

HONORING JAY PIERSON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Jay Pierson, Floor Assistant with the Office of the Speaker, on his retirement from over 34 years of dedicated service in the House of Representatives.

Jay has been an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism on a daily basis. His career in public service has been a testament to the importance of unselfish devotion.

I know firsthand of Jay's professionalism from my first day of advising on protocol, and he is always cheerful while providing counsel on proper parliamentary procedure.

As Jay embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment the outstanding contributions he has made to the United States House of Representatives and the people of the United States of America.

I would like to send Jay my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, and may his life be filled with health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote Nos. 627 and 628, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE RESCH

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor H. George Resch, who passed away last week. George was a lifelong champion of liberty, sound money, and peace who played a key role in the development of the modern liberty movement. I was privileged to know George as a business associate and a friend.

George was one of the liberty movement's leading experts on the dangers of government control of education. One of his most significant contributions to libertarian scholarship was an essay titled "Human Variations and Individuality," published in the 1974 anthology *The Twelve Year Sentence*. In this essay, George convincingly challenged the popular idea that government must control education in order to ensure "equality of opportunity." As George made clear, because all people differ in their abilities and interests, the only way the state can ensure "equal opportunities" is to prevent any student from excelling.

As important as George's scholarship on educational freedom was, his main contribu-

tion to the liberty movement was his work supporting libertarian scholars—especially younger scholars, who often lacked opportunities available to their peers who were willing to promote statist academic orthodoxy.

George began supporting promising libertarian scholars in the 1950s, when he met Professor F.A. "Baldy" Harper at Robert LeFevre's Freedom School. Harper immediately recognized George's qualities of mind and strong character, and eventually recruited George to work with the William Volker Fund. At the time, the Volker Fund was one of the few organizations dedicated to the development and promotion of libertarian ideas.

At the Volker Fund, George worked with many leading libertarians thinkers of the day to identify books and authors worthy of promotion and support. One of the people George worked with was Murray Rothbard, Ludwig von Mises' heir and the founder of the modern libertarian movement. George and Murray's friendship began when they discussed monopolies. George had heard that Rothbard was developing a theory of antitrust more "radical" than Mises', and wanted to learn more. The conversation resulted in a friendship that lasted until Murray passed away in 1995.

In 1961, George helped Professor Harper create the Institute for Humane Studies (IHS). IHS's goal was to expand the Volker Fund's mission of promoting libertarian scholarship by identifying and supporting young people with the potential to become leading libertarian scholars. George played a major role in helping to sustain and grow IHS in its early years. In fact, it is not an exaggeration to say that Baldy Harper never would have gotten IHS off the ground without George's help. The thousands of young people who have been introduced to the ideas of liberty through IHS's programs, as well as those who received academic and career support from IHS, all owe a debt of gratitude to George Resch.

In 1965, George helped his friends Murray Rothbard and Leonard Liggio publish *Left and Right*, a journal dedicated to preserving the "Old Right's" limited government and anti-imperialist ideals. As the title suggests, *Left and Right* also sought to create an alliance with the anti-imperialist and anti-corporatist elements found on the left. *Left and Right* was published until 1968. However, its influence is still felt today. The seeds that Rothbard, Liggio, and Resch planted are at last bearing fruit as a new left-right coalition has embraced the ideas *Left and Right* championed. This coalition of libertarians, liberals, and constitutional conservatives is working together to oppose militarism, protect civil liberties, end corporate welfare, and reduce the power of the Federal Reserve.

George also had a successful private-sector career working with Burt Blumert at Camino Coins. Burt and George truly were kindred souls, both tireless promoters and supporters of the ideas of liberty. Burt and George made Camino one of the country's top coin businesses.

George also worked with Burt at the Center for Libertarian Studies. The Center published the *Journal of Libertarian Studies* (among many other projects), the first academic journal devoted to the ideas of liberty. George also helped Burt and Lew Rockwell establish and develop *Lewrockwell.com*, the world's most-visited libertarian web site.

When I left Congress in 1984, Burt and George assisted me in establishing Ron Paul Coins. I worked with Burt and George until I returned to Congress in 1996 and had to end my involvement in the company. Getting to know George was one of the most enjoyable aspects of working in the coin business. You could not ask for a better business partner or friend than George. He never treated anyone with anything less than complete respect. He had a wonderful understated sense of humor, and like our mutual friends Murray Rothbard and Burt Blumert, a Menckenesque appreciation of the absurdities of modern American politics. George also never lost his ability to spot potential young leaders or counsel, assist, and spend time talking to young people interested in advancing liberty. My Legislative Director, for example, benefited from George's advice and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, George Resch's many friends in the liberty movement are deeply saddened by his passing. We are also grateful for all he did to build the liberty movement, and for the example he set for all of us who continue his work of advancing freedom.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN DELEÓN

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of a soldier, an inspiring community leader and a dear friend of mine who is no longer with us, Mr. John de León.

John was born in San Antonio, Texas on May 6, 1944. He began his career with the United States Army before going on to serve a long career with the Federal Government. Throughout his career, John was dedicated to community development, civil rights and human rights. As a result of his exceptional work, dedication and professionalism, he received several awards and special recognitions from community organizations and the Federal Government.

Once he retired from the Federal Government, Mr. de Leon went on to serve with the City of Houston, became Chairman of the Harris County Tejano Democrats, and later as Chairman of the U.S. Democrats Abroad in Mexico. Mr. de Leon not only spent his life as a dedicated public servant, but as a loving husband to his dear wife Irene, father, grandfather and dear friend to many. Please join me in recognizing his career of distinguished service and contribution to our great country.

DON'T LET FOREIGN AID FALL OFF THE FISCAL CLIFF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as negotiations to avoid the "fiscal cliff" enter the final stages, it is important that we keep in mind the potentially devastating consequences of across-the-board cuts. This is true not only for domestic programs, but also for foreign assistance,

which represents less than one percent of the Federal budget and is one of the most cost-effective ways of protecting our interests across the globe. Today, more than ever, our health, security, and prosperity depend on a world in which basic human needs are met, fundamental rights and freedoms are respected, conflicts are resolved peacefully, and the world's resources are used wisely.

In this regard, I commend to my colleagues an excellent op-ed by Sharon Waxman, vice-president of the International Rescue Committee. Her article in *The Hill*, "Don't Let Foreign Aid Fall Off the Fiscal Cliff," outlines the importance of foreign aid in saving lives and easing suffering for millions around the world.

[From *The Hill*, Nov. 30, 2012]

DON'T LET FOREIGN AID FALL OFF THE FISCAL CLIFF

(By Sharon Waxman)

With the presidential election behind us, attention has turned to the impending "fiscal cliff". By New Year's Day, the Obama Administration and Congress must identify \$1.2 trillion in savings between spending cuts, revenue increases and entitlement reform. Otherwise, most federal programs will be cut by a staggering 8.2 percent.

On the chopping block is foreign assistance, which provides lifesaving aid to millions of vulnerable people, including Syrian refugees fleeing horrific violence and seeking safety and help in neighboring countries. The consequences of having the budget axe fall on foreign aid at this time could be dire.

The Syrian conflict is in its 20th month and displacement into Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq has more than tripled during the last three. By year's end, it's estimated that 700,000 Syrian refugees will be spread out across the region, overwhelming the communities hosting them and fueling a humanitarian crisis.

Last week, I visited a hospital wing in Amman, Jordan, filled with Syrian refugees. There, I met a father from Homs who had been out buying bread when his neighborhood came under siege. Now he is paralyzed from the chest down from shrapnel wounds. His wife and eight-year-old son keep vigil at his hospital bed, day and night. Their alternatives are few. They either move to a refugee camp, a grim prospect as winter approaches, or become part of a massive, underserved and desperate urban refugee population.

Meanwhile, other large-scale humanitarian emergencies have worsened or unfolded in the past year.

An estimated 18 million people are food insecure in Africa's Sahel region because of chronic poverty and crushing drought, and four million children are malnourished. In Mali, conflict in the north, which has caused the displacement of some 400,000 people, has exacerbated its food crisis. Violence in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states of Sudan has forced 175,000 refugees to flee to South Sudan and an additional 65,000 to Ethiopia.

Violence continues to spiral in eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where fighting repeatedly uproots communities, disrupts food production and shuts down health services. And whenever conflict escalates there, so does violence targeting women. Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, a humanitarian crisis has worsened, with unrest and natural disasters uprooting more than half a million people.

All told, more than 44 million people are currently displaced by conflict around the world—the highest number in 15 years.

My organization, the International Rescue Committee, is on the ground in these and other conflict and disaster zones, responding

to pressing humanitarian needs. We see firsthand how foreign assistance is saving lives and easing the suffering of countless people.

The need for the United States to respond to global humanitarian emergencies is increasing exponentially at the very time that across-the-board cuts may go into effect.

While we appreciate the daunting budget decisions ahead, foreign aid represents less than one percent of all federal spending, and non-war foreign assistance has already been cut by 15 percent over the last two years. An additional 8.2 percent reduction in foreign aid will undoubtedly cut the very programs that enable the United States to respond to human suffering and foster economic growth and stability. It will put millions of lives at risk and set the U.S. back years in its effort to lift people out of poverty and reduce dependency. Such cuts would be shortsighted and would not solve America's fiscal woes.

America's continued leadership in foreign policy and foreign assistance is critical, but it cannot happen on a shoe-string budget. The U.S. government must have the right tools at its disposal to conduct effective diplomacy, encourage development and provide humanitarian assistance to effect positive change in areas where it's desperately needed.

In the weeks ahead, we hope the Administration and Congress will reach an agreement that moves America off this precarious fiscal cliff while preserving America's leadership in foreign assistance and its commitment and ability to protect the world's most vulnerable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, due to a family matter requiring my presence in New Mexico, I was not able to be present for a number of votes on the House floor this week.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 627, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4606, to authorize the issuance of right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines in Glacier National Park, and for other purposes, as amended, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 628, on motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3193, the Barona Band of Mission Indians Land Transfer Clarification Act of 2012, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 629, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6504, the Small Business Investment Company Modernization Act of 2012, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 630, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate Amendment on H.R. 3783, an act to provide for a comprehensive strategy to counter Iran's growing hostile presence and activity in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 631, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6621, to correct and improve certain provisions of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act and title 35, United States Code, as amended, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 632, on motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3642, the Theft of Trade Secrets Clarification Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 633, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6672, to reauthorize certain programs under the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response and for other purposes, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 634, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1845, the Medicare IVIG Access Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 635, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 668, to refer H.R. 5862, a bill making congressional reference to the United States Court of Federal Claims pursuant to sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code, the Indian trust-related claims of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma as well as its individual members, as amended, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 636, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6655, the Protect Our Kids Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 637, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3564, the Public Interest Declassification Board Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 638, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6016, the Government Employee Accountability Act, as amended, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING COLONEL MICHAEL J. MEESE

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Colonel Michael J. Meese, Professor and Head of the Department of Social Sciences at West Point. Colonel Meese is retiring January 18, 2013 after over 31 years of long and distinguished service.

As Head of the Social Sciences Department at West Point, Colonel Meese teaches economics and national security courses and leads the 70 military and civilian faculty members who teach political science, economics, and terrorism-related courses. He also leads the Combating Terrorism Center, the Office of Economics and Manpower Analysis, and the Conflict and Human Security Studies Program whose personnel both teach cadets and conduct nationally significant research in terrorism, Army personnel policy, and cultural studies. He serves as the Co-Chair of the Strategic Planning Working Group, developing the 2013–2019 Strategic Plan, which is critical to the long term future of the Academy. Previously he chaired the Academic Excellence Subcommittee of the NCAA Accreditation, which was instrumental to continued intercollegiate athletic participation. He chaired the Superintendent's Planning Team that examined the military program and developed the most significant recent changes to the military program at West Point: The consolidation of military science courses, the creation of the