

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, due to my responsibilities related to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, I missed the vote on the rule of H. Res. 463, the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "no."

CONGRATULATING THE RUN: MOVING NATURAL MEDICINE FORWARD

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of a 3,250 mile race across the United States organized to promote natural health care options. Called The Run, this is the first-ever endurance event organized to raise awareness about naturopathic medicine. The race will conclude tomorrow, Thursday, November 17, at the University of Bridgeport.

Through a four month, ninety city journey, The Run: Moving Natural Medicine Forward has endeavored to promote the causes of natural medicine, including the benefits of sustainable, quality holistic health care and the importance of healthy lifestyle management and health maintenance. By running an average of 30 miles per day, Dr. Dennis Godby and his family have helped bring attention to the urgent need to transform our nation's health.

I wish the best of luck to Dr. Godby, his family and team, and the students and faculty at the University of Bridgeport's School of Naturopathic Medicine as they work to improve the health of our country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INCORPORATION TRANSPARENCY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Incorporation Transparency and Law Enforcement Assistance Act. The bill would require the states to obtain information about the true ownership of the corporation, when incorporation papers are filed with the state.

As some have put it, this bill is a "no-brainer." And it is fairly straightforward: it would require that the person creating the corporation state the "beneficial owner" of the corporation and provide some form of identification.

Although this is as straightforward as it sounds, the implications for law enforcement are broad reaching. Criminal organizations are infamous for using shell corporations, both for-

eign and domestic to open bank accounts, launder money, perpetrate fraud, and finance terrorism. And it isn't difficult for them to do. Virtually no states require people applying to create corporations to provide the identity of the corporate owner. In fact, 48 of 50 states, except for Alabama and Alaska, allow for the unfettered creation of an anonymous corporate entity. As a result, just about anyone can easily manipulate the system to fund criminal activity.

Here is an example from an investigation in New York by the Manhattan District Attorney. The office announced investigations involving the movement of funds through banks in New York by entities controlled by the Iranian Military. In at least two cases, domestic shell companies were opened in two different states to further secret Iranian interests. Through a New York shell company, individuals working on behalf of the government of Iran were able to move funds to secret accounts held in offshore jurisdictions. Shockingly, the offshore government was able to give the Manhattan DA more information about the ownership of the New York entity than the state of New York could.

Although the DA does not contend that requiring a declaration of beneficial ownership would have stopped this activity, it would have at least been a piece of evidence to go on. And if the declaration of beneficial ownership had been required but falsified, it would have been an extra tool for law enforcement to shut down the entity and prosecute the perpetrators.

The bill I am introducing today will provide the kind of transparency that law enforcement needs to investigate financial crimes. However, it is narrowly drafted so that it is not overly burdensome on either states or incorporating entities. In fact, most corporations would be exempt from the bill's requirements including companies that are already regulated by federal banking regulators and companies that are over 20 employees and \$10 million in revenue.

This bill is meant to capture beneficial ownership information from companies that are able to escape regulation and oversight through other federal entities.

Senator LEVIN has already introduced a similar bill in the Senate, and President Obama was the lead sponsor when he was a U.S. Senator.

In a recent CNN editorial, Global Witness stated, "Setting a standard for collecting information about the true owner of a company would level the playing field between the states while preventing terrorists, drug traffickers and kleptocrats from hiding behind corporate secrecy."

The bill is supported by numerous law enforcement associations, including the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys, the National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition, the United States Marshals Service Association, and the Association of Former ATF Agents.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING MAJOR MATHEW C. WENTHE AND TECHNICAL SERGEANT JOSEPH R. KENNEY UPON RECEIPT OF THE AIR MEDAL WITH VALOR

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Major Mathew C. Wenthe and Technical Sergeant Joseph R. Kenney upon their award of the Air Medal with Valor.

The Air Medal was established by Executive Order in 1942 to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself by "meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight."

On June 29, 2009, Major Mathew C. Wenthe and Technical Sergeant Joseph R. Kenney conducted multiple urgent medical evacuation missions into the Babaki area of the Helmand Province in Afghanistan. During their flights to the site where a British vehicle was overturned into a canal, their aircraft maneuvered through small arms fire and rocket propelled grenades.

Without regard for their own personal safety, Major Wenthe and Technical Sergeant Kenney reengaged the enemy compound from where they had just been attacked. They exhibited bravery by putting themselves in danger to draw enemy fire to protect another aircraft on the ground.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Major Mathew C. Wenthe and Technical Sergeant Joseph R. Kenney at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation they have so selflessly served. Major Mathew C. Wenthe and Technical Sergeant Joseph R. Kenney have the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR JAMES MAY, RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Professor James May for being named the 2011 Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This distinguished recognition is the only national award for excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

May is a professor of English as a Second Language at Valencia Community College's East Campus, and is highly regarded for his innovative and zealous approach to education. He is dedicated to providing his students with the tools they need to succeed in his courses, creatively incorporating mobile devices and online tools such as Google docs and

YouTube into classroom instruction. In an effort to share his concepts with other educators, May authors a website where he provides tips on how teachers can effectively connect with their students.

This is not May's first award or recognition. He was also honored by the Florida Association of Community Colleges and named their 2010 Professor of the Year.

On behalf of the citizens of Florida's 8th Congressional District, I congratulate Professor James May for his hard work, determination, and leadership. His enthusiasm and investment in Florida's students is most deserving of the 2011 Professor of the Year Award.

DUTCH AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize Dutch American Heritage Day, a day that honors the strong friendship between our two countries and the many contributions of Americans of Dutch descent.

It was the Netherlands who first officially recognized the flag of the newly formed United States of America on this day in 1776, and later, The Hague would become the first American Embassy in the world.

Today, the United States and the Netherlands share a very robust economic relationship. The Netherlands is the third-largest investor in the U.S. Between exports and this investment, our partnership helps to generate over 700,000 jobs in the U.S. In 2010, the Netherlands ranked seventh among all the trading partners the U.S. exports goods to.

The Netherlands has been a strong ally as well. Dutch troops fought beside Americans in occupied territory during World War II and in conflicts since, as well as serving together in peacekeeping missions across the world.

The contributions of many great Dutch-Americans have helped shape U.S. history, including three presidents, Martin Van Buren, Theodore Roosevelt, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as numerous cultural figures, including Thomas Edison, Humphrey Bogart, Walter Cronkite, and, more recently, General David Petraeus.

While a destination for many immigrant settlers, the Dutch have left an influential mark on the Second District of Michigan, both economi-

cally and culturally. From cities and villages with Dutch namesakes like Borculo, Drenthe, Holland, and Zeeland, to traditions like the Tulip Festival and Sinterklaas parade, Dutch settlers have shared their heritage proudly with their neighbors.

Today we celebrate not only a common heritage, but also a friendship that has helped shape America since its birth.

We are thankful for the contribution of Dutch-Americans not only in West Michigan, but throughout the United States, and look forward to a strong partnership for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 837 I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."