

NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, one of the most serious threats facing our nation today is the risk of terrorist organizations like al Qaeda obtaining nuclear weapons—and we can all rest assured that they are trying their hardest to turn this risk into a reality.

This is much different than the nuclear threat we faced thirty years ago in the midst of the Cold War. We no longer need to build up our nuclear stockpile to prepare for a world war. That threat is diminishing, instead being replaced by the risk of nuclear materials being spread to countries and terrorists who are hostile to the U.S. As this nuclear landscape continues to change, we cannot be effective in protecting our great nation unless our nuclear policy changes, too.

Over the past several weeks, the Obama administration has made historic efforts to finally bring our nuclear policy out of the Cold War era and into the 21st century. This is an administration that recognizes the importance of pursuing a comprehensive agenda to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to our enemies and to secure vulnerable nuclear materials from those who seek to do us harm.

Earlier this month, the President released the Nuclear Posture Review, a responsible plan that aligns our nuclear strategy to better address the threats we face today. We know that it doesn't make sense to try to keep nuclear material away from terrorists by creating more nuclear material.

The Nuclear Posture Review instead focuses on taking steps to work with other nations to secure the nuclear material that is already out there—while at the same time making sure that we maintain a robust nuclear deterrence here at home.

The NPR, for the first time ever, places the prevention of nuclear terrorism at the top of our nuclear agenda. It defines key steps to strengthen our global non proliferation regime and keep nuclear material secure. Just yesterday, President Obama wrapped up a historic nuclear security summit here in Washington, where nearly 50 nations committed to secure all of their nuclear material in four years. This is a significant achievement, and makes real progress toward keeping this dangerous material out of the hands of those who seek to do us harm.

The NPR also renews our commitment to hold fully accountable any state, terrorist group, or other entity that supports or enables terrorist efforts to obtain or use weapons of mass destruction.

Madam Speaker, I have heard some critics try to distort the facts about this piece of the NPR, but here is the truth:

President Obama made it very clear that if we see states developing biological or chemical weapons that we think endanger our safety, he reserves the right to revise this policy. He also made it clear that if any state not compliant with the Non-Proliferation Treaty—and this includes countries like Iran and North Korea—were to attack us with chemical or biological weapons, Secretary Gates made it clear that “all options are on the table,” including responding with nuclear weapons.

What the new security guarantee in NPR offers is an incentive for those nations that do not seek nuclear weapons and comply with the NPT.

We have an unmatched conventional military capability at our hands, and my colleagues should not try to minimize this very powerful tool in our toolkit.

Our new nuclear policy seeks to strengthen strategic deterrence and stability at reduced nuclear force levels, with the New START Treaty that we signed with Russia last week as an important first step. It also strengthens regional deterrence, broadening regional security architectures—including through missile defenses and improved conventional forces—to provide reassurance to our partners and allies.

Finally, the NPR maintains a robust nuclear deterrence and sustains it by investing in our existing stockpile and the workforce that maintains it—a process that will keep our nuclear weapons reliable, safe, and secure without the need to make new nuclear warheads.

Madam Speaker, this is not 1980. The nuclear threats facing our nation have moved beyond those of the Cold War, and we must move our nuclear policy beyond the narrow Cold War mentality. President Obama is taking the right steps to match up our nuclear policy with our current needs, and I commend him for his leadership to protect American families.

OPPORTUNITY ENTERPRISES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep respect and admiration that I recognize Opportunity Enterprises Incorporated, which hosted its Celebration of Achievement Award Ceremony on Thursday, April 8, 2010, at Strongbow Inn in Valparaiso, Indiana. Opportunity Enterprises honored the accomplishments of members of its noteworthy staff, clients, volunteers and community partners. Opportunity Enterprises also paid special tribute to President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Gary Mitchell, who will be retiring in June of this year. For his outstanding leadership and his lifelong commitment to those in need, he is worthy of our respect and admiration.

Opportunity Enterprises is a non-profit organization that serves to create opportunities for individuals with unique challenges and abilities. Because of many dedicated, loyal, and passionate people who believe in the organization and its goals, Opportunity Enterprises is able to provide day and enrichment services, residential and children's programs, and vocational opportunities for individuals of all ages whether they have physical, emotional or developmental disabilities.

This year, Opportunity Enterprises honored individuals and organizations who have played a major role in their success. The Spirit of Opportunity Enterprises award recipient is Jake Wagner. Jake has been a board member for many years and has played an instrumental role in terms of property acquisition, identifying lead donors, and seeking grant funding. The Community Employer of the Year award recipient is Strack and Van Til. The company

hires many clients through the organization's JobSource Community Employment Program and passionately assists these individuals in developing their skills. The Business of the Year award recipient is Framing Concepts Gallery, which gives tremendous support to the organization's Art Enrichment Program. The Jeanne Baird Volunteer of the Year award recipient is Cheryl Kozrowski. Cheryl continuously and selflessly gives her time to Opportunity Enterprises and its many programs. The JobSource Client of the Year award recipient is Mike Biggs. Mike has been employed through the JobSource Program for eighteen years. Despite being hearing impaired, Mike maintains an outstanding positive attitude and is beloved by everyone who works with him. The Amazing Client of the Year award recipients are: Samuel Collins, Paula Norfleet, and Derek Rogers. Samuel, who receives respite services, has made remarkable progress since becoming an Opportunity Enterprises client. Paula is employed through the Supported Employment Program and the Community Employment Program. Although she has limited use of her hands and legs, Paula is constantly helping and supporting other clients. Derek is involved in the Supported Living Department and has made extraordinary improvement since joining the team at Opportunity Enterprises. For their dedication and commitment to Opportunity Enterprises and the community of Northwest Indiana, the 2010 Achievement Award recipients are to be commended.

Opportunity Enterprises also honored and congratulated President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Gary Mitchell, who will be retiring this year. In 1986, Gary joined the team at Opportunity Enterprises as the Chief Executive Officer. Opportunity Enterprises has enjoyed unprecedented growth and success under Gary's leadership. In 1986, the organization served 263 individuals with disabilities on a daily basis. Since then, Opportunity Enterprises has constantly expanded and now serves over 1,000 individuals within Porter County and throughout Northwest Indiana. For the past 15 years, Opportunity Enterprises has received accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), a not-for-profit organization that establishes standards of quality for service to people with disabilities. For his efforts over the years on behalf of his community, Gary has received numerous honors, including the Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (INARF) President's Award in 1992 and the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1993 from then-Governor EVAN BAYH. For his selfless and passionate support for helping individuals to re-establish their roles in community life, Mr. Mitchell is to be commended and admired.

Gary's dedication to the people he serves is matched only by his devotion to his family. Gary has been married to his wife, Paula, for an astonishing 44 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Opportunity Enterprises 2010 Achievement Award winners, as well as Mr. Gary Mitchell, for their outstanding contributions. Their unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for countless individuals in Northwest Indiana is truly inspirational, and they are worthy of the highest praise.

RECOGNIZING THE EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Emergency Nurses Association and to congratulate them on their 40th anniversary.

The Emergency Nurses Association, or ENA, is the only professional nursing association dedicated to defining the future of emergency nursing and emergency care through advocacy, expertise, innovation and leadership. It boasts more than 37,000 members worldwide.

Founded in 1970 as the Emergency Department Nurses Association and led by Anita M. Dorr, RN and Judith C. Kelleher, RN, it was originally established to set standards for best practices in emergency nursing care. It also provided continuing education programs for emergency nurses and a united voice for nurses involved in emergency care. In 1985, the Association name was changed to Emergency Nurses Association, ENA.

Among its many accomplishments, ENA published its first Roadway Safety Scorecard in 2006, providing an overview of the kinds of roadway laws that prevent injuries and save lives, and a listing of the States that have enacted those laws. The initial report and the follow-up report in 2008 have provided the impetus for more States to pass roadway laws that protect lives and prevent injuries.

ENA is also working to make emergency departments safer by pressing for Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards that would help prevent violence in emergency departments. A recent ENA report on workplace violence found that more than half of emergency nurses have been physically assaulted on the job in the past 3 years and scores more endure verbal abuse regularly. Violence in the emergency department adversely affects patient care and also puts patients themselves at risk of assault or worse.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the Emergency Nurses Association and its more than 37,000 members for their commitment to establishing public policies that reduce the need for emergency care and for working to improve the quality of that care when it is needed. I also ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating ENA on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE THIRD GRADE STUDENTS AT LOUDOUN COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the third grade students at the Loudoun Country Day School in Leesburg, Virginia. They are conducting a food drive called "Kids Helping Kids" to benefit Loudoun Interfaith Relief. I am honored to recognize the ongoing contributions of these special young people to help feed the hungry in their community.

These talented students are collecting healthy breakfast and lunch items to distribute to Loudoun County families this summer. Many families depend on free and reduced price hot meals for their children during the school year, and will greatly benefit for receiving meals during the summer months.

This is the second food drive that the Loudoun Country Day students have implemented this year. Last fall, the students collected 1,296 pounds of food that allowed 40 families to have a complete Thanksgiving feast.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the following students for their commitment to helping the hungry in their community.

Aidan Kennedy
Alex Moran
Annabella Stavrou
Ben Kowkowski
Greyson Sequino
Hunter Gowin
Lindsey Fouty
Lyndsey Coleman
Lauren Miller
Peyton Carter
TJ Donovan
Lauren Rubino
McKenna Martinez
Maddi Moran
Ella Parsons
Brian Wilmans
Christophe Atkinson
Luke Miller
Stephen Kalivokas
Drew Johnson
Gabrielle Latimer
Zyannah Malick

COMMEMORATION OF VAISAKHI

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of Vaisakhi, a festival celebrating the founding of the Khalsa Sikh community in 1699. It has special significance for Sikhs because the tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh, chose Vaisakhi as the occasion to formalize the Sikh identity and religious practice by forming the Khalsa, the body of initiated Sikhs. Vaisakhi also marks the new solar year and harvest season.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the contributions American Sikhs make to our society. According to the 2000 Census, more than 650,000 Sikhs live in the United States, and more than 250,000 reside in my home state of California. Throughout history, American Sikhs have made great contributions to our cultural landscape, the government, business and civil sector, as well as the military. In 1956, the Hon. Dalip Singh Saund was the first Sikh, Asian- or Indian-American elected to the House of Representatives. In addition to making great progress for racial equality and diversity in American government, Rep. Saund was instrumental in ending statutory discrimination against Asian- and Indian-Americans by working to grant naturalization rights for immigrants from the Philippines and India. Around the country, Sikhs serve as mayors, business leaders, athletes, actors and other leadership positions.

It is my honor to rise today to recognize the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi and recognize the achievements and contributions of all American Sikhs to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED WAY VOLUNTEERS OF EAST TENNESSEE

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the United Way volunteers of Washington County, Jonesborough, and Johnson City for their service to East Tennessee. I am proud of the example these fine volunteers set and for all they give back to the great state of Tennessee.

Nearly 125 volunteers will be attending the annual Volunteer Breakfast on April 23, 2010. With approximately 150 volunteers of their own, United Way of Washington County partners with many other organizations and thousands of other volunteers to change the lives of people in East Tennessee.

I sincerely thank the United Way of Washington County and all partnering organizations for all they do for the Volunteer State.

WELCOMING HEARTLAND CHURCH

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I rise today to welcome Heartland Church to its new location in the 24th District of Texas. Heartland Church has been a centerpiece of spiritual growth and community outreach in the greater Irving area for 58 years.

On Christmas Eve of 1951, The First United Pentecostal Church of Irving held its inaugural service in the Irving Community Center. This was the beginning of the rich spiritual history of Heartland Church which today has grown into a caring, compassionate, service centered congregation. Soon after opening, The First United Pentecostal Church of Irving moved from the Irving Community Center to its first building on Camano Road and then eventually to Story Road. Heartland Church has made several building transitions and a name change (originally Christ Temple and then later Heartland Church) to more adequately reflect its desire to meet the needs of its congregation and the community. In December of 1984, the building dedication ceremony was held for what Heartland Church called home up until December 2009.

Guided by faith, in 2000, Heartland Church made the decision to purchase 25.8 acres located on the west side of Highway 161. But God in His infinite wisdom had other plans and that was to bring Heartland Church to Carrollton. Today, through the vision and leadership of the church's founders and with the help of the surrounding community, Heartland Church has flourished from a small congregation, meeting in a 3,000 square foot building, to a thriving congregation with more than 22,000 square feet of meeting space.