

HONORING THE VIRGINIA AQUARIUM & MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in the history of an organization that has been a leader in the national effort in marine science education, conservation, and research—the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center.

Since 1986, the Aquarium has been educating our youth, saving the lives of marine mammals and sea turtles, and spurring economic growth in the region. During the past 25 years, the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center has attracted 11 million guests, including one million students, making it the Commonwealth of Virginia's most popular non-historical, nonprofit tourist attraction.

The Aquarium has been instrumental in educating our future generations with its unique experiences involving live animal displays, interactive science exhibits, marine science programs, the country's only interactive Seal Splash activity, and boat trips.

The Aquarium's Ocean in Motion vehicle has transported live marine animals to visit over 337,000 school students in 78 cities and counties in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee to offer hands-on activities related to watersheds and key ocean literacy concepts. The vehicle has also traveled to the U.S. Capitol, U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Commerce to allow federal workers to learn hands-on.

In addition to its education initiatives, the Aquarium leads the way in conservation efforts through its renowned Stranding Program by responding to marine animals along the East Coast and providing an impetus for numerous research projects on seals, dolphins, right whales and endangered sea turtles.

The Virginia Aquarium has been influential in attracting economic development to the region with winter whale-watching trips which result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct spending to the regional economy. Out-of-town tourists who visit the Aquarium spend more money and stay longer in the area. The Aquarium is a key partner in the resort area's master plan for the retail, cultural, maritime, and natural environment, serving as an economic engine for the region and the state.

Congratulations to the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center on this 25 year anniversary and for the education, conservation, and economic contributions to the region. We all look forward to many more years of inspiring work.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride and admiration that I offer my thanks and recognition to the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall No. 394 on June 2,

2011, I inadvertently cast a "no" vote on an amendment offered by Mr. SHERMAN of California, prohibiting the use of funds made available in the underlying bill from being used in contravention of the War Powers Resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIX DAY WAR

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 44th Anniversary of the Six Day War, in which Israel—our greatest ally in the Middle East—turned a massive buildup and aggression by Egypt, Syria, and Jordan into a tremendous victory in just six days.

After months of continued aggression against it, Israel launched a preemptive attack against the massive Egyptian buildup in the Sinai, destroying most of the Egyptian Air Force and Army in a number of hours. After repeated air and artillery attacks by Jordan and Syria, Israel liberated all of Jerusalem two days later on June 7, 1967, including the Western Wall and Jewish Quarter in the Old City. For the first time in decades, Jerusalem was unified and the Jewish people could visit their holiest site, the Western Wall.

By June 10, just six days after it began, war was over. Israel's superior fighting force had destroyed the armies and air forces of their Arab aggressors, and had captured the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Golan Heights, Mas'ada, and the Sinai Peninsula to the Suez Canal.

However, this victory came at a great cost to the Israeli people. Nearly 1,000 Israelis were killed, and over 4,500 were wounded. Last weekend Americans celebrated Memorial Day with cookouts and a day off of work. However, when Israel commemorated their Memorial Day—Yom Hazikaron—a few weeks ago, they honored the memory of the tens of thousands of Israeli soldiers who gave their life in defense of their country by sounding a siren that can be heard all over the country.

During this one minute sounding of the siren, Israelis stop whatever they are doing and stand in silence to commemorate those who were lost—traffic stops in its tracks, throughout the country, people pray. The names of those who gave what President Abraham Lincoln called the last full measure of devotion for their homeland are displayed on television screens throughout the day.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, there has always been a Nation of Israel and Jerusalem has been and must always be recognized as its rightful capital.

As a Member of the United States House of Representatives, I believe the United States Congress has a solemn duty to ensure that the homeland of the Jewish people remains as such. The State of Israel is the one bright light shining in a dark ocean of tyranny and oppression.

Israel must be allowed to defend itself from external and internal aggression; the Israeli people must be allowed to continue to build within their borders, and Jerusalem must be recognized as the nation's only capital.

Furthermore, the United States must stand by Israel's side in the face of a United Nations

who clearly views the State of Israel through the lens of anti-Semitism and hatred. Anything less than full support for Israel and its citizens at the United Nations by the United States government is simply unacceptable.

The United States and Israel share the common bonds of freedom, liberty, democracy, and the right to worship in the name of any religion you see fit. We share a common enemy in radical Islam, and have both seen our citizens murdered and maimed by terrorist thugs who kill women and children in the name of religion. We are indeed each other's greatest ally—without the United States, Israel would not exist; without Israel, the United States would soon fall.

Next week, Israel will mark the 44th anniversary of the Six Day War. It will be a time of reflection and remembrance, and will undoubtedly render memories of when Jews—from Israel, the United States, or anywhere around the world—were not allowed to pray at their holiest of sites.

At this time of great challenge for our strong and loyal ally, America must take a stand and show not only Israel, but the rest of the world, that Jerusalem—an undivided Jerusalem—is the capital of the Jewish State, and that security will always come before a two state solution.

ON INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE ON FEDERAL LANDS ACT OF 2011

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that will significantly improve traffic safety and mobility in our national parks and other public recreational lands through increased funding and expanded authorities. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, the Transportation Infrastructure Improvements on Federal Lands Act of 2011.

Our national parks contain some of the most important and valuable historic, cultural, and natural treasures in our country. Millions of visitors flock to these parks every year. Yet safe access to and movement around these sites are compromised by severe and chronic underfunding and irrational provisions in current law.

The state of park transportation systems is deplorable. A recent assessment by the National Park Service (NPS) found that 90 percent of the park roads are in poor or fair condition. This compares with 14 percent for major rural roads in the overall federal-aid highways system. One person is killed or injured on a park road every 4.5 hours. If the National Park System were a state, it would rank 13th highest for road fatalities and injuries among all the states.

The NPS received \$240 million in FY2010 through the Park Roads and Parkways program to build, repair, and rehabilitate roads and bridges, less than a third of what the NPS estimates it needs to provide safe and efficient access for visitors. My legislation would double the annual funding to accelerate the retirement of the growing road repair backlog now estimated at \$4.9 billion.

The poor state of park roads is not caused by insufficient funding alone. Under current

law, Federal highway funds can be used for reconstruction and rehabilitation, but not for regular maintenance that would help extend the life of roadways and preserve taxpayers' investments. Consequently, maintenance of roads and bridges is deferred until they have deteriorated to the point where they qualify for major rehabilitation or reconstruction, at far greater expense. Visitors are put at risk when they try to drive around potholes that are too common on our park roads. My legislation would make regular maintenance of park roads eligible for federal highway funding.

As our national parks become increasingly crowded, alternative transportation systems are being relied upon to a much greater extent to help move visitors around. Unfortunately, that program is also severely underfunded. A third major focus of my bill would raise the annual funding level for the federal public lands transit program from the current \$24 million to \$100 million, with 60 percent of it being targeted for qualified projects in national parks.

Visitors from throughout our country and around the world are discovering the natural, cultural, and historic wonders that are embodied in our national parks. Their experience should not be diminished, and their safety certainly should not be placed at risk, while they visit our national parks. I urge you to join me in sponsoring this legislation to improve visitor safety and enjoyment of our parks through improved maintenance and management of its transportation systems.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM CORNELL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a faithful resident of Western New York, and a good friend, William F. "Bill" Cornell of Jamestown, who recently passed away at the age of 69.

Bill started his career as an instructor of English at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. In his later life, he worked as a data processing manager for Hopes Architectural Products, a position he held for twenty six years. He was also employed by the Carriage House in Fredonia.

Bill was an active member of the Chautauqua County Democratic Committee and was active in many civic and political causes in his hometown. A parishioner of Holy Angels Roman Catholic Church, Bill and his wife Peg were devoted parents to their children Chuck and Kathryn, and they were doting grandparents to 5 beautiful grandchildren.

I got to know Bill Cornell well during my initial campaign for Congress in 2004 and have come to know him well in the years that have passed since. A steadfast Democrat proud of his roots in Jamestown, Bill was the kind of fellow who would give you the shirt off of his back. While he will obviously be greatly missed by friends and family, as a rare breed of Jamestownian, he will be just as sorely missed by the community at large.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me and with our colleagues to honor the life of Bill Cornell and offer the sincerest condolences of the House to Peg, Chuck, Lori, Kathryn and Kurt, and to his entire family.

CELEBRATING 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AU PAIR PROGRAM

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, on June 9th, the Department of State will hold a reception celebrating the 25th anniversary of the au pair program. Host families, au pairs from Germany, Brazil, Thailand, South Africa, France, Sweden and Mexico, along with other countries, and federal officials from the Department of State, will participate in this event recognizing the strength and longevity of this cultural exchange program.

The first au pairs arrived in New York City in June of 1986. Since that time, the program has witnessed dramatic growth, thanks in part to the leadership and vision of one of the first authorized sponsors, Au Pair in America, a division of the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), located in Stamford, Connecticut. AIFS helped establish a regulatory framework that has allowed more than 87,000 young people to live with and care for the children of American families during a mutually rewarding one- or two-year experience.

This exchange experience has profoundly changed the lives of au pairs, the young children they care for and their host families through their daily exchange of ideas and broadening their global understanding through a sharing of culture, language, and religion. Furthermore, au pairs have been active contributing members of their American community where they live through their engagement in community and religious activities, giving of their time and talents to charitable organizations and volunteering their time to teach young children in schools about their native country.

As a proud alumni of one of AIFS's study abroad programs, I can personally attest to the unique educational opportunity living outside your native country provides a young student. For me, it was a life changing experience, helping expand my horizons and alter my way of thinking.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice in commending all those who have worked to develop and expand the au pair program over the past 25 years.

HONORING CALL FOR HELP, INCORPORATED FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO PEOPLE IN NEED WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Call for Help, Inc. an organization that is celebrating 40 years of changing lives.

Call for Help, Inc. provides the only 24-hour suicide hotline in the Metro-East area of Southwestern Illinois. Call for Help, Inc., was chartered in 1970 and began as a suicide and crisis hotline, operating out of a basement. While this critical service is still very much a part of Call for Help's program offerings, they

have expanded to meet other critical needs through the years.

Two residential programs have been added, one to serve individuals who are homeless and suffer from chronic mental illness. Participants in this program receive medication monitoring, counseling, life skills training and other services. The other residential program provides assistance to homeless young women who are either pregnant or have small children. These women receive support and skill development so they can achieve long-term independence. Training includes life skills, parenting, workplace readiness, GED and other subjects.

Call for Help, Inc. also provides assistance to victims of sexual assault and sexual abuse. Twenty-four-hour response to victims includes arriving on-site at the hospital or police station and help navigating the medical and legal systems.

Last year, Call for Help, Inc., provided critical assistance to over 25,000 individuals and, through the years, they have recorded countless, remarkable stories of success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Board of Directors, administration and staff of Call for Help, Inc., for their 40 years of changing lives and to wish them continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF MAJOR BRIAN J. THOMPSON, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Major Brian J. Thompson, United States Marine Corps, after 20 years of faithful service to his Nation.

Major Thompson graduated from Dowling College in Long Island, New York in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautics and Management. He earned his commission as a second lieutenant through the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Course in June 1991. Following his graduation from the Basic School in 1992, he reported to Naval Flight Training in Pensacola, Florida, earning his wings in March of 1993.

Following UH-1N replacement pilot training, he reported to the "Gunrunners" of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269 (HMLA-269) in New River, North Carolina. While assigned to HMLA-269 he deployed with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464 aboard the USS *Wasp*, during which he participated in Operation Strong Resolve as the H-1 Schedule Writer. Major Thompson then completed two deployments with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162, cruising aboard the USS *Guam* and the USS *Saipan*. During these deployments, he participated in Operations Joint Endeavor, Assured Response, Quick Response, and Balkan Calm/Silver Knight, while serving in a variety of billets, including: Flight Line Officer, Squadron Weapons and Tactics Officer, Future Operations Officer, and Operations Officer.

In March 1999, Major Thompson reported to Naval Air Station Pensacola to serve as a