

first wave of troops and remained on the island for as a platoon medic for seven months.

Mr. Lybarger returned to the U.S. and was discharged as a Private First Class. During his service he was designated as an expert marksman with the M-1, M-14 and M-16 rifles. He was awarded Army parachutists wings and made twenty-two jumps including three night jumps. For his service, he was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

After life in the military, Mr. Lybarger attended Fresno City College, De Anze College, San Joaquin Valley College and the University of Maryland (Extension) on the G.I. Bill and was employed in manufacturing management. He is a member of the First Church of Religious Science of the Mind and volunteers as an Ombudsman for the State of California Department of Aging. He is a Life Member of Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign War Post 9896, Past Junior Vice Commander of the 11th Veterans of Foreign War District and Past Commander of Post 9896. He is a member of the 82nd Airborne Association and the 173rd Airborne Society. Mr. Lybarger and his wife Virginia continue to live in Chowchilla; they have three children and nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Phil Lybarger upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Lybarger many years of continued success.

EXTENDING DED

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I want to applaud President Obama for extending DED until March 31, 2010, enabling many Liberian families to remain together in the United States for 12 months beyond the original March 31, 2009 expiration of DED. However, I urge the Administration to create a permanent path to citizenship for Liberians who have called the United States home for over a decade.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was established in 1991 to allow Liberians fleeing political turmoil to stay in the United States without fear of deportation. Since arriving in the United States in the early 1990s, Liberians under TPS have built lives in this country; they have established careers, paid taxes, and bought property. TPS ended in 2007 and President Bush deferred the enforced departure of Liberians who were originally granted TPS. TPS is meant to provide a temporary safe haven in times of political turmoil or natural disaster. It was not contemplated that the political turmoil in Liberia would persist for so many years, but it did.

Since coming to this country, many Liberians have married and had American-born children. Many have attained United States citizenship themselves. However, according to The New York Times, many of the approximately 3,600 Liberians residing lawfully under DED have applied for legal citizenship, including one of my constituents, Janvier Richards, but the process has been delayed for well

over ten years for her and many others. If DED expires before Ms. Richards and other Liberians under DED are granted citizenship, their only legal option is to return to Liberia, which many no longer consider home.

Tremendous strides have been made by Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and I commend her leadership. Unfortunately, Liberia still has many political and economic challenges to overcome. Liberia has an unemployment rate of about 85 percent and, if Liberians under DED are forced to return to Liberia before economic and political stability are fully established, they may be unable to support themselves and their families.

Again, I applaud President Obama for extending DED for Liberians until 2010, averting the separation of families and the splintering of communities that surely would have occurred had departure been enforced on March 31, 2009. I am hopeful that we will be able to reverse the policies of earlier Administrations and forge a permanent path to citizenship for Liberians under DED.

HILANDER WRESTLERS SET STATE TITLE WINNING STREAK

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleagues' attention to a remarkable and historic athletic feat achieved by the Burns High School Hilanders wrestling teams of Harney County, Oregon.

On February 28, the Hilanders captured their eighth consecutive 3A state wrestling championship. The streak is unprecedented in the state and mark the first time in any sport, at any level, such an accomplishment has been achieved. These eight teams, their coaches, and their families are testament to the commitment to hard work that is pervasive throughout eastern Oregon.

The streak began way back in 2002. Since then, the Hilanders have captured 22 individual state titles, and some have won multiple championships, including Talon Hofman (2001 to 2004), Ben Cate (2003 to 2005), Abe Jacobs (2003 and 2004), and Joe Drinkwater (2008 and 2009).

In 2007, the Hilanders set a new team scoring record for all classifications when they scored 269.5 points at the state championship.

All athletic programs that enjoy longevity of success do so only with the guidance of good leaders. Bill Winn, Mark Hofman, Jeff Kloetzer, and Ray Cate have been tremendous coaches throughout the eight-year run.

Green Bay Packers coaching legend Vince Lombardi once said, "Individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

No doubt, the young men of the Hilanders wrestling program sacrificed more than others in exchange for their committed pursuit of such lofty goals. These wrestlers have spent untold hours running laps around the gymnasium, doing "up-downs" until they thought their lungs couldn't take anymore, challenging each other in thousands of take-down drills, and critiquing each other's "first move off the bottom."

They spent thousands of miles sitting on busses headed for the next contest. They watched their weight but made sure they were physically strong when the time came. They practiced, and practiced, and practiced again until the moves became automatic. Their many titles are proof of their devotion and sacrifice.

But titles aside, the lessons they learned about what it takes to be the very best are the keepsakes that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. The hardware they've earned for their success is, as they say, the icing on the cake.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Hilanders wrestling program and the Harney County community for their remarkable achievement. Their unprecedented streak is a reminder to us all of the value of dedication, perseverance, and good old fashioned hard work.

HONORING A RETIRED SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a longstanding civil servant in the Social Security Administration (SSA). Mr. Gregory Alan Elkins was a Title XVI SSI Office Supervisor with the SSA. He worked for the SSA for over 35 years.

Mr. Elkins was hired as a Claims Representative in Lima, Ohio, in October of 1973 and continued to work there until February of 1979. Keeping the same title, he then moved to the Tampa District office. He stayed in the Tampa office until it moved its location to Plant City, where he stayed until September of 1991.

He moved within the agency to become a Field Representative at the Lakeland office and stayed there until June of 1999. He then earned a promotion to the position of Public Affairs Specialist, the first to take that title in the state of Florida. He stayed in that position until November of 2007 when he took his current position as a Title XVI SSI Office Supervisor. Mr. Elkins is due to retire from this position in March of this year.

On a personal note, Mr. Elkins has a long history of working with the staff in my district office. His knowledge of SSA rules and regulations has been an incomparable boon in helping constituents in my district with their claims. He has spoken at many Medicare Seminars that our office has held to advise our seniors with regards to Social Security, retirement, disability, survivors' benefits, and more. I wish to congratulate Mr. Elkins for a long, successful career and I wish him well in retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING PREVENTION ACT

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the "Residential Carbon Monoxide

Poisoning Prevention Act” in the House of Representatives. Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America. Nearly all carbon monoxide poisonings can be prevented by simply placing a carbon monoxide detector in one’s home. Carbon monoxide poisoning kills 500 people each year in the U.S. and hospitalizes an additional 20,000 people, according to the Cen-

ters for Disease Control. Poisonings occur from several sources, including leaky furnaces that aren’t properly serviced, water heaters, stoves, and portable generators that are used inside or in an area with poor ventilation. Carbon monoxide poisonings occur everywhere across the U.S., from cold weather states in which furnaces frequently run to hurricane-

prone areas in which residents lose electricity and use portable generators inside.

This is a commonsense bill that incentivizes states to encourage citizens to place carbon monoxide detectors in their homes by establishing grant programs for detectors for which states can apply. This commonsense legislation is supported by both consumer protection groups and national retailers.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 1

Time to be announced

Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Thomas L. Strickland, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior.

Room to be announced

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan, with the possibility of a closed session following in SR-222.

SD-106

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-419

Foreign Relations

International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the 21st Century.

SD-419

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Karen Gordon Mills, of Maine, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's renewable fuel standard.

SD-406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

Appropriations

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine assistance for civilian casualties of war.

SD-138

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of W. Scott Gould, of the District

of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

2 p.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joe Leonard, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Civil Rights, Kathleen A. Merrigan, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Secretary, James W. Miller, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, and Dallas P. Tonsager, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary for Rural Development, all of Department of Agriculture.

SR-328A

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider H.R. 35, to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, S. 599, to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty, S. 469, to amend chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, to modify the computation for part-time service under the Civil Service Retirement System, S. 615, to provide additional personnel authorities for the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, S. 507, to provide for retirement equity for Federal employees in nonforeign areas outside the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia, S. 713, to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to quickly and fairly address the abundance of surplus manufactures housing units stored by the Federal Government around the country at taxpayer expense, S. 574, to enhance citizen access to Government information and services by establishing that Government documents issued to the public must be written clearly, S. Res. 87, expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 4 through 10, 2009, and the nominations of Jane Holl Lute, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and John Berry, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David F. Hamilton, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, and Ronald H. Weich, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD-226

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the implementation of Wounded Warrior policies and programs.

SD-106

3 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine enhanced partnership with Pakistan.

SD-419

3:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Strategic Forces Subcommittee

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

To receive a joint closed briefing to examine nuclear terrorism.

SVC-217

APRIL 2

9 a.m.

Armed Services

Business meeting to markup S. 454, to improve the organization and procedures of the Department of Defense for the acquisition of major weapon systems.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Regina McCarthy, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kathleen Sebelius, of Kansas, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SD-215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine recovery and reinvestment spending.

SD-342

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 515, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

SD-226

Appropriations

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the role of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) in addressing the housing crisis.

SD-138

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 313, to resolve water rights claims of the White Mountain Apache Tribe in the State of Arizona, S. 443, to transfer certain land to the United States to be held in trust for the Hoh Indian Tribe, to place land into trust for the Hoh Indian Tribe, S. 633, to establish a program for tribal colleges and universities within the Department of Health and Human Services and to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to authorize the provision of grants and cooperative agreements to tribal colleges and universities, and H.R. 326, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take lands in Yuma County, Arizona, into trust as part of the reservation of the Cocopah Tribe of Arizona.

SD-628

APRIL 3

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for March 2009.

SD-106

APRIL 22

MAY 6

CANCELLATIONS

APRIL 2

10 a.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Sub-
committee
To hold hearings to examine the current
readiness of United States ground
forces.

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine pending
benefits related legislation.

2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine cer-
tain intelligence matters.

SR-222

MAY 21

SH-219

2:30 p.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine pending
health related legislation.

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
Business meeting to markup pending leg-
islation.

SR-418

SR-418