

RECOGNIZING TOYS FOR TOTS
DAY IN MISSOURI**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program and their chapters in Southwest Missouri.

First established in 1947, Toys for Tots is celebrating their 75th Anniversary in 2022. They have lived up to their mission of providing toys to the less fortunate ever since then, providing over 627 million toys to more than 281 million less fortunate children nationwide. This is done with the help of local communities during the annual holiday campaign lasting from October to Christmas.

Southwest Missouri has three Toys for Tots Campaigns, in Joplin serving Jasper County, in Newton serving Newton and McDonald Counties, and in Springfield serving Barry, Barton, Camden, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Hickory, Lawrence, Polk, St. Clair, Vernon and Webster Counties. These three local Campaigns have done phenomenal work in bringing the joy of Christmas to those in need.

Missouri Governor Mike Parson has proclaimed October 1, 2022, to be Toys for Tots Day across the State of Missouri. I join Governor Parson and the Missouri General Assembly in congratulating Toys for Tots on their 75th Anniversary and wish them continued success for the next 75 years.

HONORING COOPER WERNER LOWE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cooper Werner Lowe. Cooper is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 410, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cooper has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Cooper has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 23 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Cooper has served 2 terms as Patrol Leader and also served as Troop Chaplain. Cooper has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Cooper coordinated and led the construction of a 12 x 16 storage shed behind a church that the Lowes attended.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cooper Werner Lowe for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF THE
PHOENIX INDIAN CENTER**HON. RUBEN GALLEG0**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Mr. GALLEG0. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Phoenix Indian Center, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

Founded in 1947, the Phoenix Indian Center is the oldest American Indian non-profit organization of its kind in the United States. Originally established to help Native Americans who traveled to downtown Phoenix to sell arts and crafts to support their families, the non-profit has successfully expanded its services to offer exemplary employment, education, cultural enrichment, and community engagement services for urban Native Americans. Additionally, the Phoenix Indian Center has continuously achieved its goal to "keep families intact and help them maneuver through difficult situations they may encounter."

By implementing their core values of integrity, accountability, adaptability, and respect, the Phoenix Indian Center has established resources such as job preparedness workshops, youth services, housing assistance, scholarships, and many others that have positive impacts throughout the Native American community. For 75 transformative years, I thank the Phoenix Indian Center, and I look forward to seeing what they accomplish next for our community.

STANDING UP FOR DOWNWINDERS
UNDER THE RADIATION EXPO-
SURE COMPENSATION ACT
(RECA)**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in continued support of the reauthorization of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). I first learned about RECA through my constituents over 10 years ago, and since then I have been determined to get justice for the victims of reckless federal government policies that injured thousands.

From 1945 to 1962, the United States government, through its military, conducted nearly 200 atmospheric weapons development tests as part of our nation's Cold War security strategy during an era when other nations were also engaged in nuclear weapons testing and proliferation. These tests exposed millions of innocent Americans to potentially cancer-causing ionized radiation from nuclear fallout. It is hard to believe today, but for over a decade the military was blasting tons of radioactive material into our skies. And this was the military that was supposed to protect Americans.

One report, from the University of Kansas, explained that "enormous clouds, pinkish-gray in color, rose up into the air, spreading out and reaching over nearby communities. At the time, not much information about these tests was available to the public, but the radioactive dust that fell from the clouds—gathering on people's homes, their cars, their clothes lines,

and their vegetable gardens—caused serious and harmful long-term medical issues."

The report further documents just one person's experience with the radiation delivered over their farm in Utah:

"Not till the 1960s were we really aware of the danger of those fallout materials. Mom and Dad were told that there was nothing to worry about, it wasn't going to harm anybody. And then people started getting sick! And passing away! And thyroid cancer was a big one, it was huge . . . and then our family lost that sweet little baby. Dad still thinks that it's the milk Mom drank, and then Mom later on got colon cancer, and none of that has ever shown up in her family. There's no sign of colon cancer anywhere in the family. And Mom died with colon cancer, and Dad and Warren were plagued with skin cancer, and I've had a bit of skin cancer myself. It's always a worry because, the people realized that the government were lying to them! Literally lying to them. And it just was sad, it was a sad situation."

When the injuries were discovered, Congress subsequently provided an apology on behalf of the nation and passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990, or RECA, to establish a trust fund for partial restitution to individuals—commonly referred to as "Downwinders"—who have contracted certain cancers and other serious diseases that can be directly attributed to the radiation exposure from the nuclear weapons testing.

The spread of radioactive material was not limited to Arizona, Utah and Nevada. It went essentially nationwide. The University of Kansas states, "While the areas surrounding test sites in the southwestern states are some of the most heavily affected, air currents carried the radioactive particles all over the country, and even beyond the borders of the U.S." This information came from the National Cancer Institute.

RECA was and is an effort to provide some very minimal compensation for the radiation victims. RECA is all we have now, even though it was too little and too late for many.

I have long led legislation that would reauthorize RECA and expand eligibility for Downwinders compensation by including qualified individuals who were exposed in any part of Clark County, Nevada, or Mohave County, Arizona—immediately downwind jurisdictions from the testing site that have been excluded from compensation for decades due to a drafting error. The exclusion of my constituents in Mohave County, Arizona is an egregious injustice. It's clear that the original legislative intent was to include all of Mohave County and that the partial exclusion is a drafting error in the statutory text: In 1990, RECA was passed with Mohave County included. Then in 2000, S. 1515 amended RECA expanding qualification to additional counties. The expansion of compensation to additional counties did not seek to exclude any jurisdiction. It only sought to "increase" Downwinders compensation to additional counties. In amending the Act, the House of Representatives stated in the House Report that Congress's goal in amending the Act was to "increase" the existing Downwinder areas to "include" additional areas. The House report makes clear that the drafters sought to increase the area that had been covered under the prior version and to add new counties. In reality, Congress added new counties to the affected area but also mistakenly eliminated a large portion of Mohave County. In short, legal malpractice in drafting

the statute cut out more than half of Mohave County, one of the most impacted counties in the U.S.

The statutory text is at odds with the stated goals of House Report 106–697 which states “S. 1515 would increase the Downwinder ‘affected area’ to include . . . the counties of Coconino, Yavapai, Navajo, Apache, and Gila in Arizona.” It says nothing about excluding any county. This drafting error has had a direct impact on people’s health and safety and has cost many of my constituents the compensation they deserve. I call for immediate rectification of RECA to clarify that the original text and later amendments never sought to exclude my constituents in Mohave County, Arizona from qualifying for Downwinders compensation.

But Madam Speaker, there is more. As the maps demonstrate, radioactive fallout was documented across the United States. It is not just Mohave County that should be included under RECA, but all contiguous 48 states. There is evidence of fallout in every state. Only the furthest west areas, such as L.A. escaped radiation. But Eastern California was exposed. For that reason, I am urging an amendment to RECA as we reauthorize it: RECA should allow claims from any person who lived in a documented radiation zone during the test years that later developed a cancer related to radiation exposure.

The government sacrificed its people to test the bombs. Moralists can argue if that was the right thing to do at the time. But today, 70 years later, the moral debate is irrelevant. The people have been hurt. Families devastated. They were unwittingly sacrificed as foot soldiers in a war they did not sign up for. At a minimum, the federal government today has the moral obligation to recognize their sacrifice and compensate the victims.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 19, 2022

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3895, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Reauthorization Act. This bipartisan legislation reauthorizes USCIRF through 2024 and demonstrates strong congressional support for its mission of promoting religious freedom as a core objective of U.S. foreign policy.

As the daughter of immigrants who fled religious persecution abroad, I believe the U.S. has a responsibility to stand up for the rights of religious minorities around the world. That’s why I’m proud to have joined Congressman CHRIS SMITH in introducing H.R. 7829, the House companion of S. 3895. I’m grateful to Rep. SMITH for partnering with me on this legislation and for his unwavering commitment to ensuring that all people can practice the religion of their choice without fear of persecution.

In 1998, Congress established USCIRF, an independent commission dedicated to promoting religious freedom through U.S. foreign

policy. In the years since its founding, the Commission has lived up to its mandate by issuing incisive reports about religious freedom conditions abroad, advising Congress and Executive Branch officials, and sounding the alarm when religious persecution occurs. Importantly, the Commission is independent from the State Department, ensuring that its assessments of religious freedom conditions abroad are not influenced by, or perceived to be influenced by, other U.S. foreign policy interests.

We live in an era in which religious freedom is threatened in much of the world. The Chinese government is perpetrating genocide against Uyghur Muslims; Christians in Iraq and Syria have been subjected to ethnic strife and the ravages of war; and the Burmese junta continues its horrific genocidal campaign against the Rohingya minority. It’s clear that USCIRF’s work is as important today as ever before.

By reauthorizing USCIRF on a bipartisan basis, Congress will demonstrate strong support for the Commission and its critical work to promote religious freedom abroad. I urge my colleagues to stand with the persecuted religious minorities of the world by supporting this legislation.

RECOGNIZING BIOHIVE UTAH

HON. BURGESS OWENS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, on December 2, 1982, the medical team from the University of Utah successfully implanted the first permanent artificial heart in the world.

Forty years later, Utah remains a trailblazer in healthcare innovation.

Over the past two years, I had the pleasure of visiting many Utah businesses at the forefront of the healthcare industry. I would like to highlight the impressive work a few of our homegrown companies are accomplishing in the healthcare space.

The team at Ortho Development Corporation works to restore mobility by perfecting the design, manufacturing, and distribution of surgical instruments used for total knee and hip replacements.

Xenter specializes in developing new wireless medical device technologies and digital health tools to address the latest challenges in medicine while helping Utahns manage their health information.

Canyon Labs is an accredited laboratory providing testing, scientific and technical consulting, and clinical research services for medical devices, pharmaceuticals, over the counter drugs, and biologics.

Ultradent is a global dental manufacturing company improving oral health throughout the world and ranked No. 9 best workplace by Fortune magazine.

My state’s pro-innovation regulatory environment, advanced medical infrastructure, and highly skilled workforce work in tandem to cement Utah’s invaluable role in the life sciences community.

Biohive, a collaboration of more than 1,100 companies representing Utah’s life science and healthcare innovation ecosystem, is the driving force behind the beehive state’s suc-

cess. The collective effort of local government, the private sector, and other stakeholders facilitated by the Biohive initiative has delivered remarkable results.

Utah is ranked No. 6 in the Nation for medical device development, and No. 5 for diagnostics development. Utah also serves as the epicenter for lifesaving catheter technologies and is a rising force in bio-pharma.

Additionally, the Bioscience industry in Utah supports 130,000 local jobs, accounts for 8 percent of GDP, and produces hundreds of patents for lifesaving medical devices.

Behind these extraordinary accomplishments are the pioneering spirit, grit, and kindness of Utahns. I am proud to represent the beautiful state of Utah, and I hope Utah’s success story serves as the blueprint for other states to emulate.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROBERT C. SHAW

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert C. Shaw, for his courageous service in the United States Navy.

Robert Shaw was born in 1924 in Saratoga County, New York. At the age of 19, Bob joined the United States Navy as a torpedo man’s mate on the USS *Tigrone*. Bob and the USS *Tigrone* began their war patrol at Pearl Harbor and then set off for Guam for engine repairs. The fleet then made their way to the South China Sea to help identify and intercept Japanese shipping boats. Beginning in April 1945, Bob and his fleet performed lifeguard duties off the coast of Hainan until Japan surrendered in August of 1945.

Bob was discharged from the Navy on December 21, 1945 at the rank of Seaman First Class. For his brave and selfless service, he was awarded the Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal.

Following his time in the Navy, Bob continued to lead a life full of service to country and community. After being discharged, Bob bought and lived on two farms, where he organized a 4-H Club for local youth to mentor and educate them on proper farm practices. Bob was also an active member of Optimist International, a worldwide volunteer organization, and the Freemasons.

In addition to his volunteer work, Bob contributed to the local community in a variety of ways. Bob owned and operated several local businesses including the Stage Coach Inn, the Crossroads, the General Store in Wilton, and Shaw Fuel, which is still in operation today.

Throughout his life, Bob showed exceptional dedication to serving his country and his local community. I am proud to honor Bob with the Saratoga County Veterans Association as part of the monthly Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony. On behalf of the 21st District of New York, I would like to thank Bob Shaw and his family for their service to the country and community.