

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Goodlatte amendment. The Goodlatte amendment removes the federal backstops which ensure that states meet their responsibilities under the Clean Water Act to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay is a critical part of Virginia and we are already starting to see the results of successful Bay cleanup efforts. Virginia oysters are booming—last year the harvest was up 25% and passed the 500,000 bushel-mark. That is why Virginia is committed to working with EPA and other Bay states to clean up the Chesapeake. There have been hundreds of millions of dollars invested in this effort and federal backstops play an important role to ensure that all states do their share.

But this amendment puts our investments and progress at serious risk. This amendment suggests that it would preserve the rights of the states to write their own water quality plans. But the Commonwealth of Virginia already wrote its own water quality plan and the Total Maximum Daily Load submission was accepted by EPA. So in Virginia, this is simply not a problem. So to me, this amendment looks like an answer in search of a problem. A problem we do not have in Virginia.

But what this amendment does do is this. It creates a BIG problem for Virginia because it would allow upstream states off the hook. It would allow upstream states to stop their cleanup with no consequences. In Virginia, we would feel—and see—real consequences. We could see increases in dirty water flowing downstream, reversing all of our hard work.

If upstream states stop their cleanups, Virginia would need to double the work and more—and we would still not have a clean Bay. The fact is that this amendment would absolutely undermine the cleanup efforts already underway. It puts at risk future environmental and economic benefits that Virginia would accrue with a cleaner, healthier bay such as more abundant seafood, tourism, recreation, and improved quality of life. As the state at the bottom of the bay watershed, Virginia's success in restoring our part of the Bay is dependent upon what the other states do, or don't do.

This amendment would ensure that other states would write the future of Virginia's waters and the future of our Bay. That is why

I am working with my colleagues CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and BOBBY SCOTT to raise awareness of the dangers of this amendment.

I urge my colleagues to vote NO. It takes away our clean water future and our clean water investments. This amendment is bad for Virginia and bad for the future health of the Chesapeake Bay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I missed a recorded vote on July 10, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "NO" on roll call vote No. 433, H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act.

CONGRATULATING FRANCIS HOWELL HIGH SCHOOL FOR ITS PLACEMENT IN THE TOP 25 MISSOURI RANKED HIGH SCHOOLS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Francis Howell High School for its placement in the top 25 Missouri high schools as ranked by U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing Francis Howell High School for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING U&S SERVICES INC. FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize U&S Services Inc. for its 25th Anniversary of service to our community. With corporate offices centered in the city of Tonawanda in New York's 26th Congressional District, U&S Services has established itself as a leader in building controls services in Western New York.

Founded in 1990 with the desire to be at the very forefront of technical growth in the industry and with a firm commitment to excellence, U&S Services this year celebrates a quarter century of outstanding work in a highly com-

petitive and critically important field. Boasting a highly experienced staff of technicians, engineers, and business professionals, U&S Services offers a vast array of services to its customers. From energy and security systems to fire and life safety monitors and video surveillance, U&S combines traditional approaches with state-of-the-art innovations essential to the smooth operation of business facilities of all sizes throughout its coverage network.

In its 25 year history U&S Services has participated and continues to lead thousands of projects both large and small, including work on several notable Buffalo area landmarks and institutions. From the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport to Roswell Park Cancer Institute, from First Niagara Center to the Darwin D. Martin House, U&S Services' ubiquitous presence demonstrates why it remains an industry leader.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor and recognize U&S Services and I ask that all of our colleagues join me in congratulating U&S Services on a quarter-century of excellence in business, and to commend it for the exemplary work it has done to enrich the communities of Western New York.

177TH ANNIVERSARY OF METROPOLITAN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 177th Anniversary of Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. For 177 years Metropolitan A.M.E. Church has stood at the forefront of the fight for social justice and equality.

Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, often referred to as the National Cathedral of African Methodism, was formed by the unification of Israel Bethel and Union Bethel. The churches united as a reaction to the dissatisfaction among African-Americans over racial segregation at Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church. Their decision to stand together as one body in the face of unwarranted racism and to work for the advancement of the black community was both courageous and heroic.

On July 6, 1838, the Baltimore Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church officially welcomed Union Bethel to the greater community. In 1872, the name was officially changed to Metropolitan A.M.E. when the Baltimore Conference authorized construction of a new church that would be built in "close proximity" to the White House and the United States Capitol.

The cornerstone for the new church was laid in 1881, and a stained glass window was dedicated to each contributing Annual Conference that invested in the church's construction.

• 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.

Since its founding, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church has played a pivotal role in seeking justice for African-Americans. From leading anti-slavery efforts and harboring runaway slaves to providing AIDS awareness and registering voters, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church has always been on the forefront of transformative change.

Metropolitan A.M.E. Church serves as a sanctuary to all, providing not only a place for worship but also a safe haven. For 177 years, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church has met the needs of the community and has influenced the civic, cultural, and intellectual lives of African-Americans.

Their walls hold the memories and wisdom of illustrious guests like Frederick Douglass and Eleanor Roosevelt who addressed the most pressing social issues that plagued our growing nation. Metropolitan A.M.E. Church has hosted numerous historic events including the official pre-Inaugural prayer services for President William Jefferson Clinton in 1993 and 1997—thus becoming the first African-American church to ever serve in such a capacity. Likewise, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church hosted the National Memorial Service for Mrs. Rosa Parks, the mother of the modern American Civil Rights movement.

Most recently, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church opened its doors to the community in the aftermath of the June 17, 2015, church shooting at Mother Emanuel in Charleston, South Carolina. Hundreds came to Metropolitan A.M.E. Church to honor the nine victims and to seek comfort in the church's warm embrace.

Metropolitan A.M.E. Church follows in the rich tradition and mission of its parent denomination, the historic African Methodist Episcopal Church. The African Methodist Episcopal Church was born in protest of slavery and racial discrimination in 1787, after members of the Free Africa Society were forced off their knees as they prayed at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was at this moment that the members of the Free African Society realized that when it came to the American Methodist Church, their shackles had not yet been removed.

Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, and other free blacks established the African Methodist Episcopal Church as a refuge from racism—a safe place to worship in spite of the opposition they received as members of St. George's Church. Their journey to establish a new church denomination was not easy, but the seeds they planted soon grew. In the waning days of the Confederacy, the membership of the African Methodist Episcopal Church grew rapidly, as the Union army permitted church members to recruit newly freed slaves.

Metropolitan A.M.E. Church rose out of this rich legacy, and became a powerful agent for change in its own right. Metropolitan A.M.E. Church has played a vital role in our history, standing tall as a cornerstone of its community through the test of time. This tradition continues today, and will continue well into the future.

On a personal note, I am pleased to serve as the keynote speaker for the 177th Anniversary Service on July 12, 2015. It is a high honor to have the opportunity to celebrate the 177 years of contributions and exemplary service of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. It is a privilege to stand in the same pulpit as es-

teemed guests such as Paul Laurence Dunbar, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Dorothy I. Height. As a life member of the historic Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma, Alabama, I can truly say that it was the support of my church family and the teachings of African Methodist Episcopal Church ministry that helped me grow into the woman I am today.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of the 177th Anniversary of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church on this distinguished occasion. May the glory of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church continue to grow and prosper for years to come.

AFRICA'S DISPLACED PEOPLE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last year, nearly 60 million people were displaced worldwide. In fact, one out of every 122 people on Earth today is either a refugee, internally displaced in their home country or seeking asylum in another country.

In sub-Saharan Africa, there are more than 15 million displaced people. Of that total, 3.7 million are refugees and 11.4 million are internally displaced. These disruptions of normal life in Africa are caused by conflicts such as in Somalia, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Burundi, Western Sahara and elsewhere. These disruptions not only affect those who are displaced, but also the people in whose communities these displaced people are relocated.

African refugees and internally displaced people face numerous issues—from security in the places in which they seek refuge, to death and mayhem trying to reach places of refuge, to conflict with surrounding populations to warehousing that consigns generations to be born and live in foreign countries.

A hearing I held yesterday examined the various issues displaced people face and the U.S. response to these conditions in order to determine the effectiveness of our government's efforts to help and to determine whether course corrections are necessary.

The terrible plight of African refugees has been much in the news in recent months because of the death of thousands trying to reach Europe across the Mediterranean Sea and attacks on refugees in South Africa reportedly caused by xenophobia.

On the South African case, I sent two members of my staff to southern Africa last month to look into the incidents of violence against refugees in South Africa. What they found was appalling. Despite a very generous set of laws and programs to enable immigration into South Africa, refugees were often refused medical service at hospitals that supposedly offer free medical care to all people.

Apparently, no matter what the law in South Africa says, staff who screen patients often simply refuse to allow people they consider foreigners to receive medical care. According to refugees who spoke with my staff, this has meant that refugee women have had to give birth on the floor of hospitals while hospital staff refused to provide services.

As for those refugees trying to cross the Mediterranean to seek sanctuary in Europe,

more than 1,800 people have died making that trip this year as of early June. On the cover of the April 25th issue of *The Economist* magazine, the failure of the nations of Europe to devise a workable, humane policy toward those fleeing to their continent was described as “a moral and political disgrace.”

Many of the refugees trying to cross the Mediterranean are Eritreans, who also have fled persecution and repression at home through the Gulf of Aden and also through the Sinai Peninsula, where they are often at the mercy of ruthless Bedouin groups, who traffic them or hold them for ransom. Eritrea is a closed society, so our knowledge of conditions there comes mostly from refugees, but one has to ask how bad must conditions there be if so many Eritreans are willing to risk their lives and well-being to find refuge almost anywhere else?

Unresolved conflicts have forced many refugees to experience protracted stays in foreign countries. For example, refugees have not only had children but also grandchildren in camps in Kenya and Algeria. After more than two decades, the situation in Somalia remains unresolved, and Somali refugees are unable to resume their lives in their homeland. Yet they face an increasingly hostile Kenyan environment in which the government is unwilling to allow Somalis to establish financial independence outside refugee camps.

In Algeria, Sahrawis, refugees from the Western Sahara territory under the control of Morocco, have lived in camps in western Algeria since being chased out of the territory by the advance of hundreds of thousands of Moroccans in 1975. The Government of Algeria not only provides a home for the Sahrawis, but also supplies access to free education and health care. Still, income-generating activities by Sahrawis are discouraged to prevent competition with local Algerians.

Internally displaced persons also face serious challenges. In Nigeria, for example, more than 1.5 million people from northeastern Nigeria have fled attacks by Boko Haram and resulting Nigerian military activities. However, Nigeria is a patchwork of 36 states whose creation over the years has inflamed ethnic and religious tensions as state majorities became minorities suddenly. The Nigerian IDPs are generally living in communities rather than camps. The longer they remain in their current areas, the greater the chance their presence will inflame new unrest as the ethnic and religious balance in their new areas is again changed abruptly.

The United States and the rest of the international community face serious challenges in addressing the displacement of so many people. According to U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, the “international response capacities are overstretched by the unprecedented rise in global forced displacement.” We must carefully consider the U.S. role in meeting the increasing challenge of Africa's displaced people, taking into consideration our moral imperative to help those in need, as well as strategic interests in preventing the kind of neglect that makes terrorist recruitment among displaced people easier than it should be.