

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 67, and 68 I was unable to be present to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on these.

ANOTHER SEASON OF FEDERAL SPENDING

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, we are about to enter another season of federal spending decisions, beginning with a new stimulus package that will add another \$150 billion to our outrageous federal debt.

What are we getting for this spending? In my home counties of San Bernardino and Riverside, California, we have lost 30,000 jobs in the past year. Our unemployment rate is 14 percent. Houses have lost half of their value in 3 years, and foreclosures have gone from 3,000 3 years ago to nearly 48,000 last year. The stimulus and runaway spending have not brought jobs to my constituents, but they have increased one thing: Each man, woman and child could soon owe \$48,000 for their share of the federal debt. The CBO tells us that just 10 percent of last year's stimulus is being spent on job-creation. Let's not make that mistake again this year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 49 and rollcall No. 50, I was absent due to severe weather in Southeast Michigan which delayed my flight to Washington, DC.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” and “yea.”

CONNOR PAUL KOSTELAC

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Connor Paul Kostelac. Connor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Heart of America Council Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Connor has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the five years Connor has been involved with

Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Connor became a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Connor has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Connor worked to beautify two interior gardens at Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, KS, through the placement of a St. Francis statue and additional landscaping.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Connor Paul Kostelac for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 100th Anniversary of the South Dakota State Capitol building.

The South Dakota State Capitol building is located in Pierre, South Dakota. The South Dakota State Capitol building was designed by Minneapolis architects C.E. Bell and M.S. Detwiler and assembled between the years of 1905 and 1910. The building is more than 114,000 square feet in size and is made up of materials such as native field stone, Indiana limestone, and Vermont and Italian marble. The building is 161 feet tall, 190 feet wide, and 292 feet long and includes carved wood-work and marble, special cast brass, and hand laid stone. In 1977 the State of South Dakota decided to restore the building back to its original 1910 appearance. The restoration was completed in 1989 to the original color and style of the walls and drapes.

Some of the many important architectural features of the South Dakota Capitol building include the capitol floor, which is made of terrazzo tile, and was created by 66 Italian artists. Terrazzo tile is a type of marble flooring that consists of chips of marble meshed together through a process of layering which creates multicolored designs and patterns. The rotunda, an important feature of the capitol, encompasses a large 96-foot dome which can be seen outside the capitol. The inside bottom ring of the dome looks like ribbons strung together and joined as one to resemble government as eternal in nature. The dome also displays the pasque flower, which is the South Dakota state flower. The third floor holds both the House of Representatives and Senate floors where all the state's laws are debated and voted.

Over its 100 years of history, the capitol has stood as a testament to the beauty and strength that represents South Dakota, and I trust that this historic building will continue to remain a landmark for the next 100 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on February 25, 2010, I missed rollcall vote 66 due to a doctor's appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

HONORING RANDY POOLE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Randy Poole who retired this month after serving more than 34 years in municipal water utilities, including 18 momentous years in leadership positions at the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA). Randy served first as SCWA's Chief Engineer beginning in 1991 and then in 1994 assumed the dual role of General Manager/Chief Engineer. The Sonoma County Water Agency provides water independent of the California Water System to over 600,000 residents in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties.

Many Members of this House would recognize Randy who spent many hours visiting our offices promoting the SCWA's water projects, as well as legislation for salmon preservation, wetlands restoration and renewable energy. Randy, with his slicked back hair and often dressed in black and purple was not the stereotypical water technocrat with scientific calculator in his pocket and flow charts in his briefcase. He is an individual who could manage the day to day functions of the SCWA while sculpting a big vision of its future.

Randy played an important role in garnering support for an \$800 million Pacific Salmon restoration program involving the efforts of five states to restore the habitat of 16 salmonid species, including our native Russian River chinook and coho and steelhead trout. It was also Randy who spearheaded local efforts to complete a Biological Opinion on the effects of federal and local water projects on Russian River salmon and steelhead, a project that took 11 years and now must be implemented.

Under his leadership, the SCWA put biologists to work doing fish counts and measuring habitat; engineers designing wastewater irrigation systems; water efficiency experts looking at industrial water use; gardeners planting low water landscapes; wetlands experts restoring the Napa Salt Marsh; oceanographers studying ocean currents and wave energy; and energy consultants examining new pathways to clean and plentiful renewable energy.

His driving style has not come without controversy. A three year drought coupled with environmental restrictions that have constrained flows from the SCWA main reservoir, has sometimes brought the agency at odds with water contractors who have balked at reduced flows and conservation plans. When Randy began working at SCWA in 1991, one of his charges was to smooth the way for the Agency to obtain new water rights at Warm Springs Dam. Randy, however, recognized the

new realities of expensive water projects and their environmental problems, and put the project on a back burner with a while emphasizing water conservation.

The Biological Opinion has also been criticized by downriver communities concerned about proposed lower summer flows and effects on the seal population at the mouth of the Russian River. SCWA has promised further studies and expanded river monitoring to iron out difficulties. Yet if the B.O. succeeds it will be a major step in restoring the river's once thriving fishery.

Randy recognized that climate change required the agency to do something about its own energy use—the highest in the county and he set SCWA on a zero carbon project, which will make it totally reliant on renewable energy by 2015. The Agency has kicked off the project with the installation of a 1 MGW solar system at its offices.

Randy was also instrumental in devising the nationally recognized Energy Independence Program, where home owners can weatherize their homes and install energy saving devices and solar panels at no upfront costs. Always thinking big, Randy has taken his energy ideas nationwide, forming a coalition of like-minded communities and promoting bills for local model projects and to lower consumer costs for home energy conservation and conversions to renewable energy.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Randy Poole for his years of service to the customers of the Sonoma County Water Agency. I have been occasionally caught off balance by his whirlwind personality and grand approach to finding solutions, but I will miss his clear vision of the necessity of change in a changing world.

ALEXANDER DANIEL ADAMEK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Daniel Adamek. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Heart of America Council Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the eight years Alexander has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alexander became a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Foxman from the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. Alexander has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alexander organized and supervised the collection of clothing, hygiene products and other necessities and made supply backpacks to be donated to Synergy Services, Inc. These backpacks were then distributed to runaway and homeless teenagers through Synergy's Street Outreach program.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Alexander Daniel Adamek for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, though I was attending a previous engagement in Kansas on Friday, February 26, had I been present in the House of Representatives, I would have voted in opposition to H.R. 2701, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (rollcall 73). Additionally, I would have voted to support the Republican Motion to Recommit (rollcall 72).

I believe this Intelligence Authorization bill is more concerned with providing political cover than addressing a number of real national security issues, including the administration's misguided efforts to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility and transfer detainees to the United States, and improving intelligence gathering and coordination in the wake of recent attacks at Fort Hood and the Christmas Day airline bombing attempt.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN
IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud co-sponsor in strong support of H. Res. 944, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on religious minorities in Iraq.

Freedom of religion is the beating heart of our American historical and political experience. After all, it was the search for a place to worship in liberty and dignity that led to the European settlement of this continent.

Our American founding fathers placed paramount importance on the right to worship freely and securely, as clear from the first amendment to our Constitution, which enshrines the right to free exercise of religion.

We are grateful to live in a country where it is safe to worship according to the dictates of one's conscience. We cherish these rights and privileges because we know that in many parts of the world—including Iraq—not all religious minorities can worship as they wish.

Historically, Iraq is one of the richest and most diverse religious mosaics in the world. Its Christian traditions can be traced back to the Christian apostles. Yet Iraq today is in a moment of crisis, for many of its smallest and most vulnerable religious minorities are threatened by the ugly forces of intolerance and intimidation in Iraq.

In recent years, there has been an alarming surge in Iraq of physical and psychological violence against religious minorities, and we must do our part to encourage the emphatic rejection of such violence by the Iraqi state and society.

While all Iraqis have suffered greatly in past years, the suffering has been most acutely felt by its religious minorities, including Chaldeans, Syriacs, Assyrians, and other Christians. Many hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Christians have already fled Iraq to escape religious turmoil, many of them settling in my own home state of Michigan. How this crisis is resolved will be an indicator of the future that awaits Iraq.

Iraq's development into a sovereign, stable, and secure country is of immense strategic importance and political responsibility to the United States. The world should know that the United States stands with the Iraqi people and its elected government against the forces of radicalism and intolerance.

H. Res. 944 advances Iraq's trajectory towards a future of diversity, pluralism, and freedom. It will help to internalize and institutionalize an environment where religious minorities are protected by the Iraqi government.

Informed by our own American experience, we in this House are obliged to encourage Iraq to value the rights and privileges of its religious minorities. There is too much at stake for Iraq to fail them. And neither can we.

MAYOR OTIS T. WALLACE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our community's most humble and steadfast leaders, the mayor of Florida City, Mr. Otis T. Wallace. For nearly three decades, the people of Florida City have put their trust in him as mayor, leader and friend. A graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Miami Law School, he is the director of TIB Bank.

Mayor Wallace is completely dedicated to the residents of Florida City and ensuring that the needs and priorities of his community are met. Despite the pressures that elected office can bring, Mayor Wallace keeps his cool, always smiling and acting humbly, with the best interest of others in mind. He has proven to be a dependable, hard working and selfless leader, always willing to work with others to find commonsense solutions.

Mayor Wallace is no stranger to civic engagements. He is the chairman of the Florida City Community Redevelopment Agency and a member of the Homestead-Florida City Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as the chairman of the Florida City Foundation and on the board of directors of the Florida National Parks and Monuments Association, Inc., the Miami-Dade Criminal Justice Council and the Homestead Area Indigent Care Foundation, Inc. He is also a member of the NAACP.