

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2012 AMENDMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012. This important bill provides the funding and policy support for all of the programs and missions of the United States Coast Guard. The bill also includes policy and statutory provisions that are important to the entire maritime industry. Part of what our U.S. flag vessel industry does is assist us in developing our energy resources offshore whether in the Arctic or elsewhere. This effort will help us achieve energy independence. Without these working boats being able to operate both domestically and internationally, we as a nation would be lagging even further behind. We need to do what we can to support vessels that can and will do this work.

One such provision in this Coast Guard bill addresses the tonnage situation of the vessel *Aqueos Acadian*. The world of tonnage measurement is an arcane and complicated subject. However, it is vital to the operation and economics of any vessel. In this case the *Aqueos Acadian*, in its original configuration in 1973 when she was built, was certified in Coast Guard documentation to be 274 Gross Registered Tons (GRT), which is the official domestic tonnage measurement. Later in her career, the vessel underwent modifications (addition of a closed-in "shelter deck"), which increased her domestic tonnage (GRT) as well as her international tonnage, which is measured differently than domestic tonnage under the International Tonnage Convention (ITC) rules. Later still in the vessel's history, the modifications that increased the tonnage measurements were removed and the vessel's official documents were then issued by the Coast Guard and ABS to reflect that the GRT had been reduced to 275, almost exactly the original GRT of 274. Vessels that are greater than 300 GRT have safety and manning requirements that are substantially more complicated than vessels at or below 300 GRT. At the time of the certification of the down-sizing modifications reducing the GRT, the ITC tonnage was not reduced because the Coast Guard's ability to administratively reduce international tonnage, once it has gone up, is either extremely arcane or non-existent—even if the vessel's domestic and international tonnage has in fact been reduced.

Aqueos Corporation purchased the vessel for offshore work and, as stated above, its official documents reflected that the GRT had been reduced to below 300 GRT. Relying on those Coast Guard and ABS issued documents, the company sought Coast Guard administrative help to reduce the ITC tonnage commensurate with the recognition that the GRT had been reduced (prior enlarging modifications removed). In the Coast Guard Authorization bill (H.R. 2838) just enacted this week, there is language that allows the company to keep operating the vessel under its current documentation (below 300 GRT) and allows time to complete the tonnage reducing modifications that were not done by the previous owners of the vessel but which the

Coast Guard has said must be done. Unfortunately the ITC tonnage reduction remains incomplete. The provision does not restore the vessel's ITC tonnage to that of the GRT, once the tonnage reducing modification is made in dry dock. This second step would afford to the vessel the same result that other vessels in the *Aqueos Acadian's* class have, which, through a previous legislative grandfather provision, allows those vessels' GRT and ITC tonnage to be the same. This second step would not give the vessel a competitive advantage relative to other vessels in the *Acadian's* class, rather without it the company is at a competitive disadvantage with those other vessels in its class. As time goes by the vessel is losing out on potentially millions of dollars of domestic and international work.

It may be that the ITC provides for recognition of the lower tonnage administratively, but the path is not clear whether such an administrative route exists. Again in the case of this vessel, it is essentially being restored to its original tonnage at the time it was built in 1973. I understand the concern addressed by the ITC of vessels substantially changing their size. A larger vessel should be regulated at a larger tonnage. However, I have not been made aware of any vessel that fits this fact pattern of being enlarged and then substantially altered to be restored to its original tonnage. Unfortunately, the way that the ITC addresses this situation is to forever assign a vessel a higher tonnage even if it in fact has been reduced. That is simply unfair. Other vessels of the same class which did not undergo the enlargement are now enjoying a lower ITC tonnage. The equities are that this vessel should be similarly recognized once restored. This is an equitable case for assigning it the ITC tonnage as though it had not undergone the earlier enlargement.

While there may be a way to do this administratively, that process has not been made clear and seems to be a maze of arcane International Maritime Organization procedures. Thus, the case for correcting the international tonnage for this vessel is a compelling one based on a unique situation. The recognition of such a unique case as this would not undermine the U.S. credibility or the ITC itself, or cause any backlash in the international community. This vessel should not be force fit into a regime that does not recognize its circumstance. We need vessels such as the *Aqueos Acadian* to develop offshore energy resources as soon as possible. This provision gets part of the job done and in time perhaps an additional measure is needed. In the meantime, I strongly urge the Coast Guard to develop an administrative solution and I ask the Coast Guard to consider all of the factors mentioned above.

PASSING OF MR. FELMERS
CHANEY**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I write to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Felmers Chaney, a respected and influential community leader. A loving husband for 70 years,

brother, relative, and friend to many in Milwaukee, he will surely be missed by all. He was loyal and committed to his family, the Milwaukee community, and the civil rights struggle. Felmers' death leaves a void, but his memory as a true "servant leader" provides a remarkable legacy and an example of a life well lived.

Felmers lived a life full of accomplishment and distinction during his time with us. He didn't shy away from controversy and exhibited extraordinary courage in the face of outright racial discrimination during his life. He was a pioneer on many fronts, starting his career in 1947 as only the fourth black officer with the Milwaukee Police Department. Due to his tenacity and failure to acquiesce to racial injustice, he was promoted and became the first black sergeant on the police force serving the department and Milwaukee for 36 years. He supervised roughly 20 officers in the department's 5th District—two or three of whom were black. These same leadership skills and his concerns for those living in Milwaukee's inner city, catapulted him into a leadership position as President of Milwaukee's NAACP in 1987. As its president for 12 years, Felmers was a formidable advocate on behalf of the black community. He spoke out on issues involving the lack of equal access to housing, jobs, education, and he was party to the "redlining" lawsuit that successfully challenged the practice of denying mortgages to blacks.

Felmers was not only known for his fight in the civil rights arena, but also for his role in creating economic development opportunities in the inner city. Because of his interest in building up the black community and developing job opportunities, he became the President of the Central City Development Corp., which built the Central City Plaza, a motel and shopping center on 6th and Walnut Street. This further led to his becoming the founder and president of North Milwaukee State Bank, Wisconsin's first black-owned bank. In addition to his years as NAACP president, Felmers also served as president of the Milwaukee Urban League, and in 2000, Gov. Tommy Thompson dedicated Milwaukee's new men's correctional center on N. 30th Street as the Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center.

Mr. Speaker, the Milwaukee community stands in awe of all that Felmers did to give back to this community. He has left an indelible mark on me and on those who have chosen to enter public service as a career. Felmers has left a beautiful legacy through his family. Our community and the Fourth Congressional District of Wisconsin is a much better place to live and work because of him. I thank him for the many families and individual lives he touched over the years.

May God be with all who mourn in the days and months ahead. Along with my staff, I send my thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT
MICHAEL GREENFIELD**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Michael Greenfield of Clive, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Michael presented a Food Allergy Safety Seminar to a variety of local groups. The work ethic Michael has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Michael and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

IN HONOR OF MR. ROBERT
MACLEOD

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Robert MacLeod, and his service to the United States of America as a member of the United States Coast Guard.

Due to his exceptional service in the Coast Guard, Mr. MacLeod was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device. After serving our nation during the Vietnam War, Mr. MacLeod co-founded the Metrolina Vietnam Veterans Association in Charlotte, NC. He was the inaugural president of the United States Coast Guard Lightship Sailors Association of America at its inception, and led efforts for the establishment of numerous monuments honoring men and women who have served our country.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring Mr. MacLeod, a great American, and resident of North Carolina, the state which I am proud to represent.

HONORING FORMER SENATOR
GEORGE MCGOVERN

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, my dear friend, Senator George McGovern, passed away last October at the age of 90. He represented the best of the Democratic Party and the best of American politics. His voice and decency will be missed.

I submit two articles that pay tribute to this remarkable man.

[From the Nation, Oct. 22, 2012]

GEORGE MCGOVERN, THE "ATTICUS FINCH" OF
AMERICAN POLITICS

(By Jim McGovern)

George McGovern lived to be 90. By any measure, he had a long and productive life. Yet I can't help but feeling sad—not just because I lost my most treasured friend—but because the world lost a consistently steady and refreshingly liberal voice of sanity and common sense.

To me, George McGovern was the "Atticus Finch" of American politics. Like the main character in Harper Lee's brilliant novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* George McGovern spoke the truth even when—especially when—it was uncomfortable.

He spoke the truth about the folly of Vietnam and our excessive military budget. He spoke the truth about corruption in the Nixon White House. And he spoke the truth about the tragedy of hunger in the United States and around the world. He paid a heavy political price for his candor and honesty. But as he always said, "there are worse things than losing an election." George McGovern never lost his soul and he never betrayed his conscience.

In 1997, when I was being sworn-in as a freshman member of the United States House of Representatives, I asked him to stand by my side as I took the oath of office. During a rather long ceremony leading up to the big moment, I asked him if he had any advice. He gave me the same advice he received when he started out: "If you want to be a good member of Congress you have to get over the fear of losing an election."

Having just won a close, hard-fought election, I was expecting him to say: "keep your head low" or "don't make any waves." But George McGovern believed that serving in Congress was a rare privilege, that it was an opportunity to move the country forward instead of a constant struggle to get oneself re-elected.

I have tried to heed that sage advice as much as possible—although, to be perfectly honest, I haven't yet completely gotten over the fear of losing an election!

My first encounter with Senator McGovern was from a great distance in 1972. As a 7th grader in Worcester, Massachusetts, I tried mightily to get him elected President of the United States. While he lost 49 states, he did carry Massachusetts.

During my college years, I interned in his Senate office, and then in 1984, I ran his Massachusetts campaign when he tried again for the presidency. I will never forget his powerful appeal to voters to stay true to their own principles and values when he declared, "Don't throw away your conscience."

George McGovern was perhaps the most courageous man I've ever known. And it was not just because he was a bomber pilot in World War II, fighting against Hitler and winning the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service. I admired him for his guts, in being who he was, in conservative South Dakota. To oppose the war in Vietnam was not easy in the early 1960s. Yet, George McGovern's valiant and sincere position was right, and the voters of his home state sent him to the United States Senate three times.

He came across as a gentle man but he had a spine of steel. He was decent and kind. He wasn't afraid of the political consequences of his liberalism and never trimmed his sails for the convenience of the moment. His steadfastness used to drive his staff crazy. But every one of them knew they were working for a great man.

Senator McGovern was obsessed with the issue of hunger. He was ashamed that in the richest, most powerful nation on the planet, millions of our fellow citizens don't have

enough to eat. He led the efforts in the Senate—along with Senator Bob Dole—to expand food and nutrition programs.

He also couldn't tolerate the hundreds of millions of people all around the world who were hungry. I will never forget attending a meeting with the Senator and President Clinton in 2000, when George McGovern proposed an international program aimed at guaranteeing every child at least one nutritious meal a day in a school setting. Bill Clinton listened intently and then said, "Let's do it." That was the magic of George McGovern; he could get you to believe that anything was possible. And today, the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program is feeding millions of kids and helping them get an education.

At a recent celebration of his 90th birthday, he told me he wanted to live another 10 years to ensure that hunger on this planet is no more. He had a lot more work to do.

Like Atticus Finch, George McGovern never gave up. He loved his country and dedicated his life fighting for what is "just and noble in human affairs." The world is going to miss George McGovern. I already do.

[Center for American Progress, Oct. 25, 2012]

THINK AGAIN: GEORGE MCGOVERN—A
LIFETIME OF CONSCIENCE AND COURAGE

(By Eric Alterman)

George McGovern's passing on Sunday at the age of 90 provides further evidence, as if any were needed, that if you live long enough, even your adversaries will end up singing your praises. Consider first these attacks on the late senator and presidential candidate in the 1972 election.

Writing a few years ago in the journal *Democracy*, American historian and journalist Rick Perlstein quoted the following attacks on Democratic candidates by various Democrats and liberals:

In 2003, Al From and Bruce Reed with the Democratic Leadership Council wrote, "What activists like [Howard] Dean call the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party is an aberration: the McGovern-Mondale wing, defined principally by weakness abroad and elitist, interest-group liberalism at home."

The very next year, a Democrat worrying that Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) was veering left on Iraq during his run for the presidency was quoted in *The New York Times* saying the 2004 presidential nominee was "[c]oming off like George McGovern."

When Ned Lamont won the 2006 Connecticut Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate but lost in the general election to Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-CT) who ran as an independent, political journalist Jacob Weisberg recalled in the *Financial Times* how McGovern lost 49 states in his presidential run because of "his tendency toward isolationism and ambivalence about the use of American power in general."

Then there's Martin Peretz, the former owner and publisher of *The New Republic*, America's alleged flagship liberal publication for 37 years, who explained, "I bought *The New Republic* to take back the Democratic Party from the McGovernites."

This clichéd version of McGovern's politics was never accurate, but it became a stick with which hawkish journalists and politicians tried to beat back dovish ones. In fact, no Democrat, and perhaps no modern politician at all, can be said to have shown more courage, more grit, and more determination than George Stanley McGovern.

Yes, folks, the "elitist" liberal was born in the 600-person farming community of Avon,