

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4089) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing and shooting:

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I rise today to express my support for the Sportsmen's Heritage Act, H.R. 4089. This bill would improve access to public lands for our hunters, fishers, and recreationists. By passing H.R. 4089, we will ensure that public lands will continue to be used and enjoyed by sportsmen across the country.

While many of us support H.R. 4089, I do have reservations about some of the bill's details. Specifically, titles I and II of this bill require new procedures for approved closures of public lands. Federal land management agencies currently have a process in place for closures that includes public notice, review, and approval at the local, state, or federal level depending on the individual situation. I believe these decisions are best made by local land managers who are uniquely familiar with the lands, the people, and the potential hazards. I am concerned that adding additional closure approval steps by people removed from the local areas will delay, or even discourage, closures that are based on sound science, and for the safety of the people and protection of the environment.

I also believe that hunting, fishing, and recreation are often compatible with the goals of public lands, including wilderness designation. However, there are some activities that are not. Oil and gas development, mining, logging, and motorized vehicle use outside of designated areas counter the goals of current wilderness management. In addition, these activities also run counter to the intent of H.R. 4089 by further restricting sportsmen's access. These restrictions on activities in Wilderness Areas should be explicitly stated in the bill and should not leave any room for misinterpretation.

Finally, I am discouraged to see the incorporation of an amendment to H.R. 4089 that would undermine the ability of the President to designate National Monuments under the Antiquities Act. This is a process that has protected some of our most precious national treasures and cultural heritage sites. I agree that local support should be weighed heavily when considering National Monument designations, but additional legislative road blocks are unnecessary.

I commend my colleagues in the House for supporting sportsmen's access to public lands, and I hope to see their enjoyment continue in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. We need to keep public lands open when

feasible, while also allowing for closures in a timely manner if it is in the best interest of public safety or environmental protection. I look forward to working with our Senate colleagues to make sure these concerns are addressed as H.R. 4089 moves forward.

COASTAL KIDS PRESCHOOL

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize an incredible community effort in Maine at the Coastal Kids Preschool in Damariscotta.

The program at Coastal Kids began in 1995, and has since become a community staple, welcoming any child regardless of income or special needs.

Their hard work and dedication to quality and equitable education has given them a place of honor within the community. Which is why when they had to expand in order to better meet the needs of the community, stakeholders from all over the mid-coast came together.

On April 23, 2012, the Coastal Kids Preschool will formally unveil their new facility. With the help of many businesses and USDA Rural Development, an opportunity for a head start in life has been afforded to more children. I applaud this effort and wish the teachers, students, and parents all the best in their new home.

HONORING KAYLA COX

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Kayla Cox is a senior at Clear Springs High School in Galveston County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

The definition of democracy is a government by the people with the component of majority rules. The United States of America has an altered version of democracy known as a representative democracy. The model according to which our government

functions allows the opportunity to be as close to a democratic government as possible with such a large population. Many question what the importance is in being involved in the political process. Being an active participant in politics is necessary to protect the interests of this diverse nation and is a demonstration of respect for our country.

America is composed of people from all backgrounds; including ethnicity, economic level, religious, and moral. Each person forms their opinions based on their previous experiences. This diversity and privilege to form our own opinions is a core value of our nation. If people were to choose not to express their opinions, whether it be through voting or various other means, then policies would not be as diverse. The government would start to represent the minority of the population, and would be run by the people for which that minority voted.

The United States was built upon the belief that people should have certain freedoms that cannot be taken away. Many individuals and groups have worked vigorously to mold our country into the desirable place it is today, and to extend those rights to more of the American population. In addition, they have worked to influence the extension of those rights to foreign countries. Americans have sacrificed their lives to give us the life of freedom we enjoy today. Participation in politics has shaped policies that, in turn, have improved the lives of fellow Americans. This participation can take many forms ranging from something as simple as making an issue known to coordinating with other people to directly influence elected representatives.

Although some people may believe that they cannot make a difference by voting or raising awareness on an issue, the proof that they can lies in the stories of the one's who did. Political Participation is vital to the policymaking process because the voices of the American people matter, and they are the key to maintaining this country's standards that have been set by those before us.

OBSERVING WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense respect that I rise today in remembrance of the many men and women who have lost their lives in the workplace and to honor those who have fought tirelessly to improve conditions for workers throughout the United States. On April 28, 2012, the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and union members nationwide will once again gather in various locations in observance of Workers Memorial Day. The great men and women of America's unions will pause to pay tribute to the many workers whose lives have been lost, and the millions who have become ill, due to accidents and unsafe conditions in the workplace. They will also reinforce their commitment to improving conditions for future generations to come.

• 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.

In the United States today, an average of twelve men and women per day go to work and never make it home to their families, having lost their lives due to an accident in the workplace. Unfortunately, many of these accidents could have been prevented. Under outstanding leaders such as AFL–CIO President Richard Trumka, Indiana AFL–CIO President Nancy Guyott, and Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor President Dan Murchek, AFL–CIO union members have continued the flight of their predecessors to ensure that the lives lost were not in vain.

Since the passage of the landmark Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), the unions of the AFL–CIO have been instrumental in a movement toward the Act's goal that all American workers would have the right to a safe workplace. The AFL–CIO and its unions are to be commended for their contributions to the passage of OSHA and many of the subsequent laws and regulations involving workplace safety. It is because of the organization and demands of labor unions that employers and the government have acted to improve the quality of life of the American workforce.

In Northwest Indiana, the steel industry has played a vital role in supporting our local communities and stimulating the economy. On April 26, 2012, in accordance with Workers Memorial Day, United Steelworkers members will pay a special tribute to their fallen comrades whose lives have been cut short in the workplace. These fine men and women will forever be remembered by their devoted colleagues and a grateful community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in observance of Workers Memorial Day, and in remembering the many workers who have lost their lives on the job, while honoring the hardworking, loyal men and women of America's unions who have taken up the struggle to improve safety conditions in the workplace. The great men and women of our unions are the finest representation of America's workforce, and I am proud to represent the many dedicated men and women of labor unions throughout Northwest Indiana. Their unwavering commitment to their fellow workers is to be admired.

CONGRATULATING MARK DAHLBERG FROM THE VILLAGE OF GRANTSBURG ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 43 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable contributions made by Mr. Mark Dahlberg, a retired Trustee for the Village of Grantsburg, Wisconsin.

Mr. Dahlberg has served the public at the local government level for a total of 43 years—as Village President (1995–2009), and twice as a Trustee (1969–1995, 2009–2012).

During his time in office, the small northwestern Wisconsin Village of Grantsburg has seen unprecedented economic growth. Today, this town is considered to be the main manufacturing hub in Burnett County. With Mr. Dahlberg's facilitation, tax increment financing

and the expansion of water services became effective instruments allowing local industries to grow and expand. Mr. Dahlberg's top priority had always been increasing economic development and job creation in Grantsburg.

These accomplishments made by Mr. Dahlberg in Grantsburg illustrate an ideal relationship between the public and private sector. He has shown that government can work with business to create the environment necessary for sustained economic growth and development, even during difficult economic times.

I commend and thank Mr. Dahlberg for all of the years he has served the public, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending best wishes to him on the occasion of his retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the victims and survivors of one of the darkest chapters in human history, the Armenian Genocide. Today, April 24, marks the 97th commemoration of the first genocide of the 20th Century where Ottoman Turkish authorities ordered the systematic annihilation of more than 1.5 million Armenians. The Armenian Genocide was carried out from 1915 to 1923 through massacres, deportations, and death marches where hundreds of thousands were herded into the Syrian Desert to die of thirst and starvation. Sadly, to this day this chapter of history has yet to be admitted by the Government of Turkey.

Many international observers, including then Ambassador and later U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau, witnessed the nightmare firsthand and reported detailed accounts of the atrocities to their governments. Respected organizations and eminent scholars and historians agree and recognize the Armenian Genocide, including the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity and the renowned International Association of Genocide Scholars. Their judgments are supported by 53 Nobel laureates who signed an open letter to the Government of Turkey on April 9, 2007. I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a listing of those Nobel laureates.

Mr. Speaker, the historical record is clear and the Armenian Genocide is a tragic fact. It must be acknowledged and remembered so that it will never be repeated.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I know that the refusal of modern-day Turkey to acknowledge one of the worst examples of man's inhumanity in the 20th Century haunts survivors of the Armenian Genocide, as well as their families. As a Member of Congress from California, which is home to more Armenian-Americans than any other state, I believe this is not only an affront to the memory of the victims and to their descendants, but it does a disservice to the United States as it seeks to stand up for the victims of violence today.

The issue of recognizing the Armenian genocide and helping the Armenian people is neither a partisan nor geopolitical issue. Rather, it is a question of giving the Armenian peo-

ple the justice they deserve. In doing so, we affirm the dignity of humankind everywhere.

It has been said that "all it takes for evil to triumph, is for good men to do nothing." This is one of the reasons I am proud to have joined with so many of my colleagues in co-sponsoring the resolution affirming the occurrence of the Armenian genocide throughout my career in Congress. I will continue to do for as long as it takes.

In recognizing the Armenian Genocide we do not seek to persecute any person or state; we seek to build a path that will lead to reconciliation between Armenians and Turks. And in doing so, we will remain true to our nation's highest aspirations for justice and peace. It was President Lincoln who called upon the "better angels of our nature" when he said in his Second Inaugural Address that all Americans should "do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian Genocide has been officially recognized by 42 states. These States have gone on public record rejecting any claim or assertion that denies the occurrence of one of history's worst crimes against humanity. I believe it is time for us to join these nations in that endeavor by passing H. Res. 304, the "Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution."

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of the millions of silenced voices and interrupted lives of those Armenians who perished between 1915 and 1923 in the genocide committed by the Ottoman Empire.

LIST OF 53 NOBEL LAUREATES URGING THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Peter Agre, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2003); Sidney Altman, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1989); Philip W. Anderson, Nobel Prize, Physics (1977); Kenneth J. Arrow, Nobel Prize, Economics (1972); Richard Axel, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2004); Baruj Benacerraf, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1980); Gunter Blobel, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1999); Georges Charpak, Nobel Prize, Physics (1992); Steven Chu, Nobel Prize, Physics (1997); J.M. Coetzee, Nobel Prize, Literature (2003); Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, Nobel Prize, Physics (1997); Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Prize, Peace (1976); Robert F. Curl, Jr., Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1996); Paul J. Crutzen, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1995).

Frederik W. de Klerk, Nobel Prize, Peace (1993); Johann Deisenhofer, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1988); John B. Fenn, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2002); Val Fitch, Nobel Prize, Physics (1980); Jerome I. Friedman, Nobel Prize, Physics (1990); Donald A. Glaser, Nobel Prize, Physics (1960); Sheldon Glashow, Nobel Prize, Physics (1979); Roy J. Glauber, Nobel Prize, Physics (2005); Clive W.J. Granger, Nobel Prize, Economics (2003); Paul Greengard, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2000); David J. Gross, Nobel Prize, Physics (2004); Roger Guillemin, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1977); Dudley R. Herschbach, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1986).

Avram Hershko, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2004); Roald Hoffman, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1981); Daniel Kahneman, Nobel Prize, Economics (2002); Eric R. Kandel, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2000); Aaron Klug, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1982); Edwin G. Krebs, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1992); Sir Harold W. Kroto, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1996); Finn E. Kydland, Nobel Prize, Economics (2004); Leon M. Lederman, Nobel Prize, Physics (1988); Anthony J. Leggett, Nobel Prize, Physics (2003); Rudolph A. Marcus, Nobel Prize,