

RECOGNIZING THE 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF AZERBAIJAN'S REPUBLIC DAY

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Azerbaijan on its Republic Day. On May 28, 1918, Azerbaijan declared its independence from the Russian Empire—making it the first democracy in the Muslim world. Unfortunately, only a few short years later in 1920 Azerbaijan was invaded by the Russian Red Army and was subsequently incorporated into the Soviet Union. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan regained its independence in 1991.

Azerbaijan continues to be an important partner with the United States in counter-terrorism efforts and initiatives to bolster energy security with strategic allies. With its vast resources of oil and gas, Azerbaijan is a key component to help our strategic allies in NATO and other European countries diversify their energy resources.

Many of our strategic allies in Europe are heavily dependent upon natural gas from one source or from unstable regions. And the ongoing events in Ukraine are a stark reminder that the United States must enhance our strategic partnerships with allies in Europe and Eurasia. That is why we must continue to support initiatives such as the Southern Gas Corridor which will route natural gas from Azerbaijan to Europe.

The Caspian Sea region holds significant energy resources and proven natural gas reserves. In particular, the Shah Deniz field in Azerbaijan is one of the world's largest gas fields, with over 30 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas. The Southern Gas Corridor will help our European allies diversify their energy resources by providing an alternative and reliable source of natural gas. This will increase global energy supplies and create a more competitive natural gas market, helping to bolster energy security and help improve geopolitical stability in the region.

Successive U.S. administrations have supported the development of energy resources in the Caspian Sea region, including earlier oil and gas pipelines from Azerbaijan to neighboring nations, as well as developing stronger trade relationships and international partnerships with the countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

In fact, on April 2, 2014 Secretary of State John Kerry, in a joint statement with European energy leaders at a meeting of the EU-US Energy Council, stated "The Council reaffirmed the importance of the Southern Gas Corridor to bring gas to Europe, urged for timely construction of a dedicated, scalable pipeline which keeps the options open for additional supplies, and agreed to explore investments to strengthen gas supplies to Central and Southeast Europe."

The Southern Gas Corridor is an important starting point to provide Europe with an alternative and reliable source of energy. Establishment of the pipeline lays the foundation for opportunities for greater amounts of natural gas development and further pipeline infrastructure to bring additional energy resources to Europe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Azerbaijan on the 96th anniversary of its Republic Day.

HONORING WILLIAM H. COOPER

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Ranking Member LEVIN to honor William H. Cooper, Specialist in International Trade and Finance in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). Bill will retire at the end of June after 41 years of distinguished government service, including 32 years of invaluable analytical work for Congress and the Ways and Means Committee as a leading expert on U.S. trade policy and international economics.

Bill's authoritative, objective, and non-partisan support for Congress on international trade and economic issues is exemplified in his many reports, confidential memoranda, and consultative briefings. Over the span of three decades, his work for Congress has addressed nearly every major trade bill and U.S. trade law, as well as U.S. trade relations and negotiations with key U.S. trading partners and at the World Trade Organization. His deep expertise and knowledge have been vital to Congress and the Committee in particular in fulfilling its constitutional role on international trade.

I especially want to thank Bill for his substantial support on the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement and Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations; the international negotiations trade in services; U.S. trade and economic relations with South Korea, Japan, Russia, and Europe; the WTO global trading system; and Trade Promotion Authority. Bill's invaluable analytical contributions, intellectual leadership, and institutional understanding of these and other vital policy issues before Congress over these past 32 years will leave an invaluable legacy.

Bill represents CRS at its finest in serving Congress. I wish him the very best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM H.
"DOC" LONG

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William H. "Doc" Long of Oak Ridge, North Carolina.

Doc Long, a veteran who served under the command of General Patton in World War II, has for the last three years been a tireless promoter of the Carolina Field of Honor Memorial in Triad Park in Kernersville, North Carolina.

Ground was broken for this memorial in November of last year, and the project is now complete. I will have the privilege of attending the unveiling of this important monument on Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, it's our responsibility to ensure that our military remains strong and our veterans receive the care and benefits they have earned, but we should always take time to recognize those individuals in our communities who tirelessly work to ensure the sacrifices made on behalf of our nation are not forgotten. Doc Long is one such individual, I look forward to seeing him in Kernersville Saturday, and it's a privilege to recognize him in this House today.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR UNITED STATES ARMY COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR MARTIN R. BARRERAS

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Command Sergeant Major Martin R. Barreras, who died on May 12, 2014 from wounds he suffered on May 6 when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Harat Province, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his wife, Melinda; mother, Gloria; father, Ray; brothers Dave and Andy; three children, Calvin, Victoria and Amice; three grandchildren; and numerous friends.

Born in New Mexico, Command Sergeant Major Barreras spent most of his childhood in Tucson, Arizona. He attended Sunnyside High School before joining the military. In the last assignment of his long military career, he was assigned as the highest-ranking enlisted member of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team based in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Command Sergeant Major Barreras was on his sixth deployment to Afghanistan, after serving 29 honorable years defending our country in both the Army and Marine Corps.

Nicknamed "Gunny" from his time in the Marines, Command Sergeant Major Barreras was a great soldier. Over his career he earned 50 awards and distinctions including a Bronze Star with valor and two Purple Hearts. However, his illustrious career depicted through his medals will not be the only thing to highlight his service to our country. The men and women he led and fought with will always remember his selflessness and war-fighting spirit that will undoubtedly be passed on for generations to come.

As an Army Ranger, he helped rescue former prisoner of war Jessica Lynch from an Iraqi hospital in 2003. Command Sergeant Major Barreras was the leader of the Army battalion that conducted the successful rescue of Lynch. He personally handed Lynch to another soldier to transfer her to the helicopter that evacuated her from the area. Without any hesitation, he then led the fight against multiple attacks in order to retrieve all nine bodies of the other U.S. soldiers missing in action.

We remember Command Sergeant Major Barreras and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. I am heart-sick for their loss and my words cannot offer adequate consolation.

Everyone in our great country owes Command Sergeant Major Barreras and his family a debt of gratitude for his selfless sacrifice and courage. It is vital that we keep our men and

women in uniform who are in harm's way in our thoughts and prayers. I call on my fellow colleagues and all Americans to remember, on this Memorial Day weekend, Command Sergeant Major Barreras and his fellow fallen comrades—those who have paid the ultimate price.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4660, the fiscal year 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. I wish to highlight one area under the jurisdiction of this committee and germane to this bill: U.S. stewardship and the Internet.

U.S. stewardship of the Internet's critical functions has allowed the World Wide Web to

safely flourish and expand to endless horizons, enabling new ideas to spread and new markets to grow all over the world. It is clear that we have a duty to keep the Internet and its benefits to people worldwide fully safe from hostile powers overseas who seek to impede the free flow of information.

I am deeply concerned with the Obama administration's recent announcement that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), an agency of the Department of Commerce, intends to relinquish control over the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and "to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community." Thus I introduced H.R. 4367, the Internet Stewardship Act of 2014, to ensure that Congress has the final say in any such transfer of stewardship.

The committee report for H.R. 4660 notes that "[a]ny such transition represents a significant public policy change and should be preceded by an open and transparent process" and recommends no funds to be used by NTIA to carry out this transition. I agree. Specifically, the Obama administration must address a number of pressing concerns and demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt that its plan will accomplish crucial objectives, including but not limited to the following:

Ensure that ICANN does not fall under the control of authoritarian governments such as Russia or China or UN organizations such as

the International Telecommunications Union (ITU),

Create effective oversight of ICANN through the rigorous auditing of ICANN's finances and activities by an independent body, and

Confirm that ICANN has the technical capability to maintain the authoritative root zone and the ability to block any malicious attack on it.

Unless the Obama administration demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Congress, that its plan to transfer stewardship over these key Internet functions fulfills the common sense requirements described above and other key goals set forth by Congress, such transfer shall not take place.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on May 28, 2014, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 241 and 242. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 599 and "yea" on H.R. 503.