

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RUSSELL VOUGHT

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Russell Vought, currently the policy director for the House Republican Conference, who will leave the House after more than twelve years of service. Losing such a committed conservative and long-serving congressional staff member is a bittersweet moment for many House Republican Members, staff, and the conservative cause here on Capitol Hill.

It is written in the Good Book, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." Russell Vought embodies these words.

A native of Trumbull, Connecticut, Russell Thurlow Vought is the youngest of seven children and a die-hard Yankees fan. The son of an electrician and a schoolteacher, he graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in history and political science. He came to Capitol Hill soon thereafter.

Mr. Vought began his career in public policy in the United States Senate. He first worked under retiring Senator Dan Coats of Indiana and soon moved to the staff of Senator Phil Gramm of Texas. During that time, he completed a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree at George Washington University Law School.

Mr. Vought later joined the staff of Representative JEB HENSARLING of Texas, where he was instrumental in helping craft the Family Budget Protection Act, a comprehensive piece of legislation to reform the federal budget process and limit government spending.

I became acquainted with Mr. Vought when I was privileged to serve as the chairman of the Republican Study Committee during the 109th Congress. He was the policy director and later served as the executive director of that conservative caucus.

After being elected Republican Conference Chairman last year, I asked Mr. Vought to join the Conference staff at the start of the 111th Congress. As Policy Director, he has superbly led the Conference policy team, which serves as the main hub of legislative information for Republican Members and their staff. His expertise in areas such as the federal budget, appropriations, entitlements and legislative procedure have been invaluable in promoting conservative solutions to the issues that face our nation.

As Members of Congress, we are constantly reminded of the important role played by reliable, like-minded staff members like Russell Vought. While we are sorry to lose one of the strongest advocates for the principles that guide us, Mr. Vought's infectious passion for the principles of life, liberty and limited government will long outlive his tenure here on Capitol Hill. On behalf of the House Republican

Conference, I wish him continued success as he begins a new chapter in his professional life.

TRIBUTE TO AMYRA FAISAL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amyra Faisal of Ames, Iowa on the occasion of being named the 2010 Iowa Shrine Bowl Queen.

Amyra enjoys makeup, animals, hula-hooping and figure skating. Despite being an active eight year old, Amyra has a degenerative bone condition called osteogenesis imperfecta, which results in brittle bones. She has been treated by the Shriners Hospital in Montreal, Canada since she was born. Amyra is able live an active life due to the donations of the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine in Altoona, Iowa. The Za-Ga-Zig Shrine pays for around 80 percent of the costs related to travelling and staying near the Montreal hospital. Since Amyra is a longtime Shriner patient, she was chosen to be the 2010 Iowa Shrine Bowl Queen. By being the Shrine Bowl queen, she will be participating in the parade and will be recognized at the football game. I have been informed that Amyra has already been practicing her parade wave and has picked out a white dress to wear.

I congratulate Amyra on being named the 2010 Iowa Shrine Bowl queen. I am honored to represent Amyra and her family in Congress and wish her the best in the future.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5822) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Chair, we have a moral obligation to fully fund our veteran programs. The liberties we enjoy today were earned through the bravery and sacrifice of patriotic Americans. Congress must ensure that these honorable men and women have access to benefits and top-notch healthcare. We can never turn our back on our veterans.

As such, I am pleased to support H.R. 5822, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Military Construction/Department of Veterans Affairs Ap-

propriations bill. This legislation continues the goal set by the Republican majority to prioritize veteran programs. H.R. 5822 provides \$56.8 billion in discretionary funding for the VA and \$64.0 billion for mandatory VA programs. The legislation also makes available \$37.1 billion to improve access to medical services for all veterans, \$2.4 billion above last year's level.

Among some of its most significant provisions, H.R. 5822 provides \$50.6 billion in advance appropriations for VA medical accounts to ensure stable and uninterrupted services. It also provides new family caregiver benefits for disabled veterans as well as additional VA workers to address the continuing claims backlogs and to process new educational benefits. To address the needs of rural veterans, the legislation provides \$250 million for innovative practices to improve access to care for veterans in rural areas. This is particularly important to many Kansas veterans.

In addition to supporting this legislation, I applaud the work of all the Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) who contributed to the bill. From the Veterans of Foreign Wars to the American Legion, VSOs provide the appropriations committee invaluable information on the needs of the veteran community. They are tremendous advocates for all veterans.

H.R. 5822 is a good bill worthy of strong bipartisan support. I encourage my colleagues to join with me in voting for this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD WILLIAM BEARD

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Gerald William Beard, a small business pioneer who helped shape the history and economy of San Bernardino County, California.

In 1973, San Bernardino County wasn't much more than tumbleweeds, sleepy farm towns and seemingly endless, desolate highways that connected Los Angeles to the rest of the country. To the casual observer at the time, much of this vast track of arid land could be considered inhospitable and worthless.

But Mr. Beard saw something different when he arrived. He understood the economic potential San Bernardino County had to offer as the gateway to Southern California and the Pacific Ocean. He knew this inexpensive land—nestled along the snow covered caps of the San Bernardino Mountains—was a great opportunity for countless families to realize the American dream of homeownership.

So in 1973, Mr. Beard founded Gerald W. Beard Realty, Incorporated and with it pinned his own hopes and dreams on changing this forgotten, barren land into the economic powerhouse and success it is today.

Because of Mr. Beard's hard work and true American entrepreneurial spirit, thousands of

• 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.

homeowners and business owners have benefited. And this once mostly desert land has given way to a vibrant community and a place millions call home.

As Mr. Beard enters the sunset of his life with his loving wife, Cherrell, at his side and reflects on his enormous accomplishments, his legacy continues with his children, Bradley, Scott G., Scott C., Kimberly and Michael, and the countless people he has helped.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we all stand to recognize the service, passion and dedication of a great American—Gerald William Beard—and wish him many more years of health and happiness.

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING STRATEGY ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4692, the National Manufacturing Strategy Act of 2010. I would like to thank Representative LIPINSKI for introducing this bill which put in place a plan to invigorate our nation's manufacturing sector.

It is no secret that our nation's manufacturers are struggling, and have been for a long time. In this globalized economy, it is now time to develop a strategy for the proper management of our manufacturing sector. Every day, manufacturing jobs move overseas. This outsourcing is hurting American families and shifting our economy from manufacturing to service. The plan developed through this legislation will improve our domestic manufacturing competitiveness in these new emerging markets so that we can keep our jobs at home. Moreover, there must be an established minimum domestic manufacturing capability in order to rapidly respond in times of national emergencies. This plan takes this important measure into account by further emphasizing the key role of continued domestic manufacturing to our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I also support the provisions of this bill that provide the necessary oversight for these improvements to be properly implemented. I think that the creation of a Manufacturing Strategy Board for the President is a tremendous idea. It enables a more focused body to narrow in on the needs and opportunities for the manufacturing sector and then report back to the President for action. This will enable budgeting requests to be in line with the recommendations and goals included in the strategy of this new board.

Overall, a unified, definitive plan is what the manufacturing sector needs in order to continue to grow and flourish. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

NO ENFORCEMENT MEANS LOWER WAGES, HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, Arizona's pleadings in support of their immigra-

tion enforcement law include an important declaration by Harvard Economics Professor George Borjas.

In his analysis of interstate wage trends from 1960 through 2006, Borjas found: "that the presence of unauthorized aliens in the Arizona workforce reduced the earnings of low-skilled authorized workers in Arizona by 4.7 percent.

Borjas says, "The overall wage depression for all Arizona workers is approximately \$1.4 billion.

"The evidence further indicates that the presence of unauthorized aliens in the Arizona workforce reduced the employment rate of Arizona's low-skilled authorized workers by 1.6 percent . . ."

This reinforces what we already know: the Obama administration's failure to secure the border and enforce our immigration laws means citizens and legal immigrants face higher unemployment and lower wages.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID WILLIAMSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Williamson of Ogden, Iowa and his work with Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition), which is a volunteer river clean-up project organized by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

David utilizes metals collected from local rivers to create sculptures and other artwork to promote Project AWARE. He travels to the Iowa State Fair every summer and creates a metal sculpture to help increase the awareness and the importance of cleaning and maintaining Iowa's rivers.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending David Williamson for his dedicated work with Project AWARE. I consider it an honor to represent David in Congress and I wish him continued success in supporting Project AWARE through his artwork.

IN RECOGNITION OF CELIA G. KUPERSMITH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Celia Kupersmith, who is resigning after 11 years of service as General Manager of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District in Northern California.

A native Texan, Celia Kupersmith attended Southwest Texas State University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geography and Planning, followed by a Master's Degree in Urban Planning at Texas A&M University. Prior to joining the Bridge District in 1999, Ms. Kupersmith served as Executive Director of the Regional Transportation Commission in Reno, Nevada.

As General Manager, Celia Kupersmith has led an organization that comprises the land-

mark Golden Gate Bridge and two public transit systems, including a network of almost 200 buses and five ferries serving the North Bay Area and San Francisco County. Under her direction, approximately 825 employees serve more than 50 million Bridge and transit customers, as well as six million tourists each year.

During her tenure, Ms. Kupersmith moved the Bridge District forward in many ways, including leading efforts to seismically retrofit the Bridge, now two-thirds complete; enhance overall security of the Bridge; transform Golden Gate Ferry services into an expeditious 30 minute crossing; lead the introduction of new technology including FasTrak and TransLink; and improve internal business operations and long-term financial stability.

Celia Kupersmith has also been active in various professional organizations including serving as Chair of the American Public Transportation Association and on various committees of the International Bridge, Tunnel, and Turnpike Association. She has been a member of the Mineta Transportation Institute's Board of Directors, the Transit Cooperative Research Project Selection Committee, and the National Transportation Institute's Advisory Board.

Ms. Kupersmith leaves the Bridge District to pursue a new career as Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Sound Transit in the Seattle, Washington area where she will oversee the construction and operation of commuter and light rail systems, as well as a regional commuter bus service.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor Celia Kupersmith for her extraordinary contributions to the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District. I thank Ms. Kupersmith for her service and join her colleagues in wishing her continued success in her new career.

EMERGENCY BORDER SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5875, but am disappointed the bill does not contain critical spending for the overwhelmed district courts along our Nation's Southwest border.

During the last several years, stepped up enforcement and prosecution efforts in Southwest border jurisdictions have resulted in a significant increase in the number of drug, immigration, and weapons cases being filed in courts along the border. Consequently, the current workload experienced by the five district courts along the Southwest border is staggering. When combined, border districts handled nearly 75 percent of criminal immigration cases in the Nation's 94 districts in fiscal year 2009 and almost 40 percent of all the Nation's federal criminal case filings.

Here's a brief snapshot of the district court in Arizona:

Last year in the Tucson division of the district court for Arizona, felony cases and defendants increased by more than 65 percent