will honor them and applaud their efforts because they are not "summer soldiers" or "sunshine patriots," but instead they answered the call in many of our Nation's most turbulent times.

At one such event, the Rabun County Chamber of Commerce will honor hundreds of veterans, spouses, and widows/widowers for their service to our Nation. This will be the 11th annual Veteran's Appreciation Dinner, and I believe it is a great testament to the patriotism and love for country that these chamber members have worked so hard to make this event possible. Veterans of every conflict from World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan are expected to attend.

As a marine, I understand how much of a sacrifice it is to serve one's country in the Armed Forces. I know that the many veterans, who will be honored in Rabun County and all across this country, did not join up to be heroes or win medals. Instead, they heard the call of a nation, and they bravely answered. Over the past century, the United States has repeatedly faced overwhelming odds as it has fought to protect liberty at home as well as abroad. Our thanks and gratitude will never be enough to repay the debt this nation owes to all our veterans, but we gratefully offer it anyway.

Because of their service and the grace of God, this country remains the greatest nation on Earth. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring our Nation's veterans as well as the wonderful members of the Rabun County Chamber of Commerce and all who are honoring those who served.

HONORING EL PASO VETERANS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our El Paso area veterans. Our nation joins together annually on November 11 to honor our men and women who have served in uniform for their service and for their sacrifices. From speeches to ceremonies, the voices of Americans join in tribute to all veterans, from the patriots who fought for our freedom in the Revolutionary War to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who are serving today in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

It is critical that our support for veterans goes beyond words; we must honor those who have served with our actions. As a Vietnam veteran, I came to office knowing that one of my highest duties would be to improve the lives of all of our veterans, particularly those whom I have the privilege to represent here in Congress.

El Paso is a community which embraces our nation's military forces and the families who support them. El Pasoans have demonstrated our support for veterans and the soldiers who live and work on Fort Bliss in many ways, from a new USO center and another in the works, to an annual Freedom Fiesta. Perhaps the most important development for El Paso

veterans is the establishment of a new joint Army and Veterans Administration, VA, medical center complex. To meet the needs of the historic expansion of Fort Bliss and the growing number of veterans, these new facilities will bring care to all generations, helping ensure that all veterans get the care that they need and deserve.

Congress has greatly expanded veterans benefits in the last three years, passing historic increases in VA spending. Congress also enacted a new GI Bill to provide a full four-year college education to every military member who served on active duty since September 11, 2001. And Congress added funds to improve the VA's claims processing and decrease wait times for all veterans.

Our veterans swore an oath to serve and defend our nation. They backed this oath with their actions, and in some cases their lives. Our country owes these brave men and women, not just our pledge to honor that service, but tangible benefits which reflect their sacrifices to ensure we remain strong, secure and free.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on November 2, 2009, I missed rollcall votes 832, 833, and 834 to attend parent teacher conferences for my two sons. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of those votes.

HONORING WILLIAM AVERY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of William Avery, former Governor and Congressman from the state of Kansas. Governor Avery passed away November 4th at the age of 98 in his home state that he served in so many ways. Prior to his passing, he was the oldest living former member of Congress. A lifelong Kansan, Governor Avery deserves to be celebrated as a fine public servant and a good man.

A native of Wakefield, Kansas, he returned to the family farm after graduating from the University of Kansas. Then, Governor Avery did what many young men of his generation did. He left the family farm to serve his country in World War II as a pilot. This would be only the first act of service in what would prove to be a distinguished career serving the people of not only Kansas, but the nation.

Following his service on his local school board, Governor Avery served four years in the Kansas House of Representatives. This preceded his decade long career representing Kansas in the House of Representatives. Governor Avery then added to his already impressive resume by becoming Kansas' 37th Governor serving in 1965 and '66. While he served only one, two-year term, Governor Avery made a series of indelible marks on the cultural and political landscape of Kansas.

Governor Avery would see his political career come to a final close following an election loss to Bob Dole in a GOP Senatorial primary.

Today, we see an increasing number of public officials who have lost touch with their constituencies. They move to Washington or their respective state capitals and become someone other than the person who was originally elected. Governor Avery was certainly not one of those men. He was simply a farmer and rancher that was entrusted with providing for the wellbeing of his state and nation. Public servants would do well to use this man as a model for their own service. A true man of the people whose heart stayed on the farm on which he was raised. Yet unselfish enough to leave to serve his state and nation when called upon to do so.

A statesman and a gentleman who pursued the right ends regardless of their popularity, Governor Avery would have undoubtedly had a lifelong political career had he focused on the politically expedient choices rather than the choices that would benefit Kansas. That type of courage is, unfortunately, often a rarity in today's leadership. Yes, the family and friends of Governor Avery have lost an important part of their lives. But everyone who has ever held an elected office in this nation has lost a role model of the highest caliber.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Governor Avery during this time of mourning. His children William Avery, Jr., Brad Avery, Barbara Avery, and Sue Avery along with their families have much to be proud of. I am thankful for his service and honored to call him my fellow Kansan.

H.R. 3854: SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING AND INVESTMENT ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I support our Nation's small business and the passage of the "Small Business Financing and Investment Act," H.R. 3854.

Small businesses play an integral role in the United States economy. Small businesses employ more than half of all workers in the private sector and generate 60 to 80 percent of new jobs in this country. The small business financing and lending programs improved by this bill would help small businesses not only survive the current downturn, but help them to expand and create new jobs.

Last month, I brought more than 50 high-tech small business owners to Washington to discuss the issues facing their businesses. Many of these small business owners told me about the struggles they face in finding credit and investment funding, which they need to maintain and expand their businesses. They talked about how reluctant banks were to lend to small businesses in these difficult economic times. This bill would help those small business owners by extending key provisions from the Recovery Act passed earlier this year. First, the legislation would aid small businesses by eliminating fees on Small Business Administration, SBA, loans, in order to make these loans more affordable for small businesses. The bill further would assist these small businesses by providing a Federal guarantee of certain loans, to encourage local