

Reg was born in Winnipeg, Canada in 1916. After immigrating to the United States and earning his U.S. citizenship, Reg enlisted in the U.S. Army and served his country during WWII working for Pan American Airlines facilitating the movement of U.S. troops and officials. He moved to Truckee in 1947 with his wife, and opened his own business, the Good Fellows Grotto. Over the next 63 years, Reg was a prominent member of the Truckee community: opening a second business, serving on the school board and in numerous community organizations, including being the oldest living Mason in Truckee Lodge No. 200.

Reg Smart's life was a true American story of an immigrant who loved and served his adopted country and was devoted to his family and community. Through his hard work and tireless dedication, he achieved a better life for himself, and undoubtedly improved the lives of everyone fortunate enough to know him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 23, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 384. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 384; "yes," Supporting the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week.

TRIBUTE TO DWIGHT D. THOMAS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2010

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dwight D. Thomas, who retired from the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs on June 30, 2010. A gentleman from my home County of Winston who truly embodies the American principles of hard work, patriotism, dedication to one's family and service to one's community.

For the past twenty-two years and nine months, the veterans in Winston County, Alabama have had no better friend than Dwight Thomas. During that time he unselfishly served Winston County and the State of Alabama with great dedication and distinction. He worked tirelessly to ensure our veterans and their families received the benefits they had earned. His one driving goal was simply to help people.

Dwight was born in my hometown of Haleyville, Alabama in 1944. He is the son of the late C. D. and Vera Thomas. He is married to the former Trudy Gravit and has two sons, Craig and Chad. He and his wife are active members of the Haleyville First United Methodist Church.

Dwight graduated from Haleyville High School in 1962 and continued his education at Walker College, receiving his Associate of Science degree in 1965. After school, he entered the United States Army and served from 1966 to 1968, serving in Vietnam from January 1967 to July 1968. He was honorably dis-

charged in 1968 having reached the rank of Sergeant. While in the Army, he received the Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Vietnam Campaign Medal with "V" device, National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Dwight has also been active with the local Boy Scout Troop 97, serving as Scoutmaster from 1969 to 1981 and is currently the institutional representative. He has served on the Haleyville City Council for two terms from 1980 to 1988. During that period he served as liaison to the Parks and Recreation Department and the Haleyville Fire Department and was instrumental in the construction of a new fire station. Currently, Dwight is the Commander of VFW Post 4543 and has held every office in the VFW at the local and district level.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to honor Dwight D. Thomas for his many years of dedicated service to our nation's veterans. He has had an enduring impact on his country, community, friends and family. He is a man of great dignity and character who takes pride in the accomplishments of those he has helped over the years. It is clear that he has been a friend and advocate to the veterans of Winston County. Madam Speaker, no doubt Dwight will be greatly missed in his position with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dwight is an inspiring role model for all of us and I join his friends, family and colleagues in wishing him God's richest blessings in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROBINSON WESTBROOKS FAMILY'S 100TH REUNION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the Robinson Westbrooks family who will be celebrating their 100th family reunion on August 12–15, 2010.

The Robinson Westbrook family is the oldest ongoing registered family reunion in the United States. It all started with Mr. John Bolin Robinson, Mrs. Dora Anne Westbrooks Robinson and their youngest child, Leonard Wilbert Robinson, who all share a birthday of August 16. The coinciding birthdays led to a tradition of getting the family together every third Sunday in August. The first official Robinson Westbrooks Family Reunion was held in August 1910, making this year the 100th celebration.

The Robinson Westbrooks family makes the most out of their annual family gatherings. They are registered at the United States Library of Congress and are a non-profit foundation that raises money for the Robinson Westbrooks' Educational Scholarship Funds.

All of us east Alabamans are deeply proud of the family's legacy and hope the tradition continues for another 100 years and beyond.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5729, THE STOP THE DROP HOUSES ACT OF 2010

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of bipartisan legislation I introduced earlier today with my colleague Rep. BRIAN BILBRAY of California: the Stop the Drop Houses Act.

Border States continue to pay a heavy price for the Federal Government's failure to secure the border and fix our broken immigration system. Arizona has been especially hard hit. More than half the illegal crossings across the U.S.-Mexico border happen in our State.

But this isn't just a crisis for communities along the border. This is a crisis in the interior—in places like Phoenix, where smugglers and Mexican cartels have set up vast networks of drop houses, which operate as way stations for criminal smuggling enterprises.

It has been estimated that there may be as many as 1,000 such drop houses in the Phoenix metropolitan area alone.

The crime associated with these drop houses is brutal and alarming. Phoenix now experiences upwards of 300 kidnappings a year.

I had the opportunity to visit a drop house in Phoenix yesterday, and I saw where smugglers had kept victims behind barred doors and windows while they extorted money for their release. I also visited another home in the same neighborhood, the site of a drug-cartel kidnapping, where smugglers had begun digging a grave for one of their captives, right there inside the house.

These violent thugs put innocent, law-abiding citizens at risk as well, when fights between rival cartels over smuggled cargo devolve into gunfire.

And these drop houses are everywhere. Living in an upscale neighborhood doesn't immunize you from their threat.

If there is anything more disturbing than these drop houses, it is the fact that we still have a loophole in Federal law that stops Federal authorities from using civil forfeiture to seize homes that are used as drop houses.

Under current law, civil forfeiture can be used to seize all kinds of other property used to facilitate smuggling crimes, such as vehicles or even airplanes. However, civil forfeiture cannot be used against the actual drop house, itself.

This just doesn't make sense.

That is why Rep. BILBRAY and I have introduced bipartisan legislation to fix this. Our bill would close this loophole, and allow Federal prosecutors to use civil forfeiture to seize homes used as drop houses.

This is, of course, no substitute for the kind of comprehensive fix we need for border security and our broken immigration system. But this is one obvious, and vitally important step that Congress can take, right now, to make our communities safer.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass the Stop the Drop Houses Act.

STAND WITH THE CYPRIOTS ON
THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
CYPRUS INVASION ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2010

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues. I rise today to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus in flagrant violation of international law.

The continuing presence of the occupied areas of Cyprus and the human rights violation of the Cypriot people is unacceptable! A solution cannot be achieved without the removal of all Turkish troops and settlers, and the return of all Cypriot citizens to their ancestral homes. Despite numerous U.N. resolutions calling for the return of the refugees to their home and properties and for the withdrawal of

Turkish troops from Cyprus, Turkey continues to illegally occupy the northern part of Cyprus.

We should honor the Cypriots who continue in their fight for justice! Cyprus and the U.S. share a deep and abiding commitment to upholding the ideals of freedom, democracy, justice, human rights, and the international rule of law. The international community has a moral and ethical obligation to stand with the Cypriots to reunify their island and end the military occupation.

I ask my colleagues to stand with me and Cypriots to mark this important anniversary and take a stand for human rights and freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 22, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for Rollcall Nos. 376–378. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 376: “yes”—Supporting National Men’s Health Week.

Rollcall No. 377: “yes”—Recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future.

Rollcall No. 378: “yes”—Supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week.