

I also believe it is critical on this day to say that we need Congress to bring back the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act—and this time we need bipartisan support to pass it.

While the entire Nation watched with sorrow for those we lost and tried to heal emotionally after that day—there were only a few brave souls who went back to that rubble day-after-day and endured the physical and mental strain of clearing the remains of the towers in lower Manhattan.

On that day we gave those brave souls the “all clear” sign, but we now know that we were exposing those men and women to a poisonous dust that would stay with them for the rest of their lives.

We need this bill because it will finally provide comprehensive health care and compensation for thousands of our ailing 9/11 heroes.

This isn’t just a bill for New York and New Jersey—this is a bill for all Americans. We know that people from all 50 States were in lower Manhattan on or after 9/11 and now are facing serious health concerns.

This is not about Bill Pascrell or any other public official, but I tell you all of this because I want you, the protectors of our communities, to know that I stand firmly behind the mission of our Nation’s first responders.

We can not turn back the clock and provide our first responders with the equipment they should have had on 9/11, but we must take every step necessary to ensure that all of you are equipped with the tools necessary to face all the threats of the future.

These are bipartisan solutions that all Americans have embraced because we understand now that if we are not strong here in our communities than we are not safe as a Nation.

I want to conclude by simply stating that even 9 years after 9/11 we will continue to bow our heads for those we lost, but we will also hold our hands in solidarity with one another, in the determination of those brave first responders who proved on 9/11 that we may have been attacked, but that we would not be defeated.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO
EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1493 and on behalf of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I submit the following findings that identify potential changes in law that help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, promoting efficiency and reform of government, and controlling spending within government programs authorized by the Committee.

On February 26, 2010, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2701, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. This legislation includes a number of changes in law that would help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mis-

management, as well as promote efficiency and reform in government, and control spending within intelligence programs.

Creation of an Inspector General for the Intelligence Community. The bill would create a statutory and independent inspector general for the Intelligence Community (IC/IG), whose office would have authority to conduct audits and investigations within and across the elements of the Intelligence Community. The IC/IG would be a powerful tool for identifying waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the Intelligence Community.

Granting access to the General Accounting Office. The bill would require the General Accounting Office be given access to Intelligence Community records and personnel for the purposes of conducting audits and investigation as directed by the congressional intelligence committees. These audits and investigations have proven critical to Congress’ ability to identify waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement throughout the federal government; this provision will bring the same level of congressional oversight to the Intelligence Community.

Review of covert action programs by Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency. The bill would require that the CIA/JIG conduct audits of each covert action program at least once every three years, which would ensure that these critical and sometimes costly programs receive an appropriate level of scrutiny.

Improvements to congressional oversight. The bill would enhance congressional oversight over the Intelligence Community in a number of ways, which would better enable Congress to help reduce the deficit by promoting efficiency, controlling spending, and reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. These include:

Reform to congressional reporting on covert actions. The bill would make a number of improvements to the process through which the Intelligence Community informs Congress regarding certain sensitive covert actions, including a requirement that all notifications to the Gang of 8 (the Speaker of the House, House Minority Leader, Senate Majority and Minority Leader, and the Chair and Ranking Member of the two Intelligence Committees) be provided in writing; and that all members of the congressional intelligence committees be provided with “general information” regarding a notification to the Gang of 8. The bill also defines the specific terms that would necessitate congressional notification.

Certification of compliance with oversight requirements. The bill would require the head of each element of the Intelligence Community to certify semi-annually that the element has notified Congress of all significant and significant anticipated intelligence activities, as required by law.

Cybersecurity oversight. The bill would require notification to Congress of all new and existing cybersecurity programs, giving Congress better visibility into this evolving and resource-intensive mission.

Security clearance reform. The bill would require extensive reporting to Congress, including a comprehensive quadrennial audit, regarding the processes used by the federal government to provide security clearances. It would also create an ombudsman responsible for addressing complaints regarding the security clearance system. Committee hearings and other investigations have identified numer-

ous inefficiencies in the security clearance systems, which these reforms will help to address.

Reform and oversight of personnel policies. The bill includes a number of provisions intended to help control the growth of personnel and other administrative costs within the Intelligence Community. These include:

Caps on personnel levels at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The bill would limit the number of personnel at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), which has increased substantially since the ODNI was created.

Annual personnel level assessments. The bill would require that the Intelligence Community conduct a comprehensive review of all personnel, both federal employees and contractors across all agencies, which would assist the Intelligence Community and Congress in identifying redundancies, excessive growth, and other inefficiencies.

Report on intelligence community contractors. The bill would require a comprehensive report on the use of personal services contractors within the Intelligence Community, the impact of these contractors on personnel management systems, plans to convert positions from contractor to federal employee, and accountability methods. The use of contractors in the Intelligence Community has increased substantially over the past ten years, at considerable cost to the taxpayer.

This report will enable Congress to identify contractor mismanagement and to monitor the implementation of responsible and cost-effective policies regarding contractors across the Intelligence Community.

Reports and plans. The bill includes provisions to require reports or plans on various subjects, which will assist Congress and the Intelligence Community in determining ways to achieve a variety of missions more efficiently and effectively without waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement. These include:

Report on intelligence resources dedicated to Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill would require a report summarizing the intelligence resources dedicated to Operation New Dawn (formerly Operation Iraqi Freedom) and Operation Enduring Freedom, so that Congress can ensure that they are used in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

Report on transformation of the intelligence capabilities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has undertaken significant internal restructuring to better enable it to collect intelligence on potential terrorists, among other threats. The bill requires a comprehensive assessment of this effort, which would allow Congress and the FBI determine whether further changes are necessary and/or cost-effective.

Intelligence community financial improvement and audit readiness. The bill requires that each element of the Intelligence Community produce a plan for achieving full, unqualified audits by September 30, 2013, which is an integral step toward implementation of sound financial management practices at these agencies.

Inspector General report on over-classification. The bill requires that the IC/IG conduct an analysis of the over-classification of national security information and recommend ways to resolve the problem. Over-classification can inhibit the sharing of intelligence, which can lead to redundancy and waste.

Report on information sharing practices of joint terrorism task force. The bill requires a report on the information sharing practices of the FBI-New York Police Department Joint Terrorism Task Force to help identify ways in which combining federal, state, and local resources can result in a more efficient use of those resources.

Plan to implement recommendations of the data center energy efficiency reports. The bill requires that the Director of National Intelligence prepare a plan to comply with a report regarding the use of energy efficient data centers, which would help the Intelligence Community reduce its energy costs.

Repeal of certain reporting requirements. The bill would reduce the resources expended across the Intelligence Community on preparing reports that are redundant or obsolete.

HONORING PONZI VINEYARDS

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offering congratulations to the Ponzi Vineyards on their fortieth anniversary of outstanding wine making and stewardship of the land.

Located in Beaverton, Oregon, in the heart of my district, Ponzi Vineyards has a long tradition of creating highly rated wines in the great wine-producing region of the Willamette Valley. Ponzi Vineyards is internationally acclaimed for producing some of the world's finest pinot noir, pinot grin, pinot blanc, chardonnay and white riesling, as well as arneis and dolcetto, two rare Italian varietals.

Ponzi Vineyards remains a family owned business, with the second generation now directing the operation. Founded by Dick and Nancy Ponzi, the winery has always maintained an unwavering commitment to building a tradition of winemaking excellence, as well as a commitment to protecting the environment.

All of the Ponzi's vineyard land is certified to comply with the world's highest standard for sustainable viticulture. Since the beginning, the Ponzis have instilled a strong belief in respect for, and responsibility toward our natural resources.

I congratulate the Ponzi family on its forty years of producing high-quality wines, while simultaneously protecting the Earth.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY RELATING TO EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Budget Enforcement Resolution, I submit those changes in law resulting from legislation approved or filed by the Committee on Homeland Security that will help achieve deficit reduction by enhancing efficiency, accountability and over-

sight, while eliminating waste, abuse, mismanagement, and fraud in Government programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Below are measures within the Committee's jurisdiction that have, to date, been approved by the House during this Congress and reflect the Committee's efforts to promote efficiency, government reform and result in budgetary savings:

H.R. 553, the Reducing Over-Classification Act, which creates a standard for formatting finished intelligence and eliminates redundant classification efforts.

H.R. 2200, the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act, which streamlines management at TSA, requires risk-based allocation of resources, and promotes operational efficiency.

H.R. 4842, the Homeland Security Science and Technology Authorization Act of 2010, which establishes new internal controls, more robust standards, and reforms for all of the research and development conducted by both the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office.

H.R. 3978, the First Responder Anti-Terrorism Training Resources Act, which allows the Department of Homeland Security to accept gifts for its first responder training centers, thereby alleviating need for the Department to purchase certain equipment or material.

H.R. 3980, the Redundancy Elimination and Enhanced Performance for Preparedness Grants Act, which requires the identification of redundant rules and regulations and a plan to eliminate redundant reports and regulations.

H.R. 1148, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a program in the maritime environment for the mobile biometric identification of suspected individuals, including terrorists, to enhance border security, which promotes government efficiency by streamlining processing, prosecution, and deportation of suspected individuals.

H.R. 2868, the Chemical and Water Security Act of 2009, which controls spending by requiring that grants be awarded on a merit and risk based basis, streamlines the regulatory requirements for securing chemical and water treatment facilities and, by enhancing the security of such facilities, mitigates against the potentially astronomical costs associated with the response to and recovery from a successful terrorist attack on such a facility.

H.R. 1617, the Department of Homeland Security Component Privacy Officer Act of 2009, which establishes a privacy officer in each Department of Homeland Security component, thus enhancing efficiency by reducing the potential for the production of regulations or guidelines that are subject to challenge under privacy laws.

H.R. 4748, the Northern Border Counter-narcotics Strategy Act of 2010, which enhances the efficiency of governmental efforts to prevent the illegal trafficking of drugs across the northern border by requiring a strategy stating the specific roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies.

H.R. 1178, a bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the use of Civil Air Patrol personnel and resources to support homeland security missions, and for other purposes, which requires a report to Congress focusing on the

feasibility and cost effectiveness of using the Civil Air Patrol to supplement Departmental air resources involved in border enforcement and other homeland security missions.

H.R. 1665, the Coast Guard Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, which eliminates massive cost overruns and potential future costs overruns for Coast Guard acquisitions.

H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, which creates an acquisition directorate to provide guidance and oversight for Coast Guard acquisitions, the result of which will be cost savings.

Madam Speaker, the measures I have listed display the Committee on Homeland Security's commitment to advancing legislation that seeks to reduce the national deficit by promoting government efficiency while focusing on our primary mission of pursuing legislation that enhances the security of our nation.

RECOGNIZING STEVE LEWANDOWSKI ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANNOUNCING AT THE SAN DIEGO POLO CLUB

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenure of Mr. Steve Lewandowski, on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as announcer at the San Diego Polo Club. As a beloved media personality in San Diego County, I would like to congratulate Steve and celebrate his two decades of outstanding commentary for the Club.

Known as the Voice of the San Diego Polo Club, Steve has provided invaluable entertainment acting as a play-by-play announcer, color commentator and ambassador for the game he learned to play at the club. With Steve's wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for the game, you wouldn't know that he didn't have much background in polo when he arrived in San Diego in 1982 as a naval officer based in Coronado. But after his first match at the Club in 1991, he was instantly hooked.

With a background in public speaking, Steve came in to announcing at the club by chance, as a last minute backup whose versatile talents instantly took everyone by storm. From there it was history as Steve proceeded to take over the distinguished post that has warmed hearts for the last 20 years.

Novice fans count on him to provide the introductory polo basics, seasoned veterans want the inside scoop—Steve delivers it all in an eloquent balance. Known for his ability to convey tremendous excitement and enthusiasm, Steve has announced at the World Cup, done commentary as "the voice of polo" for ESPN, and has traveled all over the world, including Mexico, Ireland, and Australia.

Furthermore, Steve has made countless contributions to our community as the Master of Ceremonies and auctioneer for hundreds of charity events. Steve holds a particular passion and longstanding commitment to supporting wounded warriors. Time and again, Steve has demonstrated his admirable dedication and unwavering support for wounded warriors and the organizations that serve them.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in recognizing Steve