

will be continuing on with his work as a small business owner.

A constituent once knitted a sign that hung above Billy's desk that read, "I am just a nobody, trying to help somebody." Billy was fond of telling this to folks who came to my office for assistance. It reassured them that he was there to help, and it let them know their concerns were important to him, and to me. Madam Speaker, it is that generosity and humility that have made him a friend to so many and such a valuable colleague to me. Billy has been a dedicated public servant, a trusted friend and an unstoppable force of nature.

Billy, thank you for all of your help over the years. I wish you all the best in the future.

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I support much that is contained within this resolution, regarding the need to move forward on direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. A two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is critical to the security of Israel and to the strategic interests of the United States, in the region and around the world.

However, this is a missed opportunity to raise concerns about the unilateral actions taken by both sides. In particular, the ongoing unilateral construction by Israeli settlers. Strong U.S. leadership is needed to bring these two sides together, and any resolution brought to the floor should clearly support that cause.

This resolution does not meet that test and I must oppose it. While the bill recognizes an issue of concern, it does too little to affirm the urgency of achieving a two-state resolution, fails to oppose unilateral actions by all sides, and is silent on supporting the Obama Administration's efforts to negotiate peace.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and the administration in a more productive manner to achieve lasting peace and a comprehensive two-state solution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 16, 2010. If I was present, I would have voted on the following:

On Motion to Adjourn—rollcall No. 639—“nay”.

S. 841, Pedestrian Enhancement Safety Act of 2010—rollcall No. 640—“yea”.

S. 3860, To Require Reports on the Management of Arlington National Cemetery—rollcall No. 641—“yea”.

S. 3447, Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010—rollcall No. 642—“yea”.

H. Res. 1766, Agreeing to the Amendment—rollcall No. 643—“aye”.

H. Res. 1766, Agreeing to the Resolution, as Amended—rollcall No. 644—“aye”.

S. 987, International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2010—rollcall No. 645—“yea”.

H.R. 4853, Levin of Michigan Amendment—rollcall No. 646—“aye”.

H.R. 4583, Motion to Concur in the Senate Amdt to the House Amdt to the Senate Amdt—rollcall No. 647—“aye”.

LITTLE JIMMY DICKENS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor James Cecil Dickens, better known as Little Jimmy Dickens, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. He may be a man of diminutive stature, but Little Jimmy the renowned entertainer and Grand Ole Opry star, stands taller than the rest.

Jimmy Dickens was the first of thirteen children born to a West Virginia farming family and knew from a young age that he wanted to write and sing country music. He first appeared on local radio in the 1940s under the name “Jimmy the Kid” where he began building his reputation as the master of the country novelty song. Some of his early hits include “Take an Old Cold Tater (And Wait)” (1949), “I’m Little But I’m Loud” (1950), “Country Boy” (1949), and “A-Sleeping at the Foot of the Bed” (1950).

In 1948, Roy Acuff heard Jimmy and invited him to perform on the world-famous Grand Ole Opry stage at the Ryman Auditorium. Little Jimmy was an immediate favorite not only for his unforgettable songs, but also for his flamboyant style and country sense of humor. He became a permanent member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1948, and recently celebrated his 60th anniversary as the longest-tenured Opry member of all time.

Little Jimmy was signed to his first major label, Columbia Records, the same year he became an Opry Member. It was at that time that Dickens formed the band the Country Boys, whose line-up included top-flight musicians Jabbo Arrington, Grady Martin, Bob Moore, Buddy Emmons and Thumbs Carlile. Dickens had a number of hits with the Country Boys, though none bigger than “May the Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose” (1965), which reached number one on the country charts and hit the pop charts, as well. Little Jimmy holds the unique distinction of having hit records in every decade from the 1940s to the 1970s.

But Little Jimmy Dickens’ music is only part of his story and only part of what makes him just as popular today as when he first burst onto the country music scene over 60 years ago. He is quick with a joke and he is kind-hearted. He always has time for his fans and often spends hours signing every last autograph after a show. In an ever-changing music industry, Little Jimmy is a constant presence and a reminder that sometimes nice guys finish first.

Jimmy has long been adored by his country music colleagues as well, whether it be fellow

legends like the late Hank Williams (who nicknamed Jimmy, “Tater”) or modern-day superstar, Brad Paisley (who Jimmy often performs with). It is this adoration that earned him a spot in the Country Music Hall of Fame nearly 30 years ago.

Jimmy is celebrating his 90th year as anyone who knows him might guess he’d celebrate it—by entertaining his fans with good country music and humor. He’s even worked his age into his act. “You’ll know you’re 90-years-old,” Jimmy tells his fans, “when you drop something, bend over to pick it up, and think to yourself, ‘is there anything else I can do while I’m down here?’”

And so, Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Little Jimmy Dickens—an icon, a legend, and a global ambassador to country music.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this tax compromise with strong reservations. This bill contains some highly objectionable provisions like unnecessary tax breaks for the wealthiest two percent of Americans and an estate tax modification that will only benefit the richest 6,600 households across the country. These two items alone will cost \$129 billion, which could alternatively be used for deficit reduction. However, I cannot in good conscience allow all of Rhode Island’s businesses and families to suffer onerous tax increases at a time when jobs are scarce and people are pinching pennies just to put food on the table.

Providing tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires is both financially unjust and fiscally irresponsible given our current budgetary challenges, but this compromise protects 98 percent of Americans from significant tax increases set to take effect January 1, 2011, and has the potential to create the private sector jobs than can sustain an economic recovery.

This legislation extends the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for all income levels for two years, and prevents middle-income Rhode Islanders from being hit with higher tax rates under the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). It also contains several provisions that would assist families and stimulate our economic recovery, which has been frustratingly slow in Rhode Island as state unemployment has lingered at 12.5 percent.

This compromise includes a 13 month extension of Unemployment Insurance for the thousands of Rhode Islanders who are unable

to find work. I have spoken to countless constituents who want to work and are actively looking for employment, but they cannot find jobs. Cutting off their only means of support before the holidays would be an unconscionable dereliction of our responsibilities as members of Congress.

Businesses stand to benefit from a two-year extension of the Research and Development Tax Credit, incentives for clean energy production, and a new accelerated depreciation provision, which will allow a 100 percent write off of capital expenditures in 2011 and 50 percent in 2012. These incentives will ease the tax burden on Rhode Island companies seeking to expand their operations and grow their business, providing an extra boost to our local economy.

For Rhode Island families, this proposal includes a two-year increase of the full Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit. Together, these provisions will provide ongoing tax cuts to 12 million lower income families. In addition, it fully extends the American Opportunity Tax Credit for two years to ensure more people can afford higher education.

Finally, this bill establishes a year-long tax holiday, providing \$112 billion in relief by cutting the Social Security payroll tax by two percent. Hard working Rhode Islanders could use a little extra income in their pockets—money that will ultimately be spent and pumped back into the economy to create more jobs. This temporary measure will have no negative impact on Social Security. That said, I will not allow this measure to be used as a springboard toward a permanent reduction of Social Security tax revenues that threatens the program's solvency and breaks the promise we have made to our seniors, veterans and disabled Americans.

Madam Speaker, this compromise is neither a perfect nor permanent solution to our economic challenges, but the cost of inaction is something I'm not willing to pass along to my constituents. If a better deal were possible, I would take it. In fact, I was proud to vote for middle class tax relief just two weeks ago, but my Republican colleagues rejected this common sense bill and it failed to pass the Senate. So now we are faced with a choice—accept this compromise or continue playing politics. The time for politics is over. We have less than two weeks before everybody's tax burden increases. I urge my colleagues to act before our time is up.

DIANE WATSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, it is with great pleasure and pride that I extend my best wishes and congratulations to Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, as she prepares to retire from the United States Congress.

A former elementary school teacher and school psychologist, Congresswoman WATSON has lectured at both California State Universities at Los Angeles and Long Beach. In 1975, she became the first African-American woman to be elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education. She

led efforts to expand school integration and improve academic standards.

For almost 20 years, Congresswoman WATSON served in the California State Senate where she was the first African-American woman to serve in that body. She became a statewide and national advocate for health care, consumer protection, women, and children. During her tenure in Sacramento, she served as chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and as a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Congresswoman WATSON retired from the State Senate in 1999 when she was appointed by President William Jefferson Clinton to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia. As Ambassador to Micronesia, she represented our country in a magnificent way and has throughout her career demonstrated her mastery of foreign policy. She is truly an international leader. Dr. WATSON served in this capacity until 2001 when she returned to California to run for Congress in a special election after the death of Congressman Julian Dixon.

An exceptional public servant, Congresswoman WATSON has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to improving the human condition, throughout her long and distinguished career. A commonsense legislator and a passionate advocate for justice, she has masterfully used her vote and voice in the United States House of Representatives.

The Congressional Black Caucus honors and salutes Congresswoman WATSON for her legacy of service to the residents of California's 33rd Congressional District and to the global community. We will miss her in the halls of Congress and in the ranks of the CBC. We wish her well as she opens the next chapter of her life, we celebrate her leadership, and thank her for her friendship.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF CAROLINE DIAZ-BARRIGA

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Caroline Diaz-Barriga for her contributions to the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Caroline has served as my field representative for Sumner and Robertson counties since joining my office in 2002. She had previously worked for my colleague Congressman Bob Clement when Robertson County was a part of his district. After he left the House to pursue other endeavors and Robertson County was added to my district, Caroline was a natural choice to run my new offices in Gallatin and Springfield. Her presence there has allowed me to better serve my constituents in the

northwestern part of my district over these last nine years. She is an integral player in both counties, attending city council sessions, civic club meetings, and Chamber of Commerce lunches.

In her many years in public service, Caroline has helped countless constituents who have come to my office for assistance. She has warmly received individuals, families and business owners looking for assistance with a federal agency. She has ensured hundreds of residents received the Social Security and veterans benefits they deserve. She has heard the concerns and touched the lives of many families in need of help, and she has always kept me informed of the needs of my constituents. At times, she has found herself playing unusual roles, especially during the too-frequent tornado outbreaks that have occurred in Middle Tennessee. When a tornado struck Gallatin in 2006, Caroline's office in the basement of the Sumner County Courthouse became a place of refuge as residents huddled together to comfort each other and share cell phones to check on loved ones' safety.

Madam Speaker, working with Caroline these past eight years has been a pleasure. No matter what challenges are thrown her way, she always manages to maintain a cheerful, positive attitude. She is a dedicated public servant, a great help to me and a pillar of the community.

Caroline, thank you for all of your help over the years. I wish you, David and your family all the best.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS ON FEDERAL LANDS ACT OF 2010

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that will significantly improve traffic safety and mobility in our national parks and other public recreational lands through increased funding and expanded authorities. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, the Transportation Infrastructure Improvements on Federal Lands Act of 2010.

Our national parks contain some of the most important and valuable historic, cultural, and natural treasures in our country. Millions of visitors flock to these parks every year. Yet safe access to and movement around these sites are compromised by severe and chronic underfunding and irrational provisions in current law.

The state of park transportation systems is deplorable. A recent assessment by the National Park Service, NPS, found that 90 percent of the park roads are in poor or fair condition. This compares with 14 percent for major rural roads in the overall federal-aid highways system. One person is killed or injured on a park road every 4.5 hours. If the National Park System were a State, it would rank 13th highest for road fatalities and injuries among all the States.

The NPS received \$240 million in FY2010 through the Park Roads and Parkways program to build, repair, and rehabilitate roads and bridges, less than a third of what the NPS