

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

spending in his State of the Union address tomorrow as a way of addressing the federal deficit. However, as President Obama works to reduce the budget deficit and put our nation on a path of fiscal responsibility, oil companies are pushing us further into the red by continuing to drill for free on public land.

The "Royalty Relief for American Consumers Act of 2010" that I am introducing today with the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, would recover the more than \$50 billion that taxpayers currently stand to lose in foregone oil royalty payments as a result of defective leases issued by the Department of Interior between 1996 and 2000. The minerals below our public lands belong to the American people and no company should be allowed to exploit them for free. This legislation would protect American taxpayers and reduce our budget deficit by up to \$54 billion.

The legislation that we are introducing today would offer oil companies a simple choice: they can continue to drill for free on public lands but they will not be permitted to purchase new leases from the federal government. The language in the Royalty Relief for American Consumers Act has repeatedly passed the House of Representatives in 2006, 2007 and 2008. It is time that we start drilling for deficit dollars by reclaiming these lost royalty payments and ending the free ride that oil companies are currently enjoying on public land.

As President Obama steps up efforts to reduce the federal budget deficit, ensuring that oil companies are paying their fair share is a common sense way to help restore fiscal responsibility. We can no longer afford to allow oil companies to drill for free while taxpayers are left holding the bill. Enacting this legislation will put an end to this taxpayer rip off once and for all.

HONORING PASQUOTANK COUNTY COMMISSIONER JIMMIE HARRIS

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the recent passing of Jimmie Harris, a great local civic leader in Pasquotank County, North Carolina.

A county commissioner and former volunteer fire department chief, Mr. Harris will long be remembered for his leadership on issues related to fire services, agriculture, education and the local hospital. He was passionate about doing everything he could to improve the community, and even those people with opposing viewpoints had great respect for him. This is an enormous loss, and there is a great deal of sadness throughout the community.

Mr. Harris was a retired farmer and served as Providence Volunteer Fire Department Chief for over 20 years. He was also a devoted member of Berea Baptist Church, and had served on many civic boards and organizations.

Along with his wife, Brenda Corbett Harris, Mr. Harris is survived by his mother, a daughter, a son, two sisters and three grandchildren. They gathered with friends, family and loved ones last week at the Berea Baptist Church Family Life Center for a memorial service.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise in recognition of Mr. Harris' passing and his lifetime of outstanding public service to his community. I also ask that we pass along our best wishes and prayers to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO HAITI

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to this resolution. Certainly I am moved by the horrific destruction in Haiti and would without hesitation express condolences to those who have suffered and continue to suffer. As a medical doctor, I have through my career worked to alleviate the pain and suffering of others. Unfortunately, however, this resolution does not simply express our condolences, but rather it commits the U.S. government "to begin the reconstruction of Haiti" and affirms that "the recovery and long-term needs of Haiti will require a sustained commitment by the United States. . . ." I do not believe that a resolution expressing our deep regret and sorrow over this tragedy should be used to commit the United States to a "long-term" occupation of Haiti during which time the U.S. government will provide for the reconstruction of that country.

I am concerned over the possibility of an open-ended U.S. military occupation of Haiti and this legislation does nothing to alleviate my concerns. On the contrary, when this resolution refers to the need for a long-term U.S. plan for Haiti, I see a return to the failed attempts by the Clinton and Bush Administrations to establish Haiti as an American protectorate. Already we are seeing many argue that this kind of humanitarian mission is a perfect fit for the U.S. military. I do not agree.

Certainly I would support and encourage the efforts of the American people to help the people of Haiti at this tragic time. I believe that the American people are very generous on their own and fear that a U.S. government commitment to reconstruct Haiti may actually discourage private contributions. Mr. Speaker, already we see private U.S. citizens and corporations raising millions of dollars for relief and reconstruction of Haiti. I do not believe the U.S. government should get in the way of these laudable efforts. I do express my condolences but I unfortunately must urge my colleagues to vote against this resolution committing the United States government to rebuild Haiti.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO HAITI

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my support to H. Res. 1021, which expresses condolences to and solidarity with the people of Haiti in the after-

math of the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010.

I would like to thank my colleague, BARBARA LEE, chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, for offering this legislation and express heartfelt condolences and sympathy for the people of Haiti in the wake of this horrific natural disaster.

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck the country of Haiti. An estimated 3 million people have been directly affected by the disaster in Haiti, more than 1.5 million people left homeless, and severe damage has been sustained by roads, ports, hospitals, and homes.

The challenges in helping Haiti are immense, and the U.S. and partner countries have made important contributions to the recovery efforts. I commend the Obama administration for granting Temporary Protected Status for Haitian nationals in the United States, many of whom are unable to return home due to the destruction in Haiti.

I applaud the individuals, businesses and philanthropic organizations across the United States and throughout the international community who have responded to the crisis in Haiti with an outpouring of generosity and support.

It is clear that the people of Haiti are now facing a humanitarian crisis that is unimaginable and that will take years to recover from. I support a sustained commitment to people of Haiti and encourage innovative thinking in providing long-term assistance to the country.

I am committed to helping the Haitian people recover from this tragedy and to rebuild their homes, communities, and lives in the days, weeks and years to come.

Again, thank you to Rep. BARBARA LEE for introducing this resolution and urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 1021.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARVIN L. GILLUM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise to share with our colleagues the recent passing of Marvin L. Gillum. He died on January 21, 2010, at the age of 85.

Marvin had a long history of service to the city of Manassas, Virginia, and the greater Prince William County community. He served as mayor of Manassas for eight years from 1996 to 2004, and was also a former chairman of the Manassas School Board.

I submit for the RECORD an obituary for Marvin that ran in the Manassas News & Messenger on January 22:

MARVIN L. GILLUM

Marvin L. Gillum, age 85, died peacefully at his home Thursday, January 21, 2010. He was born on February 2, 1924 in his town, Manassas. He graduated from Osbourn High School in 1940 and continued his education at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) where he earned a B.S. in chemistry and pre-med. He then received his D.D.S. from the Medical College of Virginia School of Dentistry. He worked as a dentist for forty years. His father, Dr. V.V. Gillum, established the family business in 1914 in Manassas where he served a number of patients who arrived by train from all over the area. Marvin served his country as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force