

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

for training astronauts for spaceflights and this move; yet, the proposed budget will effectively cancel America's human spaceflight program.

In his statement announcing NASA's budget, Administrator Bolden stressed that changes in the FY 2011 budget would be "good for NASA, great for the American workforce, and essential for our nation's future prosperity." Madame Speaker, while I seek the same objectives, I strongly disagree with the closing of this project and I believe it will hurt America's scientific progress. Additionally, the aerospace industry would lose as many as 20,000–30,000 jobs nationally in either of these scenarios.

Given our current economic downturn, we cannot take the possibility of these job losses lightly and the Johnson Space Center is just one example of what the cancellation of this program would do to other NASA centers nationally. It will take years for the commercial spaceflight industry to get up to speed to reach the level of competence that exists at NASA today.

Our government has already invested literally years and billions of dollars into this program. We should build upon these investments and not abandon them. Our country can support the commercial spaceflight industry, but not at the expense of our human spaceflight program, which for years has inspired future generations and driven technology that enhances our quality of life. This technology is crucial to our national security. NASA conducts aeronautics research to address aviation safety, air traffic control, noise and, emissions reductions and fuel efficiency. NASA's contribution to our knowledge of air and water supports improved decision making for natural resource management and emergency response, thus enabling us to better respond to future homeland security threats.

Knowledge of Earth's water cycle is a critical first step in protecting our water supply; water flows over the Earth's surface in oceans, lakes, and streams, and is particularly vulnerable to attack. NASA sensors also provide a wealth of information about the water cycle; and contributes to improving our ability to monitor water resources and water quality from space; we must also protect the quality and safety of the air we breathe; airborne contaminants can pose danger to human health; and chemical, nuclear, radiological, and biological attacks are plausible threats against which we can protect.

I have asked my colleagues in Congress to join me in my efforts to restore funding for the Constellation to the FY 2011 budget for the following reasons:

1. Elimination of the Constellation program will present homeland security implications for cyberspace, critical infrastructure, and the intelligence community of the United States;
2. Elimination of the Constellation program will compromise the effectiveness of the International Space Station as it relates to the strategic importance of space station research, and intelligence;
3. Continuation of NASA's Constellation program is crucial to improving national security, climate, and research in science and medicine.

It is my hope, that this Congress will continue to support NASA's Constellation program and to support balanced energy policies that promote economic growth and will help us meet our clean energy goals.

H. RES. 1150

Whereas the United States has invested in human flight program since May 5, 1961, a program that has been a source for the United States leadership role in space exploration and advancement in scientific research; and is a national security interest and asset for the Nation.

Whereas the Constellation program is a human space flight program that includes: the Ares I launch vehicle, capable of launching to low-Earth orbit; the Ares V heavy-lift launch vehicle, to send astronauts and equipment to the Moon; the Orion capsule, intended to carry astronauts to low-Earth orbit and beyond; and the Altair lunar lander and lunar surface systems astronauts will need to explore the lunar surface.

Whereas the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget provided \$18,700,000,000 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); the Budget funds a program of space-based research to advance our understanding of climate change and its effects, as well as human and robotic space exploration; and the budget supports the use of the Space Shuttle to complete assembly of the International Space Station.

Whereas the 2010 NASA budget funded a program of space-based research that supports the Administration's commitment to deploy a global climate change research and monitoring system.

Whereas 2010 NASA budget was to fund the safe flight of the Space Shuttle through the vehicle's retirement at the end of 2010. An additional flight will be conducted if it can be completed safely before the end of 2010.

Whereas the President's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget proposes to eliminate the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Space Shuttle and Constellation program and allocate \$6,000,000,000 over 5 years for the purpose of developing commercial space flight.

Whereas the Congress recognizes the policy outlined in section 501(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Authorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16761(a)), that the United States shall maintain an uninterrupted capability for human space flight and operations in low-earth orbit, and beyond, as an essential element of national security and the ability to ensure continued United States participation and leadership in the exploration of space.

Whereas eliminating the Constellation upon retirement of the Space Shuttle will create a national security risk to the United States and will diminish the Nation's efforts to advance scientific research in space.

Whereas the United States will for the first time since its space program began, be without a human space flight program.

Whereas transferring funds from the Constellation program to the development of commercial space programs to carry human and crew into space is taking a chance on an unknown quantity and is an unnecessary and unreasonable risk this country must not take.

Whereas the retirement of the Space Shuttle this year will leave the United States vulnerable and depending on Russia to put United States astronauts in orbit without the Constellation program; in May of last year when it became clear the United States had no one else to turn to, Russia raised its prices from \$48,000,000 to \$51,000,000 per launch for each astronaut.

Whereas the Constellation program is not just about going to the moon, as the United States has a commitment to the International Space Station (ISS), and with the Space Shuttle being retired this September, the Constellation is the only system under development that will give NASA the future

capability to launch and retrieve crews to and from the ISS.

Whereas decreasing the use of the International Space Station would impact the ability to sustain its systems and physical infrastructure.

Whereas the Constellation program should be funded to continue use of the International Space Station to support the agency and other Federal, commercial, and academic research and technology testing needs.

Whereas partnerships between universities and NASA centers should be established to provide research opportunities for conduct of research in the United States International Space Station National Laboratories for the next generation of scientists in order to ensure effective utilization of the International Space Station research capabilities.

Whereas NASA conducts aeronautics research to address aviation safety, air traffic control, noise and, emissions reductions and fuel efficiency.

Whereas NASA's contribution to our knowledge of air and water supports improved decisionmaking for natural resource management and emergency response, thus enabling us to better respond to future homeland security threats.

Whereas knowledge of Earth's water cycle is a critical first step in protecting our water supply; water flows over the Earth's surface in oceans, lakes, and streams, and is particularly vulnerable to attack.

Whereas NASA sensors provide a wealth of information about the water cycle; and contributes to improving our ability to monitor water resources and water quality from space; we must also protect the quality and safety of the air we breathe; airborne contaminants can pose danger to human health; and chemical, nuclear, radiological, and biological attacks are plausible threats against which we can better protect the United States through NASA's research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) NASA is a national security asset and interest for the United States;

(2) elimination of the Constellation program will present Homeland Security implications for cyberspace, critical infrastructure, and the intelligence community of the United States;

(3) elimination of the Constellation program will compromise the effectiveness of the International Space Station as it relates to the strategic importance of space station research, and intelligence;

(4) continuation of NASA's Constellation program is crucial to improving national security, climate, and research in science and medicine; and

(5) the United States should maintain its funding of the Constellation program and should begin funding commercial space in 5 years and not sooner.

RECOGNIZING THE HART FAMILY AS WASHINGTON 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 honor the John Robert Hart family for earning the 2010 Farm Family of the Year award for Washington County, Arkansas.

Working for generations on the farm, the Hart family has a history rooted in Arkansas agriculture. John grew up on his farm and continues to run it today with his wife, Carolyn.