

IMPORTANCE OF FUEL
EFFICIENCY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss fuel efficiency, an issue that is near and dear to the heart of all hardworking Americans. As Members of Congress, it is our mission to do all that we can to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil for America's families. We must work hard to create and incentivize ways to produce alternative fuels and reduce gas prices here at home. And we should continue to work with our auto industry to promote the manufacturing of more fuel efficient vehicles right here in America. America's auto industry is hard at work manufacturing and developing the technology to manufacture more fuel efficient vehicles.

My congressional district and the State of Alabama is home to many auto manufacturers and suppliers that are achieving that goal and are even working hard to exceed it. All Americans can contribute to promoting energy independence and environmental sustainability by taking a few simple steps. And as we head into the major summer driving season, it's important to remember that we all can improve fuel efficiency right now.

For example, using cruise control will help drivers maintain a steady speed and save fuel. Studies have shown that tuning your car and keeping tires inflated can increase your fuel economy by 3 or 4%. Driving responsibly and at the speed limit also helps to improve fuel economy.

The EPA's website provides information about fuel efficient driving and there are numerous agencies and organizations that provide information and resources about how to drive more efficiently. Auto manufacturers and associations have also undertaken efforts to increase awareness and educate us all about fuel efficiency, and I support and applaud those efforts.

In closing, I encourage all of us to take the time to learn how to drive more efficiently and maximize our fuel economy. These techniques will save Americans fuel, decrease emissions and help us achieve energy independence.

HONORING KAY A. CALAS

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mrs. Kay A. Calas, who passed away on Monday, June 18, 2012 at the age of 88.

We often hear the term "founding fathers" used to describe the framers of this country. Kay Calas was one of the founding mothers of the City of Carson, California, and as a 29-year member of the Carson City Council, she was truly a legend in her own time.

Kay Calas was not only one of the longest tenured elected officials in Los County's history, she was also one of the most effective and revered council-members of her time. She is credited with helping to shape a thriving city

from what was once a collection of waste dumps, vacant land patches and oil production facilities in the eastern section of Los Angeles County's South Bay region.

The creation of the City of Carson happened during the time that my father, L.A. County Supervisor Kenny Hahn, presided over that previously unincorporated area. My father's great respect for Kay Calas and her husband John, himself a great community leader and former Carson Mayor, stemmed from their shared vision of an ideal city in which people from all walks of life could live and do business harmoniously. That shared vision made Kenny Hahn a John and Kay Calas ally for life.

Once the loftier goal of incorporating Carson had been accomplished, Kay Calas relentlessly pursued her passion: that is the business of serving the people. Kay was always a champion for the senior citizens, and she had a deep love for fine arts. The Carson Symphony Association had a yearly concert for 3,000 school children, and Kay would routinely pay for the buses to bring the children to the event. She spearheaded the effort to extend Del Amo Boulevard over the San Diego (405) Freeway creating an important throughway to ease rush hour street traffic in the middle of town. The bridge now bears her name, while a park on East 220th Street in Carson is named after her late husband John Calas.

Above all else, Kay Calas was a public servant of the highest possible integrity. Current Carson Mayor James Dear, who served as Mayor with Mrs. Calas during two of her eight terms in office, described Kay Calas' character as "above reproach".

I extend my deepest condolences to her three surviving sons, Frank, James and Thomas, and Kay's numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Though Kay Calas is no longer with us, her legacy lives on in the lives of her family and in the community that she served so tirelessly throughout her remarkable life.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ANNIE
JOHNSON-SINKFIELD

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, reaching the age of 80 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Annie Johnson-Sinkfield was born on June 14, 1932 and is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sinkfield has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sinkfield is celebrating her 80th birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in DeKalb County, Georgia, on June 16, 2012, she celebrates a life of blessings; as a wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; an advocate, faithful church member at Poplar Springs Baptist Church in Ellenwood, Georgia, and a community leader; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 80th birthday in the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Annie Johnson-Sinkfield for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim June 14, 2012, as Mrs. Annie Johnson-Sinkfield Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LAKWOOD
CALIFORNIA'S BRUCE DUBOIS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of one of Lakewood California's most prominent residents, Bruce DuBois. Mr. DuBois was born in my own district in 1935 at Seaside Hospital in Long Beach. He attended school in Compton until transferring to Downey High School. He could not stay away from the 37th district for long, and after enlisting in the Army and serving in France, he returned to attend Compton College.

It was during his time in college where Mr. DuBois met the love of his life and the woman he would spend the next five decades with. Diane DuBois was also a student at Compton College, and after the two met at a party it was only a year until they were married. Mrs. DuBois would later go on to become mayor of Lakewood, always with the proud support of her beloved husband.

While being an avid family man, Mr. DuBois dedicated his life to serving the community. He was very active with the Jaycees, a service group that provides leadership training through community service for adults ages 18-40. He met many of his best friends through this organization.

After retirement Mr. DuBois continued his volunteer work with the organization Meals on Wheels. At least once a week he would deliver meals to his community's shut-ins and elderly. His wife stated that he took great pride in this work, and met many friends along the way.

Mr. DuBois' life can be remembered as full of service to his community, friendship and family. He was a man we could all look to for warmth and kindness, and his presence will be sorely missed. He leaves behind his wife, two daughters, four grandchildren and a sister.

HONORING NATIONAL PARK
CLIMBING RANGER NICK HALL
AND OTHER CLIMBING RANGERS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a hero who died last month leading an effort to save four climbers on Mt. Rainier in Washington State.

On June 21 four climbers fell into a crevasse on a glacier on Mt. Rainier. National

Park Climbing Ranger Nick Hall and other Climbing Rangers braved the elements and terrain to rescue the climbers and get them the medical attention they desperately needed. Mr. Hall, a 33-year-old four-year veteran of Mt. Rainier's Climbing Ranger team, tragically fell more than 2,500 feet down the side of the mountain. The Climbing Ranger team was unable to communicate with Mr. Hall after his fall and continued their heroic efforts to save the four climbers. All four climbers were saved and all suffered non-life threatening injuries. I applaud the heroic efforts of the rescue team.

Rangers did reach Mr. Hall hours after the rescue mission began, but, sadly, determined that he had died as a result of his fall. Because of heavy snow, clouds, and the threat of an avalanche, Mr. Hall's body could not immediately be recovered. Finally, on Thursday, July 5, Mt. Rainier National Park personnel were able to confirm that Mr. Hall's body had been recovered.

Mr. Speaker, It has been a tough year at Mt. Rainier. On January 1 Park Ranger Margaret Anderson was gunned down at Mt. Rainier by a fleeing gunman. Now Nick Hall has lost his life saving climbers on the mountain. I grieve with the friends, family, and colleagues left behind.

The week of July 15 has been declared "Stand With Those Who Serve Week" in Washington. Nick Hall is the latest example of someone willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice in service to others. Today I stand with members of the Park Service, Mt. Rainier Superintendent Randy King, and the supportive communities around the mountain.

GOVERNOR PERRY'S LETTER TO
KATHLEEN SEBELIUS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
July 9, 2012.

Hon. KATHLEEN SEBELIUS,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SEBELIUS: In the ObamaCare plan, the federal government sought to force the states to expand their Medicaid programs by in the words of the Supreme Court putting a gun to their heads. Now that the "gun to the head" has been removed, please relay this message to the President: I oppose both the expansion of Medicaid as provided in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the creation of a so-called "state" insurance exchange, because both represent brazen intrusions into the sovereignty of our state.

I stand proudly with the growing chorus of governors who reject the PPACA power grab. Thank God and our nation's founders that we have the right to do so.

Neither a "state" exchange nor the expansion of Medicaid under the Orwellian-named PPACA would result in a better "patient protection" or in more "affordable care." What they would do is make Texas a mere appendage of the federal government when it comes to health care.

The PPACA does not truly allow states to create and operate their own exchanges. Instead, it gives the federal government the

final say as to which insurance plans can operate in a so-called "state" exchange, what benefits those plans must provide, and what price controls and cost limits will apply. It leaves many questions to be answered later through federal "future rulemaking." In short, it essentially treats the states like subcontractors through which the federal government can control the insurance markets and pursue federal priorities rather than those of the individual states.

Through its proposed expansion of Medicaid, the PPACA would simply enlarge a broken system that is already financially unsustainable. Medicaid is a system of inflexible mandates, one-size-fits-all requirements, and wasteful, bureaucratic inefficiencies. Expanding it as the PPACA provides would only exacerbate the failure of the current system, and would threaten even Texas with financial ruin.

I look forward to implementing health care solutions that are right for the people of Texas. I urge you to support me in that effort. In the meantime, the PPACA's unsound encroachments will find no foothold here.

Sincerely,

RICK PERRY,
Governor.

CALLING FOR THE FIRING OF U.S.
AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter I sent to President Obama and Secretary Clinton calling for the firing of the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam.

Ambassador David Shear should be removed because he has repeatedly failed to advocate for human rights and speak out for the voiceless in Vietnam. I recommend that he be replaced by a Vietnamese-American.

I am particularly upset by Ambassador Shear's failure to invite more dissidents and human rights activists to the U.S. Embassy for a July 4 celebration after promising that he would.

Further, I have been disappointed in Shear's handling of the case of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, a Vietnamese-American democracy activist and U.S. citizen presently being held by the communist government of Vietnam.

As I stated in the letter, "America must be a voice for the voiceless. The U.S. Embassy in Vietnam must be an island of freedom, headed by a bold American ambassador. Ambassador Shear is not that man."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
July 9, 2012.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
The President, The White House, Washington,
DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On May 15, 2012, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, which I co-chair, held a hearing on human rights abuses in Vietnam. As you undoubtedly know, the State Department's own annual human rights report aptly describes Vietnam as an "authoritarian state." During the hearing, several of my colleagues and I heard testimony from Mrs. Mai Huong Ngo, the wife of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, a Vietnamese-American democracy activist and U.S. citizen. Upon his arrival at Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City on April 17, he was arbitrarily detained and has been in prison ever since. Dr. Quan's

wife was invited to testify in light of her husband's plight.

Assistant Secretary Michael Posner was also invited to testify at the hearing on behalf of the State Department. At the time I expressed my shock and dismay that no one from the department, not even the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam, David Shear, had been in touch with Dr. Quan's wife since his detention. Only at my urging did Ambassador Shear initiate contact with Mrs. Ngo to update her on her husband's situation.

This was disturbing on a number of levels. I have long believed that U.S. embassies should be islands of freedom—especially in repressive countries like Vietnam. Under Ambassador Shear's leadership it didn't appear that the U.S. embassy in Hanoi was embracing this important task. But even more troubling is the fact that Dr. Quan is an American citizen, and yet there appeared to be little urgency to securing his release.

In speaking by phone with Ambassador Shear following the hearing I expressed my concerns and urged him to host a July 4th celebration at the embassy, where the guest list was comprised of religious freedom and democracy activists in Vietnam. I stressed that he should fling open the doors of the embassy and invite Buddhist monks and nuns, Catholic priests and Protestant pastors, Internet bloggers and democracy activists. Such was the custom during the Reagan Administration, especially in the Soviet Union. This practice sent a strong message that America stood with those who stand for basic human rights. In many cases it afforded these individuals protection from future harassment and even imprisonment.

Ambassador Shear said that he intended to honor this request. Following my conversation with him I received the enclosed letter from the department indicating that, "Ambassador Shear continues to engage with civil society advocates, promoters of rule-of-law, and democracy activists and will welcome them to the Embassy's July 4th celebration." I took Ambassador Shear at his word and in fact shared this correspondence with members of the Vietnamese Diaspora community in the U.S., several of whom were greatly encouraged by this development.

Late last week it was brought to my attention that many of the most prominent democracy and human rights activists in Vietnam were not invited to the event. These reports seemed starkly at odds with the assurances I had personally received from Ambassador Shear. I called him directly this morning to find out if the embassy had invited the dissidents as had been agreed upon. His response was appalling. He said that he had invited a few civil society activists but then said that he needed to maintain a "balance." I then asked him for a list of the invitees. He initially refused saying he was unable to provide this information, even though presumably the embassy, which he leads, created the guest list. Then he said he would have to address this through State Department. I asked him when we might expect to receive a copy of the guest list and, after initially declining to be specific; he eventually conceded that it would be "in a few weeks."

Ambassador Shear's entire handling of this issue has been unacceptable. He showed little to no initiative in the case of Dr. Quan. Then, after appearing to recognize the shortsightedness of this approach, he agreed to host an Independence Day event at the embassy attended by human rights and democracy activists—only to go back on his word and mislead me about his intentions. Finally, when posed with a simple congressional request for additional information about the guest list at a U.S. embassy event, he was uncooperative at best and obstructionist at worst.