

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Lovie Mae Kazee who turns 95 next month and I encourage my colleagues to join me in this effort and celebration.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, in the Appropriations Committee, the majority accepted an amendment I offered to restore \$1.3 million for the Rural Energy for America program. This amendment would place another \$1 million back into the program and put the full House of Representatives on record in support of alternative energy in agriculture.

While we continue to incentivize the agriculture of yesterday, we are blindly ignoring the cries of rural America as it attempts to transform itself to meet the growing energy needs of a new century. For the first time, the 2008 farm bill took a different tack. By investing over \$1 billion in alternative energy, this House recognized that alternative energy is inextricably linked with the success of American agriculture.

While two critical amendments were accepted during full committee consideration of the Agriculture Appropriations bill, limits on payments for rich farmers and cotton payouts for Brazil, the Rules Committee chose not to protect these provisions on the floor but instead to protect unprecedented cuts to the energy title of the farm bill that by the same logic should be subject to a point of order.

Why has the House protected the Appropriations Committee's raid on the mandatory funds for the Rural Energy for America Program but derailed amendments accepted in the full committee? The answer is simple, defending a transformation in agriculture is less important than protecting the status quo.

At a time when USDA has made important reforms to REAP and has finally begun to implement requirements of the 2008 farm bill, now is not the time to back down. 100 years from now, we will look back and realize that it was the energy title of the farm bill that inspired innovation in agricultural America, not subsidy programs that reward practices of yesterday. The Rural Energy for America Program recognizes the plea from American's rural small businesses and agricultural community and rewards innovation by investing in a future based on innovation.

I commend Representatives FORTENBERRY and WALZ for offering an amendment to restore funds for the REAP program and look forward to working with my colleagues as we continue to fight on for this program as the bill moves toward conference.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARINES OF MOTOR TRANSPORT MAINTENANCE COMPANY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Marines and Inspector-Instructor Staff of the Motor Transport Maintenance Company as they gather for a welcome home ceremony in Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join me to recognize the dedication that each of these men and women have shown for their country.

Since 2008, this Motor Transport Maintenance Company, also known as MTM Company, has served over 51,000 days of operational support in the Iraq theater. They have done this by conducting motor transport maintenance, force sustainment, administrative, supply, and training support to thousands of Joint Forces troops in theater. The men and women of MTM Company displayed honor, courage, commitment, and teamwork, traits that we have come to expect from those that serve in our nation's military.

Over the last decade our nation's military Reservists have been mobilized to an unprecedented scale. The Marines of the MTM Company have been no exception. One hundred seventy-three members of this unit have been deployed overseas in support of U.S. operations since 2008. Forty-six have been deployed twice to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Another fourteen have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan three times over the last four years.

The Marines of MTM Company drill at the Marine Corps Reserve Center Sacramento. They have left their mark across the nation and across the world. They have provided first class support to their fellow Marines regardless of the hardships they faced or challenges that they have had to overcome.

The Marines of the MTM Company, called up from their civilian lives to serve their nation, have spent a great deal of time away from their families, often at extraordinary personal sacrifice. We must thank and acknowledge the families and friends of these Marines who stood by them while they were deployed. Their sacrifices, along with the sacrifices of their loved ones, should not be lost on Congress or on each of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending my sincere thanks for a job well done and welcome home wishes to the men and women of the Motor Transport Maintenance Company and all Marines that have been called to serve.

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES (IBM) CORPORATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the International Business Machines (IBM) Corpora-

tion. For the last century, IBM has been on the cutting edge of collecting, quantifying and analyzing information and has served as a bright example of American ingenuity. In 2010 alone, IBM received 5,896 U.S. patents, the 18th consecutive year it has topped the list of the world's most inventive company.

In addition to IBM's long history of technological innovations and computing, the Corporation has a rich history of community service, which needs to be recognized. Thomas Watson founded IBM with the purpose of not only attaining profits, but also with the goal of creating a socially responsible organization that aided its local community. Through its impressive contributions, I believe IBM has honored the goals set out by Mr. Watson.

For example, to celebrate their centennial, members of IBM's staff donated more than 2.5 million hours of skills based volunteering in more than 120 countries over the past several months. More astoundingly, IBM recently surpassed more than thirteen million hours of service to our country and the world. In addition to skills-based donations, IBM has also delivered hundreds of new service grants to support employees' volunteer activities.

IBM provides an exceptional model of a corporation that exemplifies what it means to be a civically responsible organization, and I applaud how IBM has chosen to celebrate their Centennial.

I'm proud to have IBM headquartered in my home State of New York. I look forward to witnessing the technological innovations and volunteerism that I know will continue to flow from IBM in their next 100 years of business.

[From Democrat and Chronicle.com, June 15, 2011]

AFTER 100 YEARS, INNOVATION REMAINS KEY TO IBM'S SUCCESS

(By Sarah Bradshaw)

Cellphone 3-D imaging. Batteries powered by air. Reusing supercomputer-generated heat to power air conditioners.

These aren't the stuff of science fiction, but the innovations that International Business Machines Corp.—which celebrates its 100th anniversary Thursday—is aiming for as it begins its second century.

The Westchester County-based provider of computer services received 5,896 U.S. patents in 2010, marking the 18th consecutive year it topped the list of the world's most inventive companies.

This is the company whose engineers and scientists developed many of the building blocks of modern information technology, including the memory chip, the mainframe, the personal computer and even new fields of mathematics.

IBM is a notable part of the Rochester-area economy, operating a 190,000-square-foot data center in Greece that employs 550 people at the Canal Ponds Business Park. The company is in the midst of a \$40 million upgrade of that facility over the next couple of years.

IBM also has given more than \$1.75 million over the past decade to the University of Rochester and nearly \$500,000 to Rochester Institute of Technology in the form of IBM Faculty Awards and Shared University Research Awards. In 2008, IBM also opened a software Innovation and Collaboration Lab at RIT.

Research and development has been a major component of IBM. The company spent \$5.8 billion on R&D in 2009, more than Apple Inc., Cisco Systems Inc. or GoogleInc. Last year, it raised its R&D spending to \$6 billion.

In its 100-year history, IBM's transformations and technological breakthroughs have been significant. First came time clocks and typewriters, and eventually supercomputers that have helped Russian railways move freight and passengers, prevented tax fraud in the United States and monitored the health of premature babies in Toronto.

On April 7, 1964, then-Chairman Thomas J. Watson Jr. introduced a new generation of computing equipment—the System/360—that would revolutionize the way the world processed information.

Watson, son of legendary IBM leader Thomas J. Watson Sr., called the event the most important product announcement in company history. “The result will be more computer productivity at a lower cost than ever before,” he said.

System/360 succeeded IBM's earlier 700 series, which did not have hard drive space but instead used magnetic tape as memory. The 700 series was used for specific purposes, while System/360 were general purpose computers with interchangeable parts and software.

System/360 was a \$5 billion bet to create something unprecedented, said Bernie Meyerson, vice president for innovation at IBM. “If System/360 had failed, there's a high probability that there wouldn't be an IBM,” he said.

But the gamble paid off. In 1989, 25 years after Watson introduced it, products based on System/360's architecture accounted for more than half the company's revenue.

Pat Meaney is a senior technical staff member at IBM in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, with 25 years of experience at Big Blue, which means he has seen his fair share of changes in technology.

“It's amazing how many changes happened during my career,” said Meaney, 47. “When I look back, there was trepidation, but they turned out good.”

Meaney was encouraged to explore his interests within the corporation. His duties today include working on the reliability of the System Z mainframe memory. In 1986, after graduating from Clarkson University, he was hired by IBM as a logic designer, and focused on frequency timing. His interest quickly became how to make sure the machine never goes down.

“It's always exciting,” he said. “If you are going to work 40-plus hours a week, make sure it's something you like to do.”

Meaney has submitted 60 patents since 1995, with 40 approved patents and is a member of the patent review board.

He said that for the next generation of IBMers, “The thing to look at is the trends technology is taking. As you look to the future, there are always things that look like roadblocks. They look like they will hinder us, but we challenge ourselves to get around them.”

THE BUILDER

Thomas J. Watson Sr., the legendary and controversial president of IBM from 1914 to 1956, oversaw the company's growth into an international force. He had strong ties to upstate. Born in Campbell, Steuben County, he worked in Painted Post, Buffalo and Rochester. While in Rochester, starting in 1900, he was a salesman for National Cash Register, using ruthless tactics against competitors and making such an impression on corporate headquarters in Dayton, Ohio, that he was transferred there.

In 1914, Watson was brought in to run the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co. in New York City, three years after its founding. In 1924, it was renamed IBM.

IRAN'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE SYRIAN REGIME

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to Iran's ongoing efforts to assist the Syrian regime in violently suppressing peaceful protesters.

I submit the articles “Iran Helping Syrian Regime Crack Down on Protesters, Say Diplomats,” printed in the May 9, 2011, *Guardian*, and “Iran Reportedly Aiding Syrian Crackdown,” printed in the May 27, 2011, *Washington Post*.

Press reports indicate that Iran is playing an active role in helping Syrian President Bashar al-Assad brutally crackdown on peaceful democracy protesters. As the *Washington Post* reports, “Iran is dispatching increasing numbers of trainers and advisers—including members of its elite Quds Force—into Syria to help crush anti-government demonstrations that are threatening to topple Iran's most important ally in the region.”

Syrians have witnessed an increase in arrests, and door-to-door raids, similar to those that helped to crush Iran's Green Movement protests in 2009.

Human rights groups suggest that more than 7,000 people have been detained since the uprising began. And more than 1100 people are said to have died.

Mr. Speaker, Iran is terrified that it is about to lose its most important ally in the Arab world—they will do everything in their power to prevent that from happening. It appears that human life holds no value to the leaders in Damascus and Tehran.

I encourage all of my colleagues to read these articles and follow this development closely. The Congress must continue to put pressure on Syria and Iran so that freedom, respect for human rights and democracy can emerge in both nations.

[The *Guardian*, May 9, 2011]

IRAN HELPING SYRIAN REGIME CRACK DOWN ON PROTESTERS, SAY DIPLOMATS

Iran is playing an increasingly active role in helping the Syrian regime in its crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, according to western diplomatic sources in Damascus.

The claim came as Syria's security forces backed by tanks intensified operations to suppress unrest in three new flashpoint towns on Sunday and it was confirmed that four women had been shot dead in the first use of force against an all-female demonstration.

A senior western diplomat in Damascus expanded on assertions, first made by White House officials last month, that Iran is advising president Bashar al-Assad's government on how to crush dissent.

The diplomat pointed to a “significant” increase in the number of Iranian personnel in Syria since protests began in mid-March. Mass arrests in door-to-door raids, similar to those that helped to crush Iran's “green revolution” in 2009, have been stepped up in the past week.

Human rights groups suggest more than 7,000 people have been detained since the uprising began. More than 800 people are said to have died, up to 50 during last Friday's “day of defiance”. Last night two unarmed demonstrators were reportedly killed during a night rally in the eastern city of Deir al-Zor.

“Tehran has upped the level of technical support and personnel support from the Iranian Republican Guard to strengthen Syria's ability to deal with protesters,” the diplomat said, adding that the few hundred personnel were not involved in any physical operations. “Since the start of the uprising, the Iranian regime has been worried about losing its most important ally in the Arab world and important conduit for weapons to Hezbollah [in Lebanon],” the diplomat said.

Last month White House officials made similar allegations about Iranian assistance for the regime, particularly in terms of intercepting or blocking internet, mobile phone and social media communications between the protesters and the outside world. But the officials did not provide hard evidence to support their claims.

Activists and diplomats claim Iran's assistance includes help to monitor internet communications such as Skype, widely used by a network of activists, methods of crowd control, and providing equipment such as batons and riot police helmets.

Syria has denied seeking or receiving assistance from Iran to put down the unrest. In a statement issued on Friday, Iran's foreign ministry stressed Syria's “prime role” in opposing Israel and the U.S., and urged opposing forces in the country to compromise on political reform. U.S. policy towards Syria was based on “opportunism in support of the Zionist regime's avarice”, it said.

The Assad family, from the Shia Muslim minority Alawite sect, is likely to be nervous about appearing to be helped by its Shia-dominated ally to crush protesters drawn from the 75% Sunni population.

Regime forces backed by tanks were in action over the weekend in Homs, in the town of Tafas north of Deraa, and in the coastal city of Baniyas, activists said. Violence was also reported in the Damascus dormitory town of Zabadani.

Along with arbitrary detentions, shootings have continued.

Razan Zeitounieh, a lawyer in the capital who is monitoring the protests, said four women were shot dead in the village of Merqeb, close to Baniyas, and six men were shot dead in Baniyas on Saturday.

IRAN REPORTEDLY AIDING SYRIAN CRACKDOWN

[From the *Washington Post*, May 27, 2011]

U.S. officials say Iran is dispatching increasing numbers of trainers and advisers—including members of its elite Quds Force—into Syria to help crush anti-government demonstrations that are threatening to topple Iran's most important ally in the region.

The influx of Iranian manpower is adding to a steady stream of aid from Tehran that includes not only weapons and riot gear but also sophisticated surveillance equipment that is helping Syrian authorities track down opponents through their Facebook and Twitter accounts, the sources said. Iranian-assisted computer surveillance is believed to have led to the arrests of hundreds of Syrians seized from their homes in recent weeks.

The United States and its allies long have accused Iran of supporting repressive or violent regimes in the region, including Syria's government, the Hezbollah movement in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Many previous reports, mostly provided by Western officials, have described Iranian technical help in providing Syria with riot helmets, batons and other implements of crowd control during 10 weeks of demonstrations against President Bashar al-Assad.

The new assertions—provided by two U.S. officials and a diplomat from an allied nation, all of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe sensitive intelligence—are clearly aimed at suggesting