

REGULATORY INTEGRITY
PROTECTION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1732) to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1732, a bill which blocks efforts to clarify the Clean Water Act before agencies even produce a final rule.

There is consensus that the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act is confusing and has frustrated many in the regulated community. Two Supreme Court decisions and guidance dating from the Bush Administration has caused years of uncertainty and difficulty in the permitting process. Clarifying responsibilities under the Clean Water Act will ease those frustrations while protecting critical drinking water for our constituents.

The Administration has undertaken a comprehensive review process to solicit comment from all the stakeholders to rewrite the rules. While today's bill argues that the Army Corps and EPA have made insufficient effort to obtain input from the regulated community, there have been over 400 public meetings and hundreds of thousands of public comments. The public comment period lasted 207 days.

This bill would throw out that whole process and force the Administration to start from scratch, delaying regulatory certainty and clean water protections indefinitely. I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill and evaluate the merits of the final rule when it is released in a few weeks.

HONORING THE 21 CLUB
INCORPORATED

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization who has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, the 21 Club Incorporated. The 21 Club Incorporated has served as a support system to citizens of Yazoo County.

The 21 Club Incorporated is a non-profit organization founded in 1954 in Yazoo City Mississippi with the mission of rendering charitable and recreational services to its community. The club is one of the oldest in Yazoo City.

Beginning in 1965, the club has sponsored "The Mr. and Miss 21 Club Scholarship Pageant" with the goal of providing scholarships to deserving young girls and boys in the community to assist them in pursuing a higher education. In conjunction with the American Legion, they sponsor local boys and girls attending Boys and Girls State, a program where students from across the state learn about state government.

The 21 Club partner with local emergency management agencies in the event of natural disasters in Yazoo County. They offered assistance during Hurricane Katrina and the massive tornado that hit Yazoo County a few years ago. They also assist people when individual emergencies happen, such as, houses being burned and they often assist church youth groups when they travel.

They make an annual Christmas donation to the Yazoo County Department of Family and Human Services to help buy toys for less fortunate families at Christmas and an annual donation to the Boys and Girls Club of Yazoo City. The club also makes annual donations to elementary schools in the county to provide items such as: school uniforms, supplies, prizes and reward incentives, etc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 21 Club Incorporated for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as our nation commemorates the 23rd anniversary of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I am very pleased to join my friends in the APA community to celebrate their ongoing successes. As leaders in business, education, STEM, military, medicine and the arts, Asian Pacific Americans have made a significant impact on our nation's culture and prosperity. The story of the APA community is a testament to what is achievable in America.

This year's theme is Many Cultures, One Voice: Promote Equality and Inclusion. Many Asian Pacific Americans have overcome numerous obstacles including racial prejudice, language barriers and economic struggles. I am honored to represent a portion of the 1.1 million constituents living in New York City, which has the largest APA population in the United States. I have been impressed by their tremendous achievements, from serving in our Armed Forces and creating over 1.5 million small businesses today.

My Colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and I are dedicated to promoting the economic and social empowerment of the APA community as we work to secure comprehensive immigration reform and opportunities for all business owners. I am a proud co-sponsor of H. Res. 621, to recognize the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. Let us honor the heritage of the APA community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2015

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, last night, I was absent from votes in the House, and therefore, missed rollcall votes 228 through 232. Had I been present, I would have voted:

1) "aye" on rollcall No. 228, the Polis Amendment, which would amend section 5062(b) of title 10, United States Code to reduce the minimum required number of operational aircraft carriers the U.S. Navy must have from eleven to ten;

2) "nay" on rollcall No. 229, the Brooks Amendment, which would strike section 538 of the underlying bill, related to a sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Secretary of Defense review of section 504 of title 10, United States Code, regarding the consideration of allowing "DREAMers" to enlist and serve in the Armed Forces;

3) "nay" on rollcall No. 230, the Walorski Amendment, which would extend prohibitions and further restrict the transfer of detainees located at the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba;

4) "aye" on rollcall No. 231, the Smith (WA) Amendment, which would provide a framework for closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and

5) "nay" on rollcall No. 232, the McCaul Amendment, which would amend section 2576a of title 10, United States Code to add border security activities to the list of activities deemed suitable for the Department of Defense to transfer excess property to federal and state agencies.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Police Week. We take this time to honor local, state and federal law enforcement officers for their tireless dedication. We also remember those who have been killed in the line of duty.

Every day, brave men and women across the country put on the uniform, pin on the badge, and place themselves in harm's way to serve and protect our communities.

I grew up in a small town outside of Temple, Texas. When I was 5 or 6 years old, my dad took me to watch a parade in Temple. I noticed a man standing at the curb who was not in the parade, just watching it and the people in the crowd. Of course, it was a local police officer.

When my dad saw me watching this individual, he told me something I never forgot, "If you are ever in trouble, if you ever need help, go to the person who wears the badge because they are a cut above the rest of us."

Those words were true then and are true today. When people are in trouble and need help, who do they go to?

Peace officers.

These peace officers serve as the barrier between the law and the lawless, and they are all that separate us from the criminals and bad guys.

Everyone remembers where they were on 9/11 when they learned of the terrorist attack. I was driving to the courthouse in Houston, listening to the radio when it was interrupted with news about the airplane that crashed into the World Trade Center. As I continued, I heard that a second plane had crashed into the Second Tower, then another plane crashed in Pennsylvania, and then a fourth

plane crashed not far from here, into the Pentagon.

As thousands of people ran away from the terrorist attack in New York, a much smaller group ran in the opposite direction—towards the scene of the attack—to help. This group was comprised of emergency technicians, firefighters, and peace officers. Seventy-two peace officers gave their lives that day. They, along with other first responders, gave the ultimate sacrifice so that others could live.

This week we gather to honor peace officers from across the country for their service and sacrifice. We honor them because they truly are, as my dad said many years ago, “a cut above the rest of us.” My home state of Texas is home to some of America’s finest lawmen.

During my 22 years as a judge, I had the distinct privilege of working alongside many of them. These peace officers put their lives on the line each and every day to protect us all.

But that protection comes at a price. Almost 60,000 lawmen each year are injured in the line of duty, and an average of 150 officers are killed in the line of duty each year. In 2014, 117 law enforcement officers were killed; 11 of these brave souls were from the great state of Texas:

Mark Uland Kelley of the Trinity University Police Department;

Detective Charles Dinwiddie of the Killeen Police Department;

Sergeant Paul A. Buckles of the Potter County Sheriff’s Office;

Chief of Police Lee Dixon of the Little River Academy Police Department;

Chief of Police Michael Pimentel of the Elmendorf Police Department;

Border Patrol Agent Tyler R. Robledo of the United States Department of Homeland Security—Customs and Boarder Protection—United States Border Patrol;

Senior Deputy Jessica Laura Hollis of the Travis County Sheriff’s Office;

Sergeant Michael Lee Naylor of the Midland County Sheriff’s Office;

Deputy Sheriff Jesse Valdez, III of the Harris County Sheriff’s Office;

Constable Robert Parker White of the El Paso County Constable’s Office—Precinct One; and

Sergeant Alejandro “Alex” Martinez of the Willacy County Sheriff’s Office.

These 10 men and 1 woman represent all that is good and right in our country. This week we remember those brave Texas officers and all officers who have been killed or wounded in the line of duty. And we say “thank you” to the thousands of men and women who continue to serve.

And that’s just the way it is.

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION
61ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2015

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday marks the 61st anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

Since that decision, countless American children of color have benefited from increased access to opportunities in education.

However, we must continue to do more to address the opportunity gap in education.

Because I have dedicated my life to education and to being a champion for disadvantaged young men and boys of color, I know that we must continue to invest time and resources.

We must expand mentorship programs like my 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project and initiatives like the President’s My Brother’s Keeper so more boys and young men of color have the support and encouragement they need to succeed.

As we commemorate Brown v. Board of Education, let us remember that, while we have come far, we must do more to lift up and support our children.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this important legislation to provide for Congressional review of any final nuclear agreement with Iran.

It is the policy of the United States to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. That is my position, and it has been the position of both President Obama and a majority in the United States Congress.

As I indicated in a statement a few weeks ago, I support President Obama’s ongoing effort to work with our P5+1 partners to achieve a strong and verifiable agreement to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. This legislation makes clear that Congress must exercise its responsibilities in this process.

As the Administration has acknowledged, many important details remain to be worked out before the June 30 deadline. These include ensuring that inspectors are able to visit all nuclear sites in Iran, that sanctions only begin to unwind after the International Atomic Energy Agency confirms that Iran is complying with the terms of the final agreement, that the “snap back” of sanctions is assured should Iran violate the agreement, and that Iran implements an agreed set of measures to address the IAEA’s concerns regarding the possible military dimensions of its program. I will be carefully monitoring and reviewing the ongoing negotiations to determine whether the final agreement meets the objectives we established.

The legislation before us today ensures the very important role that Congress must play in this process. It provides that Congress will review this agreement and have the opportunity to act. Moreover, it makes clear that any repeal of sanctions legislation will require congressional action. As negotiations continue, I look forward to working with the president and my congressional colleagues to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. I agree with President Obama that it would be best if we can achieve that objective by negotiating a verifiable agreement. But I also agree with him that no deal is better than a bad deal.

Madam Speaker, the President and a majority in the Congress are united in our commitment to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Let us continue to pursue that objective together.

HONORING JAQUON M. LOTT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student at Quitman County Middle School.

JaQuon M. Lott is the son of Tiara Lott of Lambert, MS. He has been attending Quitman County Middle School for two years. He is active in many school activities such as football, basketball, track and field, student council, and choir. He also is an active hall monitor for Quitman County Middle School. Along with his many school and academic responsibilities, JaQuon also takes part in his community and participated in Support the Vote initiative that the Student Council sponsored in November.

JaQuon hopes to one day attend Mississippi State University or Alcorn State University to fulfill his dreams of one day playing in the NFL. A second part of his dream is to receive a Master’s Degree in Engineering.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing JaQuon M. Lott as a student who is goal oriented and making a difference in his community.

RECOGNIZING FAVIL WEST, NEVADA SENIOR OF THE YEAR FOR 2015

HON. JOSEPH J. HECK

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2015

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize and commend my constituent Favil West on being named Nevada Senior Citizen of the Year for 2015.

Favil is a resident of Henderson, Nevada, where he has lived with Pat, his wife of 54 years, since 2000.

A tireless advocate for southern Nevada’s senior community, Favil co-founded The Foundation Assisting Seniors to improve the lives of seniors in his own community through programs designed to assist seniors in times of illness, recovery, confinement at home, and coping with loss of a loved one.

Among the most pressing challenges facing our senior communities are the health and safety risks that come with living alone.

Favil worked with the Foundation Assisting Seniors to develop a solution to this challenge.

Last fall, Favil developed the HowRU Program, an effort specifically designed to minimize risks of living alone by maintaining daily contact with their senior clients.

The program calls the subscriber daily at a designated time to see if they are doing okay.

Think of the peace of mind that daily contact brings not only the seniors who participate, but also their family members.

That peace of mind is the result of Favil’s devotion to serving fellow senior citizens in his community. I congratulate Favil West on being named Nevada Senior Citizen of the Year for 2015.