

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXTENDING COUNTERTERRORISM AUTHORITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that we can fight terrorism and keep our communities safe without sacrificing the rights and liberties that generations of Americans have fought so hard to secure. H.R. 514 fails this critical test, and I will vote to oppose it.

Without a single hearing, committee vote, or even the opportunity to offer amendments, this legislation extends provisions that give the Federal Government sweeping authority to spy on U.S. citizens. One such provision allows the government to obtain “any tangible thing” in its anti-terrorism investigation—including library or bookstore records—regardless of its relevance to the case. Another provision allows federal law enforcement to obtain wiretaps without being required to identify the person, building, or business being spied upon to a secret court. During the Bush Administration, the Justice Department used this authority to illegally wiretap American citizens. Evidence of past abuses demand that the Patriot Act be reformed with stricter oversight and better safeguards to ensure security does not come at the cost of our Constitutional freedoms.

The threat of terrorism is real and persistent. My first priority as a Member of Congress is to keep America safe. Be assured I will continue working with President Obama and my colleagues in Congress to ensure that all levels of law enforcement have the tools and flexibility they require.

HONORING RONALD AND DORIS RAMSEY

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, Ronald and Doris Ramsey are celebrating twenty-five years (25) in marriage today in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, on May 10, 1985 because of their union then, our community today has been blessed with a family that has enhanced our district with a stellar academy for educating our youth, Kingdom Kare Academy which was co-founded by Ronald and Doris Ramsey, wherein Doris Ramsey has utilized her background in business and education to keep the academy moving forward and Ronald Ramsey has given of himself as an attorney, judge and as a legislator in the Georgia Senate, they both are instruments in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical, economic and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God and this phenomenal and virtuous Proverbs 31 woman have given hope to the hopeless, fed the hungry and are beacons of light to those in need, they both have been blessed with two wonderful children, Ronald Ramsey, II and Christyn Ramsey both of whom are honor students that are now enjoying college life; and

Whereas, Ronald and Doris Ramsey are distinguished citizens of our district, they are spiritual warriors, persons of compassion, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their family, but with our District their passion to improve the lives of others; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ronald and Doris Ramsey as they celebrate their Silver Anniversary, twenty-five (25) years in marital bliss;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 10, 2010 and May 29, 2010 as Ronald and Doris Ramsey Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, This 10th day of May, 2010.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 26, due to an unexpected family health emergency, I was unable to make rollcall No. 26. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

STATEMENT SUPPORTING SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to voice my unequivocal support of the right of the 600,000 residents of the District of Columbia to be self-governed. There is no reason on Earth that these American citizens must take orders from the federal government on how best to use locally-collected tax dollars. The federal government already dictates to them how they must use their federal taxes. Now this body wants to deny them the freedom to decide what to do with their local taxes.

We have heard a lot of talk in recent days about how much we as Americans cherish our freedom and liberty. Yet, there are those among us who believe that freedom and liberty ends for residents of the District of Columbia when they make decisions contrary to their wishes and beliefs. The District of Columbia, like any other local jurisdiction, should

have the right to pass its own laws and spend its own local-taxpayer raised funds without congressional interference.

I am certain most of you would resist federal interference in the local affairs of your cities and counties. Whether it involves matters of health, safety or the education of children in your Districts—these are decisions best left to the people who must live or die with their choices.

Who are we in this body to ram our beliefs and ideology down the throats of others? I understand why my colleague Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and the people of the District of Columbia are angry and upset. I urge you to let the people of the District of Columbia decide what to do with their tax dollars.

If liberty and self-governance is available for some Americans, then it should be given to all Americans.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MRS. BERNICE CLEVELAND

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life and achievements of Mrs. Bernice Cleveland, who passed away on January 6, 2011 in Minden, La.

Mrs. Cleveland was a passionate humanitarian who dedicated 40 years of service to children and families in the Boyce and Lena areas. For decades, she worked for the Louisiana Head Start Program through the Bo Peep Head Start Center in Boyce, La., teaching the pre-school age group. Her daughter, Sheila Joyce Bryant, says “She had a passion for children and believed you must have patience in dealing with the little ones.”

For her devotion to Head Start, Mrs. Cleveland received numerous awards and accolades, such as Excellence in Teaching, Excellence in Attendance, and in August of 2005, she was recognized with the 40 Years of Service Award by the Cenla Community Action Committee, Inc.—Louisiana Head Start Program.

Mrs. Cleveland had two brothers, Joseph Jones, Jr. and Nathaniel Jones, Sr., and one sister, Miss Etta Mae Jones, who preceded her in death. She leaves behind her adoring husband, James “Ted” Floyd Cleveland, her loving daughter, Sheila, and two granddaughters, Rachel Joyce Bryant and Bathsheba Felice Bryant.

Upon her marriage in 1953, Mrs. Cleveland joined her mother-in-law, the late Cora Beatrice Cleveland, and united with Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church where she faithfully served for 50 years. In May 2009, she received a Christian Service Award by the Louisiana Baptist State Convention, and since 1956, she has been a member of the Queen Esther Household of Ruth, No. 2853. She was

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

also heavily involved in the church, singing in the sanctuary choir, teaching Sunday and vacation bible schools and working with the youth department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the late Mrs. Bernice Cleveland. Her altruistic nature and selfless dedication warrant this laudable recognition. For her unyielding efforts to help others, Mrs. Cleveland leaves this world a better place.

GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM ACT OF 2011

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of all of West Virginia's National Guard and proudly introduce the Guardians of Freedom Act of 2011—a bill to elevate the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to a position on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The National Guard is one of our Nation's longest standing institutions, empowered by Congress and providing to the States a highly trained and well equipped force to protect life and property.

Over the course of its nearly four hundred year history, the National Guard has remained a dual State-Federal force, providing security on the home front and fighting threats to our Nation and our freedoms all over the globe.

Our National Guardsmen are true American patriots. Theirs is a proud story of tradition, service, sacrifice, and uncommon acts of heroism. They make each of us so very proud.

Aristotle said, "Men acquire a particular quality by constantly acting a particular way . . . you become just, by performing just actions . . . brave by performing brave actions."

The American people owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our nearly 500,000 men and women members of the National Guard in service to these great United States. These extraordinary individuals maintain the Guard's multi-mission role—providing nearly 33 percent of America's combat power globally. Yet, simultaneously and with great skill, from approximately 3,400 community-based armories they serve their fellow citizens in defense of our homeland, and in support to States and local civil authorities and emergency response needs.

West Virginians volunteer for the National Guard at nearly double the national rate. The West Virginia National Guard has 38 units and activities stationed in 22 counties throughout West Virginia, and currently has units deployed in military operations around the world.

Mr. Speaker, for 35 years I have been privileged to represent the people of southern West Virginia, and it is with humble sincerity I say, our West Virginia National Guard is a model example of a commitment to excellence, and professional dedication to America's defense.

From the home front to the front lines, we call upon our National Guard to fulfill missions of public safety and security on and between our borders here at home, and send them to foreign lands to combat terrorism abroad. They are among the first called to aid in a domestic disaster and have oftentimes been the last to leave a battlefield.

This year the National Guard will mark its 375th birthday. Formed as colonial militias, the new colonies in North America depended upon the Guard to protect fellow citizens from Indian attack, foreign invaders, and later to help achieve our independence. Recognizing the militia's role for the newly formed United States, the Framers of the Constitution empowered Congress to provide for training and equipping the militias.

Since the Guard's founding and through an historic journey of "call outs" and stand out missions—from the bayou communities ravaged by Hurricane Katrina to the frontiers of freedom during the Cold War—our National Guard has seen its Federal mission change.

Our National Guard has a duty and commitment to the citizens and communities of the States in which these soldiers call "family" and "home." It is a military service tradition that has been challenged by long-term and multiple deployments to front lines in two active theaters, and in support of missions in all corners of the globe as directed by our Nation's Commander in Chief.

Therefore, it is not only our duty, it is an absolute necessity, that Congress take action to elevate the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to a position on the Joint Chiefs of Staff to serve as an advocate and liaison for the National Guard of each State to inform of all actions that could affect their Federal or State missions.

In a nation such as ours, it is a stunning reality that today we ask our brothers and sisters, husbands, and wives to serve around the globe to preserve democracy and promote freedom. But in our country, where every voice counts, our Nation's active duty leadership excludes the voice of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Congress must ensure the National Guard has appropriate input during the planning and budgetary process within the Department of Defense, and end the challenge to live with "after-the-fact" process, as is now the case.

As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau would have responsibility and authority to advocate and coordinate the Guard's warfighting support and force provider mission with its homeland security and support missions to ensure the Guard has the resources to perform its multiple missions and fulfill its Constitutional role to our States.

Mr. Speaker, from the battlefield to the home fields, our National Guard—America's patriots—exemplifies sacrifice and commitment to duty.

Now more than ever, this Nation is relying upon the Guard to wage combat on foreign soil, straining our resources here on the home front to respond to domestic disasters and the Guard's traditional duties. The training, equipping, and deployment of the Guard, and their budget, ought to be matters decided with input from the National Guard Chief at the highest levels of the military echelon. Now more than ever, the Guard needs a seat at the head table.

I urge my colleagues to support the Guardians for Freedom Act of 2011. We have a responsibility to respectfully and gratefully fulfill our duty to support the original intent of our Constitution for each State to maintain an organized militia with integrity, and effectively support and acknowledge the great sacrifice so many willingly make for all of us.

HONORING PRESIDENT RONALD WILSON REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker I rise today to celebrate the life of President Ronald Reagan.

This week, the nation remembers the late President Ronald Reagan as a remarkable President, beloved entertainer and, most importantly, a great American. President Reagan saw America as a beacon of hope and freedom. His strong leadership guided our nation through a challenging and difficult chapter in America's history. He helped restore the hope that inspired the people to once again believe in themselves and carry on to achieve what was once thought the unachievable.

One of my greatest thrills was welcoming President Reagan to our desert community when I served as First Lady of Palm Springs. Considered one of the nation's best Presidents, I saw firsthand his love of country and his ability to connect with people.

Revered for his leadership and tenacity, Ronald Reagan relentlessly fought for freedom throughout the world. A man of humble origins, he became an iconic symbol for democracy and the American way of life as President of the United States.

I am thankful for President Reagan's service to our nation and what he gave this country as an entertainer and as a public servant. I extend my personal appreciation to First Lady Nancy Reagan who supported her husband so steadfastly in his work and carries on his legacy today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to honor this great American.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ZACHARY SALMON

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on January 12, 2011, Private First Class Zachary Salmon died from his injuries after sustaining small arms fire in Kunar Province, Afghanistan.

Salmon enlisted in the Army in March 2010 and was assigned to the 32nd Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

A devoted family member and father, Salmon grew up in Harrison, Ohio. He was a 2008 graduate of Pigeon Forge High School in Tennessee and most recently lived in Hebron, Kentucky before joining the Army.

His awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Combat Action Badge.

He leaves behind his three-year-old son Noah; his mother, Sonya Christian and stepfather, who live in Hebron; his father, Steven Salmon, of Hamilton, OH; a brother, Steven Salmon of Hamilton; and two sisters, Kelsi Salmon and Katrin Maurer.