

and resources. NCSL provides these resources, producing numerous publications, conducting research, and assisting lawmakers in crafting legislation.

Prior to joining NCSL in 1975, Carl Tubbesing taught Government and Public Affairs at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. After joining NCSL shortly after the organization's inception, he worked in the Denver office as Assistant Director of State Services working to meet the needs of state legislatures and their staffs nationwide. From there, he advanced to Director of State Federal relations where he was instrumental in the passage of the Child Care Development Block Grant, providing federal funding to states to assist low income families with child care burdens. Carl was also a valuable partner as NCSL strove to enact the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA). This legislation aimed to curb the practice of imposing unfunded mandates on state and local governments.

In 2000, as I assumed the role of NCSL President, Carl Tubbesing was instrumental in the adoption of the Farm Bill, including a major expansion of the Food Stamp program and a restoration of food stamp benefits to legal immigrants. Over the past ten years he has continued his admirable work on behalf of state legislatures, including providing temporary fiscal relief to states and territories in 2003, and more recently providing technical assistance to states as they implemented provisions under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Carl Tubbesing has always been an incredible leader, and a valuable resource to myself and other lawmakers and we are sad to say goodbye. He is a man of outstanding character and we will remain grateful for his unwavering dedication and exceptional insight.

I want to personally wish Carl continued success and my best wishes upon his retirement.

INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Native American Caucus, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 725, the Indian Arts and Crafts Amendments Act of 2009, which will safeguard an industry critical to the Native American economy and small businesses.

First, I would like to acknowledge Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and Chairman RAHALL for their leadership in bringing this important bill to the floor. I would also like to thank my colleague Congressman PASTOR, the author of this legislation, who worked so hard to help such an underserved community protect their economic livelihood.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 725, the Indian Arts and Crafts Amendments Act of 2009 amends the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 to authorize any federal law enforcement officer to conduct an investigation of an offense involving the sale of any good that is misrepresented as an Indian produced good or product. H.R. 725

authorizes the Indian Arts and Crafts Board to refer offenses to any federal law enforcement officer for investigation. In addition, this bill proposes new penalties for goods offered or displayed for sale or sold for less than \$1,000 at a \$25,000 fine, a 1-year imprisonment, or both.

In California, the State I represent, there are over one hundred Native American tribes, many of varying levels of economic success. Misrepresentation of products is one of the biggest problems facing the Native American art industry and market. Not only does the industry have to compete with the larger market, but Native Americans must compete with those who copy and counterfeit their work. Income from a single artist is often the sole source of support for their family, as well as being a source of strength and pride that reinforces cultures and traditions within communities. Therefore, as a long time friend and supporter of the Native American community, I am so pleased to champion a bill such as H.R. 725, which protects the unique economic opportunities of this community.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support this bill because it protects an important industry in the areas and populations that needs assistance. The communities benefiting from H.R. 725 represent some of the most traditionally disadvantaged, isolated, and underserved populations in America. I am proud to work with my colleagues to ensure that Native Americans receive full protection of their most viable industry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 725.

CONDEMNING VIOLENT SUPPRESSION IN GUINEA

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of House Resolution 1013. This resolution condemns the violent suppression of legitimate political dissent and gross human rights abuses in the Republic of Guinea. Over the past year the Republic of Guinea has experienced a complete loss of its human rights and democratic values that we cherish so dearly as Americans, and it is important that we not only condemn some of the horrific actions of the Guinean government, but also provide assistance for the reinstitution of democratically elected leaders and for the recovery of Guinea and its people. After the death of long-time President Lansana Conte in late 2008, Moussa Dadis Camara, a captain in the Guinean Army illegitimately took over the Guinean presidency in a bloodless coup.

This action was taken unilaterally by Camara without prior consultation or petition from the Guinean people. These undemocratic actions taken by the military junta and Captain Camara are shocking and unacceptable. Shortly after taking power, Captain Camara declared his intentions of instituting free and fair democratic elections under outside pressures from the international community. Over the past several months, however, Captain Camara has consistently delayed and postponed elections.

The situation intensified last September as Guinean security forces opened fire on a group of thousands of peaceful protestors wounding thousands and killing about 150 people. I condemn in the strongest terms this atrocious violence taken against peacefully protesting unarmed civilians.

My heart goes out to the friends, families and loved ones of the victims in this brutal attack. This cruel and unwarranted attack against unarmed and peaceful demonstrators is an attack against humanity as well as the democratic principles we stand for in the U.S. I especially condemn the actions taken by certain members of the security forces and their commanders who brutally raped, molested and killed women and children on the streets of Conakry during the violent confrontation. These are human rights violations of the worst kind and I vehemently oppose both the government of Guinea in addition to the troops and complacent officers who allowed these actions to take place.

I stand behind the people of Guinea in deploping these unjust and undemocratic actions and support a full transition of the country's leadership through future democratic elections. Since the beginning of Camara's illegitimate presidency over a year ago, the economic, social and political situation in Guinea has continually declined until this past December when a former aide to Camara, Lt. Aboubakar Diakite, attempted to assassinate the president and take over the country. After being shot in the head by Diakite, President Camara was evacuated to Senegal for treatment and then to Morocco for surgery.

The tense and unstable political situation in Guinea must be reconciled between opposing forces with a full and complete return to democratic rule through free and fair elections. We must also provide the people of Guinea with the tools and potential for future growth that would change this troubled nation. The United States can assist Guinea in returning to good governance by increasing transparent and accountable trade with Guinea, by providing further humanitarian assistance contingent on government reform in Guinea, and by providing election monitors to the people of Guinea in future elections.

I also call on the international community as a whole to conduct their trade and governmental interaction with the Republic of Guinea in a strategic manner that would take into account the conditions of the Guinean people and the disorder within the Guinean government. President Camara remains in exile, and is currently recovering in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso after a failed assassination attempt on his life last December. Earlier this month both the president and the interim president reached an agreement which would institute a transitional government and hold presidential elections within the next six months. Though Camara and his interim president Gen. Sekouba Konate have appealed for peace and reconciliation and have urged their countrymen to put aside ethnic differences, there is still a vital need in the country for increased economic growth, improved standards of living for all people and a more transparent and just system of governance.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. I also ask my colleagues for their continued support of the Guinean people and ask for their continued support of a complete return to democratic rule and respect for human rights in Guinea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, and Thursday, January 21, 2010.

On Wednesday, January 20, 2009, I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote #9 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 1017), "no" on rollcall vote #10 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3726), "aye" on rollcall vote #11 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3538).

On Thursday, January 21, 2009, I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote #12 (on passage of H.R. 3254), "aye" on rollcall vote #13 (on passage of H.R. 3342), "no" on rollcall vote #14 (on passage of H.R. 1065), "aye" on rollcall vote #15 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1021), "aye" on rollcall vote #16 (on motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 730).

**HONORING SEVEN AMERICANS
KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN ON DE-
CEMBER 30, 2009**

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, on December 30, 2009, we were reminded of the dangers and challenges our intelligence community faces every day, working in anonymity to keep our country safe. We were reminded that they often operate under harsh conditions, leaving loved ones behind, and that their service will likely never be publicly recognized. Seven Americans died in service to their country and several others were severely wounded. If we can collectively take anything from this tragedy, I hope it is to re-commit ourselves to be mindful of the toll the our military, intelligence, and civilian personnel persevere under every day to keep this country safe and to do everything in our power to support their mission. I extend my personal condolences to the families, loved ones, friends, and colleagues of our fallen and wounded personnel.

**A BAD PRESCRIPTION FOR
WISCONSIN**

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, as the new year begins, we are back to debating the seemingly old health care legislation. This bill would cost Wisconsinites and Wisconsin businesses. The legislation essentially puts the government in control of health

care)—an industry that comprises nearly one-sixth of our economy. And, as I've repeatedly heard at dozens of my Town Hall Meetings, Wisconsinites overwhelmingly oppose this legislation.

Until the Federal Government can effectively manage Medicare and Medicaid, it shouldn't be creating a new program. Additionally, there are 27,156 seniors in Wisconsin's Fifth Congressional District who use Medicare Advantage and who would likely see reduced benefits.

And in another bad move for my State, the Senate version proposes an additional \$2 billion annual tax for each of the next 10 years on medical device manufacturers. This would negatively affect good companies, such as GE Healthcare in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and hundreds of our small business suppliers. In addition to stifling innovation and hindering research and development, the added costs would hurt consumers, as anyone purchasing medical products, such as wheelchairs, or whose care includes the use of equipment, such as an MRI machine, would feel the pinch.

Making backroom deals to pass health care reform is a far cry from the transparency President Barack Obama promised. Every Wisconsinite will be affected by this legislation so they have a right to be in the know and to watch the debate unfold on C-SPAN. It's common sense that the people who elect us be included in the process.

Yes, health care needs to be reformed in our country. However, patching two pieces of horrible legislation together into one awful bill that would cost Wisconsinites more while lessening their care will not receive my support.

The bottom line is that this legislation is bad medicine that would make our health care system sicker.

BUILDING AN AFGHAN AIR FORCE**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, during the last week in December, I had the opportunity to travel to Afghanistan and see firsthand the situation on the ground. It goes without saying that I was most impressed with the hard work and courage displayed by our troops who are stationed over there. I am always in awe of our men women in the Armed Forces. Their bravery and professionalism is something that all Americans should be proud of.

One aspect of our mission there that does not receive much attention compared to other parts of the mission is the effort to build an Afghan air force. The work of the Combined Air Power Transition Force (CAPTF) Partnership and the Afghan National Army Air Corps (ANAAAC) deserves to be commended. During our trip we had the opportunity to meet with and be briefed by CAPTF Commanding General, United States Air Force Brigadier General Michael Boera. General Boera and his people run an impressive operation.

The Combined Air Power Transition Force has a mission to set the conditions for a professional, fully independent and operationally capable Afghan air force that meets the security requirements of Afghanistan today and to-

morrow. Furthermore, the Afghan National Army Air Corps provides trained and ready airmen and soliders to execute critical tasks from the air in support of the Afghan National Army, and when directed by the Ministry of Defense, to support by air the civil authorities of Afghanistan at all levels.

CAPTF air advisors have oversight responsibilities for both the Ministry of Defense Afghan National Army Air Corps and the Ministry of Interior aviation assets used for Counter-narcotics and General Support. In short, their goal is to ensure that the Afghan people will be able to protect their own airspace.

As an embedded partnership, CAPTF operates along four lines of operation to accomplish their mission. The first line of operation is build the Afghan Air Corps aircraft capacity. Second, CAPTF works to build Afghan airmen's capacity and capability. The third step is to build ANAAAC's infrastructure to support their force, and fourth, to perform operations in the current counterinsurgency effort.

Transcending all four of those lines of operation is CAPTF's effort for institutional development such as improving their command and control capability, improving their air base management capability, and building up their "Air University" educational capability so critical to the foundation to a professional force.

The Afghan Air Corps currently has 46 aircraft and close to 3,000 personnel building to about 150 aircraft and over 8,000 personnel by 2016. Their mission sets include Presidential and other types of airlift, battlefield mobility, to include medical evacuation and casualty evacuation, and close air support.

The primary airframes flown by the Air Corps are Mi-17 and Mi-35 helicopters and C-27s, which is the first modern western aircraft introduced to the Afghans. CAPTF hopes to introduce additional aircraft into the Afghan inventory as they continue to grow in capability.

The ANAAAC's Air Corps headquarters is in Kabul and they currently have two Air Wings, one at Kabul and one at Kandahar. A third is being built at Shindand airfield out to the west that will also be the home of their Training Center where the CAPTF will partner with them initially to train their pilots.

The Afghans also have Air Detachments at critical locations around the country to support the Afghan ground forces. It's important to note, the Afghan airmen are in the fight now even as we help them build capacity and capability. It's like flying the airplane while building it.

Much work remains, but General Boera and all the hardworking people of the Combined Air Power Transition Force are certainly moving in the right direction. All Americans should be proud!

**INTRODUCTION OF THE "ROYALTY
RELIEF FOR AMERICAN CON-
SUMERS ACT OF 2010"**

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, yesterday the administration announced that President Obama will propose a three-year freeze on non-security discretionary