

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE SWINNEY FAMILY AS BENTON COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Swinney family, for the honor and recognition of being named the Benton County Family Farm of the Year.

For more than 60 years the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year Program has honored farm families all across the state for their outstanding work both on their farms and in their communities. Recognition from the program is a reflection of the contribution to agriculture at the community and state level and its implications for improved farm practices and management.

Kent Swinney, with the help of his wife Carol and their three children Troy, Dwayne and Brandon, run a soybean, green bean, cattle, and Bermuda hay farm in Gentry, Arkansas.

Mr. Swinney has devoted his life to farming, spending his childhood on the farm with his father and grandfather and I am pleased to see he is passing along his passion to future generations of Arkansas farmers.

Arkansas is proud of the Swinney family for their commitment to farming and their commitment to farming as a family. This honor reflects the family's dedication to farming and the importance of farming as Arkansas's number one industry. I wish them continued success in their future endeavors and look forward to the contributions they will offer in the future of Arkansas agriculture.

COMMERCE FOR DEFENDERS ACT OF 2010

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I rise on behalf of all of America's Veterans and proudly introduce the Commerce for Defenders Act of 2010—a bill to create a Veteran Owned Small Business Preference in the Surface Transportation authorization—SAFETEA-LU, and set the precedent for continuing this important preference in the upcoming authorization.

For more than two hundred years, brave Americans have answered the call to serve our Nation at home and abroad, and my fellow West Virginians have long been among the first to report for duty.

Our Nation's veterans are true American patriots. Theirs is a proud story of service, sacrifice, and uncommon acts of heroism. They make each of us so very proud.

Aristotle said, "Men acquire a particular quality by constantly acting a particular way

. . . you become just, by performing just actions . . . brave by performing brave actions."

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to, and have great respect and deep admiration for, the 23 million men and women across America, who wore a military uniform in service to these great United States.

Madam Speaker, for 34 years I have been privileged to represent the people of southern West Virginia, and it is with humble sincerity I say, our Nation's veterans are never far from my mind.

There are 170,783 Veterans in my State of West Virginia—51,500 in my Congressional District alone—and that number is growing every day.

I am disheartened that our Veterans—the Defenders of our Freedom and American Way of Life—have given so much to their fellow Americans; yet, they face many hardships in their return to civilian life.

In a Nation such as ours, it is a stunning reality that today our brothers and sisters who have served around the globe to preserve democracy and promote freedom, are struggling with life in their home towns. Our Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are currently faced with a 21 percent unemployment rate.

Creating a Veterans' preference in the Transportation sector is very simple. It seeks to give America's veterans an opportunity advantage in the contracting process for their service to our country—a means to attach importance and to acknowledge our fellow Americans who have put their life on the line to preserve our way of life.

The propensity of this bill is at the same enormous and reasonable.

The number of Veteran owned businesses available to contract in the transportation construction industry would be quite small in comparison to the potential \$500 billion authorization bill proposed by Chairman OBERSTAR. However, for Veterans who have returned home from deployment; who are trying to put their life and families back on track; who have been plunged into the extremely competitive marketplace—creating this preference is the very least we can do and will make a difference for many, many veterans.

There is an exponential effect created by this preference, as Veterans are known to hire other Veterans—spreading the potential benefit beyond prime contractors on to subcontractors and employees, as well as those who provide products and services to them—such as truck drivers, mechanics, surveyors and repair technicians, landscapers, bricklayers, carpenters, and concrete and masonry suppliers—and the list goes on.

The bill will not burden states with verification processes, as the Veterans Administration already has Veteran Owned Small Business registration process in place. The law that created this existing database requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make the database available to all federal departments and agencies and to notify each department and agency of the availability of the database. To ensure a Veteran Owned Small

Business is eligible a state would simply check that the business is registered with the Veterans Administration—saving time and money for all involved.

This bill does not interfere with Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) contracting goals currently ensconced in federal transportation law—in fact, it is my hope that the many women and minority veteran's small business owners will benefit from this opportunity. This Veterans preference would not create any new eligibility requirements for the DBE program and it would not infringe upon the importance that Congress has repeatedly placed on the DBE program.

Madam Speaker, from the battlefield to the marketplace, our veterans—America's patriots—exemplify sacrifice and commitment to duty.

I urge my colleagues to vote for The Commerce for Defenders Act of 2010—so that we may respectfully and gratefully fulfill our duty to support our Veterans—and, in one small part, to acknowledge the great sacrifice so many have so willingly made for all of us.

CALLING FOR RELEASE OF ISRAELI SOLDIER BY HAMAS

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1359, which calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Gilad Shalit and other Israeli soldiers who are being held illegally by terrorist organizations. On June 25, 2006, Hamas terrorists based in Gaza led an illegal raid into Israel, where they attacked a military post and killed two Israeli soldiers before kidnapping then-corporal Gilad Shalit. Since then, Hamas has held Mr. Shalit without access to medical treatment, legal counsel, or humanitarian organizations. For 4 years, Mr. Shalit has been kept from his family, which has had to watch helplessly as Hamas cynically exploited videos of their loved one.

As I have said many times before, only a just, permanent, and peaceful settlement between Israelis and Palestinians can ensure the security and welfare of both peoples. The way forward in the Middle East will require compromises by all parties, but certain things are nonnegotiable. Hamas must end terrorist activities, renounce violence, and recognize Israel. Human rights and international humanitarian law must be respected by all, and Hamas bears the responsibility to meet this standard by immediately and unconditionally releasing Gilad Shalit. I stand firmly with his family and all Israelis who continue to suffer until justice is done.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP OF LINDA SUTHERLAND

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and community leadership of Linda Sutherland in honor of Children's Awareness Month. As executive director of the Orange County Healthy Start Coalition, Mrs. Sutherland helps provide nutritional education and counseling services to pregnant woman and mothers with infants in order to ensure healthy pregnancies and babies. For 10 years, under Linda Sutherland's direction, new and expecting mothers in Central Florida have had access to support and important resources that will ensure their child receives the highest quality of health care. Children's Awareness Month focuses on bringing attention to the emotional, physical, and mental health needs of our children and youth. Linda Sutherland's leadership with the Healthy Start Coalition encourages the strengthening of maternal and child health by ensuring that all Florida families have access to a continuum of affordable and quality health and related services.

Mrs. Sutherland is a graduate of Marymount College where she graduated with a degree in Business Administration. She was then elected and served for the next 12 years as an Orange County School Board Member. Over the past two decades, Mrs. Sutherland has been given numerous awards for her professional and personal achievements and contributions. The Who's Who of International Women, Orange County Public Health, and the Florida School Board Association are just a few of the organizations who have recognized her outstanding leadership and active involvement in the Central Florida community. Linda Sutherland also serves as a peer reviewer for The Maternal Child Health Journal and contributes to the State of Florida March of Dimes Planning Committee.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Sutherland's advocacy on behalf of women and children in the Central Florida community simply cannot be measured. Throughout the last 25 years, Mrs. Sutherland has demonstrated that a single person can make a difference in many lives. The Healthy Start Coalition transforms families every day by working together to reducing infant mortality and low birth weight babies. It gives me pleasure to honor Mrs. Linda Sutherland who deserves this recognition for her incredibly charitable work and philanthropy in the Central Florida community.

CONGRATULATING VOLLEYBALL STAND-OUT MEGAN C. HODGE ON HER ACCOMPLISHMENT ON THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAM

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a talented young Virgin Islander, Megan C. Hodge, a member of the

U.S. National Volleyball Team and a senior member of Penn State University Nittany Lions who was recently named the 2010 Penn State Female Athlete of the Year and was also a co-winner of the prestigious Honda-Broderick Cup, awarded to the Top Collegiate Woman Athlete in the country. Megan is the first Penn State University student athlete to win the Honda-Broderick award in the school's 155 year history. Megan, who is an outside hitter led the Penn State Nittany Lions to an unprecedented third straight NCAA title in December 2009, the crowning moment of a 102-match winning streak. She was named the 2009 American Volleyball Coaches Association Division I National Player of the Year, College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All American of the Year for Volleyball, and Big Ten Player of the Year. Megan is part of the winningest class in the Penn State volleyball program history with a career record of 142-5.

Madam Speaker, Megan excels off the court as well as on the court. She graduated last month with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Penn State University. She was honored as an ESPN the Magazine Second Team Academic All-American in 2008 and garnered first team accolades in 2009. Later that year, she went on to become Academic All American of the Year for volleyball. She is a three time Academic All-Big Ten honoree.

Madam Speaker, today, Megan will be welcomed home to the Virgin Islands by her friends and family and proud Virgin Islanders who commend her achievements as a star athlete and a star student. The daughter of Michael and Carmen Samuel Hodge, who themselves are former members of the U.S. Virgin Islands National Volleyball team, Megan who grew up in North Carolina, returns to the islands for a much needed rest and relaxation.

Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to congratulate Megan and her family on her achievements on and off the volleyball court. She exemplifies the ideals of excellence that we all wish will inspire other young people in the Virgin Islands and around the country that hard work, dedication and a commitment of being nothing less than the best is the standard that we all should live by.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act.

This important legislation will ensure that Medicare and TRICARE beneficiaries will be able to keep their doctors by retroactively reversing a 21 percent decrease in physician reimbursement that occurred on June 1, 2010. Additionally, this measure would provide physicians a 2.2 percent increase in physician reimbursements through November 30, 2010.

While I am pleased that the House is considering a 6 month fix, I continue to support a permanent solution. It is not fair to medical providers to face the continued uncertainty of

temporary fixes. I am proud that I supported and the House passed a permanent fix last November, and would urge my colleagues in both the House and Senate to recommit themselves to passing legislation to permanently fix this problem.

DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) AS A NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST AND ASSET

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in strong support of NASA programs across the country, and I share their concerns regarding the administration's proposal to cancel NASA's Constellation Program, which includes the Orion Crew Capsule, the Altair Lunar Lander, and the Ares I and Ares V rockets.

These programs, which together comprise our human spaceflight program, were authorized in both 2005 and 2008 by Republican and Democratic Congresses respectively. It is under the Constellation program that NASA is currently developing new launch vehicles and spacecraft capable of travel to the moon, Mars and other destinations. Not only does cancelling the Constellation Program jeopardize America's leadership role in human space exploration, but it will have detrimental effects on our economy and national security.

Take, for example, the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The Johnson Space Center has the lead to manage the Constellation Program and several of its major elements, including the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle and the Altair Lunar Lander. Without Constellation, the Johnson Space Center could lose anywhere from 4,000 to 7,000 high-tech jobs. If the JSC loses 4,000 direct jobs, an additional 2,315 indirect jobs would be lost, totaling 6,315; loss of income and expenditures locally would be over \$567 million. If the JSC loses 7,000 direct jobs, an additional 4,052 indirect jobs would be lost, totaling 11,052; loss of income and expenditures locally would total almost \$1 billion.

When speaking of the decision to cancel the Constellation Program, Administrator Bolden stated that "NASA intends to work with the Congress to make this transition smooth and effective, working responsibly on behalf of the taxpayers." To the contrary, I believe that the best use of taxpayers' money is to continue the investment in NASA to build America's scientific future. That future will create jobs.

The present administration's plan for the Constellation Program would cause drastic job loss across America and would place America in a behind the edge position as it relates to competitiveness in scientific research. NASA and the space industry are critical to Houston's economic success in both the short and long term. According to the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, NASA accounts for nearly 16,800 direct federal jobs and serves as the engine for another 3,100 civilian jobs that together supply more than \$2.5 billion in payroll into Houston's regional economy. The Johnson Space Center is the primary location