

HONORING THOSE WHO PERISHED ON THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL PLATFORM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 11 workers who lost their lives on April 20, 2010 in the explosion of a deep sea oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana. I also offer my sympathy to the four workers who were critically injured.

My deepest condolences also go out to the families of the deceased. The offshore drilling industry is known for its dangers. Oil rig workers often labor in severe and uncertain working conditions, fraught with difficulty. We are indebted to these courageous workers for their contributions to our country.

This is a tragedy not only for the workers and their families but the residents of the entire Gulf Coast region, and the United States. We honor the legacy of these men and their families and affirm that their contributions to a field crucial to our society are recognized by all.

We wish a speedy recovery to the four additional workers who were critically injured during the rig explosion. We also offer a heartfelt thank you to the emergency response workers who responded to the disaster. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

This incident highlights the importance of implementing and enforcing stricter offshore drilling regulations. Oil rig explosions and resulting oil spills can lead to the deaths of workers and cause irreversible damage to our environment, marine life, wildlife, food industries, and our economy. It is important that we address the lack of oversight in the offshore drilling industry and protect the lives of dedicated oil rig workers who make daily sacrifices in the interest of the United States.

RECOGNIZING RALPH KEMP FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. HARRY TEAGUE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a patriotic American who has given much of himself in securing the future of this country. Mr. Ralph Kemp is a veteran of the Marine Corps and the Vietnam War. Mr. Kemp also served as a retired Albuquerque Police Department Lieutenant in his hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico a few years after his military service. Some years ago, after some arm twisting he was taken on a trip to attend the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State. After that year there was no more arm twisting involved.

This year's American Legion New Mexico Boys' State session being held at the Campus of Eastern New Mexico University will mark Ralph Kemps' 30th consecutive session of attendance.

Ralph has held many positions throughout the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State organization which has taught thousands of New Mexico High School Seniors the rights

and responsibilities of being citizens of this great country of ours. Numerous members of our society have attended an American Legion Boys State or an American Legion Auxiliary Girls' State Session held annual on campus across this nation.

The program's alumni has held positions as CEO's, Artists, Athletes, Newscasters, Justices on the Supreme Court, both chambers of the House and Senate and even held the Position of President of the United States. It is organizations such as the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, who after wearing the uniform of our country, return home and continue to selflessly serve the communities of which they belong such as Ralph Kemp.

Ralph Kemp currently serves as the Executive Director of the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State program. Besides the dedicated week Ralph gives to the Boys' State program he has also served on the American Legion Boys Nation Staff for the past 15 years.

This is a week-and-a-half-long program where two boys from each state are selected to come to the Nation's Capitol to learn about government at the federal level. If two and half weeks of volunteer time working with this nation's youth is not enough, Ralph Kemp volunteers and additional week of his summer serving as the Director of the American Legions Junior Shooters programs annual competition. Ralph Kemp is to be commended for his dedication of many years of service to the youth of the nation at American Legion New Mexico Boys State and American Legion Programs. I thank him for his service and am very proud to have him recognized in the House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING PRINCIPAL JAN KING ON BEING NAMED THE 2010 WACHOVIA NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Principal Jan King of Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School in Mills River, North Carolina on being named the 2010 Wachovia North Carolina Principal of the Year. The designation of Principal of the Year not only signifies her effectiveness as an administrator but also the respect she has earned among her students, their parents, and their teachers.

With this honor Mrs. King will be appointed to the State Superintendent's Principal's Advisory Committee and will serve a one-year term as advisor to the State Board of Education. Principal King will also be appointed to a one-year term on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Public School Forum and will chair the 2011 Wachovia Principal of the Year Selection Committee.

As a native of Jackson County and an educator in the area, Mrs. King has spent most of her life in Western North Carolina. Throughout her educational career, Jan King has set a high educational standard for herself and her peers. In 2003, Mrs. King was named Henderson County Schools' Teacher of the Year and

achieved National Board Certification. Mrs. King has also been selected to speak at various events including the North Carolina Gifted Education Conference, North Carolina Social Studies Conference and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Conference. She also served as a teacher and a consultant for the Library of Congress American Memory Fellow Program.

The children of today are the leaders of our nation tomorrow. Educators like Principal King are central in providing these children the tools they need in order to be productive citizens in the future.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Principal Jan King and to thank her for her tremendous service to the students in Western North Carolina.

MEDIA SHOULD DEMAND ANSWERS FROM OBAMA

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today President Obama had his first full news conference in about 10 months.

That's longer than former President George W. Bush ever went between news conferences.

Here's what the Washington Examiner's chief political correspondent, Byron York, wrote recently about why the national media have tolerated President Obama's silence:

While Obama dodges questions, his spokesman stonewalls them.

In one sense, the press, or at least some members of the press, have only themselves to blame.

Obama treats them with contempt because he knows that when big tests come, they've always been on his side.

There's no reason for him to think they won't be there in the future.

Why does Obama do it? Because he can.

The national media should demand answers from the President, not give him a free pass on news conferences.

UNFAIR TREATMENT OF FEDERAL POSTAL WORKERS IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention an amendment that I proposed to H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2011, but unfortunately was not included for Floor consideration.

This proposed measure would amend the appropriate section of the Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act of 2009, Subtitle B of Title XIX of Public Law 111-84, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, to allow otherwise eligible workers in American Samoa to be paid territorial cost of living adjustment (TCOLA) rates that match the now frozen TCOLA rates applying to Guam.

Madam Speaker, just a year ago, the Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act (NAREAA) was signed into law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 or Public Law 111–84. In essence, COLA would be phased out and locality pay would be phased in over 3 years for all current and future Federal employees, regardless of whether or not they received COLA payments.

Before last year, American Samoa was the only non-foreign area in which Federal employees did not receive COLA. Notwithstanding that by law, Federal employees in the U.S. Territory of American Samoa were eligible to receive COLA payments, OPM decided not to create a separate non-foreign COLA-designated area for American Samoa.

This was especially frustrating given that American Samoa faces many of the same issues, driving higher prices for goods, services, and travel that face other territories in similar situations, and its seemed discriminatory that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has chosen not to provide COLA to Federal employees in American Samoa.

These were the concerns that I continued to raise with OPM over the years but to no avail until last year and I want to thank my good friend from Hawaii, Senator DANIEL AKAKA for his leadership and efforts on this issue. As a result of NAREAA, GS and white-collar Federal employees in American Samoa are now receiving locality-pay.

Madam Speaker, the enactment of Public Law 111–84 has made more glaring the discrepancy that continue to exist for USPS workers in American Samoa that were not receiving territorial cost of living adjustments (TCOLA) rates.

Only Postal Inspectors and employees of the Postal Service Office Inspector General in non-foreign areas are receiving locality pay like other federal employees in the non-foreign areas. The rest of the USPS employees would continue to receive TCOLA payments.

Unfortunately, USPS workers in American Samoa did not receive any adjustments called for under Public Law 111–84 as OPM has never designated American Samoa to receive TCOLA rates. Despite the fact that American Samoa by statute is eligible to receive TCOLA payments, OPM continues to deny American Samoa COLA-designation.

Now that COLA is being phased out and we are now in the 10th pay period since locality pay kicked in and COLA rates have been frozen, it is highly unlikely OPM would ever establish American Samoa as a COLA area because there is not more COLA per se and other GS and white-collar Federal employees in American Samoa are now receiving locality pay.

Therefore, the intent of my amendment is to give the USPS employees in American Samoa the same TCOLA treatment accorded to USPS employees in Guam.

Madam Speaker, as I have been saying throughout all these years, it seems unreasonable that OPM asserts that the cost of living in American Samoa is not high enough to justify payment of COLA when no survey has even been conducted in American Samoa. Especially, American Samoa is about 8,000 miles away from Washington, DC with unique economic challenges and issues.

Madam Speaker, while my amendment was not accepted by the U.S. House Committee on Rules, nevertheless, I will continue to pursue

a solution to this critical issue for the people of American Samoa. the people of American Samoa.

NETWORKS SHOULD HOLD ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the television news networks failed to hold the Obama administration accountable for its response to the Gulf Coast oil spill crisis, according to an analysis by the Media Research Center.

Out of 157 news stories during the 4 weeks after the disaster, 148—95 percent—featured no criticism of the administration whatsoever. Just nine had some scrutiny of the administration.

And just two of the stories—about 1 percent—focused on the administration's handling of the crisis.

The national media gave no such leeway to former President George W. Bush's handling of crises during his administration.

The networks should hold the Obama administration accountable, not give them a free pass.

IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH J. HOFFMAN SR., BELOVED GLOUCESTER COUNTY CLERK

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Joseph J. Hoffman Sr. of Franklinville, who died from pancreatic cancer in his home on May 13, 2010 at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Wanda, two sons, and six grandchildren. Mr. Hoffman's life made a lasting mark on the Gloucester County community.

Mr. Hoffman was a graduate of Clayton High School, where he was an avid member of the baseball team. His skills as third baseman for Clayton High School were recognized with his early induction into the Gloucester County Sports Hall of Fame. After high school, he had the opportunity to attend training camp for the Philadelphia Athletics minor league team, but turned it down to work on his family's three farms in Franklinville. He remained involved with community sports, playing for many semi-pro South Jersey baseball teams, and later becoming President of the Franklin Township Babe Ruth League.

After nine years as Township Clerk for Franklin Township, he was elected Gloucester County clerk in 1962. Mr. Hoffman served for a record forty-four years as Gloucester County Clerk. He was then successfully re-elected for seven consecutive five year terms, ending with his retirement in 1997. Not only was Mr. Hoffman involved with the local government, he also served 43 years on the board of Newfield National Bank, volunteered with the

Franklinville Fire Department, and served as General Chairman of fundraising for Underwood Memorial Hospital in Woodbury. In 1995, his achievements were recognized by the Boy Scouts of America when he received the Southern New Jersey Council Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizens Award. He also was rewarded the Public Service Award by the NAACP.

Madam Speaker, Joseph J. Hoffman Sr.'s commitment to Gloucester County and its citizens should not go unrecognized. I express my deepest condolences to his family for their loss and pay tribute to the memory of this outstanding individual.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF GARY S. ADAMS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gary S. Adams as he is named by the Cleveland-Marshall Law School Association a 2010 Alumnus of the Year in recognition of his continued entrepreneurship, hard work and business achievement.

Mr. Adams grew up in the Cleveland area. As a graduate of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, he has consistently utilized his legal expertise to help support, promote and grow the auto industry throughout Greater Cleveland. In addition, he has maintained a special focus on locally owned dealerships, employees and customers.

For many years, Mr. Adams served as the President of the Greater Cleveland Auto Dealerships' Association and is now the President of the annual Cleveland Auto Show which draws tens of thousands of visitors every year. Mr. Adams is an expert in his field. He has an unparalleled knowledge of many aspects of the auto industry, including government policy, public relations and consumer rights. Moreover, Mr. Adams is known as man whose kindness, integrity and generosity match his competitive spirit.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of Gary S. Adams upon being named as a 2010 Alumnus of the Year by his alma mater, the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Adams' leadership, expertise, integrity and dedication to supporting the economic base of our community have made it a better place to live.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes: