

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.

CELEBRATING THE UNVEILING OF THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS MONUMENT IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I join the Western New York community in celebrating and honoring the service of African American veterans throughout the history of the United States military. For decades, our country ignored the unjust conditions in which African Americans had served in our armed forces. When others returned home from war, they were heralded as heroes. When African Americans returned home from war, our nation denied their humanity and their equal rights. Thankfully, a committee in Buffalo, New York has dedicated its time and energy into recognizing this reality. Now, the African American Veterans Monument will stand on the Buffalo waterfront as a constant reminder to all its citizens of the immense sacrifices that have been made.

From the Revolutionary War to the present day, millions of African Americans have served this country with valor. There are currently more than 360,000 African American soldiers in our military. We have an additional 2.1 million African American veterans. Over 200,000 African Americans served in the Union Army during the Civil War and over 1 million African Americans served in WWII. In total, 89 African Americans have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the most prestigious military decoration awarded to U.S. service members. This type of unquestionable loyalty and service cannot go unrecognized. Leaders in the Western New York community, led by New York State Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, were not about to let that happen.

This monument will honor our African American veterans in the same way they served our country: with integrity, strength, and resilience. The first of its kind, this monument will be unveiled on September 24, 2022, at Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park. The date commemorates the anniversary of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation Act, the law that first allowed African Americans to join the armed forces. Every aspect of this monument was carefully constructed. It will feature twelve black concrete pillars to symbolize all twelve major campaigns that African Americans have fought in. The top of each pillar is illuminated to represent the candles that families would put in windows to guide their soldiers to safety. These lights will continuously glow to remind us that service does not end when a soldier comes home; it is a commitment that can never be properly repaid.

Nevertheless, I trust that the African American Veterans Monument can be the first of many steps to thoroughly appreciate our brave and selfless veterans in the African American community. I am so proud to represent countless African American veterans and those who recognized the necessity of this monument. This is long overdue.

HONORING 70 YEARS OF THE MISSOURI AND ASSOCIATED RIVERS COALITION (MOARC)

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the Missouri and Associated Rivers Coalition (MOARC). Since its inception, MOARC and its members have tirelessly served the greater Kansas City region.

MOARC was formed in 1952, following a flood, with the goal of implementing better water management. Membership today consists of organizations, associations, companies, governmental units, and individuals, all of whom are interested in establishing better flood control programs and supporting conservation of land-water resources.

Since its creation, MOARC's members have fiercely advocated for the Kansas Third District and the rest of the region, advocating for projects like the Bush Creek Basin. Without their efforts, it might not be recognized as the cultural corridor of Kansas City. And thanks to their work advocating for projects like the St. Joseph Levee and Line Creek Watershed, the region is better positioned to take action on important infrastructure needs.

I've also had the pleasure of supporting MOARC's work while in Congress. Last year, I joined local officials to tour the Upper Turkey Creek levee project, for which I secured funding and MOARC supported.

I look forward to continuing my strong relationship with MOARC, their exceptional members, and their local land-water conservation efforts. Here's to many more years of responsible waterway stewardship in the greater Kansas City region.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF REVEREND MICHAEL RUSSO

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Reverend Michael Russo.

Throughout his life, Michael demonstrated his dedication to his faith and his passion for education. He earned his bachelor's in communications and later his Master of Divinity from Seton Hall University. Michael became an ordained minister in 1971 and was known from that point on as Father Mike. Father Mike was especially interested in political communications and American journalism. He earned a Ph.D. in American Social and Political History from New York University (NYU). His doctoral dissertation, which focused on CBS News's impact on American politics, received the 1983 Bayrd Still Award in Historical Writing.

Father Mike was eager to share his knowledge and passion for U.S. history with future generations. He began his career as an educator teaching Religion and Communication Studies at Seton Hall. He later served as chair of Seton Hall's Religious Studies Department.

He began teaching Political Communication at Saint Mary's College in the early 1980s and was later appointed as chair of the Academic Senate and chair of the Communication Department. Father Mike was adored among the Saint Mary's community and has touched countless students' lives.

Father Mike worked closely with CBS News for many years, offering his expert analysis on papal happenings. His partnership with CBS began when Mike was still in college, serving as Walter Cronkite's desk assistant. Father Mike was later asked by CBS to cover events surrounding the Pope where he provided his expertise to a global audience. Father Mike had the honor of travelling with Pope John Paul II on "Shepard One" when His Holiness visited Northern California in 1987.

Sadly, Mike passed away on August 10, 2022. He is survived by his brother Joseph and his wife Anita, his sister Marian, his nieces and nephews, Leah, AJ, Philip, Bettina, Tim, William, Josephine, and Julian, and many other loving family members, friends, colleagues, and parishioners. Father Mike will be remembered for his wisdom, compassion, and commitment to his faith. He will be deeply missed. Please join us in honoring Reverend Michael Russo for his many contributions to our community and to our Nation.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RED ARROW DINER

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Red Arrow Diner in Manchester, New Hampshire. As one of the most popular diners on the East Coast, the Red Arrow Diner enjoys a special place in the folklore of our state and remains a popular destination for locals, celebrities, politicians, and tourists alike.

Dating back to the diner's opening in October of 1922, the Red Arrow cemented its legacy in downtown Manchester as a quaint, family-friendly locale with a knack for home-cooked meals guaranteed to please even the most skeptical palate. This tiny little diner on Lowell Street flourished into a major chain that today employs one hundred and seventy-five people and has expanded operations to Concord, Londonderry, and Nashua. Despite this massive growth, the Red Arrow remains committed to the values of its founders: serving customers with a smile and delivering consistent, quality home cooked meals.

The Red Arrow Diner's success can be attributed in large part to the efforts of Carol Lawrence, her father George Lawrence, and Amanda Wihby. Their vision for this diner has made the Red Arrow a must-visit destination for visitors from out of state, and their dedication to the state of New Hampshire will ensure that the Red Arrow remains a vital part of our state culture for another 100 years. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank the Red Arrow Diner and its management for 100 years of outstanding contributions to our state.