

TARGET PRACTICE AND MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong hunter and clay shooter at the Ettrick and Holmen shooting ranges in Wisconsin, I have enjoyed passing on the Wisconsin hunting tradition to my two boys, and I know firsthand how important these traditions are for many Wisconsin families. That is why I'm concerned about the decline in access to target ranges and gun clubs throughout the nation over the last few decades. Target ranges promote safe hunting and responsible gun ownership, and they are often used to sight in hunting rifles before a hunting season begins.

I also believe it is important to ensure our federal programs are working with hunters and state fish and wildlife agencies to ensure that we can preserve local wildlife and their habitats for generations to come. However, this goal is threatened by a decline in hunters throughout the country—a recent study found that the number of hunters had declined approximately 16 percent since 2011. Hunters have generated billions of dollars for wildlife restoration and hunter safety programs through Pittman-Robertson (PR) funds, which come directly from excise taxes on hunting and shooting equipment. With fewer hunters, there is less money available for protecting our habitats.

As a long time member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I am a proud champion of legislation that supports sportsmen's issues, and as a former member of the House Natural Resources Committee, I have built a strong record of voting to protect our natural heritage. This bill supports both causes by giving states more flexibility to use their allocated PR funds to recruit and retain more hunters and recreational shooters through the development and maintenance of public shooting ranges. Under current law, there is a 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal cost share for all projects covered under Pittman-Robertson. This bill would adjust that cost share to allow states to use PR dollars to fund as much as 90 percent of the costs of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range. It also allows PR funds to remain available to states for up to five fiscal years (compared to two fiscal years under current law) for the use of acquiring land for expanding or constructing a public target range.

I will be pleased to see it pass the House of Representatives unanimously. The bill will go to the President's desk, where I am confident he will sign it into law.

HONORING DR. EDMUND SCHWEITZER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Edmund

O. Schweitzer III. On May 2, 2019, he will be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for inventing the world's first practical microprocessor digital relay for the power grid.

Before his breakthrough invention, utilities relied on bulky relays made of springs, magnets, and coils. Dr. Schweitzer turned these cumbersome and old systems into precise and reliable ones with a digital relay that is one-eighth the size, one-tenth the weight, and best yet, one-third the price! His multifunctional digital relay not only protects power systems, it also records data and identifies faults. As a result, he's inspired even more inventions that have become the standard features for protective data relays around the globe.

In short, Dr. Schweitzer revolutionized our power grid with computer-based protection and control equipment. Of course, what I'm most proud of is that Pullman, Washington, is home to his great success story. It's where he earned his doctorate at Washington State University in 1977.

It's also in Pullman where Dr. Schweitzer built his company, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL), which has created thousands and thousands of jobs in rural Eastern Washington since 1982 and is now a 100 percent employee-owned ESOP.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Schweitzer's professional work is electrical engineering, but his greatest invention is truly in human resources. He's led to create a culture of innovation, opportunity, and respect that has empowered people in my district to have an opportunity for a better life. Right now, SEL employs 5,200 people who develop and manufacture a suite of products that make electric power safer, more reliable, and more affordable for utility companies, mines, factories, hospitals, universities and data centers in 164 countries around the world.

I'm proud to call Dr. Schweitzer a friend and a mentor. It's not an exaggeration to say that his work is the fulfillment of the American Dream. He's a living example of the wonderful accomplishments that are made possible when the seeds of invention are able to grow freely without federal regulations holding them back.

This week, Dr. Schweitzer will have the amazing honor of joining Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse, Nikola Tesla, and Hedy Lamarr in the National Inventors Hall of Fame. On behalf of the 116th United States Congress and Washington's Fifth Congressional District, I'm proud to congratulate him and thank him for his ingenuity that will inspire many Americans for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING JOSEPH WAKELEY FOR HIS SERVICE AS CRAWFORD COUNTY TREASURER

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Joseph V. Wakeley for his retirement as Crawford County Treasurer. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to his community, Joe has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Joe has dedicated more than 45 years to the people of Crawford County and the state of Michigan. Since first taking office in 1973, Joseph has shown a constant vigilance in his stewardship and responsibility for the tax dollars of the citizens that put him in office. From starting as the youngest county treasurer in the state of Michigan to eventually becoming the longest serving, Joseph has never failed to put the needs of his fellow Michiganders first during his service. The trust that the citizens of Crawford County have in Joe is clear—not once during his 45 years in office has he faced a challenger during elections.

Outside of his service as Crawford County Treasurer, Joe has provided valuable support and expertise in other areas, including Rotary, the Jolly Redskin Canoe Livery, the AuSable River Canoe Marathon committee, Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church, Grayling's Project Rising Tide committee, the Beaver Creek-Grayling Townships Utility Authority, and the Michigan Association of County Treasurers. His impact on the people of Northern Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Joseph Wakeley for his decades of service to the people of Crawford County. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated public servant. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Joe all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ANDREW WEIBRECHT FOR HIS INDUCTION INTO THE SKI AND SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Ms. STEFANK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Andrew Weibrecht on his induction into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Andrew was a valuable and successful member of the U.S. Ski Team for 16 years. His foray onto the world stage began in 2006 at the Junior World Ski Championships where he earned a bronze medal. He then went on to the World Cup where he was on the podium twice and placed in the top-ten eleven times. Andrew captured his first Olympic medal, a bronze at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, and followed-up with a silver in the 2014 games. He won second place in the 2016 World Cup and soon thereafter announced his retirement. While participating in global competitions, Andrew would proudly wear the Lake Placid brand on his helmet as an official ambassador, demonstrating his pride in the North Country for the world to see.

Andrew Weibrecht's long and successful career is certainly deserving of recognition. He has always been a hometown hero to the residents of the Tri-Lakes region and certainly makes the North Country proud. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate Andrew on his induction and wish him the best moving forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Americans affected by Sarcoidosis and other related inflammatory diseases to observe April as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month.

Sarcoidosis can affect any part of the body and cause serious disabilities by forcing one's vital organs and central nervous system to become hyperactive. While this rare and devastating disease annually affects over 200,000 people throughout all demographics, there are significant racial, gender, and age-related differences, as it disproportionately impacts African-Americans, women, and individuals between the ages of 20 and 40.

Although research suggests the cause of Sarcoidosis is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression of the disease are still unknown. The unique nature of Sarcoidosis makes it an enigma in the realm of medical science, and despite increasing advances in research, it remains difficult to diagnose with limited treatment options and no known cure. Over the years, several of my colleagues and I have spoken on the House and Senate floors about this fatal disease. During the 103rd session of Congress, I introduced H.J. Res. 399, a House Joint Resolution designating Monday, August 29, 1994, as "National Sarcoidosis Awareness Day" while also urging my colleagues in Congress to support extensive research to find a suitable cure and treatment method for individuals with Sarcoidosis.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing April as National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month by acknowledging the need for more efficient research into the causes, diagnostics, and potential treatment options for Sarcoidosis. I am pleased to have the chance to bring a relatively unknown disease to light and to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with this life-threatening ailment.

HIGHLIGHTING THE VALUE AND
IMPORTANCE OF INTER-
NATIONAL STUDENTS

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the value and importance of international students in the United States. I am fortunate enough to represent numerous colleges and universities in my district. I have a deep appreciation for the important role these institutions play in providing opportunities for students around the globe.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the largest university in my district, enrolls over 10,577 international students from 116 different countries. Illinois State University boasts 502 students from 73 countries and

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has 368 international students from 24 countries—all of these numbers represent an increase in last year's numbers for each university.

I am proud to represent institutions like these that welcome the world's brightest learners. I believe that today's students become tomorrow's leaders. The former presidents of both Ecuador and the Philippines earned doctorate degrees from universities in my district, and I know that presidents and prime ministers all over the world have earned their college degrees right here in the United States.

Welcoming international students and scholars strengthens our diplomatic ties with countries across the globe and contributes significantly to national security and to our economy. International students are vital to our nation's fabric. Through the exchange of ideals, languages, and cultures, diplomacy is strengthened and our world is made a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS ABOLITION AND ECO-
NOMIC AND ENERGY CONVER-
SION ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2019, a version of which I have introduced since 1994, after working with the District of Columbia residents who were responsible for the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion ballot initiative, passed by D.C. voters in 1993. My bill still requires the United States to sign and ratify an international agreement to disable and dismantle America's nuclear weapons, to provide for strict control of fissile material and radioactive waste and to use nuclear-free energy. In lieu of joining such an agreement, this new version of the bill also gives the United States the option to ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Treaty). Many nations have already signed onto the Treaty. The Treaty was drafted by the United Nations in conferences in March and July of 2017, which is why I did not include it in my previous bills. According to the United Nations, the Treaty is "a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination." I am pleased by the international progress on this important issue.

Our bill continues to provide that the funds used for nuclear weapons programs be redirected to human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care, Social Security, restoring the environment and creating carbon-free, nuclear-free energy. The conversion to a peace economy would occur when the President certifies to Congress that all countries possessing nuclear weapons have begun elimination under an international treaty or other legal agreement.

The bill is particularly timely considering the ongoing nuclear threat from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Our country still has a long list of urgent domestic needs that have been put on the backburner. As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and that still possesses

one of the largest nuclear weapons arsenals, I urge support for my bill to help the United States reestablish its moral leadership in the world by redirecting funds that would otherwise go to nuclear weapons to urgent domestic needs.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM F.
ROGERS, JR., RECEIVING THE
CABARRUS COUNTY LIBERTY
BELL AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William F. "Bill" Rogers, Jr., on receiving the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award.

A Tennessee native, Bill began his practice in Concord, North Carolina in 1980 focusing on Family Law. Bill has a reputation of being professional, tactful and emotionally supportive to his clients while providing counsel during difficult times.

Bill lives in Cabarrus County with his wife Nanda, and three children, Hannah, Seth and Rachel. When he is not busy with his practice, Bill volunteers for multiple non-profits in the community, including Habitat for Humanity, Coltrane Life Center, Hospice of Cabarrus County, and Cabarrus Workshop. In addition to volunteering and spending time with his family, he enjoys both playing and listening to bluegrass, traveling to the beach, and riding his motorcycle.

The Liberty Bell Award is presented to an individual that educates others on and uphold laws that support American freedom. Throughout his involvement in Cabarrus County, Bill has helped many people regain their confidence in our judicial system by being a constant resource of knowledge. There is no doubt in my mind that Bill will continue to help the people of Cabarrus County with his unwavering commitment to serving others.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Bill Rogers as the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award recipient and wish him well as he continues to uphold our American freedom.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-
TIONS OF INTERNATIONAL STU-
DENTS

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to recognize the contributions of international students and scholars.

At a time when nations around the globe are increasing their efforts and deploying new strategies to attract international talent, enrollment in American institutions is on a decline. Ohio's 15th Congressional District, and the nation, benefit from these students, and we are at risk of losing this valuable talent.