

WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM IRAQ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise our troops—and our President—as we end our involvement in Iraq.

America's armed forces were called to duty, did everything asked of them and served with distinction. Their valor and dedication in serving our country half a world away has been an inspiration to me and to our nation. And now, as they leave the nation of Iraq, we here at home honor their sacrifice, the sacrifice of their families, and welcome them with open arms and open hearts. As we welcome those who are coming home, we must not forget the nearly 4,500 servicemembers who lost their lives and the more than 30,000 troops who were wounded in this conflict who, along with their families, have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

President Obama deserves much credit for keeping his promise to the American people to withdraw from the Iraq conflict and have our troops home by the holidays. Those of us in the House and the Senate must continue to honor our commitment to our veterans and their families, helping to ensure a future in which they can fulfill their hopes and dreams for themselves and their children.

JOBS ARE OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to incentives that add to unemployment and decrease tax revenues.

Strong consumer protection laws are the responsibility of each State in our Union and I support efforts to enforce them to protect our constituents. However, no reasonable person would favor an approach so draconian in its effect that it makes innocent employees victims. The impact on our hard-working union members is unfair and unwarranted. Proportionality in these cases is critical. Perverse incentives can be seen when the settlements in these cases are used to pay operating budgets of the agencies that bring the charges, especially if it encourages the targeting of out of state companies for huge settlements. The payments should be enough to compensate for any harm and to push the company to act in an appropriate manner according to law. Only in egregious or criminal circumstances should companies be forced out of business.

It is crucial to enforce strong consumer protection and deceptive advertising laws. In this economy, as we hasten to take measures to protect jobs, we have got to be mindful of incentives that put states revenue needs in competition with each other. Without question, the states must have the power to stop deceptive advertising and unfair competition, but they should not have the authority to abuse that power in ways that decrease other states tax revenues by forcing businesses to add thousands of Americans to the ranks of the

unemployed. I would encourage those enforcing our laws to take this into account.

PIPELINE SAFETY, REGULATORY CERTAINTY, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, in Pennsylvania and across the country, we are moving forward to develop American sources of energy. This development will reduce energy prices for hardworking taxpayers, create jobs for Americans and lessen our dependence on foreign oil. As this important development moves forward, we must remain strongly committed to protecting our environment and ensuring these operations are safe and responsible.

The production of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania is an economic driver for our State but it also presents unique challenges. Thousands of wells have already been drilled in Pennsylvania, and many more and thousands of miles of Marcellus-related pipeline are planned in the Keystone State alone. Most of these facilities are unmanned and spread across rural areas, making monitoring and data communication difficult. Critical failures of these systems can cause untold environmental and economic damage, yet we may not know of these failures until far too much damage has been done. There is an urgent need for better systems to monitor wells and pipelines for leaks, damage and anomalies to protect the environment and the public.

The House has taken a step to address these deficiencies in passing H.R. 2845, the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011. Among other provisions, the bill requires the Secretary of Energy to continue evaluating industry safety standards and readiness to respond to infrastructure failures. In performing these evaluations, I encourage the Secretary to investigate the utility of secured, meshed wireless networks. These meshed networks—multi-antenna, no-root meshed-radio systems—can provide continuous monitoring and then alert operations personnel and first responders to leaks and damage in real-time. They can be expanded as new operations are brought online and added to exploration vehicles like ships and trucks, improving communications potential in the critical first minutes after an incident.

As the Secretary moves forward with his safety review and evaluations pursuant to the bill, I encourage the consideration of secured, meshed wireless networks as a possible means of ensuring both real-time monitoring of remote energy infrastructure and swift, seamless response and communication in the event of leaks or other critical failures.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVER- SARY OF THE SUNCOAST SEABIRD SANCTUARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, the largest and most successful non-profit wild bird hospital in the United States.

It is a privilege for me to represent the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary in Indian Shores and to have seen firsthand the outstanding commitment of its staff that works to rehabilitate the more than 8,000 injured birds it admits each year.

The Sanctuary was founded in 1971 by zoologist Ralph T. Heath and is staffed by highly trained individuals equipped with emergency facilities, a surgical center, recovery areas, and an outdoor wild bird recuperation area. Admitting up to 159 different species per year, the Sanctuary is world renowned for its innovative rehabilitation techniques with over 80 percent of its admitted birds successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

Over the years, the Sanctuary has also become a cherished attraction to Central Florida visitors. Attracting over 100,000 visitors each year, the Sanctuary offers a unique environment for bird watching, and a tremendous opportunity for photographing wildlife on Florida's beautiful Gulf Coast. Admission into the Sanctuary has always been free, giving the general public a great opportunity to visit and learn about Florida's wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, through their hard work and dedication, the staff and volunteers of the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary not only give back to Florida's natural world, but also serve as a valued asset to our community. This weekend, many of the Sanctuary's family and friends from the past 40 years will gather to celebrate the history and accomplishments of this valuable facility. It is my hope that my colleagues in the House will join me in saying thank you to all those who have been a part of the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary.

DORIS VIRGINIA TRACY TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Doris Virginia Tracy, a longtime resident of La Veta, Colorado. Mrs. Tracy was a distinguished World War Two-era pilot and loving wife and mother.

From the earliest days of her childhood in Missouri, Doris dreamed of learning to fly. She took her first ride in a bi-plane at the age of nine, and decided to become an "aviatrix," as female pilots were then known. After entering college with her sister Bernice, Doris was only the second girl to sign up for Civilian Pilot Training. After a long wait, as only one woman was allowed in the program for every nine men, she earned her license.

In order to continue flying and serve her country during World War Two, she applied

with the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), who flew military aircraft in support of the Army Air Forces. After seven months of training, she flew engineering flight tests, co-piloted B-24s, and flew administrative flights in C-45s at bases in Texas, Ohio, Mississippi, and Wyoming.

After the WASP program disbanded, Doris moved to La Veta with her family to start a store. It was there she met Julian Tracy at a local dance. They were married in 1946 and raised two daughters together, Glenna Lee and Julie. In addition to running the store, she was active with the PTA, the Francisco Fort Museum, and the Eastern Star, and enjoyed searching the Colorado hills for artifacts.

In March 2010, Doris was in attendance here in Washington as the WASP were presented with the Congressional Gold Medal for their service to the nation. She passed away at the age of ninety on July 29, 2010, and was survived by her daughters, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Doris Tracy. I rise today to salute this one-of-a-kind woman who is remembered for her smile, warmth, and patriotism.

ON THE WINGS OF LUKE

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following poem.

ON THE WINGS OF LUKE

All in . . .
 All in those most darkest hours of war . . .
 When, that precious life so lies before . . .
 All in that balance that which so insures . . .
 When, who lives or dies . . .
 'Oh but to so see another sunrise . . .
 When, a loved one's caress will so shower . . .
 Such faith and strength, in all of its great power . . .
 As their loved ones encouragement will so flower . . .
 Such strength and faith all in these hours . . .
 All in these precious moments which above all else so towers . . .
 With loved ones at their sides, as against all odds they so reach for the skies . . .
 Where, the beginning of hope and healing so lies!
 But, comes the very will to live or die!
 While, in the coming months and days . . .
 As into the year as do they . . .
 As upon bended knees so pray . . .
 As upon The Wings of Luke their loved ones arrive this day . . .
 From all across our Country Tis of Thee, come their loved ones all in tears to provide such relief . . .
 I open arms hope we now see!
 To provide the strength that they all need!
 For all of these great American families our hearts so bleed . . .
 Because, the one thing that which but means the most!
 I but when loved ones lie all in arms length so very close!
 Because hearts of love can lift such souls higher!
 To help win all of those battles, all in these times so dire . . .
 That in the end but mean the most . . .
 So On These Wings of Luke . . .

We give these great America's families what they need most . . .

All in this battle, when recovery and death lies close . . .

For a family's love but means most!

From on The Wings of Luke comes hope . . .

TRIBUTE TO DR. PETER FRIEDMAN

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to express my gratitude to Dr. Peter Friedman who served as my Congressional Fellow this year. Pete served as my point person on energy issues with the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee and was responsible for all nuclear and defense related issues in my office.

Pete's background as chairman of an engineering department, a naval officer, and engineering background, provided me with unique technical knowledge of nuclear power and defense issues. His expertise came to the forefront during the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor accident. Pete provided me with data-driven, measured advice on the crisis which was both forward-looking and justifiable. It was an important year for nuclear energy and it was good to have Pete on my staff.

In the appropriations process, Pete developed well-researched and insightful positions, which properly prioritized the spending on energy projects based on their potential impact. His astute political insights and his willingness and ability to learn the legislative process served me very well.

I benefited greatly from Pete's advice, knowledge and work ethic over the past year. I want to thank him, and commend him, for a job well done. I also want to thank his wife, Sylvia, and daughter, Helen, for allowing us to have Pete for the year. I know it wasn't easy for them to have him away for such a long period. I am sure they will be glad to have him back and that he will be glad to resume his position as Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

Finally, I want to thank the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for sponsoring Pete as a Congressional Fellow. At a time when the world is becoming increasingly technical and competitive, Congress benefits from the advice of experienced and educated experts.

URGING TURKEY TO SAFEGUARD ITS CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 306 that the House passed earlier this week.

Wherever we see repression, wherever we see atrocities being swept under the rug, we have a moral duty to speak out. Members of NATO are no exception.

Today in Turkey, beautiful and historic Armenian churches, monuments and monasteries lie in ruins—broken not by the sands of time, but by desecration, theft and dynamite.

For too long, the U.S. has allowed Turkey to elude responsibility for the destruction of Armenian churches. With this resolution, Congress sends a stern message to Turkey's Prime Minister, Recep Erdogan—the United States will not tolerate Turkish assaults on Armenian heritage and religious freedom.

The passage of House Resolution 306 earlier this week was an important step towards justice for the Armenian people, but our work is unfinished. Until the U.S. and Turkey officially recognize the Armenian Genocide for what it was, I will continue to fight to correct the staggering injustice of soft-peddling the murder of 1.5 million men, women and children.

HONORING DAVID MONTGOMERY

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of David Montgomery, after a long and well-lived life.

David Montgomery had many roles in his life: machinist, union activist, educator, author and, most importantly, father and husband.

Dr. Montgomery came to my state of Connecticut in 1979, where he had a distinguished research, writing and teaching career. It was there that he wrote his most notable work, "Fall of the House of Labor: The Workplace, the State and American Labor Activism, 1865–1925," which was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1989.

More than an author though, Dr. Montgomery was an activist who started his career not in academia, but on the shop floor. In the 1950s, after graduating from college, he went to work as a machinist, where he began to organize workers to join the International Association of Machinists. He was black-listed and fired from his first job in Minneapolis as a result of his organizing efforts, as he was repeatedly throughout his career. Yet, instead of ceding his cause, he continued to fight for his values. He then made a remarkable transition: he earned his doctorate and began a career in teaching. Dr. Montgomery taught at several colleges, eventually becoming the Farnum Professor of History at Yale.

But whatever job he had, he never stopped being an activist. Dr. Montgomery helped strengthen the resolve of workers and activists while teaching in New Haven. His research and teaching informed his students about the history of working people, and he inspired generations of students to study that history as they sought to change the nation. He knew that by valuing the dignity of work and recognizing workers' struggle for justice in their workplace and country, we could help build a more just society.

A former student of his, Jennifer Klein, captured his essence when she said in a press account that Dr. Montgomery was not only "the model of the scholar-activist but also the activist-scholar."