

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that my vote against the Tipton amendment to the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013 was made in error. I support this amendment, which prohibits agencies funded under the bill from conducting surveys in which money is included or provided for the benefit of the survey responder. The amendment does not prohibit federal agencies from gathering public input or sending out surveys, which is a necessary process, but I agree with the author of the amendment that we must put an end to the unethical practice of giving away taxpayer dollars to solicit a desired response.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES D. LINDSEY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Mr. James D. Lindsey, who is retiring as President and Chief Executive Officer of First State Bank.

Mr. Lindsey attended North Texas University and the Stonier Graduate School of Banking. He began his career with First State Bank—Mesquite in 1971, starting in the bookkeeping department. His successful career is the result of his hard work and dedication; he served in various areas of the bank and literally worked his way to the top. He is a well-known and highly respected leader in the banking profession and the broader Mesquite community. In 2002, he received the prestigious Chairman's Award from the Independent Bankers Association of Texas and in 2008, was elected to the Board of Directors of The Independent Bankers Bank. Mr. Lindsey also served as Director for the Mesquite Economic Development Foundation and was appointed to the Texas Banking Commissioner's Council. First State Bank and the banking profession have greatly benefitted from his work ethic, vision, and leadership. He is a man of great character who firmly abides by his principles. I am honored to call him my friend and know that Mr. Lindsey will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Lindsey on his retirement. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. May God continue to bless him and his family.

BROADCAST EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, June 1st marked the official start to this year's hurricane season. As the hurricane season begins and tornado season continues, we are in an even greater need for life saving communications and technology. I want to take this time to thank our local TV and radio stations for the invaluable lifesaving work they do during times of emergencies.

Radio and television stations are our nation's most reliable network for distributing critical emergency information. Even when the electricity goes out and internet networks and cell phone towers go down, over-the-air broadcasting continues to air. This was never more evident than in the wake of the April 27, 2011 tornadoes and storms that ravaged the great state of Alabama.

Last year, four months into my first term in office, the State of Alabama experienced unimaginable tragedy as we were ravaged by the force of tornadoes and storms. Nine of the 12 counties in my district experienced tremendous damage and loss. These devastating storms destroyed many of our homes, churches, schools and businesses. 253 lives were lost including 76 from the 7th Congressional District.

There is no doubt that broadcasters act as first responders in times of crisis. Before and after these devastating tornadoes, broadcasters remained on the air uninterrupted, providing local communities with vital, lifesaving information. Had it not been for our local broadcasters providing critical information around the clock, many more lives could have been lost. Americans depend on their local TV and radio stations when unforeseen emergencies arise.

If we are to improve disaster preparedness in our nation, we must ensure that local stations have effective tools to communicate with the public during these times of crisis. This can be done by readily equipping mobile devices with broadcast radio for emergency preparedness. Cell phones are ubiquitous and broadcast radio would provide instant emergency information on the go to the widest possible audience during times of emergencies.

The ability to have access to lifesaving information is critical and has very serious homeland security implications. For example, during last year's 5.8 Virginia earthquake, cell phone networks in the Washington, D.C. area became overloaded and inoperable.

This should never be the case. Congress, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Communications Commission and the mobile phone industry should consider ways to expand the availability of broadcast radio service in mobile phones to keep Americans safe.

I look forward to working with these various agencies to ensure that all Americans have the next generation of emergency warnings and information.

Again, thank you to local broadcasters for providing lifesaving coverage during times of emergencies and crisis situations around the clock.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL CARROLL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OF GREATER COLUMBUS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Michael Carroll, Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus for 34 years of outstanding service.

For the past three and a half decades, the citizens of the Greater Columbus area have received assistance and comfort from their friends and neighbors through the work of this fine leader. Since 1995, Mr. Carroll has served as CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus covering Fayette, Franklin, Madison and Pickaway counties. In 2007, he was appointed Regional CEO for the Central-Southeast Ohio Region comprised of 16 Red Cross chapters covering 26 Ohio counties.

His talents are so well respected that he has often been called upon to aid other areas of the country as well. Since 1979, Mr. Carroll has served in field leadership roles on more than 20 major disaster operations in 12 states including Hurricane Hugo in 1989. In September 2004, he served as Deputy Director of the Hurricane Frances relief operation in Florida and, in September 2005, was Director of Hurricane Katrina relief for Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

The Red Cross is an internationally recognized symbol of humanitarianism and hope, and Michael Carroll has done much to burnish that reputation by easing the pain and sorrow of disaster victims across our community and around the nation. In short, Michael Carroll has made our community a safer and better place to live.

I offer my best wishes to him and his family for a wonderful retirement. His legacy will stand as an example for all, and he will be dearly missed.

VICTORIA STAVE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Victoria Stave for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service

• 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.

Ambassadors for Youth award. Victoria Stave is an 11th grader at Arvada West High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Victoria Stave is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Victoria Stave for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5855) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer an amendment, designated as Flake #1.

This amendment is straight forward; it would reduce funding for the Office of the Secretary by \$50,000 and transfer a revenue neutral amount to U.S. Customs and Border Protection salaries and expenses.

This is a nominal cut from the Secretary's nearly \$122 million in funding, again only slightly more than the Committee provided for the Secretary to spend on receptions next year.

I offer this amendment as a means of bringing an important issue to both Congress' and more importantly the Secretary's attention.

Let me start by thanking the Chairman and Ranking Member for their attention to border issues in this bill as well as the staff's assistance in bringing this amendment to the floor.

In the report accompanying last year's Homeland Security appropriations bill, the Committee directed the Department to provide a "resource allocation and staffing model for the ports of entry."

As would appear to be the trend with Congressional requests for information, answers to questions, or budget documentation, the Department either failed to prioritize or simply ignored this request and it is reiterated in this year's report.

The committee report notes: "As the Committee has not yet received the CBP workload staffing allocation model, the Committee cannot assess CBP's identified needs."

As we are all no doubt aware, funding for border security efforts between the ports of entry has increased exponentially over recent years, while the budget for Customs and Border Patrol officers at the ports has not kept pace.

As I travel the border region, in addition to concerns regarding border security and the

changing nature of threats between the ports, I hear persistent concerns that our ports of entry are understaffed.

Those serving at the ports of entry have at least a dual role, facilitating legitimate trade and travel safely while also preventing unauthorized people and goods to cross the border.

I could talk at length about the benefits of cross-border trade for communities along our borders and beyond, but let me cite just a couple of examples.

Focusing on the southern border, Mexico is the third largest U.S. trading partner and the second largest U.S. export market, with a reported six million U.S. jobs depending on trade with Mexico.

The executive director of the Arizona-Mexico Commission was recently quoted as saying "Arizona's border is the gateway for some \$26 billion worth of imports and exports and some 44 million people each year."

A recent Maricopa Association of Governments release cited that legal Mexican visitors spend roughly \$7.3 million a day in Arizona and Arizona business exported nearly \$6 billion in goods in 2011.

Benefits of trade along the southern border are certainly not limited to border communities.

For example, the Mariposa Port of Entry in Nogales is one of the largest ports of entry for fruit and vegetables in the U.S. In 2011, the U.S. imported 13.4 billion pounds of fresh produce grown in Mexico and more than a third of that entered through Nogales.

Clearly, a secure border and economic stability in the border region are not mutually exclusive and main component of success toward that goal is the right staffing levels.

I can assure you that I am the last member that would support writing any agency a blank check. The process of the Appropriations Committee performing the necessary oversight and accurately reviewing port of entry staffing needs begins with the Department delivering the staffing model and information that was requested a year ago.

I thank the chairman and urge adoption of the amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed four votes today, which included rollcall votes 315, 316, 317 and 318.

If I had been present, I would have cast the following votes on amendments to H.R. 5325, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013: rollcall vote 315 (McClintock Amendment #3): "yea," rollcall vote 316 (Hirono Amendment): "yea," rollcall vote 317 (McClintock Amendment #5): "no," rollcall vote 318 (Matheson Amendment): "yea."

INTRODUCING THE STOP NON-NATIVE ANIMALS FROM KILLING ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Stopping Non-Native Animals from Killing Endangered Species, or SNAKES, Act. This bill implements a successful pilot program in which specially trained dogs help to detect the Burmese python and other constrictor reptiles ravaging the Everglades ecosystem. The bill will fund a program to prevent the snakes from establishing sustainable populations in new areas as well as to control the snakes that are already out there.

I am a Florida native and travel across the Everglades frequently. Until recently, there was rarely a time that I would drive through the Everglades and not see animals like wading birds and rabbits along the roadside. Since these snakes have spread over the last few years, however, I rarely see any animals at all anymore. In fact, recent studies have shown the mammal population in the Everglades has declined over 90 percent in some cases.

This drastic reduction in numbers is the result of the Burmese python and other constrictor reptiles wreaking havoc throughout the Everglades, obliterating endangered and local wildlife, and upsetting the delicate balance of the ecosystem. The snakes in Florida are contained to a relatively limited area right now, but they will not remain that way. Experts anticipate that the snakes may expand beyond the Everglades, or escape from pet-owners and breeders in other parts of the country to then possibly establish new breeding populations there.

I am sad to say that while there is no proverbial silver bullet to completely eradicate the snakes already in the Everglades, we do have some tools at our disposal that can stop them from spreading. This bill today implements one such technique that has already recently proved its success in the field.

Auburn University EcoDogs, working along with Federal, State, county, tribal government entities, universities, and non-profit stakeholders, recently trained dogs for a study to assess whether detection dogs were an effective tool for python management efforts. As it turned out, dog search teams can cover more distance and have a higher accuracy rate in particular scenarios than human searchers.

The team consisted of two dogs, named Jake and Ivy, a dog handler and a snake handler. It performed free-ranging python searches on a variety of State, Federal and tribal lands. In controlled searches, dogs performed approximately 2.5 times faster than human searchers, in addition to having a significantly higher success rate of 92 percent during controlled canal searches, when compared to the human search team of 62 percent. The SNAKES Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to work with the stakeholders to establish this detection program.

These specially trained dogs can also respond to specific python sightings throughout the year. A rapid response team will take a dog directly to the site where a python was recently spotted in order to track the snake from