

standard within our criminal justice system. For too long, Federal sentencing guidelines have placed far harsher penalties on crack users and dealers than on the users and dealers of powder cocaine.

As crack cocaine use became prevalent and made headlines in the mid-1980s, experts suggested that crack was significantly more addictive and linked to greater urban violence than its powder counterpart. Congress came parachuting in with mandatory sentencing minimums and, for good measure, established an exaggerated 100:1 sentencing ratio.

But like so many well-intended Congressional actions, the disparate mandatory sentences have had a devastating effect on our urban communities and racial minorities. The 1986 law has contributed to skyrocketing incarceration rates of low-level, non-violent drug-offenders and even allowed these street-level dealers to be punished more harshly than drug-kingpins.

We need to punish crimes, but this unjustified disparity has tied up law enforcement resources. It has encouraged skepticism and resentment within our African-American community and undermined public confidence in our nation's anti-drug laws.

Former major league baseball player Willie Mays Aikens is a classic example of the sentencing disparity. Aikens faced a 20-year sentence for crack distribution and other crimes. Upon his release, Aikens commented that, had he been caught with powdered cocaine, he might have faced a single year's sentence, rather than the 12½ he faced for crack distribution. Aikens was grateful that the Sentencing Commission revisited his case and allowed for an early release.

A broad coalition of civil rights, criminal justice, community-based, and faith-based organizations have joined forces to rectify the disparity. With the passage of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (S.1789), the sentencing disparity is corrected from the current 100 to 1 ratio to 18 to 1, while establishing stiff new penalties for serious drug offenses.

I am delighted that Congress has decided to act. Upon his release, Aikens interviewed with ESPN. His words capture my sentiment. "All I can say, it's about time."

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO PAKISTANI PEOPLE AFTER FLOODS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, thank you Chairman BERMAN for your leadership and for encouraging our government to help the people of Pakistan at this critical time.

Pakistan is suffering one of the worst natural disasters in recent history. The situation in Pakistan is dire. The United Nations estimates that more than 20 million Pakistanis have been displaced by the flooding, exceeding the combined total of individuals impacted by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2007 Myanmar Cyclone and the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

The U.S. Agency for International Development's, USAID joint endeavor with the U.S. military in Pakistan has already resulted in the evacuation of more than 10,000 people and the delivery of more than 2.7 billion pounds of relief supplies.

Like the tsunami that wreaked havoc upon northern Indonesia in 2004, the Pakistani floods threaten to propel Pakistan, a key ally, away from the successful economic progress and growth that it has made over the last decade.

This outcome would inevitably cost Pakistan thousands of more innocent lives and years worth of development and sustainability, further increasing both the humanitarian crisis domestically and the security threat worldwide.

Just two weeks ago, I personally wrote to Administrator Shah of USAID and commended his decision to use a portion of the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan funding towards relief aid. As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I know how important a stable Pakistan is to global stability. Redirecting more funds provided through the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act will demonstrate to our Pakistani partners that the United States is truly committed and will not abandon Pakistan in her time of need.

Pakistanis must know that we are in this for the long haul. Our dedication is not a matter of encroaching on Pakistani autonomy or manipulating a nation's internal politics.

The United States seeks to renew its commitment to the people of Pakistan through this tragedy and combat those who dare to take advantage of the suffering of innocent Pakistanis to further their radical beliefs.

On behalf of my over 30,000 Pakistani-American constituents, I urge this body to support this measure and its message, as well.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD ERB

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Donald Erb, a World War II Army veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Donald Erb was recognized on Tuesday, September 14. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: DONALD ERB

(By Greg Eckstrom)

At 84 years old, Donald Erb might be considered one of the younger veterans of World War II, but still shares many characteristics with other WWII veterans of the time. He is disciplined, modest and sees military service as many did in his time . . . as more of a duty than an option.

Moving to Boone County with his family at a very young age in 1929, Erb graduated from Ogden High School and was immediately drafted into the Army as an infantry soldier in 1944.

"I graduated high school in 44 and went into the Army in 44," he said. "Just as soon

as I got out of high school. We went to a replacement depot and wherever they needed soldiers was where they sent you. I went to Camp Walters, Texas, for 16 weeks training and then we shipped to the Philippines."

Erb arrived in the Philippines just as the heavy fighting in Manila was finishing up and jungle warfare was going on outside the city. A machine gunner during his time stationed there, Erb recalls his fellow soldiers as being one of the best parts about his service.

"Buddies, friends," he said when asked about his favorite part of service. As far as what stood out to him most in his time overseas, however, the answer was the difficulty of fighting in the jungle.

"I think jungle warfare," he said. "All these supplies were brought in by water buffalo. Any injuries or anybody that was hit or killed was carried out by Filipino litter bearers. We didn't have any roads. As we took the jungle and got control of it, then bulldozers made roads."

As roads were bulldozed into the jungles, tanks were brought in to clean out the caves.

"They bulldozed a major road there and brought tanks in with flamethrowers and cleaned out the caves and stuff in there by using flamethrower tanks," he said.

Erb also recalls the final days of World War II, when atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Like many WWII veterans, he saw the bombs, and the resulting end of the war, as a Godsend.

"The atomic bomb, I would say, saved my life," he said. "Because every man, woman and child would have been armed in Japan. It probably saved the lives of a lot of people even though it killed a lot of people at the time. Every man, woman and child would have been fighting you otherwise. It would have been a bloodbath on both sides."

He also recalls the attitude among the soldiers upon receiving the news that the war had ended.

"The boozers, they went out and got drunk," he said. "But most of the soldiers just thanked God that it was over. Everybody was glad it was over."

Erb kept in contact with several of his fellow soldiers from the war, now good friends although their numbers have dwindled.

"I've got a buddy that was one day older than I am and lived in Eugene, Oregon," he said. "I've kept in contact with about 7 or 8 guys, but I think there's only three of us left. I was on the tail end of the war, and I'm 84, so these other guys are getting up in the 90s. This flight that we took up to Washington, D.C., one guy was celebrating his 94th birthday that day."

The flight Erb took, the Honor Flight, brought veterans to Washington D.C. where they had a chance to visit monuments, including the WWII memorial.

"It was a long day, but it was wonderful," he said. "We all had gold shirts on and these black hats. And when they dumped you out at the memorial, you had 305 guys out there with the gold shirts, and it was really kind of fascinating."

Being with other veterans, and seeing the World War II memorial, Erb said was a great experience. In his view, the war was difficult, but necessary.

"When you have to protect our country. . . World War II, we didn't have a whole lot of choice," he said. "We had both ends of the world moving in on us."

I commend Donald Erb for his many years of loyalty and service to our great Nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
MARGARET L. RAPP

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Margaret L. Rapp, devoted mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend to many. Mrs. Rapp was also a community activist with a lifelong dedication to making our community a better place.

Mrs. Rapp's life was framed by family and community. She was the devoted mother of Kathleen, Renee and Kurt, and the devoted mother-in-law of Jose and Deborah. She was also the adored grandmother of Conor, Erin, Kelly and Eric. She was very close to, and was an active participant in, the lives and special events of her children and grandchildren. They were a great source of strength and mirth for her. Mrs. Rapp was also a lifelong community activist who was involved in several causes and issues that served to improve our entire community.

Mrs. Rapp was known for her ardent opinions, kindness and good sense of humor. She served as a dedicated employee of the city of Parma for more than 20 years and was an unwavering volunteer and leader within the local political scene. She also served as a longtime precinct committeewoman for the Democratic Party and regularly wrote her elected representatives regarding her opinion on many issues that concerned her. Always inquisitive, Mrs. Rapp was an avid reader who was well-informed on issues affecting our community and our country. She was also passionate about genealogy and successfully traced and recorded her Irish, Welsh, German and French ancestry back hundreds of years.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and memory of Mrs. Margaret L. Rapp, whose energetic spirit, service to others and joy for living reflected throughout her life. I extend my deepest condolences to her children, grandchildren, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, nieces, nephews and many friends. The love she extended to her family, friends and to our community will be remembered and treasured.

CONGRATULATING TAOS PUEBLO,
ITS LEADERS AND ITS PEOPLE,
ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE RETURN OF THEIR SACRED
BLUE LAKE LANDS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the return of the sacred Blue Lake lands to the people of Taos Pueblo.

The people of Taos Pueblo have continuously occupied the Blue Lake lands since before Spain established rule over what is now the Southwestern United States. The lake and its surrounding mountains constitute the spiritual and religious center of Pueblo life and culture. After the Spanish conquest, the Pueblo was granted possessory rights over these

lands and those rights were honored by subsequent Mexican and United States governments.

In 1906, with the passage of the Antiquities Act, the U.S. Government unlawfully seized the Blue Lake lands and incorporated it into Carson National Forest. Upon the severance of the Pueblo from its spiritual homelands, the Pueblo's leaders began a 60-year-long struggle to reclaim its native lands. In 1965, the U.S. Indian Claims Commission affirmed that the United States had unjustly taken these lands; however, it was not until 1970 that a bipartisan Congress passed legislation to finally return 48,000 acres of scared tribal lands to the Pueblo.

On signing the legislation, President Nixon declared that "This bill indicates a new direction in Indian affairs in this country in which there will be more of an attitude of cooperation rather than paternalism, one of self-determination rather than termination, one of mutual respect." The Blue Lake lands are sacred to Taos Pueblo, but they are a vital symbol of the sovereignty and self-government for all of Indian Country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedication of the leaders of Taos Pueblo as they celebrate the anniversary of the return of their sacred lands. The perseverance of the Pueblo to obtain justice when faced with decades of opposition is an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING NURSE JODY BOCK,
THE RECIPIENT OF THE HEART
FAILURE NURSE MAVEN AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jody Bock, the recipient of the Heart Failure Nurse Maven Award. Jody Bock is a registered nurse, a heart-failure care coordinator, and the director of professional practice at Banner Heart Hospital.

Heart failure is a leading cause of death in the United States, affecting 8 million Americans and their families. It is only through the efforts, technical expertise, and compassion of nurses like Jody Bock that those who struggle with heart failure can learn to accept and fight this terrible disease. The Healthcare Accreditation Colloquium awards the Heart Failure Nurse Maven Award to recognize these remarkable nurses for their essential roles in the lives of people with heart failure.

Jody Bock began her career in nursing in Illinois, but moved to Arizona soon after receiving her master's degree and becoming a nurse specialist with a focus on heart-failure care. Employed at Banner Heart Hospital for her specialization, Jody Bock was part of a group which contributed to the hospital's certification as an Accredited Heart Failure Institute.

As a recipient of the Heart Failure Nurse Maven Award, nurse Bock has demonstrated her talent and empathy for her patients and their families. The challenging work she does daily helps to improve the lives of those dealing with heart failure. For this, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing this exceptional nurse, Jody Bock, for her service as a nurse in the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 15, 2010, I could not be present for votes due to a commitment back in Michigan. Had I been present I would have voted the following.

House rollcall vote 521 on H.R. 2039—Congressional Made in America Promise Act, I would have voted "yes."

House rollcall vote 522 on H.R. 5873—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218 North Milwaukee Street in Waterford, Wisconsin, as the "Captain Rhett W. Schiller Post Office", I would have voted "yes."

House rollcall vote 523 on H. Res. 1522—Expressing support for designation of the last week of September as National Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Week and the last Wednesday of September as National Previvor Day, I would have voted "yes."

House rollcall vote 524 on H.R. 5366—Overseas Contractor Reform Act, I would have voted "yes."

House rollcall vote 525 on H. Res. 1610—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, I would have voted "yes."

145TH ANNIVERSARY OF QUEEN
STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a storied institution of faith in the Third Congressional District. This year, Queen Street Baptist Church is celebrating its 145th anniversary, and I would like to highlight some moments from the history of the church and its contribution to our community.

The Story of Queen Street Baptist began in 1865 with a group of newly freed slaves. Originally members of First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, these freed men gathered in the Hampton Courthouse and took the name Second Baptist Church. Under the direction of Rev. John Smith, their first pastor, the church met in several locations until eventually erecting a building constructed with "used" boards on a plot of land between Holt and Victoria Avenues, now Settler's Landing Road. The church members saved funds and in 1875 had enough to build a new church at a cost of \$2,800. Upon Rev. Smith's death in 1881, Rev. Ebenezer Byrd assumed the pastorate for a brief period, until Rev. Thomas Shorts was called as third pastor in 1883.

Under Rev. Shorts' leadership, the church grew rapidly. Additional land was needed to build a larger church, and during Rev. Shorts' tenure, the site where the church now stands was purchased. It was also at this point that the church was renamed Queen Street Baptist, taking its new name from its new location. A fire in 1905 destroyed the church building,