

returned from battle to once again serve our communities. While our Nation's veterans may stop wearing the uniform of the Armed Forces, these brave men and women never stop serving. And, it's comforting to know that the American Legion is dedicated to providing support and stability to these veterans.

The Leon Ogier Post No. 2 has become a fixture of the Nevada community. From the annual kids Christmas program, a tradition that dates back to 1922, to the meal delivery program during the holidays, this post has set a high standard of service. The fabric of the community is strong due in no small part to the Leon Ogier Post No. 2.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the construction of Memorial Hall, let us all take a moment to thank our veterans and the organizations that support them. As we celebrate this important milestone, I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in wishing the American Legion Leon Ogier Post No. 2 the very best in the next 100 years.

CHINA'S UTTER DISREGARD FOR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit an AFP article detailing a tragic story which illustrates the Chinese government's callousness and utter disregard for basic human rights.

AFP reports that China repatriated an 81-year old former South Korean prisoner of war who fled North Korea literally decades after first being captured.

China regularly repatriates North Korean refugees, in violation of their international obligations oftentimes sending these individuals back to certain punishment and possible death. The Chinese government simply doesn't care.

CHINA SENDS S. KOREAN POW BACK TO N. KOREA

SEOUL.—China has repatriated an 81-year-old former South Korean prisoner of war who had fled North Korea decades after being captured, a newspaper report and an activist said Tuesday.

Dong-A Ilbo quoted an unidentified government official as saying the man surnamed Jung was sent back despite intensive diplomatic efforts by Seoul to bring him to the South.

A foreign ministry spokeswoman said she had no information.

"The government made tremendous diplomatic efforts but he was eventually sent back to the North," the source was quoted as saying.

South Korea had contacted Chinese diplomatic authorities more than 50 times since Jung's arrest, the daily said.

Choi Sung-Yong, an activist who campaigns for the return of South Korean abductees, said Jung was forcibly returned to the North in September last year, about a month after being arrested in China where he was hiding.

He said Jung was arrested eight days after he fled the North with the help of South Korean activists.

China repatriates escapees from North Korea as illegal immigrants even though they can face harsh punishment back home.

By Seoul's official account 494 South Koreans, mostly fishermen, were seized in the Cold War decades following the war. Seoul also says more than 500 prisoners of war were never sent home after the Korean War armistice was signed on July 27, 1953.

North Korea denies holding any south-erners against their will, even though some have managed to escape from the hunger-stricken country.

SECURING AIRCRAFT COCKPITS AGAINST LASERS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 5810, which amends title 18 of the United States Code to provide penalties for aiming laser pointers at airplanes. The effect of laser pointer glare on the windows of airplane cockpits is extremely dangerous to pilots. Laser glare that incapacitates pilots can endanger all other people onboard the aircraft. In order to prevent unnecessary harm to pilots, airplane passengers, and other airline employees, deliberate aiming of laser pointers at airplanes must be regulated.

Pilots experience laser glare in cockpits at a rate that has steadily increased over the past fifteen years. In 2009 alone, 1600 individual laser-aircraft incidents occurred. The intensity with which laser light reflects off cockpit glass can result in varying degrees of danger for pilots, from simple distraction by the bright flash of laser light to temporary flash blindness that greatly reduces their ability to capably navigate the aircraft. If the laser light is aimed from a near enough distance, pilots can sustain permanent eye damage from the brightness of the laser light. In some cases, pilots have even taken evasive action, confusing the laser light for the dot-type laser reticle of a weapon.

Eleven states have already enacted laws regulating the use of laser pointers around aircraft. While the use and ownership of small laser pointers is legal, this legislation is vital to preventing laser pointer users from accidentally harming or incapacitating pilots. I support this bill, in the hope that it will help Americans to be more careful in their use of laser pointers, and realize the grave consequences their actions can have for our Nation's pilots and aircraft passengers.

I urge my colleagues to also support this important resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVING ACCESS TO MEDICARE COVERAGE ACT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today on the eve of Medicare's 45th anniversary, I rise to recognize the tireless work and fierce vigilance of an organization that has prioritized the care needs of Medicare beneficiaries, the

Center for Medicare Advocacy, as well as bring to light a coverage issue that the agency has been worked on for years: lengthy hospital observation stays.

Earlier this summer, I had discussions with leaders of the Center for Medicare Advocacy about lengthy hospital observation stays which has inhibited care for Medicare beneficiaries. Excessive time on hospital observation status has been shown to create two potential problems for Medicare beneficiaries. First, prescription drugs administered in the hospital during an observation stay are not included in the inpatient deductible cap, which can easily become unaffordable for patients and their families if the medications are not included in the beneficiary's Part D formulary. Secondly, time spent on observation status in a hospital is not counted towards the three-day inpatient hospital stay required for the beneficiary to receive skilled nursing care. Both potential consequences create financial and care burdens for Medicare beneficiaries.

Earlier in the month, I met with the Renshaw family from my district that had been negatively affected by a lengthy hospital observation status. After falling and breaking his hip, Mr. Renshaw, an elderly Medicare beneficiary, was taken to a local hospital treatment where he was subsequently put on observation status. He remained in the hospital for four days. After he was released, Mr. Renshaw required skilled nursing care for his rehabilitation. However, because Mr. Renshaw was placed on observation status instead of admitted officially as an inpatient, his time in the hospital did not count towards the Medicare three-day hospital stay required for skilled nursing care. His family was forced to write a check for nearly \$10,000 in order to get him the care that he needed because Medicare would not cover this benefit.

In response to the Center for Medicare Advocacy's vigilance on this issue and the experiences shared with me by the Renshaw family, I am introducing the Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act. My legislation will fix this unfair component of Medicare law that arbitrarily differentiates between patients on inpatient versus observation status with obtaining necessary skilled care. The Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act will count a beneficiary's time on observation towards the three-day hospital stay requirement for skilled nursing care. And while my legislation does not address the challenges associated with unaffordable out-of-pocket prescription drug and other costs associated with lengthy hospital observation stays, I look forward to working with the Center for Medicare Advocacy on finding a long-term solution to this urgent problem.

HONORING KATHLEEN SCHUERMAN

HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize the 100th birthday of someone who is not only a constituent of mine, but a woman very dear to my heart, my great aunt, Kathleen Schuermann.

Our family will soon gather to mark this occasion, and there's so much to celebrate.

Over the past century, Aunt Kathleen has been a public servant in the State Liquor Department and Hamilton County Juvenile Sheriff's Department. She has been a ballet teacher to a generation of young dancers in Cincinnati. She has been a proud supporter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and a faithful parishioner at Holy Cross-Immaculata. She has been the loving mother of seven children, grandmother of 21, and great-grandmother of 36.

Though she was born ten years before women in America had the right to vote, Aunt Kathleen has her whole life embraced and extolled the importance of civic involvement. Whether working the polls or attending presidential inaugurations, advocating to save Cincinnati's streetcars or offering her own brand of political advice, Kathleen remains an example of the sort of concerned and active citizenship we too seldom see. As a public servant, I draw inspiration from her undimmed interest in governance and community.

We can be certain in coming weeks to see Aunt Kathleen at the Immaculata church festival or making the rounds at the Delhi Senior Center. And so, on her 100th birthday, we not only reflect on her life's journey thus far, but we look forward to the days ahead.

Happy birthday, Aunt Kathleen.

THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST.
JOHN'S A.M.E. CHURCH

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a storied institution of faith in the Third Congressional District. This year, Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church is celebrating its 170th anniversary, and I would like to highlight some moments from the history of the church and its contribution to our community.

St. John's was organized in 1840 within the old Cumberland Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Norfolk. The land where the church now stands was purchased for just \$450 in 1848. The church disconnected from the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1863 and was formally received into the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1864. Elder John M. Brown was the Church's first pastor.

The church grew rapidly. Additional land to erect a parsonage was bought in 1865, and the church was enlarged twice between 1868 and 1888. In 1888, the present church building on Bute Street was erected. St. John's exterior has stood nearly unchanged since then.

St. John's flourished in Norfolk during the turn of the century. The church was the first African-American congregation in Norfolk to install a pipe organ. The parsonage was completed, and in 1908 St. John's had reached such a level of prominence as to host the General Conference of the entire African Methodist Episcopal Church.

St. John's continued to grow in the early twentieth century. Its membership grew to over 1000, and two new churches grew from it. This rapid growth helped the church burn its mortgage after just 46 years in 1915. Along with its internal growth, St. John's was also active in the community. The church estab-

lished the first African-American Boy Scout Troop in Norfolk in 1930 and the first African-American Girl Scout Troop in 1935.

The growth of St. John's in the second half of the century mirrored our country's growth. The church building underwent a massive renovation in 1956. The church's growth helped it to pay off the mortgage of the parsonage, install air conditioning, and buy buses, pianos, organs and robes for new choirs.

Over the last 25 years, St. John's has continued to both grow and stay relevant in the community. The church has started many new ministries to address the needs of both its members and its Downtown Norfolk neighborhood. An education building conceived earlier was finally built, and the church created a Social Service Outreach Program, the Hope Outreach Ministry, and the Medical and Wellness Ministry. In 1986, St. John's A.M.E. was registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark. St. John's has taken care to develop programs for the next generation of its members, recently revitalizing its Children's Choir, and establishing both a Nursery and Young Adult Choir.

St. John's has had numerous pastors over its history, and many members have left St. John's to enter the priesthood and to preside over congregations of their own. In addition to First Pastor Rev. Brown, a selected list of pastors includes: Rev. W.D. Cook; Rev. J.R. Johnson; Rev. Walter L. Hildebrand; Rev. A.R. Powell; Rev. Walter C. Davis; Rev. L.W. Knight, Sr.; Rev. Larry S. Hinton; and the current pastor, Rev. John D. Burton.

As St. John's gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on the future knowing in the words of Rev. Burton that "Everything is going to be alright!" I would like to congratulate Rev. Burton and all of the members of Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal Church on the occasion of their 170th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO NELLE HARPER LEE
AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HER PULITZER PRIZE WINNING
NOVEL "TO KILL A MOCKING-
BIRD"

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, July 2010 marks the 50th Anniversary of Nelle Harper Lee's novel "To Kill a Mockingbird."

First published on July 11, 1960, "To Kill a Mockingbird" has since sold over 30 million copies and has been published in over 40 languages.

During the past 50 years the world has seen many changes but one thing still remains constant—"To Kill a Mockingbird", the novel that inspired children and adults in 1961 is still inspiring a new generation of children and adults today. Few novels have such timeless and universal appeal.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" has received numerous awards including the Pulitzer Prize in 1960 and the film adaptation received three Academy Awards and three Golden Globe Awards in 1962.

The Mockingbird Players, an amateur theater group, perform the dramatization of "To

Kill a Mockingbird" every April and May in Monroeville, Alabama, Lee's hometown. The players have performed at both home and abroad including performances in Chicago, Washington, D.C., the United Kingdom and Israel.

One of the novels best known quotes is, "Lawyers, I suppose, were children once." This quote and her character, Atticus Finch, have inspired lawyers for the past 50 years, including myself.

For those who have read "To Kill a Mockingbird" you may remember Scout's first grade teacher was Miss Caroline Fisher. On Scout's first day at school, Miss Caroline Fisher introduced herself proudly saying, "I am Caroline Fisher. I am from North Alabama, from Winston County." Being born and raised in Winston County, which is a small rural county in North Alabama. I remember being surprised to see my home county mentioned as I first read the book as a law student at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. From that day forward "To Kill a Mockingbird" has been a favorite of mine, not only because my home county was mentioned but most importantly because the message the book articulates.

Nelle, as she is affectionately known by her friends, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on November 5, 2007 by President George W. Bush.

Besides "To Kill a Mockingbird," Lee also penned "Christmas to Me" and "When Children Discover America" for McCall's Magazine in the 1960s.

Miss Lee is a national treasure and I am proud to cosponsor and vote for Mr. BONNER's resolution, H. Res. 1525, honoring the 50th anniversary of "To Kill a Mockingbird."

THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2010 National Scout Jamboree that concluded at Fort A.P. Hill, near Fredericksburg. Thousands upon thousands of Boy Scouts, Troop masters, and other staff and family descended on the greater DC area to join together and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

Madam Speaker, the Boy Scouts of America make positive contributions in every community around the United States. Boy Scouts volunteer many hours to improve their communities, enhance the environment, and help those in need. In their dedication to service to others, Scouts never shy away from a challenge.

I trust the Jamboree that just concluded was a successful and joyous one, Madam Speaker. The Boy Scouts of America, as an organization, has a lot to be proud of and celebrate. Every former and current Scout should be proud of their contributions to humanity and their community. The Jamboree encouraged participants to "Be Prepared" as they anticipate the challenges of life and continue to act as leaders at home and school. Ultimately, Madam Speaker, the Jamboree "Inspire[d]" every participant to return to their home, troop, chartered organization, and community telling