

and prepare himself for college. He attended La Marque Independent School District. He was a great athlete which enabled him to receive full college scholarship. He graduated in 1977 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

He parlayed this degree into a career of public service as Chief of Staff to Texas State Senator Royce West and me when I served in the Texas Senate. In addition, his more than three decades of state service included working for Ann Richards when she was the Texas Comptroller and with the Texas Employment Commission.

Jason was involved with many organizations such as the Coalition of Black Trade Unions, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee Union, the AFL-CIO and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. His integrity and excellent service earned him various awards.

Jason was devoted to his wife, Janis DeGrate Justice, and to his family. In addition to Janis, he is survived by his children, Jason Justice, III, Christopher Justice, Derek D. Smith and Barbie Smith.

Many of us in Texas knew and admired Jason Justice. I valued his friendship and advice, as did so many others, and we will greatly miss him. It is impossible to fully grasp the breadth and depth of a life of someone like Jason, who gave every project or responsibility his very best effort and who lived his life with boundless enthusiasm and compassion. He was a role model and mentor to so many, and he leaves a powerful legacy that will last for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in memory and in honor of this great American, dedicated public servant, and truly great man—Jason Justice. We will not mourn that he has left us behind; rather we will rejoice what he has left behind.

HONORING THE MASSAPEQUA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH AN- NIVERSARY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, this weekend I had the privilege of joining in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Massapequa Fire Department. Founded on September 25, 1910, the Massapequa Fire Department has a long history of dedicated volunteerism and service to the Long Island community including Massapequa, Massapequa Park, and East Massapequa.

The Massapequa Fire Department provides around-the-clock fire protection and emergency medical services to approximately 19,000 homes located within its district, responding to an average of 2,400 alarms annually.

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am proud to support our nation's firefighters in Congress. These brave men and women risk their lives day after day to protect our communities and save the lives of others. Through Federal programs such as the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and the Staffing for Adequate

Fire and Emergency Response Program, we can do our part in ensuring that these heroes get the equipment, vehicles, training, staffing and other resources they need.

I hope that this milestone in the Massapequa Fire Department's history reminds us of not only the traditional role that firefighters have always played in protecting our communities, but also how their role has changed since September 11, 2001, because now they are also faced with an increasingly complex and dangerous job of preparing for and responding to acts of terrorism. We must do all that we can to support them in their mission.

I want to thank Massapequa Fire Chief Peter Anglim for his leadership and service, and all of the firefighters, both active and retired, who have proudly served the Massapequa community. Congratulations on 100 years of dedicated service.

VETERANS BENEFITS AND ECO- NOMIC WELFARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. I rise in support of several pieces of legislation before us this week that aim to improve the lives of our Nation's veterans.

As Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, it was my honor and privilege to help move some of these bills forward. I also thank the sponsors of these bills for their commitment to our veterans.

These bills make substantial improvements to the VA's job training programs, making veterans more attractive to small businesses to hire and train, and to ensure that veterans suffering from PTSD and other mental conditions are able to appeal their claims decisions if they miss an arbitrary deadline, set by a bureaucrat.

I strongly support the provision in H.R. 6132 which will allow veterans receiving a pension from the VA to keep receiving their pension in the event they are awarded a settlement for loss or injury. This will correct an extremely unfair part of current law that includes these payments as income when determining a veteran's eligibility for a means-based pension.

I am also glad that the House is addressing the issue of Retained Asset Accounts. We have heard a great deal about these accounts for recipients of Service Group Life Insurance Policies. H.R. 5993 will ensure that the families of veterans understand their rights and are fully informed of their options when their loved one passes.

Thank you again Mr. Speaker, and thank you to Chairman FILNER for his assistance in bringing these bills forward. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of these important bills.

ARTHRITIS PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND CURE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my legislation, H.R. 1210, the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act. I have fought long and hard for this bill alongside the Arthritis Foundation, the American College of Rheumatology, and the thousands of advocates across the country who understand how important this is. The legislation enjoys the bipartisan support of 181 Members of the House, and passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously.

One out of every five adults suffers from arthritis, making it the most common cause of disability in the United States. More than 300,000 children suffer from juvenile arthritis. Early diagnosis for this disease is critical to ensure children get access to the right doctor and the care they need.

My bill will authorize the "National Arthritis Action Plan," giving legislative direction and leadership to a program which has proven successful since 1998. The Plan distributes important grants to states and nonprofits to carry out arthritis outreach and education activities. The bill expands the Secretary of Health and Human Services' authority to increase juvenile arthritis research at NIH, and authorizes important institutional training grants to increase the number of pediatric rheumatologists in the U.S.

I'm proud of the work I've done to raise awareness about the devastating effects of arthritis but I'm far prouder of the tireless work of the arthritis advocates who have walked these halls, called their Representatives, and shared their stories. Their grassroots efforts are at the heart of this bill and I'm so pleased we could work on this together.

Passage of the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act is also a tribute to my friend, Senator Edward Kennedy, as we introduced this legislation together in the 110th Congress. His commitment to public health, improving care for children, and ending suffering are the principles which guided everything he did and I know he's looking down on us today and smiling.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE SEP- TEMBER 29, 2009 TSUNAMI THAT STRUCK AMERICAN SAMOA, SAMOA AND TONGA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember those who lost their lives last year on September 29 when American Samoa was hit by the most powerful earthquake of 2009 which struck below the ocean about 140 miles southwest of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and 125 miles south of Samoa.

The earthquake, which registered 8.3 on the Richter scale, set off a massive tsunami that

crashed into American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga, sweeping cars and people out to sea as survivors fled to high ground. In American Samoa, many children running for home unknowingly ran in the direction of the tsunami.

Entire villages in American Samoa and the neighboring islands of Samoa and Tonga were devastated by the disaster. In response, the United States answered with a generous and heartfelt outpouring of aid.

As we pause to remember the lives lost and the families impacted, I want to once more publicly thank President Obama for his leadership during this tragedy. The Obama Administration continues to stand with us and, on behalf of all Samoans, I thank the Administration for its swift response.

I also want to thank U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for her unwavering support. At my request and the request of Congresswoman Laura Richardson, Secretary Clinton authorized the immediate airlift of 92,000 pounds of emergency supplies collected by Samoan and non-Samoan communities in the Los Angeles, California area as well as by our Samoan and Tongan communities in Salt Lake City and St. George, Utah under the direction of Reverend Elder Liki Tiatia, Reverend Dr. John Mailo, Reverend Dr. Mispouena Tagaloa, High Chief Loa Pele Faletogo, and HC Papali'i Misiona Patane.

In American Samoa, a team of more than 300 responders from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the American Red Cross, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other Federal agencies coordinated relief and recovery operations.

The United States Navy, the United States Coast Guard, the Hawaii Air National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve American Samoa provided critical transport of the life-saving and life-sustaining supplies and equipment to meet the immediate needs of the survivors, including more than 26,000 meals, 14,000 liters of water, 1,800 blankets, 800 tents, more than 800 cots, and 9 pallets of medical supplies and medical equipment in support of American Samoa's mass care operations.

The U.S. Department of Labor released over \$24 million in National Emergency Grant (NEG) funds to assist clean-up and recovery efforts in American Samoa, although an average disaster NEG is only about \$5 million.

FEMA has projected, or set aside, over \$155 million for recovery efforts. So far, about \$65 million has been obligated and about \$45 million has been disbursed pending action from the applicant to define scopes of work or provide information necessary to clear environmental compliance.

Of this \$155 million set-aside, FEMA has projected that about \$77 million will be used for infrastructure. Of this \$77 million, \$15 million has been obligated, but only \$7 million has been disbursed. According to FEMA, the program is based on reimbursement so FEMA cannot disburse until the American Samoa Government (ASG) requests a manual draw-down based on receipts submitted.

Regarding housing, FEMA initiated a pilot program and planned two phases of construction. Phase 1 required the construction of 8 homes and 10 additional site preparations. All of this work is completed and the 8 homes are occupied. Costs for Phase 1 are still being finalized.

A contract award for Phase 2 is expected to occur in early October with ground-breaking

expected to take place in mid-to-late October. A local business is expected to be issued the contract award for Phase 2. 33 homes are expected to be constructed in Phase 2. Overall, the entire pilot program currently stands at 41 homes.

The U.S. Congress also set aside an additional \$1.2 million to provide direct assistance to ASG for the disaster through the U.S. Department of the Interior.

In addition to more than \$200 million federal dollars described above, Samoan students at the Wentworth Military Academy collected \$32,000. They donated \$15,000 in cash to the American Samoa Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (ASVOAD) and the remaining amount was given to their families in American Samoa, and also used to provide airfare for the students to visit their families during the time of the disaster. I am so proud of these students who showed true leadership and courage in the face of adversity.

Some of my dearest friends and acquaintances also came to our aid. Without being asked, they contacted my office immediately after the tragedy wanting to make donations and help in whatever way they could.

For historical purposes, I am listing their names below because no act of kindness should ever pass by without sincere acknowledgment to the persons, governments and organizations who gave so generously. They are:

Chairman Li Ka Shing (Li Ka Shing Foundation) (Presented to PM Tuilaepa on behalf of the people of American Samoa)—\$100,000.

Chairman Li Ka Shing (Li Ka Shing Foundation) (Presented to Am. Samoa Disaster Relief and Recovery Program)—\$150,000.

Chairman Seung-Youn Kim (Hanwha Group) (presented to American Samoa Red Cross: \$62,985 for caskets of deceased in Am. Samoa; \$37,015 remainder to Am. Samoa Red Cross)—\$100,000.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Republic of Kazakhstan (Presented to Am. Samoa Disaster Relief and Recovery)—\$50,000.

Government of Thailand (Presented to Am. Samoa Disaster Relief and Recovery Program)—\$15,000.

Government of Taiwan (Presented to Am. Samoa Red Cross)—\$10,000.

Mr. Raymond Calamaro, Esq. (D.C. Attorney) (Presented to Am. Samoa Red Cross)—\$1,000.

Mr. Steven Kirchof (Florida Businessman) (Presented to Am. Samoa Red Cross)—\$1,000.

Also, I again want to make special mention of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who really fought to make an airlift possible.

DC10 Charter flight (authorized by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for shipment of 92,000 pounds of aid to Apia, Samoa)—\$300,000.

Total—\$727,000.

While American Samoa is now on the road to recovery, there is still much work to be done. But with the faith and support and prayers of our people and with the additional funds ASG is receiving from the federal government as a result of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), we have every opportunity to forge ahead and become stronger than before, and I thank my colleagues for standing with American Samoa.

DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR RUSSIAN WHISTLEBLOWER SERGEI MAGNITSKY AND REFORM OF RUSSIAN PRISON SYSTEM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the "Justice for Sergei Magnitsky Act of 2010" in the House. This bill is the result of a recent hearing I chaired as Co-Chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the human rights situation in the Russian Federation. During this important hearing, the Commission heard extraordinary testimony regarding an extraordinary senior Russian lawyer and tax advisor, Sergei Leonidovich Magnitsky, who vigorously represented his client, the Hermitage Capital Ltd/HSBC, before the relevant Russian authorities regarding the fraudulent take-over of Hermitage subsidiaries and an elaborate tax fraud scheme which was designed to defraud the Russian Treasury of an estimated of 5.4 billion rubles (USD \$230 million).

Mr. Magnitsky testified before the Investigative Committee of the Russian Prosecutor Office on June 5, 2008 and October 7, 2008, and specifically implicated Lt. Colonel Artem Kuznetsov and Major Pavel Karpov of the Interior Ministry in the fraud scheme, among other officials. In a Kafkaesque turn of events, instead of investigating those officials, the Ministry of Interior charged Mr. Magnitsky with tax fraud and arrested him on November 24, 2008 and placed him in Moscow's pre-trial detention facility of the Moscow Branch of the Interior Ministry on the orders of Major Oleg Silchenko. Despite the fact that Lt. Colonel Kuznetsov's was implicated in the fraud scheme, he served as a senior member of the investigation team responsible for Mr. Magnitsky during the nearly one year pre-trial detention.

While Mr. Magnitsky was in good health before he was arrested, only five months into his detention, his health deteriorated significantly. On July 1, 2009, Mr. Magnitsky was given an ultrasound to identify the cause of his medical symptoms and a surgeon diagnosed him with "calculous cholecystitis" and ordered another ultrasound, which was to be followed by surgery within a month. One week before his scheduled treatment, on July 25, 2009, and fully aware of Mr. Magnitsky's medical condition, Ivan Pavlovich Prokopenko, head of the pre-trial detention facility Matrosskaya Tishina, approved the transfer of Mr. Magnitsky to Butyrka Prison (Detention Center 77/2). Detention Center 77/2 did not have the appropriate medical facilities to allow Mr. Magnitsky the prescribed medical treatment and necessary surgery. Despite his medical condition, Mr. Magnitsky was not examined by a doctor upon his arrival at the Detention Center 77/2. He was subsequently transferred to eight different cells, with each transfer a marked health deterioration as a result. Undeterred, Mr. Magnitsky testified again on October 13, 2009 concerning the complicity of Interior Ministry officials in the theft of 5.4 billion rubles from the Treasury and accused them of investigating him in retaliation for his testimonies. On November 11, 2009, Mr. Magnitsky filed a petition with the interior Ministry and the court