

VA MAJOR CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION AND EXPIRING AUTHORITIES EXTENSION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this long overdue legislation. Among many worthy projects included in this legislation, this bill authorizes the uncompleted construction on the operating rooms at the Miami VA Medical Center.

Every month this construction is delayed, the VA has to pay an additional \$500,000 for a portable operating room. Since this was first brought to our attention in May, that will be over \$2.5 million as of the end of this month. That is \$2,500,000 that could better be spent on the veterans of Florida for their care and comfort.

This project is over 95 percent completed. This bill needs to be passed now.

I want to thank the Chairman of the Veterans' Committee, Mr. MILLER for his help in getting the issue included in a vehicle that could pass both the House and the Senate. There is a dire need for this Medical Center to be whole, with veterans from all over the State of Florida traveling there for treatment.

The original plan for this project was to divide the operating room in half and renovate it in stages. When I visited the Medical Center in June, I heard directly from the administrators of the facility about the project. The planners on the ground realized soon after the construction began that patients could have been put at risk due to contamination of the operating room by the construction on the other side of the room.

Veterans health was being put at risk, and rather than let that happen, it was decided, by those who know veterans health the best, those at the health facilities, to combine the projects into one and rent the portable operating rooms.

It is time for Congress to pass this bill and finish the construction in Miami that our veterans deserve through their service protecting the freedoms this nation hold so dear.

HONORING JOHN LOWRY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Rep. MIKE THOMPSON to recognize the outstanding career of John Lowry. John is retiring after 28 years of service with Burbank Housing. His inspirational leadership in providing affordable housing in Sonoma County, California has given thousands of disadvantaged and low-income Sonoma County residents a place they can call home.

Originally from New York City, John graduated from New York University and holds BA and MA degrees with majors in economics, politics and history. He later decided to obtain a general contractors license and build his

own home. This sparked his interest in self-help housing, which he would later incorporate into Burbank Housing's Homeownership Program.

John began his career of providing affordable housing to Sonoma County California as a project manager on Burbank's first two projects. He was their second employee. Under John's leadership, the non-profit has grown to 140 employees who build, manage and maintain 2,700 affordable rental units as well as helping another 750 families own their homes.

John's work has been lauded by his peers, including being named an Inspirational Non-Profit Leader. The Sonoma County Housing Coalition has honored him with both their Lifetime Achievement Award and their Housing Hero Award.

John also serves our community by working with the California Coalition for Rural Housing and the Home Builders Association of Northern California. He has served on the board of Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California as well.

In retirement, John plans to continue working to influence state and local housing policies. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank John Lowry for his many years of service on behalf of the people of Sonoma County. He has worked tirelessly to demonstrate his unwavering belief that low-income people of all ages, backgrounds and special needs deserve to live in decent, affordable housing. For this, he deserves our appreciation.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR
GENERAL PETER J. BOYLAN

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Major General Peter J. Boylan who is celebrating his twentieth year as President of Georgia Military College (GMC), and is the longest serving President of the college since its founding in 1879. General Boylan has worked wonders for GMC as he is responsible for restoring the reputation and financial stability of the school, which is now ranked one of the best community colleges in the nation. Through his unwavering determination, he planned and secured funding to rebuild and renovate every structure on the GMC-Milledgeville campus, made possible the addition of previously non-existent athletic fields and facilities, and renovated, relocated, or established-as-new every GMC distant learning and extension center in the state.

Not only is General Boylan a tireless leader and a staunch champion of the academics, he is also a distinguished military retiree himself. He served for more than thirty years in the United States Army which included two tours in the Republic of South Vietnam, and he also participated in the invasion of Grenada with the 82nd Airborne Division. General Boylan's devotion to his country led him to later work with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon and eventually as Deputy Inspector General of the Army. His list of achievements is monumental, which is a testament to how blessed

the student body, staff, and faculty of GMC are to have him as President. Some of his most notable awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart amongst many others.

General Boylan's academic accomplishments are equally as impressive. He has a Masters degree in engineering from the University of Michigan as well as a Doctor of Laws from Flagler College. For much of his tenure at GMC, General Boylan has stressed that character building is an integral part of a good education. Having also served, I understand the importance of teaching our youth these traits, and couldn't be more supportive of General Boylan in his efforts. Moreover, General Boylan still finds the time to be an active community servant and a faithful family man. He has been honored with the Floyd Harrington Community Leadership Award, he served on the Committee for the Selection of White House Fellows (New York Region) and was appointed by the Governor of Georgia to the Board of Directors for the Department of Juvenile Justice. Most importantly, he and his wife, Kathleen, have five children and thirteen grandchildren.

I know that GMC, the entire state of Georgia, and this nation are forever grateful to General Boylan for his unwavering love for his country, his dutiful service within the military, and his constant willingness to give back to our nation's youth. I am honored to stand here today and congratulate him on twenty years as President of Georgia Military College.

IN TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL E. TRAIN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Russell E. Train, one of our country's most influential and accomplished environmentalists, who died on September 17, 2012 at age 92.

Russell Train was instrumental in developing our nation's environmental policies. He served under Presidents Nixon and Ford as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Under his leadership, the nation made large strides in protecting our air, water, and wildlife, including the adoption of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Toxic Substance Control Act, the Clean Air Act, coastal zone management, national land-use policy, environmental impact statements and the Endangered Species Act. During his tenure, EPA banned four extremely toxic farm chemicals—aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor and chlordane—and instituted automobile emission limits.

Mr. Train developed the concept and promoted the establishment of UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage program, which provides vital protection to 730 cultural and natural sites around the world and builds on the American national park concept.

Mr. Train's passion and dedication for conservation and the environment were strengthened by travels with his wife Aileen to Africa. In 1961 he founded the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation and in 1965 he resigned as a United States Tax Court judge to become

president of the Conservation Foundation. He served as the Foundation's president until 1969, when he was appointed Under Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Train then served as the first chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality from 1970–73 before leading the EPA from 1973–77.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) was an important part of Mr. Train's life for over fifty years, from its founding in 1961 until his death. Mr. Train was the first vice-president of WWF-US and was Chairman of the Board of Directors of World Wildlife Fund and of the Conservation Foundation from 1985 until they merged as WWF in 1990. In 1994 Mr. Train was elected WWF Chairman Emeritus and served as Chairman of the WWF National Council from 1994–2001. Mr. Train led WWF-US through extraordinary growth from its inception to become the leading global conservation organization it is today. Mr. Train remained active on the WWF-US Board of Directors and was regularly seen at the WWF offices, encouraging staff and extolling the importance of the EPA. Carter S. Roberts, President & CEO of WWF-US, says of Mr. Train, "Russ was a true national treasure and an inspiration to all of us who embrace conservation as their life's work. He will be well remembered, and forever missed."

Mr. Train received many awards and recognitions, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Heinz Award and the Teddy Roosevelt International Conservation Award.

Russell E. Train was born in Jamestown, Rhode Island and grew up in Washington, DC. He graduated from Princeton University and Columbia University Law School. Mr. Train served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Mr. Train believed that conservation and environmentalism weren't Democratic or Republican issues—they were national and international issues of importance to everyone who cared about the future of our planet. In 2003, Train published *Politics, Pollution and Pandas: An Environmental Memoir*, tracing his career and providing a history of the U.S. environmental movement. In his memoir, Mr. Train wrote, "I felt strongly that environmental issues needed a sharp, cutting edge in government, one that had high visibility to the public." Fortunately, he noted, "this view finally prevailed."

I hope we can return to a time when protecting our air, water, and the environment is a shared, bipartisan goal. I am proud to have counted Russell Train among my friends and am grateful for his support for our ongoing efforts to follow in former President Teddy Roosevelt's tradition of protecting and preserving our national heritage. At this time in our country's history, we need more Russell Trains. We will miss him dearly, but his legacy is all around us in the cleaner air we breathe, the safer water we drink, and the wildlife that he fought to preserve. When we think of Russell Train, we must block efforts to roll back the victories he won and fight to build upon his noble legacy.

I extend my deepest condolences to Russ Train's wife of 58 years, Aileen Bowdoin Train; to his four children, Emily Rowan, Nancy Smith Gustin, Charles B. Train and my grade-school classmate, Errol T. Giordano; and to his twelve grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Russell E. Train for his ex-

traordinary contributions to our country and our world.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia I have had the privilege of visiting Georgia twice in the past two years. Last year I led a bipartisan delegation that met with President Saakashvili, his cabinet, Members of Parliament and representatives of various opposition parties. Two weeks ago I briefly passed through Georgia, where I met with President Saakashvili, while traveling between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Georgia is a country in transition, the purpose of this resolution is not only to acknowledge this fact but to encourage this transition to continue. While serious challenges still remain, there is no doubt that Georgia is committed to developing a strong democratic government, a robust free market economy and joining key international institutions including NATO.

Democratic developments in Georgia range from high level reforms, such as changes to the constitution that strengthen the office of the Prime Minister as well as the Parliament, to lower level reforms, including the creation of "Public Service Halls" that provide essential government services, including passports and drivers licenses, through an efficient and transparent process. As we know, economic development follows political reform as investors seek stable places to grow their capital. Over the past ten years both the capital city, Tbilisi and the Black Sea port of Batumi have been transformed by investment into modern European cities. For Georgia's economy to continue to grow such investment must continue and reach outside the cities to embrace the country as a whole.

Georgia's commitment to NATO has been exemplary. While many alliance members and partners are winding down their commitments to ISAF in Afghanistan, Georgia is increasing its commitment to deploy the highest per capita troop level of any contributing nation. Georgian soldiers are deployed in the dangerous Helmand province where they serve side-by-side with U.S. soldiers and marines. Although participation in ISAF is not a prerequisite for NATO membership, alliance members should recognize that Georgia's commitment to Afghanistan as well as the country's commitment to democratic and defense reforms will make Georgia a model NATO member.

One major challenge that Georgia faces is Russia's continued occupation of two Georgian provinces; Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which is in violation of the August 2008 ceasefire agreement. As this resolution states, Russia has blocked the extension of OSCE and UN observation missions, and prohibits the EU mission from accessing the occupied territories. Last year I traveled to the boundary of Abkhazia from where one can plainly see

that the Russian Army is constructing permanent bases including apartment buildings to house its soldiers. This Congress must condemn this continued illegal occupation.

As we know from our own history, building a successful democracy is a challenge. In less than two weeks, on October 1st, Georgians will go to the polls for parliamentary elections. It is not for those of us in Washington or any other capital to influence the outcome of these elections. The Georgian people must pick their own leaders. However we must urge, as this resolution does, that the Georgian government, the independent election commission, and all political parties ensure that the Georgian people have their say. The success of the elections as a whole, not any one candidate or party, will ensure that Georgia's democratic transition continues.

This resolution, H. Res. 526, is representative of a bipartisan effort to recognize Georgia and the progress it has made and symbolizes U.S. support for a young, but growing democracy. I want to thank Rep. SHUSTER for his efforts and for introducing this resolution. I also want to thank Ranking Member MEEKS, Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN, and Ranking Member BERMAN and their staff for their support of this Subcommittee's efforts to move this resolution.

HONORING ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the First District of Michigan, I wish to recognize September as World Alzheimer's Month, and specifically today, September 21, 2012, as Alzheimer's Action Day.

Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that destroys brain cells causing problems with memory, judgment, and behavior. Alzheimer's is a serious disease, and is not a normal part of aging. In fact, while most Alzheimer's patients are over age 65, for as many as 5% of its victims, the disease first appeared in their 40s or 50s.

In the United States, an estimated 5.4 million people are living with Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the US, and it is the only cause of death among the top 10 in the United States that cannot be prevented, cured, or even slowed. It has been projected that as many as 16 million Americans may have Alzheimer's by the year 2050.

As a doctor who has treated patients for nearly 30 years in Northern Michigan, I understand the devastating impact Alzheimer's disease can have on patients and their caregivers. In addition to the physical toll Alzheimer's takes on patients, the disease also takes a heavy toll on families serving as caregivers through very difficult times. More than 15 million Americans provide unpaid care to a loved one with Alzheimer's. I am reminded of the words which former President Ronald Reagan shared in announcing his diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease 18 years ago: "Unfortunately, as Alzheimer's disease progresses, the family often bears a heavy burden." Very poignantly, Nancy Reagan referred to Alzheimer's as "the long goodbye."