

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE HAMP TERMINATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 839) to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to provide new assistance under the Home Affordable Modification Program, while preserving assistance to homeowners who were already extended an offer to participate in the Program, either on a trial or permanent basis:

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chair, in the last few years, the United States has faced a devastating economic crisis. As a result of the economic downturn, many homeowners have lost their homes or are at imminent risk of foreclosure. The Obama Administration launched the federal Home Affordable Modification Program ("HAMP") to stem the escalating tide of home foreclosures with its ruinous effects on families and their communities. HAMP's purpose is to provide eligible homeowners with permanent loan modifications on terms they can afford in order to avoid foreclosure of their homes.

Although this program is far from perfect, it has helped more than 600,000 families lower their mortgage payments and stay in their homes. H.R. 839, the HAMP Termination Act of 2011, will end this program. I have yet to see any Republican alternative to our housing crisis! There are 3 million foreclosures forecasted this year nationwide and a housing turnaround is not expected for at least three years.

Missing in the Republicans limited discussion on housing is the impact of the housing crisis on communities of color in the United States. An estimated 17 percent of Latino families and 11 percent of African American families have lost their homes or are at an imminent risk of losing their homes. Meanwhile, Republicans continue to eliminate all government involvement in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. While these institutions need to be reformed, they do serve important functions such as making the 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage available to the general public and providing mortgage credit and affordable rental housing for communities of color. If we do not focus seriously on our minority communities, which are disproportionately affected by the economic crisis, the home buying environment for these communities will worsen as the economy recovers. The American dream will cease to exist for many. Fewer mortgages would be available to working-class families in the long run without some government-backed financing.

Eliminating support to distressed homeowners at this point in time would be disastrous for neighborhoods trying to recover from

the foreclosure crisis. Instead, we should focus our efforts on ways to make HAMP a useful, wide-reaching program with meaningful goals, such as pushing lenders and loan servicers to reduce the principal on underwater loans and giving struggling homeowners real relief.

The latest foreclosure rates in the 7th congressional district of Indiana are higher than the national average. Terminating HAMP and denying critical assistance to struggling Americans is not the answer. HAMP has allowed thousands of Hoosiers to survive unemployment. The program has lowered monthly mortgage payments, and given families the breathing room they needed to keep their home. There is no easy way to repair the deep damage caused by the housing crisis. It will take time and a sustained, comprehensive effort. I will continue to fight on behalf of Hoosiers to keep them in their homes.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—BLAKE BALDA

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) from the third district of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the third district's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

I have had a unique opportunity over the course of this past year to serve at the DFW USO each Wednesday morning. This agency prides itself on serving, assisting, and providing morale for military personnel both past and present. I've thoroughly enjoyed this service site helping soldiers navigate through the airport to their respective gates, packaging and sending boxes of magazines for troops overseas, and working in the USO Club. The USO has been a great service site for me because of my love and respect for the United States military. The work I do is very rewarding. Nothing tops the opportunity to interact with the people who keep this nation safe each and every day. Listening to the stories of the soldiers has made me appreciate their sacrifice more than ever before. I look forward to continuing my work with the USO as well as embarking on a new undertaking with the Dallas Honor Flight, an organization that raises money to send World War II veterans to their memorial in Washington, D.C. CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the US. Armed Forces.

—Blake Balda

RECOGNITION OF VINCENNES RIVET HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Vincennes Rivet High School Girls' Basketball Team from Vincennes, Indiana. On March 5, 2011, the Lady Patriots won the Indiana High School Athletic Association's Class 1A State Championship for the first time in school history. Today, I would like to congratulate Coach Tim Young and the young ladies for their success.

Capping off a regular season with a perfect record of 21 wins and 0 losses, Coach Young led his #1 ranked team to the school's third straight appearance in the state finals where they achieved a 49 to 40 victory against #2 ranked Turkey Run to bring home their first championship. I would also like to commend Coach Jeff Thompson and his team for their exceptional season.

Coach Young constantly promoted teamwork and sportsmanship and was named the Evansville Courier & Press Southwestern Indiana Coach of the Year. His daughter, senior point guard Sarah Young, was named the all-Southwestern Indiana Player of the Year.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Lady Patriots of Vincennes Rivet High School for their hard work and dedication that culminated with their first ever Indiana High School Athletic Association's Girls Basketball Title.

RIVET LADY PATRIOTS

Julia Finch, Ellie Herman, Bailey Dreiman, Lauren Herman, Casandra Brocksmit, Elizabeth Keller, Erin Wehrheim, Sara Young, Malory Niehaus, Allyson Wehrheim, Lauren Tucker, Amber Fowler, Emily Montgomery, Emily Niehaus, Brooke Schutter, Bailey Niehaus.

Head Coach: Tim Young.

Asst. Coaches: Charlie Waggoner, Brent Meeks, Sheila Herman, Paula Westfall.

Manager: Haley Potter.

Athletic Director: Doug Ostendorf.

CONGRATULATING BILL SAMUELS
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM MAKER'S MARK

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, commend and congratulate Mr. Bill Samuels, Jr. as he retires from his post as president of Maker's Mark. The Commonwealth of Kentucky is known across the world for its horses as well as its whiskey, in no small part because of the expert craftsmanship and emphasis on quality of Mr. Samuels, following in the footsteps of the seven generations of bourbon distillers in his family. It is fitting that Mr. Samuels will say "so long," though certainly not goodbye to his life's work, at the Thoroughbreds & Redheads event in conjunction with the Maker's Mark Mile race at Lexington's beautiful Keeneland racecourse.

Mr. Samuels' storied career in Loretto is marked by a strong commitment to tradition and entrepreneurship. Maker's Mark is the product of the nation's oldest operating bourbon distillery, and during its celebrated history, its timeless quality has been recognized with numerous awards.

But Mr. Samuels was unwilling to allow Maker's Mark to rest on its laurels. During his career, Mr. Samuels revitalized the brand by developing clever advertising marked by clean, stark design that accentuated his wit while adapting the culture of Kentucky for consumption across the United States and around the world. From a billboard in New York's financial district alluding to Maker's Mark's trademark wax with the slogan "trickle-down economics" to a print ad proclaiming "If we could make it any faster, we wouldn't," Mr. Samuels' efforts are omnipresent, eye-catching, and memorable, transforming Maker's Mark into a thoroughly modern brand while bringing along a bit of Kentucky spirit.

Under his apt stewardship, Maker's Mark has achieved a historic milestone by selling one million cases annually of what is perhaps Kentucky's best known export. The success of Maker's Mark is a reaffirmation of Kentucky's love of tradition, vibrant economy, and good taste. In his forty-four years tirelessly working to expand his family's business and better his community by producing a true Kentucky original, Mr. Samuels has captured the culture and heritage of the Commonwealth in the bourbon

handcrafted in the fabled oak barrels of Marion County and has shared it with the world. I wish to congratulate Mr. Samuels upon his retirement for his decades of dedication as a global ambassador of our state and to wish him the best in whatever endeavors his future may hold.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 212, Gingrey of Georgia Amendment no. 18, I inadvertently voted "no"—intending to vote "yes."

HILLARY MORRIS, DIANA KELLY
AND BRITTANY HARLAN—TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hillary Morris, Diana Kelly and Brittany Harlan for their work to prevent drinking and drug use in Colorado schools. These three women are responsible for programs designed to teach local students about the dangers of substance abuse.

Their efforts have recently been honored by the Rio Grande Prevention Partners, a group that works towards spreading information about the negative effects of alcohol and drugs. Ms. Harlan has been the student intern for the group since June of 2009. She was instrumental in creating the Youth Engagement Plan while also participating in a number of other extracurricular activities.

Ms. Kelly is the Creede Middle and High School sponsor for Students Against Destructive Decisions, a national group with similar aspirations to that of the RGPP. She helped guide the group's local efforts in Colorado over the last year. Ms. Morris, a student of Creede High School, is also very involved with SADD. She has organized events and activities for the group this past year.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize these three women for their work in preventing drug and alcohol use among Colorado students. The initiative they have taken in their communities is exemplary and I have no doubt they will continue to be leaders in preventing substance abuse.

HONORING MULE DAY IN
COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor of the U.S. House, to honor and celebrate the great Tennessee tradition of Mule Day.

For nearly 170 years, Mule Day has been an annual event in Columbia, Tennessee,

which is widely known as the "Mule Capital" of the world.

Mule Day was first celebrated in 1840, as a single day livestock show. Since then, it has evolved into a week-long festival that attracts over 200,000 attendees, making it one of the largest livestock markets in the world. In addition to mules, the festival highlights Tennessee's rich traditions of agriculture, food, music, dancing, and crafts.

Mrs. Knoxville Goad will serve as Grand Marshal for the 2011 Mule Day Parade. I thank her and all the good citizens of Columbia, Tennessee and surrounding areas who continue to work long and hard to ensure that Mule Day remains an important part of Tennessee's heritage.

I look forward to attending this year's "Mule Day" and celebrating the proud history of the American Mule.

BRINGING AMERICA HOME

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Tom Pauken, Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission and author of the book "Bringing America Home," has written a column in the Washington Times that I wish every American would read.

The column, entitled "An Agenda for the Next President" and reprinted below, is a very important one that I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, Mar. 31, 2011]

GATES GRILLED ON PRICE OF 'ILLEGAL WAR'

(By Tom Pauken)

ANALYSIS/OPINION

What bothers most Americans as they check out next year's crop of presidential candidates is their country's involvement in a series of endless wars to promote the Wilsonian ideal of "making the world safe for democracy."

First, there was the Bosnian War during the Clinton administration, in which the U.S. intervened militarily on behalf of a radical Islamic Kurdish group against the Christian Serbs who had been our allies in World War II. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright was the leading proponent of that Clinton policy, and she famously said to Gen. Colin L. Powell at the time, "What's the point of having this superb military that you're always talking about if we can't use it?" And so we used it to bomb Belgrade and other areas of Serbia—which ensured the Islamic takeover of Kosovo.

Now, Mrs. Clinton reportedly is the prime mover in the Obama administration of U.S. military intervention in Libya to oust the regime of Col. Moammar Gadhafi and replace it with "the forces of democracy," whoever that may turn out to be.

Meanwhile, the George W. Bush and the Obama administrations have supported our continued military involvement in Afghanistan. After the tragedy of 9/11, it made strategic sense to deny Osama bin Laden and his Taliban allies their sanctuaries in Afghanistan, where they were training their radical followers in the techniques of sabotage and terrorism. What is our mission in Afghanistan 10 years later? To keep the regime of President Hamid Karzai in power?