

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WELLES DECLARATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Welles Declaration.

Issued on July 23, 1940, by United States Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles, this declaration condemned the Soviet Union's aggression against, and annexation of, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

This strong statement was the first announcement of the historic policy of non-recognition that was pivotal to empowering the resistance by democratic movements behind the Iron Curtain.

Until the restoration of their independence, the United States maintained strong support for the freedom of these Baltic States and their people.

Mr. Speaker, at this particular moment in history, I believe this anniversary holds even more significance.

History has a way of repeating itself. Mr. Speaker, and as we see aggressive military campaigns seeking to illegally gain dominance over nations' sovereign territory, we must have the same courage of our predecessors to stand against tyranny and support those who yearn for democracy, freedom, and independence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to remember the role our nation had 75 years ago supporting Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in their aspirations for freedom, and commend those nations today for their commitment to democratic governance, their contributions to NATO, and the critical role they each play in promoting democratic ideals worldwide.

HONORING BILL TOWNSEND

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill Townsend, who will be ninety-nine years old on August 13, 2015, for his many years of service to Mendocino County.

Since 1947, Mr. Townsend has dedicated his time, talent, and energy to the health of our forests and rivers, and to the youth of Mendocino County. A lifelong sportsman, Mr. Townsend has demonstrated an enduring commitment to preserving our natural resources for future generations. For sixty years, he has volunteered his time, beginning with his work at the Iron Gate Fish Hatchery in 1955. His contributions have included everything from fish ladders, Pike Minnow Derbies, stream restoration projects, and 43 years of

grilling fish at the "World's Largest Salmon Barbeque" in Fort Bragg, California, which raises funds for fisheries.

With his dedication to fish habitat restoration, it was fitting that in 1973 the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors appointed Bill to the Mendocino County Fish and Game Commission where he served as chairman for 15 years until he retired in 1988. Throughout his tenure on the commission, Mr. Townsend worked tirelessly to support healthy fisheries and integrate youth education into the Commission's projects.

Mr. Townsend served as president of Salmon Unlimited for three years starting in 1991, where he played an instrumental role in the development of the hatchery on Rowdy Creek on the Smith River. Included in his legacy of accomplishments is his work to secure the fish hatchery at Coyote Dam, which was completed in 1996 and renamed the "Bill Townsend Fish Hatchery" in 2004. He also served his community on the Russian River Flood Control Board for five years from 2005–2010, "retiring" at the age of 97.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor and thank Bill Townsend for his many years of dedicated service. I am privileged to express deep appreciation to Mr. Townsend for his profound impacts on our rivers and convey to him my best wishes on his ninety-ninth birthday.

TRIBUTE FOR CONNIE NEAL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a leader in the fight against drug abuse in Kentucky, Ms. Connie Neal, upon her upcoming retirement from the Administration Office of the Courts, as the Drug Court General Manager for Kentucky.

Connie Neal received her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Morehead State University in 1985 and a Master's Degree from the University of Kentucky in 1992. She has more than 22 years of experience in the field, ranging from working with court committed juvenile offenders, to the dually diagnosed mentally ill, to Child Protective Services, to Drug Courts. Since the inception of the Kentucky Drug Court Department in 1996, Connie has dedicated her career to this life-changing program, working her way up through the ranks and taking the helm as General Manager in 2012. Thanks in large part to her leadership, more than 7,000 participants have successfully completed the program, more than 1,000 babies have been born drug free, \$5.3 million in child support has been collected, and \$5.7 million court obligations have been paid. Today, Kentucky has more than 54 Adult Drug Courts, 5 Veteran Treatment Courts, one Mental Health Court, as well as one DUI Court. It is her sheer courage and conviction to provide individuals with a second chance in their dark-

est hour that has driven her efforts to expand services in the Commonwealth.

In addition to her tireless efforts for Kentucky Drug Courts, Connie has conducted workshops for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the Kentucky School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and Community Corrections and countless other partners and stakeholders impacted by the national drug abuse epidemic.

Connie's passion and drive to help addicts achieve long-term recovery has been instrumental to the growth and success of Drug Courts across the Commonwealth. In fact, she has developed an expertise in training judges, teams and staff in nearly every county, helping each leader confront the daily challenges of Drug Court with tremendous grace.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible impact that Connie Neal has made in the efficiency and effectiveness of Drug Courts in Kentucky, evidenced by the thousands of individuals who have been reunited with loved ones and are now living as productive, drug-free citizens of the Commonwealth. May her years of retirement be richly blessed.

CELEBRATING SHAPIRO & COMPANY'S 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Samuel Shapiro & Company, Inc., a Customs brokerage and freight forwarding firm in Baltimore, on 100 years of service to the international trade community.

In 1915, Samuel Shapiro, a newly licensed Customs House broker, opened a one-room office at 29 S Gay Street with a \$5 roll top desk and two employees. He built his company on a foundation of integrity, respect and the ability to create change. During World War I, Samuel's young firm managed the U.S. government's grain exports to war-torn European countries out of the Port of Baltimore. As business expanded internationally, Shapiro & Co. earned a reputation as the most trustworthy shipping firm in Baltimore. Samuel became an influential leader in the expansion of the Port and advocated for an autonomous Maryland Port Authority. Samuel's son, Sigmund, strengthened the company's relationship with government officials at the local, state and national level, becoming a voice for the industry on regulation.

More than a family business, Shapiro & Co. is a family that cares for its own and its community. Samuel began the tradition of philanthropy early. At the close of his first full year of business, and having made a modest profit of \$50, he gave 20% to the American Jewish Relief Fund. That spirit of generosity has continued with the deep community involvement

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of Sig and Barbara Shapiro and the next generation leadership of Samuel's granddaughter, Marjorie. Shapiro & Co. sponsors a logistics class at the University of Baltimore Business School, consults with nonprofit organizations pro bono, matches its employees' charitable contributions and helps its employees' children pay for college. With annual retreats and crab feasts, birthday celebrations, and a company cookbook, the people at Shapiro & Co. enjoy the time they spend together. It is little wonder that Shapiro is consistently ranked one of the top places to work in Baltimore.

Over the last century, Shapiro & Co. has managed not only to adapt to new challenges but to flourish. Its offices now reach from New York to Georgia, but Shapiro continues to value the same old-fashioned customer service established at Sam's roll-top desk in 1915. I thank Shapiro & Co. for 100 years of dedication to its customers, care for its employees, and leadership in its community, and I look forward to the 100 years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3175, THE ASSURING CONTRACTING EQUITY ACT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce H.R. 3175, the Assuring Contracting Equity Act.

This legislation promotes economic development for many of the small businesses and communities that were hit the hardest by our country's recession and are still struggling to recover.

As I tour small businesses in my district, I am constantly reminded of the critical contribution they make to our communities. But too often our small businesses can't access or are unable to take advantage of federal contracting opportunities. By raising the contracting goal, the government will need to be more proactive in its outreach to small businesses. More contracts will help small businesses grow and hire more workers, empowering them to continue to give back to our communities.

The Assuring Contracting Equity Act will expand opportunities for small businesses to secure contracts with the federal government; particularly businesses owned by women, veterans, and minorities. The bill also provides increased access to government contracts for small businesses located in economically distressed areas known as Historically Underutilized Business Zones, or HUBZones.

In addition, the ACE Act improves accountability and transparency by requiring the Small Business Administration to report the percentage of all federal contracting dollars that are awarded to small businesses as well as direct agencies to prioritize large contractors that maximize subcontracts to small businesses.

In my district and across the country, small business owners are striving to succeed. The Assuring Contracting Equity Act could redirect an additional \$10 billion in business every year to the nation's smallest companies, giving entrepreneurs the potential to expand their businesses and continue creating jobs and growing our economy.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Assuring Contracting Equity Act to provide a greater opportunity for success to the small businesses that deserve it the most.

THE UNFOLDING CRISIS IN BURUNDI

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that I convened yesterday was extremely timely, as events are unfolding in real time in Burundi—a small nation that is often overlooked by the international community, including those of us here in Congress.

Many are familiar with the horrific genocidal violence that gripped Rwanda in the 1990s, as Hutu and Tutsi butchered each other in paroxysms of ethnic hatred.

Few know, however, that Burundi also went through a protracted Tutsi versus Hutu ethnic struggle that also amounted to genocide in the 1990s.

Few know that Burundi, without much fanfare and without the largess that the international community showered upon Rwanda, overcame its divisive civil war and, following a peace brokered by Nelson Mandela solemnized in the Arusha Accords of 2000, has sought to heal the wounds of the past and rebuild a nation.

Today, however, this peace is under the threat of unraveling. The sitting President of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza, in apparent defiance of the term limits set forth in the Arusha Accords and memorialized in the Constitution, is seeking a third term. While the constitutional issue is complex and unsettled, the rising political violence and tension—not to mention the roughly 160,000 people displaced and seeking refuge in neighboring countries—is easy to understand, and serves as a canary in the coal mine.

Now there is a window of opportunity for action, where immediate and sustained attention can prevent the situation from escalating out of control.

As in the case of the Central African Republic, over which we held two critical hearings in the last Congress, timely attention and targeted intervention can stop an incipient conflict from metastasizing. Burundi is now approaching a tipping point, though it has yet to topple over.

There is still time, and we in Congress have a role to play in sounding the alarm and prodigding the administration to take action, followed by oversight. We also need to avoid the temptation to be penny wise and pound foolish. As several of our witnesses explain, by spending a small amount to further democracy and governance efforts in fragile states such as Burundi, we can avoid much greater cost down the road—and I mean not simply the dollar-and-cents expense of humanitarian interventions, but more importantly, in terms of blood lost and lives shattered.

In Burundi, the administration must do more. While often-lonely voices such as that of Samantha Power have called attention to the need for atrocity prevention, too often the administration policy has been one of, if not malign neglect, then certainly non-benign neglect.

We saw this, for example, in the foot-dragging that accompanied the appointment of a Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region. In January of this year, then-Special Envoy Russ Feingold announced that he was stepping down. I called on the administration to find a replacement as soon as possible, as the circle of violence was beginning to widen in Burundi.

In May, for example, I stated that a failure to do so signaled a “disengagement when lives are at stake.” I was afraid that we would see a repeat of the administration's inaction with respect to the Middle East, where to date it has yet to appoint a Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia, despite Congress having created that position last August—almost one year ago.

At the beginning of this month, however, the administration finally appointed a Special Envoy.

In 2012, the administration, to much fanfare, created an Atrocities Prevention Board, following a Presidential Study directive which stated that “Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States.” The APB is supposed to provide early warning of mass atrocities, and mobilize inter-agency resources to stop such atrocities.

In Burundi, we can still make a difference.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER OHIO CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to my friend, mentor and predecessor, former Congressman Louis Stokes. Earlier this week the world learned of his cancer diagnosis.

When the Congressman first told me about his condition, I didn't know quite what to say. He had still been out, attending events and doing things. He never stops. It is easy to think he is immortal. Because he is a fighter. For more than 30 years, he tirelessly fought for the people of Ohio, and he is still fighting today. The first African American elected to Congress from Ohio, Congressman Stokes is the epitome of a public servant.

While in Washington, he was a trailblazer. He was the first African American to serve on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, and was a founder of the CBC Health Braintrust. He constantly fought to combat pervasive health disparities plaguing the African-American community and served as a voice for people of color and all of our nation's most vulnerable.

Congressman Stokes once said, “I'm going to keep on denouncing the inequities of this system, but I'm going to work within it. To go outside the system would be to deny myself—to deny my own existence.” His work has affected thousands. There is no one in Washington that does not know the name Louis Stokes, and no one who was not touched in some way by his work and his kindness.

He is always a gentleman, someone who made you feel good about being represented by him or just being in his company. When he speaks, people listen. Congressman Stokes