

Representative DAVID SCOTT was very engaged on the issue of energy security and was successful in offering three amendments to the resolution proposed on energy and security.

The Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security also heard a report on energy security and the protection of energy infrastructure, along with reports on Kosovo and the future stability in the Balkans, and democracy and security in Central Asia. The Committee also heard presentations on the Balkans and Central Asia.

On Tuesday, the final day of the plenary, the general assembly debated and approved a resolution on relations with Russia. The consensus view was that NATO and Russia should resume their dialogue and continue to find ways to cooperate with each other on critical issues. Also on Tuesday, the Assembly elected new officers to serve during 2009. I had the honor of being elected President of the Assembly and look forward to an interesting and productive year.

Prior to arriving in Valencia for the NPA Plenary, the delegation traveled to Italy on November 10–13 for bi-lateral meetings in Rome and Florence. In Rome, the delegation received a briefing by U.S. Charge d' Affairs, Barbara Leaf and Embassy staff on current relations between Italy and the United States, that continues to be strong. After the briefing, the delegation, in honor of Veterans Day, traveled to the Sicily-Rome Cemetery in the town of Nettuno, just outside the city of Anzio.

During the Second World War, the critical Italian campaign was launched in Sicily and proceeded up the coast of Italy. The delegation visited the resting place of almost 8,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, and airman who died in the liberation of Sicily and in the landings at Salerno and Anzio. The beautiful cemetery is managed by the U.S. American Battle Monuments Commission. Together, the members of the delegation laid a wreath at the cemetery's central monument, "Brothers in Arms." Members of the delegation also visited individual graves of fallen soldiers from their states to place a rose in memory of those servicemen. This was perhaps the most memorable and poignant moment of the delegation's trip. We were deeply honored to visit the cemetery and want to thank Ron Grosso of the Commission and Joseph Bevilacqua, Cemetery Superintendent, for their hospitality and the fine job they do preserving the memory of those U.S. servicemen who gave their lives in Italy.

Upon our return to Rome, the delegation visited the NATO Defense College for a tour and briefing by the College Commandant, Lt. Gen. Wolf-Dieter Loeser. The College was created in 1951 at the suggestion of General Dwight Eisenhower who argued that military officers from the newly created NATO Alliance "needed an establishment where they could meet and learn to operate together." The Commandant briefed us on the work taking place at the College and the issues currently under discussion in the Fall curriculum. We also had the opportunity to meet several U.S. military personnel attending the Senior Course.

Following the visit to the Defense College, the delegation visited the Italian Ministry of Defense. We were briefed by the Deputy Minister of Defense Crosetto and the head of the Italian General Staff, General Camporini who gave us an overview of the numerous oper-

ations that the Italian military were currently engaged in. Italy has approximately 8,000 troops stationed abroad, including 2,200 in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, 2,500 in Lebanon, and 83 engaged in training the Iraqi National Police. This meeting provided a precise, focused discussion of how Italy is contributing to the global security mission.

Also in Rome, the delegation was hosted at a working lunch by Senator Sergio Di Gregorio, President of the Italian delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. We had a very animated discussion on issues ranging from the U.S. presidential elections, to Afghanistan, to Russia and energy security. At the time of our visit, the Italian Senate was in the middle of a debate on their defense budget. With the global economic crisis affecting everyone, Senator Di Gregorio told us that the defense budget for next year would be less than 1 percent of the Italian GDP. As a result, we were told it was unlikely that Italy could do much more in Afghanistan. Following our meeting at the Senate, the delegation met with Mr. Gianni Letta, Under Secretary of the Council of Ministers and close advisor to Prime Minister Berlusconi. Mr. Letta covered a range of issues but spent some time addressing the impact of the global financial crisis on Italy.

On November 13, the delegation traveled to Florence. We were met by U.S. Consul General Mary Ellen Countryman who briefed the delegation on the work the Consulate does in Tuscany and the surrounding region. Tuscany is home to several thousand U.S. citizens, retired, employed, or students studying abroad. While in Florence we also visited the European University Institute which operates a campus comprising doctoral students from all over Europe. We were warmly welcomed by EUI President Yves Menv, faculty and students. A lively discussion followed on the U.S. elections and its impact on transatlantic relations, the differences between the European and U.S. views of the world, and the future role of NATO, relations with Russia, and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our visit to Italy concluded that evening at a dinner hosted by New York University which operates a campus outside Florence for American students studying in Italy. Our dinner was hosted by Ms. Ellyn Toscano, Director of the Campus. Ellyn is no stranger to the House of Representatives where she served for several years as the chief of staff to our colleague, JOSÉ SERRANO.

Madam Speaker, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly provides a unique opportunity for Members of Congress to engage in serious discussions on critical issues with our colleagues from other NATO member states. I believe our delegation, and thus this Congress, benefits greatly from the information we exchange and the personalities we meet during these meetings. I look forward to a very productive Assembly during 2009.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Embassy staff in Rome and Madrid, our Consular services in Florence and our entire military escort group from the United States Air Force, including the pilots who took us to Europe and back for the NPA sessions. Our diplomatic corps and military personnel provide a quiet but invaluable service in ensuring safety and an efficient schedule for U.S. congressional delegations, and this group of diplomats, servicemen

and women was no exception. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

TRIBUTE TO MUNSON'S
CHOCOLATES

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Munson and the employees of Munson's Chocolates which is headquartered in Bolton, Connecticut.

During the recent holiday season, I had the privilege of visiting Iraq and Afghanistan with a Congressional Delegation led by Representative GENE TAYLOR of Mississippi and witnessed first hand the important work being done by the men and women of our armed forces. Our group spent time meeting with civilian and military leaders serving on the ground in each country. The holidays are always a difficult time for the men and women of the armed forces as they are away from their loved ones. One of the things that they will tell you makes this time of year a little easier is to enjoy some of the comforts of home.

Thanks to Bob Munson, President of Munson's Chocolates of Bolton, the men and women of the 890th Engineer Battalion and the 926th Engineer Brigade, Multi-National Division currently serving in Baghdad were able to enjoy a sweet reminder of home. A few days before Christmas Congressman TAYLOR arranged for 2,000 pounds of shrimp gumbo to be served to the battalion and Munson's donated almost 600 Connecticut made chocolate bars for dessert. This gift is just another example of the generosity of the Munson family, who for generations has been active supporters of the military community.

The Munson family of employees is no stranger to the heartache families endure while their loved ones are serving overseas. During my visit to the Munson factory, I had the honor of meeting Kay Doherty. Kay's son Stephen recently returned from a tour in Iraq. As Kay can attest, the holidays are an extremely difficult and trying time for military families which is why this generous gift is so timely.

HONORING JADE MOORE, THERE
WAS NO BETTER FRIEND OF
TEACHERS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Pinellas County, Florida lost one of the pillars of our community and our teachers lost their greatest advocate December 16th with the passing of Jade Moore.

Jade served for 34 years as Executive Director of the Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association. In that role, he was the champion for teachers, but he was also the champion for the students they taught.

Jade Moore was a tough but fair negotiator, one who earned the trust and respect of all

those with whom he came in touch. He grew up in Pinellas County and was a product of Pinellas County schools having graduated from Clearwater High School.

His advice was eagerly sought not just by this Congressman but by Governors, legislators, school board members and community leaders. And it was just not advice on educational issues. In fact, Jade was just completing a difficult term as the Governor's appointee to the Florida Taxation and Budget Review Commission.

More than 700 people turned out this past Saturday to memorialize Jade Moore and pay tribute to his life as a husband, a father, an educator, a community leader, a Sunday school teacher, and a friend to many. Following my remarks, I will include an article "Boisterous and fitting farewell" by Thomas Tobin and Donna Winchester of The St. Petersburg Times on January 4, 2009 which talks about the very moving and uplifting memorial service. Also, I will include a December 20, 2008 column by Jon East of The St. Petersburg Times which describes Jade as a tough but friendly advocate. As Mr. East says in concluding his column, Jade Moore "honestly believed in saving one soul, one child, at a time."

Madam Speaker, at a time when our Nation looks to its elected leaders to come together and put politics aside to do the people's business, Jade Moore should be an enduring example of how we can serve our constituencies and express our views with respect rather than conflict. We have lost a great leader in Jade Moore, but we must not lose those lessons from a lifetime of leadership he leaves behind.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Jan. 3, 2009]

BOISTEROUS AND FITTING FAREWELL

(By Thomas C. Tobin and Donna Winchester)

CLEARWATER.—He loved roses and Broadway musicals. He stunk at golf, though he had a whale of a time playing it.

He was an optimist, active in his church, strong in his views. He was a reader and a smiler, a pundit, a partier, a people lover.

And when it came to teachers, Jade Thomas Moore—the executive director of the Pinellas teachers union for 34 years—was no pushover.

"He fought hard for them and he loved them," Tim Moore said at a memorial service for his brother Saturday. "If you want to remember Jade, remember that love for teachers."

Pinellas County's education and political communities turned out in force to remember Mr. Moore, who died Dec. 18 at age 61 after suffering his second stroke in a year.

More than 700 people jammed Trinity Presbyterian Church in Clearwater for an hourlong service that recalled his success as a family man, his long career as an educator and the outgoing personality that endeared him to allies and adversaries alike.

The congregation included state and county officials, legislators, judges, lawyers and school system employees of every stripe—from support workers and teachers to top administrators and school board members.

In keeping with Mr. Moore's love of food and celebration, hundreds of mourners reconvened at union headquarters in Largo for an evening of eating, drinking, tears, laughter and toasts.

Guests arrived to a massive potluck spread, a full bar and a chance to talk about Mr. Moore for up to three minutes.

A DJ played Broadway hits, popular songs from the 1950s and '60s and Mr. Moore's favorite, Blue Moon by the Marceles.

"The noise is what Jade would want to have happened," his wife, Sue Moore, told the crowd. "He would want us talking to each other and drinking a whole lot."

She offered a toast: "To the best man I've known and the best man I will ever know."

Said U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Tampa: "He believed in the power of education. He believed in the power of teachers. He believed we could take this state forward."

Kim Black, president of the Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association, said Mr. Moore served with her and 12 other presidents during his tenure.

"Jade has adapted to every one of us," she said. "He has been the constant. When we were weak, he was strong."

She said his favorite part of the job was visiting schools. Black and Mr. Moore had been to 40 so far this year and planned many more visits in the upcoming semester.

"He was about bringing joy to the workplace," Black said. "He was about bringing joy to everybody he knew."

County Commissioner Susan Latvala recalled her time on the Pinellas School Board from 1992 to 2000.

"I don't know if I would have survived those eight years without Jade," she told the crowd. "He would call me to say, 'Susan, why don't you come over to the office and we'll have a drink.' It was never a 15-minute conversation."

Upstairs at union headquarters Saturday, Mr. Moore's office remained as he left it on Dec. 15, his last day of work.

An avid reader who would polish off a dozen books during vacations to North Carolina, he had three books on his desk.

The titles: I Haven't Understood Anything since 1962, Educational Conflict in the Sunshine State and The Language of God.

Mr. Moore was known in Pinellas and across the state for his knowledge of Florida's budget and politics. He took tough stances, including pushing for a teacher raise this year even as the district plunged into a deep economic hole. But he maintained a collaborative style and an optimistic outlook.

"All of us knew that Jade meant what he said, that ... his views were in support of the many, not of the few, and that he would always, no matter what, stand by his beliefs," said the Rev. Victoria ByRoade, a local Presbyterian pastor who eulogized him Saturday. "Jade Moore was a man we could trust."

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Dec. 20, 2008]

A TOUGH, FRIENDLY ADVOCATE

(By Jon East)

What made Jade Moore such an institution in Pinellas public education was also what made him such an invaluable source to those of us who watched from the sidelines. Moore, who died Thursday after suffering a stroke, knew his stuff. He believed in what he was doing, and he would never let education ideology cloud his plain assessment of right and wrong. And, yes, Moore would speak his mind, usually with blunt, sometimes profane and often comic effect.

Moore ran a union with 8,000 teachers and could throw a punch with the best of them. He retaliated to legislative cutbacks in 1991 by stuffing what was then called the Florida. Suncoast Dome with 15,000 educators and supporters holding signs imploring, "Don't Shortchange our Kids." He skewered a Pinellas School Board that in 1998 voted to seek an end to the federal court order on desegregation, and then fought a choice plan for student assignment that he viewed as a retreat. But Moore became a force in education policy for three decades in part because conflict was not really in his genes and was never his first impulse.

School boards and superintendents from other locales would marvel at the relationship between the Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association and the school administration. Most contracts through the years were signed after friendly collaboration, not threats and mediation. Moore came to respect most of the superintendents with whom he worked, though he remained partial to Scott Rose for his inspirational style through the 1980s. Moore managed to develop such strong bonds with school officials that former superintendent Clayton Wilcox made the unfortunate mistake upon his arrival in 2004 of seeing Moore as part of a good ol' boy network that needed to be rooted out. Moore remained as Wilcox left.

The Moore persona was a tapestry of color and contradiction. He would cuss enough to make the timid blush. But he also was a Sunday school teacher who really did live by the Golden Rule. Nothing got him angrier than to see teachers be made scapegoats for political causes or to be publicly humiliated for private and personal transgressions. But he would avoid like the plague defending any teacher who he believed didn't belong in the classroom. He was an unabashed liberal Democrat, but he befriended so many Republicans that he even managed an appointment from Gov. Charlie Crist to a constitutional taxation review panel. He could describe, in detail, the district cost differential multiplier in the Florida Education Finance Program but—much preferred to settle budgetary policy over a bottle of bourbon.

Back in the early 1990s, when tensions were high with then-superintendent Howard Hinesley, Moore was persuaded by a former PCTA president to lobby School Board members for the four votes necessary to remove Hinesley. He failed, and to the day he passed away he seemed to regret what he had done. Guerrilla politics were never Moore's style, and the failed attempt nearly severed his relationship with Hinesley. "I'll never go there again," he would say. "I won't do it."

The lesson was never lost, and Moore even found himself taking friendly fire as a result. A splinter group calling itself TUFF-Teach emerged in 2001, condemning what it saw as too much coziness between PCTA and school administrators and state lawmakers. But Moore was unyielding and argued that cooperation, not confrontation, is more productive in the long run. In his characteristic style, he said: "You don't score points by taking a dump on these guys."

What I always saw in Moore was an unfailingly sentimental view of public education. He would speak wistfully of his own days at Clearwater High School and the way such schools can be a gathering place for children from different walks of life. Nothing got him more emotional than to talk about a teacher who had made a difference in a child's life. That was the Sunday school teacher in Jade. He honestly believed in saving one soul, one child, at a time.

RECOGNIZING ROSE RUSSO OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rose Russo of Hernando County, Florida. Rose will do something later this year that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Rose Russo Was born April 11, 1909 on 63rd Street and 1st Avenue in New York City,