

Vacaville Sunrise Rotary Club (past President), Friends of Vacaville Schools Committee (as past Chair he led the effort to pass a \$100 million bond measure), Airport Land Use Commission/Solano County Aviation Advisory Committee (member), Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt Authority (member), and the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt Authority (member).

As Mayor Len Augustine retires, I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank him both for his outstanding service to our country and for his tireless work on behalf of the residents of Vacaville. His dedication to improving our quality of life has made a decided difference for all. I join with my colleagues along with his wife Sue, his children and grandchildren, as well as his extended family and friends, in wishing Len a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV FOR ORGANIZING THE OSCE ASTANA SUMMIT

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend President Nursultan Nazarbayev for organizing the OSCE Astana Summit which will be held December 1–2, 2010.

In 2007, under the Bush administration, my colleagues and I spearheaded an effort in Congress calling upon the U.S. to support Kazakhstan's bid to chair the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Recognizing, as David Wilshire, Head of the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, noted, that "building a democracy is a long and hard task," we felt that the U.S. could and should offer a gesture of goodwill by assisting Kazakhstan in its bid to chair the OSCE, considering that Kazakhstan voluntarily worked with the U.S. under the auspices of the Nunn-Lugar program to dismantle the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and shut down the world's second largest test site.

From 1949 to 1991, the Soviet Union conducted nearly 500 nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, and exposed more than 1.5 million Kazakhs to nuclear radiation. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, President Nursultan Nazarbayev was among the first to recognize and neutralize the dangerous threat posed by the nuclear arsenal Kazakhstan inherited and, as a result of his initiative, Kazakhstan in cooperation with the U.S. dismantled a nuclear arsenal which was larger than the combined nuclear arsenals of Great Britain, France and China.

President Nazarbayev's decision to dismantle changed the course of modern history, and I am pleased that the U.S. finally supported Kazakhstan's OSCE bid for 2010. While there will always be critics intent on setting Kazakhstan back in its attempt to move the OSCE forward, all 56 member States unanimously voted in favor of Kazakhstan's chairmanship.

I believe they did so in recognition of the bold steps President Nazarbayev has taken to bring Kazakhstan out from under the yoke of

communism. Of course there is work left to do but, according to polling data from an independent firm hired by the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan during the Bush administration, 90 percent of the people of Kazakhstan support President Nazarbayev and are pleased with the work he is doing and more than 63 percent of the people of Kazakhstan have a favorable opinion of the United States.

Since 9/11 and regarding U.S. coalition operations in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan has allowed overflight and transshipment to assist U.S. efforts. U.S.-Kazakh accords were signed in 2002 on the emergency use of Kazakhstan's Almaty airport and on other military-to-military relations. The Kazakh legislature approved sending military engineers to Iraq in May 2003 and, in his April 2010 meeting with President Obama, President Nazarbayev agreed to facilitate U.S. military air flights along a new trans-polar route that transits Kazakhstan to Afghanistan.

Now Kazakhstan is the first post-Soviet, first predominantly Muslim, and the first Central Asian nation to serve in the top leadership role of the OSCE, an organization known for promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law. As Chair of the OSCE, Kazakhstan will also host the Astana Summit. The Astana Summit, like Kazakhstan's Chairmanship of the OSCE, is historic. Earlier this year, my colleagues and I also spearheaded an effort calling upon the U.S. to stand with Kazakhstan in support of an OSCE Summit, and I express my thanks to the Obama administration, and especially to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert O. Blake, who are expected to represent the U.S. at the Summit.

The Astana Summit has been organized at the initiative of President Nazarbayev and will be the first OSCE meeting of Heads of State to take place in more than a decade. It has been 11 years since the OSCE held a security summit and the world has changed drastically since then as a direct result of 9/11. While I have serious reservations about U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan aims to use the OSCE Chair and Summit to press for a resolution to the conflict in Afghanistan and for this reason I am pleased that the United States is supporting the Astana Summit.

Given the serious importance of the Summit to U.S. efforts in Afghanistan, it is my hope that President Obama will attend. His presence will send the right signal to our allies in Central Asia who are also putting their lives on the line for us.

Central Asian countries, and especially Kazakhstan, provide support for U.S. and NATO operations in Afghanistan and without their assistance we would have no hope for success. But I hope that our partnership will extend past the war in Afghanistan in both breadth and depth. For over 100 years, the people of Central Asia have lived without basic freedoms and, in my meetings with the people and leaders of these countries, they, like us, want to continue their march towards democracy and this is why I commend President Nazarbayev for providing the stability necessary to push freedom forward.

Once more, I commend Kazakhstan for hosting the Astana Summit and I applaud the 56 nations that will participate to demonstrate to the world that the OSCE is relevant, essential and committed to responding to common security threats.

TRIBUTE TO KEE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the Fourth Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Kee High School in Lansing, Iowa, for making the list of the 2010 Blue Ribbon Schools.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. Kee High School scored in the top ten percent in Iowa with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds improving their performance on state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

I consider it a great honor to represent Kee High School Principal Patrick Heiderscheit, the teachers, students, school board members and administrators of Eastern Allamakee Community Schools in the United States Congress. I wish Kee High School continued academic excellence as they provide a positive impact on future generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, I had the honor to speak at a briefing on Alzheimer's disease and the important work of the National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institutes of Health, in providing leadership on research and treatments for patients with Alzheimer's. In addition to the NIA, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, Alliance for Aging Research, Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease, USAgainst Alzheimer's, and the National Collaborative on Aging participated in the briefing.

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, and the briefing today provided an important contribution to increasing awareness in Congress. I fondly recall that President Ronald Reagan designated the first National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness week in 1982, 12 years before he announced that he had been diagnosed with the disease.

Alzheimer's disease is now the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. Estimates vary, but it is believed that over 5 million individuals have Alzheimer's and some one new develops the disease every 70 seconds. One in eight persons over 65 and nearly half of those over 85 has Alzheimer's. In my own state of New Jersey, 150,000 residents are suffering from Alzheimer's.

With the aging of the 78 million American baby-boomers, by 2050, 16 million will have the disease if advances are not made to prevent it.

In 2009, 11 million family caregivers provided the equivalent of \$144 billion in care. And Alzheimer's costs to Medicare and Medicaid last year were \$123 billion.

When I was first elected to Congress in 1980, diagnosis of Alzheimer's was about three million cases, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) invested only \$13 million in Alzheimer's research. This year, NIH will invest \$469 million in baseline funding for Alzheimer's research. While we have made progress in federal support, we know that much more needs to be done to conquer this terrible disease.

In 1999, I joined Congressman MARKEY in founding the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's to help increase congressional awareness and legislative efforts relative to Alzheimer's. The Task Force which now includes 158 Members of the House of Representatives, hosts briefings and forums for Members of Congress and their staffs and works closely with the Alzheimer's Foundation of America and the Alzheimer's Association, which has a New Jersey affiliate.

We are working here in the House and with our colleagues in the Senate to pass this year The National Alzheimer's Project Act (or NAPA), legislation designed to better coordinate research and clinical programs dealing with Alzheimer's disease all across the federal bureaucratic spectrum. NAPA currently has 109 cosponsors.

As I mentioned earlier, by 2050, nearly 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's, yet there is no national plan to deal with this looming crisis. The National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA), which has been modified since its introduction in February of this year, establishes in the Office of the Secretary of HHS a National Alzheimer's Project. It also will establish an inter-agency advisory council to advise the Secretary of HHS and address the government's efforts on Alzheimer's research, care, institutional services, and home- and community-based programs.

The Alzheimer's Project will create and maintain an integrated national plan to overcome Alzheimer's; accelerate the development of treatments that would prevent, halt, or reverse the course of Alzheimer's; help to coordinate the health care and treatment of citizens with Alzheimer's; ensure that ethnic and racial populations—who are at higher risk for Alzheimer's and least likely to receive care—are included in clinical, research, and service efforts; coordinate with international bodies to integrate and inform the fight against Alzheimer's globally; and provide information and coordination of Alzheimer's research and services across all Federal agencies.

I would like to commend the Alzheimer's Foundation and the Alzheimer's Association for their work and support to advance this legislation. As you know, such strong advocacy often makes the difference in pushing legislation over the finish line. While I am extremely disappointed that the Senate HELP Committee cancelled their mark-up yesterday that was to include NAPA, we will work with them to try to ensure that it is marked-up and passed this year.

In addition to introducing and fighting to pass NAPA, Rep. MARKEY and I have introduced two other major bills focusing on Alzheimer's:

On July 29, 2010, we introduced the HOPE for Alzheimer's: Health Outcomes, Planning and Education Act (H.R. 5926). The bill would provide for Medicare coverage of comprehensive Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diagnoses and services in order to improve

care and outcomes for Americans living with the disease. The HOPE Act aims to increase detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and provide access, information and support for newly diagnosed patients and their families.

The Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act (H.R. 3286 which was introduced in July 2009 and has 136 cosponsors, authorizes the necessary resources to restore momentum in the pursuit of better diagnosis, prevention and treatment. Advances and progress in the various areas of Alzheimer research have the potential to save millions of lives and save hundreds of billions of dollars.

Also, earlier this year we sent a letter, along with House and Senate colleagues, to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary Sebelius to have Alzheimer's and other dementias included in the Healthy People 2020 initiative. The Healthy People initiative provides 10-year national objectives for promoting health and preventing disease.

I am gratified to work alongside Congressman MARKEY and the other members of the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease to address this oncoming public health tsunami—and hopefully to see prevention and a cure before it totally overwhelms our nation's health care resources.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES F. "DUSTY" RHODES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a South Carolinian, who has dedicated his life to motivating young men through baseball. Charles F. "Dusty" Rhodes is the founder of the South Carolina Storm travel baseball team in Charleston, and he has changed the lives of numerous young men through the program.

In 2002, Dusty Rhodes saw a need to help boys in the Charleston area pursue a college education through baseball. He began the Charleston Storm travel baseball program with the founding principles of "attitude, academics, and baseball." Attitude was stressed by teaching players how to play baseball with respect for themselves, coaches, fellow and opposing players, umpires, and the game itself. Academics were stressed because many more scholarships are available to those who excel in academics than those who excel in baseball. The players had their grades checked, and the message was instilled that baseball would only last a few years, but a quality education would serve a young person for the rest of his life. The fundamentals of baseball were taught by coaches who had the ability to teach young men the correct way to play the game, in addition to upholding the attitude and academic goals.

Playing on a travel baseball team did have its financial cost. However, the boys were never denied the opportunity to play due to family financial hardship. Often Dusty and his wife, Kelly, supported the players out of their own pockets.

In the eight years since its inception, the team has evolved into the South Carolina Storm. Several hundred young men have

been part of the program, and more than 65 of them have been afforded an opportunity to attend college and play baseball. One former player, Drew Miller provided the following testimony regarding his mentor, "coach, leader, genuine, role model, giving, caring, friend and now cancer are all words that come to mind when the name Dusty Rhodes is brought up."

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in honoring the tremendous contributions of this remarkable community leader. Dusty Rhodes' commitment to helping young men through baseball grows from his Christian faith, his love of young people, and his love of the game of baseball. Now he faces personal health challenges, but his remarkable legacy is etched in his devotion to making the lives of young people better.

INTRODUCING THE TARGETED TAX LIEN ACT OF 2010

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Targeted Tax Lien Act of 2010. While a notice of a federal tax lien can be an effective tax collection tool, the automatic filing process currently utilized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) too often allows for erroneous and unnecessary filings. A public filing of a notice of federal tax lien often does little to increase the likelihood of collecting the tax liability, yet can impact a taxpayer's credit and ability to obtain financing, find or retain a job, secure affordable housing or insurance and ultimately, the taxpayer's ability to pay the balance. This legislation will provide the IRS with the means to ensure that a notice of a federal tax lien is filed only when it would be in the best interest of both the IRS and taxpayer.

The Targeted Tax Lien Act of 2010 ends the IRS's current one-size-fits-all lien filing policies that, in the IRS Taxpayer Advocate's own words, "circumvent the spirit of the law, fail to promote future tax compliance, and unnecessarily harm taxpayers." The bill requires an IRS supervisor to review and make an affirmative, specific finding on a case-by-case basis that a lien is warranted and not disproportionately harmful to the taxpayer. The bill provides a list of factors to consider, such as the amount due, the value of the property, a taxpayer's compliance history, and extenuating circumstances.

Furthermore, the IRS's ability to collect tax liabilities will not diminish under these new policies. A recent IRS National Taxpayer Advocate study suggests that in most instances where the source of payment of a tax debt to the IRS is specified, more than 95 percent of all payments and more than 80 percent of all revenue collected did not result from a notice of lien filing and would have been collected even without the filing. Additionally, a separate analysis performed by the Advocate shows that only about five percent of all payment transactions and approximately twenty percent of the total dollars collected from these taxpayers are attributable to federal tax liens. These results suggest that the IRS's current use of liens may not be furthering revenue collection despite the impact liens have on taxpayers and their credit.