

must be predicated on the availability of a Federal defense. Nor will it result in removal of cases that belong in State court since only the part of the case involving the Federal officer is removed under 1442(a)(1).

In short, this legislation will enable Federal officials to remove cases to Federal court in accordance with the spirit and intent of the removal statute.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

WE THE PEOPLE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of an exceptional group of students from Munster High School, located in Indiana's First Congressional district. Competing against a class from every state in the country, one team from Munster High School accomplished the extraordinary feat of finishing in eighth place in the national competition of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program held in Washington, DC, from April 24–26, 2010. For their remarkable knowledge and understanding of American government, these exceptional young people are to be commended.

The We the People program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, is a program that reaches over 30 million elementary, middle, and high school students. The goal of the program is to provide students with an understanding of the fundamentals of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The national finals competition imitates a Congressional hearing in which high school students testify as constitutional experts before a panel of judges.

The people of Munster, as well as the community of Northwest Indiana, can be proud of this truly noteworthy class of students. The team consists of: Stacey Avtgis, Chandani Bhatt, John Bochnowski, Cristina Bonini, Thomas Burgwald, Sumanth Chintamani, Georgenna Chioros, Nicholas Estes, Michael Jerge, Kamryn Klawitter, Neil Kondamuri, Christina Lee, Melissa Lee, Aesha Maniar, Brianna Meyer, Tara Mojtahed, Santhosh Narayan, Spencer Newell, Katherine Palmer, Alexander Parobek, Aaditya Shah, Niraj Shah, Matthew Skiba, Adam Stepanovic, Shawn Tuttle, Ines Tzolov, and Elizabeth Wadas.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the members of Munster High School's We the People program, as well as their coach, Mr. Michael Gordon, and all of the community and faculty members who have instilled in these students the desire to succeed. The values exhibited by these young people and their interest in the history and fundamentals of our great nation serve to inspire us all. I am proud to represent these fine individuals in Congress, and I am proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize these future leaders. I look forward to watching their achievements as they continue to rise to the top.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 258, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HOME STAR ENERGY RETROFIT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5019) to provide for the establishment of the Home Star Retrofit Rebate Program, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Chair, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 5019, the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act.

This legislation will help to create jobs while saving consumers money and reducing our nation's energy consumption.

It will also provide an important boost for the construction sector which has been mercilessly pounded by both the recession and the collapse in new housing construction.

In my role as chair of the Joint Economic Committee, we have been examining the sector-by-sector impact of the Great Recession.

The construction sector has seen employment drop by almost 28 percent since the recession began. More than two million jobs—in this sector alone—were lost.

We're not going to get those jobs back overnight, but policies like the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act can play an important role in encouraging growth in construction while speeding our transition to a more energy-efficient economy.

The legislation provides rebates to consumers for purchasing energy-efficient products or materials and for doing renovations to make their homes more energy efficient.

Consumers can get the rebates for buying caulk or insulation, at their local hardware store for example, or working with a contractor on larger projects, such as installing new heating or cooling systems, or replacing windows.

The larger the project, the larger the rebate.

The legislation also creates a new state-federal program to provide loans to consumers for renovations that improve energy efficiency.

The Home Star legislation builds on the energy efficiency provisions in the Recovery Act, including weatherization programs targeted at low-income families and retrofits of public housing.

The legislation helps us accomplish two key goals—increasing jobs and reducing our energy costs and consumption.

A number of studies have already shown the job creation power of retrofitting homes and buildings.

The Center for American Progress estimated that \$40 billion invested in retrofits would create approximately 800,000 jobs. And these are good, high-paying jobs—construc-

tion workers, carpenters, electricians and roofers.

Finally, residential and commercial buildings use 40 percent of the energy in our country and account for 40 percent of carbon emissions.

The Home Star Energy Retrofit Act will speed the pace of home retrofits, speed up the creation of badly needed jobs, decrease our demand for carbon based fuels, and help us move more quickly to a cleaner, brighter more energy efficient future.

I encourage you to support H.R. 5019.

HONORING SPRING WOODS METHODIST CHURCH ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Spring Woods Methodist Church on celebrating its 50th anniversary. The current Pastor is Dr. J.D. Phillips and the church is composed of people from all walks of life. I am a member of the church and am proud of this accomplishment.

Spring Woods has the distinction of being the first Methodist church in Northwest Houston. The first service was held on October 18, 1959, and was attended by 18 people at Spring Elementary School.

On May 15, 1960, Dr. Homer T. Fort, the Houston West District superintendent officially recognized Spring Woods Methodist Church. Through assistance from the Room to Grow Program, the church purchased five and a half acres on FM 1960 for the future church site. The original charter membership was composed of 44 people and by the end of the year, the number increased to 106. Today the congregation numbers over 1,000 members and continues to serve the Lord by serving the people of Northwest Houston.

Since the church was built, they have added several buildings on the property. This includes an 18,000 square foot education/administrative office building.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Spring Woods Methodist Church on celebrating its 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO ACKNOWLEDGE DEPAUL UNIVERSITY AS IT LAUNCHES ITS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO HONOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ST. VINCENT DEPAUL AND ST. LOUISE DEMARILLAC ON THE OCCASION OF THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR DEATHS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, DePaul University is the largest Catholic university in the United States and the largest private non-profit university in the Midwest. It remains dedicated to serving and educating the

economically disadvantaged, as it has done throughout its history. DePaul University provides high-quality education for students from the entire metropolitan area through its Chicago and suburban campuses.

In 2010, DePaul University celebrates the work and accomplishments of its namesake, St. Vincent DePaul, and St. Louise de Marillac, founder of the Daughters of Charity, on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of their deaths. To honor the examples of St. Vincent and St. Louise through its mission of education and service, DePaul University is embarking on a capital campaign entitled, "Many Dreams. One Mission." This capital campaign will help guarantee the accessibility and affordability of the University's 260 graduate and undergraduate programs. This campaign will raise funds to build campus facilities that will enhance the University's academically-rigorous and nationally-acclaimed programs of study.

As a proud Chicagoan and former educator, I congratulate DePaul University for its many contributions to higher education and community service, and I join with DePaul University in celebrating St. Vincent DePaul and St. Louise DeMarillac on the occasion the 350th anniversary of their deaths.

SUPPORTING DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H. Res. 1294, honoring those who are serving and have served courageously as Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel, as contractors or members of the United States Armed Forces.

At home and abroad, unexploded ordnance (UXO)—bombs and shells that failed to explode during military training, testing, or operations—pose a health and safety risk to communities and restrict opportunities for economic development. These still-dangerous explosives and harmful contaminants are located on or buried in millions of acres of former military lands in every state and Congressional district. Alarming, much of this land now serves as housing, schools, businesses, parks, and playgrounds.

For the past ten years I have worked closely with my colleagues to direct Congressional funding and legislative action on UXO cleanup and increase investment in technology. In 2005, I formed the bipartisan UXO Caucus as part of an ongoing effort to increase Congressional awareness. The purpose of the UXO Caucus is to inform Members of the health, safety, and environmental risks of UXO and to highlight the challenges faced by communities and the federal government to clean up UXO and redevelop former military properties. Due to these bipartisan efforts, the Department of Defense has now named a program manager in charge of remediation, and additional funding has gone to technology that will better determine the location and density of munitions contamination.

UXO technicians and units at home and abroad perform a selfless and dangerous task

on behalf of the United States and we will forever be in their debt. Despite risking their lives for the health and safety of our families and communities, these heroes have largely gone unrecognized. I am extremely grateful for their sacrifices and I am pleased that we can honor them with this resolution highlighting National Explosive Ordnance Disposal Day.

43RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE REUNIFICATION OF JERUSALEM

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise now to commemorate a significant event: the 43rd anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, which is being celebrated today. I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 271, which recognizes this important day.

Jerusalem is one of the most historic cities in the world; it has been destroyed, besieged, attacked, captured, and recaptured multiple times. Yet in 1948, for the first time, the city was divided into two parts. For the following 19 years, access to holy sites was denied by Jordan. Even worse, synagogues were destroyed and ancient tombstones desecrated. Residents of Jerusalem could not even see the Western Wall, let alone pray there.

At last, in 1967, Jerusalem was reunited during the Six Day War. In celebration, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan gave this oft-repeated statement:

"This morning, the Israel Defense Forces . . . have united Jerusalem, the divided capital of Israel. We have returned to the holiest of our holy places, never to part from it again. To our Arab neighbors we extend, also at this hour—and with added emphasis at this hour—our hand in peace. And to our Christian and Muslim fellow citizens, we solemnly promise full religious freedom and rights. We did not come to Jerusalem for the sake of other peoples' holy places, and not to interfere with the adherents of other faiths, but in order to safeguard its entirety, and to live there together with others, in unity."

Truly, today is not cause for celebration by Jews only. Christians and Muslims also consider Jerusalem a holy city. Furthermore, visitors of many other faiths travel to the Old City to pray or simply appreciate the historic sites, which are not only accessible today, but also properly maintained.

Sadly, some people still do not consider Jerusalem to be Israel's capital. And despite the passage of the Jerusalem Embassy Act in 1995, we have not yet moved the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It is preposterous that Israel, our democratic friend and strategic ally, is the only country in which the U.S. embassy is not located in the functioning capital. I strongly encourage President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton to begin the process of relocating the U.S. Embassy in Israel.

As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, recently stated: "The connection between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel cannot be denied. The connection between the Jewish people and Jerusalem cannot be denied . . . Jerusalem is not a settlement. It is our capital."

In closing, I want to reflect on the name, "Jerusalem." It is my understanding that the name of this city is built from a Hebrew root word meaning "completeness" or "wholeness." How appropriate that for the past 43 years Jerusalem has been able to live up to its name. As Psalm 122:3 states: "Jerusalem is built as a city that is united together."

HONORING MICHAEL SPAK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I call to the attention of the House the passing on January 25 of Michael Robert Spak, 62, a resident of Leesburg, Virginia, who was the founder and chairman of the nonprofit Loudoun Crime Commission.

Mr. Spak enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at age 18 and completed two tours of combat duty in Vietnam from 1966–1969. Following his honorable discharge in 1969, he joined the Los Angeles Police Department, where he served on the Bomb Squad/Criminal Conspiracy Section for several years, becoming an expert on bomb detection, disposal and investigation. In 1974, he joined the Central Intelligence Agency, where he served for 23 years, first as an officer in the CIA's Directorate of Science and Technology and then in the Directorate of Operations. In the context of his work, he traveled the world from the Middle East to Africa and Asia. He also served in multiple long-term overseas assignments in Europe and Latin America. After retiring from government service in 1996, he started his own company, Virtual Defense & Development International, Inc. (VDI), an international consulting and professional services company specializing in matters of defense, law enforcement, security and intelligence, and post-conflict economic development. He served as president and chairman of VDI until the time of his death.

He was the founder and chairman of the non-profit Loudoun Crime Commission; he was a founder of the newly-constructed National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico, and was active in the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation; and he served in the Loudoun County Marine Corps League Detachment, where he most recently held the position of judge advocate and was involved in its annual Toys for Tots campaign. In addition, he owned and operated Amber Creek Vineyard in Leesburg and was a member of the Loudoun Winegrowers Association. He was a lifelong member of the Masonic Lodge. He held two bachelor's degrees from George Mason University and American University, respectively, and at the time of his death was working towards his master's degree at American University. Mr. Spak was vigilant in his efforts to fight crime and support law enforcement agencies. He is commended for his life of service to his country and his community. Mr. Spak was willing to put his own life at risk for the protection of our country and our communities. Michael Robert Spak was very much appreciated throughout the Marine, Intelligence and law enforcement communities and his energy, ideas and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.