EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

104TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER 170

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 104th Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, October 2, 2011.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include: Geraldine M. Doll, Marko Frankovich, Anthony R. Glibota, Sharon Haynes, Domenica Jaksa, Mary Ann Maggi, Thomas D. Meeks, Mary Ann Pala, Dennis R. Pollack, Mary Kay Rhodes, Judy A. Rodriguez, Anthony A. Samanich, Lorna Gail Scott, Patricia C. Tonkovich, Dennis Tuskan, Diana M. Voyt, and Katherine M. Zarth.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 324 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

This memorable day will begin with a mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The banquet will begin at 1 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President John Miksich and all members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170 for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the legislation before the House—H.R. 2401, the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act. Coal mining is a lifeblood industry in southwest Indiana and throughout the Midwest. We have abundant reserves of the natural resource throughout my state and the citizens of my district depend heavily on coal mining and the burning of coal for electricity. In fact, 98 percent of Indiana's power generation comes from coal.

The Environmental Protection Agency has gone to great lengths to disrupt coal production in the United States—in many cases haphazardly and without recognition of the economic and social benefits derived from coal mining and the electricity it generates.

The further hampering of our country's ability to mine and utilize coal will have drastic effects on the economy—hitting hardest those areas, like my district, that depend on coal for jobs and paychecks.

That said, there are utilities in this country that have completed or are making currently the strategic investments necessary to comply with the EPA rules this bill seeks to delay. These investments have been made at significant cost to the utility customers, who are paying higher rates as a result.

As this legislative initiative moves from House passage to Senate consideration—and negotiation between the two bodies—it is imperative we find a workable solution that both protects the investments these utilities have made and are making while maintaining the underlying intent of the bill before us.

For this reason, I plan to work toward such a solution because not doing so would leave those utilities at a significant competitive disadvantage in the marketplace—and frankly would be unfair to the customer. I am hopeful my colleagues will join me in this effort.

CONGRATULATING SGT. DAKOTA MEYER ON HIS RECEIPT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor Sergeant Dakota Meyer of the United States Marine Corps and the recipient of the highest military honor our Nation can bestow, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Born in Columbia, Sgt. Meyer's upbringing in rural southern Kentucky was quintessentially American. In high school, he distinguished himself—as an all-star on the football field and as a tutor volunteering his time to special-needs students in the classroom. Sgt. Meyer aspired to be a college football player until a chance encounter with a USMC recruiter awakened in his heart the challenge to serve his country. His eighteenth birthday found him at boot camp on Parris Island.

Sgt. Meyer served nobly in Iraq and at the conclusion of his tour there volunteered for another deployment, this time to Afghanistan. He has described the events of September 8, 2009, in the Kunar Province of northeastern Afghanistan as the ''worst'' day of his life. With that in mind, and the details of his heroism contained in the Medal Citation, I will not recount the terrible events of that day. Because of his actions, thirteen Marines and Army soldiers, as well as twenty-three Afghan soldiers made it out of an ambush to live and serve another day. And the bodies of four fallen American servicemen and a mortally wounded Army soldier—Marines 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, Gunnery Sgt. Edwin Johnson and Staff Sgt. Aaron Kenefick; Navy Corpsman 3rd Class James Layton; and Army Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth W. Westbrook—made it home to their loved ones and a grateful country.

As he received the Congressional Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony on September 16, with his usual modesty Sgt. Meyer dedicated the award to those brave men: ''The main thing that we need to get from that day is that those guys died heroes, and they are greatly missed.'' Having recently marked the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks that drew us into war, as Sgt. Meyer reminds us, our Nation must commit to memory the service men and women who have sacrificed their utmost since in order to ensure the security and sovereignty of our blessed Republic.

It is impossible to convey how proud I am to join the American people as we honor Sgt. Dakota Meyer. Like him, I believe that in commemorating the events of that day in the far-off mountains of Afghanistan, we may honor those we lost while finding the strength and courage to ensure that the American dream of freedom and liberty will never dim.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR HARRY ''HAP'' MYERS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a remarkable man, State Senator Harry Edward ''Hap'' Myers, Jr., a lifelong resident of Mobile, Alabama and friend to many who passed away on August 3, 2011, at the age of 72.

During his lifetime, Hap was known for his unbending belief in others and in doing what was right. He was a husband, father, civil engineer, community leader and legislator.

Growing up in Mobile he attended Mary B. Austin Elementary School, Barton Academy, and graduated from Murphy High School in 1957. He received a B.A. Degree in Business Administration and a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from Auburn University in 1961.

Returning to Mobile, he began on a path he would follow for much of his professional life, serving and then leading the J.B. Converse

Company/BCM Engineers where he was president and CEO for two decades. Under his leadership, the company grew to become one of America's top 100 engineering firms.

Never one to be content with sitting on the sidelines when his community needed him, Hap was determined to make a difference, greeting new challenges with enthusiasm and his trademark positive attitude. He led the local business community as Chairman of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the board at St. Paul's Episcopal School, and served on the Board of Regions Bank and the Mobile Area Water and Sewer Board, to name but a few of the many organizations where Hap left a lasting mark.

Having succeeded in local business and in giving his time to improve his community, Hap took the next step in 1994, entering the political arena for the first time. For anyone who knew him, there was never any doubt that he would make a fine public servant. Hap went on to be elected a Republican in the Democrat-dominated Alabama State Senate for three consecutive terms. He retired from politics in 2006. Former Governor Bob Riley summed up his political career by noting he "served for all the right reasons, and he did it with great integrity and class."

Mr. Speaker, Senator Hap Myers never put himself first and never gave up believing in and doing what was right. He will be sorely missed but leaves behind a legacy of goodness and decency as well as an example for one and all of what a true servant leader is.

I would like to ask the House to join me in extending our deepest condolences to his lovely wife, Toni, as well as his wonderful children, Hap III, Marty, and Sandy, his grandchildren, his family and many friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY'S DENTON VILLAGE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Good Samaritan Society's Denton Village. The Good Samaritan Society operates a number of nursing homes around the country. Denton Village's inception in 1976 marked the beginning of their exceptional service offerings in long-term care and senior living complexes. The Denton Village has since expanded their services to include twin homes, assisted living, and a second senior living apartment building.

My parents lived in a duplex at Denton Village. The facilities and staff at Denton Village allowed my parents, Harry and Norma, to enjoy a more fulfilling and carefree life. When it comes to providing individualized care the people at Denton Village go above and beyond for their residents. Denton Village is a place that cares for people, and is one of the best nursing homes in Dallas Fort-Worth Area.

This anniversary is a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate and recognize the values of the Good Samaritan Society and the delivery of those values at the Denton Village. I am truly proud to recognize everybody at Denton Village for their 35th Anniversary of excellent service, and I know the Denton community appreciates their years of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING AND DEDICATION OF THE UKRAINIAN VILLAGE PARK AND ANNUAL UKRAINIAN VILLAGE PARADE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the opening and dedication of the Ukrainian Village Park and Annual Ukrainian Village Parade taking place on September 24, 2011.

With a growing population of more than 50,000, the Ukrainian community has been a staple in the Greater Cleveland area for decades. In October, 2008, the City of Parma City Council became the first local government in Northeast Ohio to sponsor an ethnic neighborhood; Ukrainian Village. Ukrainian Village covers two miles along State Road and is home to Ukrainian butcher shops, credit unions, two Ukrainian Orthodox churches and now Ukrainian Village Park. The mission of Ukrainian Village is, "To preserve, empower, and advance Ukrainian Village as a thriving neighborhood by celebrating the culture and heritage of Ukrainian Americans and to collaborate with the City of Parma in creating business and economic development within its boundaries."

The Ukrainian Village Parade and Ukrainian Village Park dedication will be hosted by the City of Parma, Ukrainian Village Committee and the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio. The United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio has represented more than 50 Ohio organizations since 1928. This year's Ukrainian Village celebration will commemorate the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, include an annual parade and festival and feature the opening and dedication of the Ukrainian Village Park.

This year's parade will include, for the first time, all five of Parma's high school's bands; Parma Senior High School, Normandy High School, Valley Forge High School, Padua Franciscan High School and Holy Name High School. Additionally, the parade will feature church groups, civic organizations, representatives from the Polish, Hungarian, German, Irish and Slovak communities, Ukrainian Village businesses, numerous Ukrainian-American organizations, singers, dancers, school children, and His Eminence Archbishop Antony.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me as Greater Cleveland celebrates the opening and dedication of the Ukrainian Village Park and Annual Ukrainian Village Parade.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, today's debate is déjá vu from the debate within the House Energy and Commerce committee. Once again my colleagues and I on the Energy and Commerce Committee had the opportunity to address and protect human health and environment, while also promote and encourage innovation and job creation. These are serious issues facing our country and the EPA, issues that require serious solutions. Sadly, this bill does nothing to actually address those issues.

In addition to the lack of a well thought-out strategy, the proposed amendments to this bill would make serious changes to the Clean Air Act without any congressional hearing or testimony. None of these proposals have had serious examination by the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over this matter. This is not the open and transparent legislative process that my colleagues have committed to. We cannot responsibly govern in this matter and ignore our Constitutional obligation to hold hearings, hear testimony, and give these matters the in-depth consideration major policy initiatives deserve.

As I said, there are legitimate problems with some of the proposed rules coming out of EPA, and they need to be dealt with. However, this Polish lawyer from Detroit happens to believe we would get further with a more surgical approach to dealing with these matters.

I am particularly concerned with the Utility MACT, which in its current form, could have a devastating effect on the economy of Midwestern manufacturing States, including my home State of Michigan. I am convinced that a balanced, bipartisan solution to this issue was available to us. In fact, I offered to work with all of my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans on this matter. Sadly, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would rather play political games rather than work on a reasonable solution to a legitimate problem.

I would note to my colleagues that we spent only one day on the failed Continuing Resolution, but will spend two days on this bill. This, I believe, demonstrates the true intention of the GOP. That is not to actually deal with a legitimate and disconcerting problem, but to spend time on their favorite whipping boy, EPA. Now, I have had my share of issues with that particular agency, but I have always sought a solution—not played games to gain political points.

As such, it is my intent to vote against the TRAIN Act and the amendments proposed by the other side of the aisle. The President already indicated his strong opposition and as such, the bill before us is nothing more than veto bait. I would call on my colleagues on