

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
SYSTEM CENTENNIAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4442, the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act. H.R. 4442 would establish a commission to promote awareness of the National Wildlife Refuge System among the American public as the System celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2003.

For many years, my family and I have enjoyed hiking at the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge near my home in Seymour, Indiana. And now a major new refuge has been established on Army property at the former Jefferson Proving Ground.

Just last weekend, I attended the dedication of the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge at the former military facility. The new refuge encompasses more than 50,000 acres of grasslands, woodlands and forests and is home to white-tailed deer, wild turkey, river otters and coyotes. The refuge also provides managed habitat for 40 species of fish, 120 species of breeding birds, and the federally endangered Indiana bat. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has identified 46 rare species of plants on the site.

Mr. Speaker, the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge is the latest addition to more than 500 national wildlife refuges managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I urge all Americans to come and enjoy the beauty and recreation opportunities at Big Oaks. And while they are in the area, they should also spend some time at the Muscatatuck refuge.

These and many other refuges are often the best kept secrets in town. H.R. 4442 rightly commemorates the centennial of the refuge system and will help make Americans more aware of the tremendous assets available to them through the National Wildlife Refuge System.

SUPPORT OF THE WINDOWS AND
GLAZING PROGRAM

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the windows and glazing program, which is funded through the Building Technology Category. This program provides funding for a promising new technology with enormous energy saving potential for the commercial windows market. This program would allow the further development of plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) techniques for electrochromic technologies. This technology provides a flexible means of controlling the amount of heat and light that pass through a glass surface providing significant energy conservation opportunities. The Department of Energy estimates that placing this technology on all commercial building windows in the United States would produce yearly energy savings equivalent to the

amount of oil that passes through the Alaskan pipeline each year.

In recognition of the importance of this technology, the State of Florida has provided \$1.6 million toward the advancement of this program, and has allocated an additional \$720,000 in the State of Florida Fiscal Year 2001 budget. The program is being undertaken in conjunction with the University of South Florida and utilizes the expertise and patented technology of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado. The State of Florida's program has made significant progress toward making electrochromic windows a reality. This program is an excellent example of successful technology transfer from a national laboratory as well as an example of a successful public/private relationship.

The Florida program is consistent with industry priorities and goals of the Department of Energy's windows program. I believe this program only helps strengthen our conservation programs. I encourage my colleagues to support this important program.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH
ANNIVERSARY WORLD CONGRESS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 20th Anniversary World Congress, which is organized by the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU), under the auspices of the Czech and Slovak Embassies and in close cooperation with American University, scheduled for August 9–13, 2000, in Washington, D.C.

The central theme for this World Congress is: "Civil Society and Democracy into the New Millennium." It will feature speakers from both sides of the Atlantic and it promises to be the pivotal event of the year 2000 for those interested in things Czech or Slovak.

The three day program at American University will comprise numerous discussion panels and symposia, covering practically every aspect of human endeavor from the arts and humanities to social and behavioral sciences, and science and technology.

I am indeed proud to salute the efforts of the organizers and particularly would like to commend the efforts of Mr. Eugene L. Krizek, a resident of my congressional district, for his generous and untiring efforts on behalf of this project.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RUTH
FIRSCHER

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I request that the Congress reflect on the memory of Ruth Firschein, of Palo Alto, California, who passed away this week.

Known by her family simply as "Grandma Ruth," Ruth spanned nearly a century during her remarkable life.

Born in a village in Eastern Europe, Ruth immigrated to the United States as a young woman. She followed the classic path of many immigrants, landing in New York City, working hard to make a living in a new country, marrying, raising children, and assisting with the operation of a small family printing business, Firschein Press.

Although circumstances did not permit her to complete more than a grade school education, she took her children to the New York City Public Library, and taught them that books and knowledge are the key to understanding and success. The Firschein apartment was filled with books and artwork, radios and science experiments.

People who met Ruth were impressed by her intelligence, wit, charm, and leadership qualities. She served as an officer in a number of synagogue and charitable groups, freely giving of her time, and expressing her views enthusiastically, without hesitation or reservation.

Ruth witnessed much during her long life. She liked to tell about the time cossacks occupied her village and had a saber fight in the kitchen of her family's home. One of the swords accidentally struck her. Years later, she would point to the small scar and tell of the soldiers' remorse. One of them told her he had a little girl just like her at home.

Ruth was a link between the past and the present. She witnessed the birth of airplanes, televisions, computers and rockets. She watched as new waves of immigrants came to this country, retracing her life and her steps. In her later years, she would sit with new Russian immigrants, listening to their stories, and trading her own. She was a natural storyteller, and we are fortunate that a number of her stories have been recorded on tape.

Ruth leaves behind three children and several grandchildren. They remember her legacy of love for the world. She will be missed.

HONORING THE ARRIVAL OF THE
"AMISTAD" TO ITS HOME PORT
OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker: It is with great pride that I rise today to join the thousands gathered in New Haven, Connecticut to welcome the *Amistad* to its home port, commemorating the story of Sengbe Pieh and the Mendians kidnaped from what is now Sierra Leone, Africa. The *Amistad* replica will bring to life the legendary events of 1839 so that generations of children and adults will understand and share the slaves' courageous rebellion aboard ship, their difficult imprisonment, and their final vindication by the United States Supreme Court.

At a time of great division in our society, many New Haven residents played a key role in aiding Sengbe Pieh and the Mendians in what became a two-year legal and political battle for their freedom. Pastor Simeon Jocelyn, Lewis Tappan, and the congregations of the United Church on the Green and Dixwell United Church of Christ established the *Amistad* Committee whose mission was to provide for the Mendians' basic needs. They

gathered food and clothing, and arranged for students from the Yale Divinity School to teach the Mendians English so that they were able to communicate their story to their defenders. Roger Sherman Baldwin, a New Haven attorney who later enlisted the aid of former President John Quincy Adams, volunteered to defend the captives. Today, a statue of Sengbe Pieh stands proudly near the site where he and the other Mendians of the *Amistad* were first imprisoned. New Haven is proud of the role it played in this crucial moment in the ongoing struggle for human rights and racial harmony. We are honored to have the *Amistad* with us today.

There are so many wonderful people that have committed themselves to this project—their hard work and dedication to this cause has made this day possible. My sincere thanks and appreciation to former Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker, responsible for securing the initial state funding and support for the project; Al Marder and the *Amistad* Committee, which recreated the original committee that first came to the defense of the *Amistad* slaves; the Connecticut African American Historical Society, whose work with the *Amistad* Committee and Governor Weicker established *Amistad* America; *Amistad* America, a nonprofit educational corporation that worked with Mystic Seaport to build the replica and will continue to operate the ship; and the students and faculty of the Sound School in New Haven, who crafted a lifeboat, named Margru after one of the four children aboard *Amistad*, that will now be carried on the *Amistad* replica. The participation and diligent efforts of all these groups and talented individuals have produced a tremendous contribution to the history of Connecticut and the United States.

As we reflect on the 161 years of history that has passed since the original *Amistad* landed on our shores, it is important to remind ourselves that this continues to be an unfinished journey. In the United States, we tore our nation apart in violence before we put an end to the institution that brought Sengbe Pieh to these shores. In Sierra Leone, it would be more than a century after their native sons and daughters left their shores before they would be able to claim the right to truly govern themselves. Today, we watch as the United Nations and Sierra Leone's African neighbors help in its struggle for peace. If the history of the United States and Sierra Leone have taught us anything, it is that our journey towards peace, justice, and freedom has not yet ended.

Whether at sea or in port, the *Amistad* will carry this message to all who will hear it. A reminder of an extraordinary moment in our history, I applaud the inspired dedication that the New Haven community has shown for this project. It is with great pleasure that I stand and add my voice to all of those who have gathered today to welcome the *Amistad* home.

TRIBUTE TO THE 11TH GREAT DOMINICAN PARADE AND CARNAVAL OF THE BRONX

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, once again it is an honor for me to recognize the Great Do-

minican Parade and Festival of the Bronx on its eleventh year of celebrating Dominican culture in my South Bronx Congressional District. This year's festivities will take place on July 16, 2000.

Under its Founder and President, Felipe Febles, the parade has grown in size and splendor. It now brings together an increasing number of participants from all five New York City boroughs and beyond.

On Sunday July 16, thousands of members and friends of the Dominican community will march from Mt. Eden and 172nd Street to East 161st Street and the Grand Concourse in honor of Juan Pablo Duarte, the father of the independence of the Dominican Republic.

As one who has participated in the parade in the past, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It feels wonderful to enable so many people to have this experience—one that will change the lives of many of them. It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of joyful people who will march from Mt. Eden and 172nd Street to East 161st Street, and to savor the variety of their celebrations. There's no better way to see our Bronx community.

The event will feature a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. This year's festival includes the performance of Merengue and Salsa bands, crafts exhibitions, and food typical of the Dominican Republic.

In addition to the parade, President Febles and many organizers have provided the community with nearly two weeks of activities to commemorate the contributions of the Dominican community, its culture and history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful celebration of Dominican culture, which has brought much pride to the Bronx community.

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE KOREAN WAR

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize not only the importance of our strategic relationship with the Republic of Turkey but their historic contribution in the Korean War. Almost 50 years ago, in October of 1950, the Turkish brigade consisting of 4,500 army troops arrived in Korea. By the time Turkey had completed its commitment, 29,882 were rotated through the brigade, 717 were killed in action, and 2246 were wounded. These figures, the highest casualty rate of the United Nations mission, demonstrated that Turkey's reputation was well deserved.

The Turkish brigade's courage and contributions were repeatedly highlighted in the press at the time. For example, the battle of Kunuri was detailed in a TIME magazine article which stated "The courageous battles of the Turkish Brigade have created a favorable effect on the whole United Nations Forces." Their courage was also referenced on Capitol Hill, with former Representative Claude Pepper opining that, "There is no one left who does not know that the Turks, our valuable allies, are hard

warriors and that they have accomplished very great at the front."

Having become a member of NATO in 1952, Turkey also demonstrated its indisputable role in European security. Among all NATO allies, Turkey defended the longest border with the former Soviet Union, and carried a heavy responsibility in helping to contain, and ultimately defeat communism.

After the end of the Cold War, Turkey seized the opportunity to help shape the peace in the region. One of the first countries to recognize the independence of new emerging democracies, Turkey actively sought to assist with their efforts to integrate into the international community. Turkey provided them with direct assistance in credit and goods, military cooperation agreements to assist in building their national defense structure, scholarships for students to study in Turkish universities, offering an alternate route for transportation and communication facilities, and legal technical assistance and know how.

Turkey remains at the center of our energy security policy to develop the "east-west" access for the transport of both oil and natural gas from the Caspian region. This strategy would further shore up the economies of the countries involved, and encourage the development of democracy in the region.

At the time of the Korean War, most strategic thinkers would probably have envisioned Turkey as playing an important role in the future of European security, but the scope and breadth of the relationship which developed has most likely surpassed even the greatest expectations. Our relationship with Turkey has developed into a strategic one which we should continue to develop and nurture.

AIMEE'S LAW

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 894, the No Second Chances for Murderers, Rapists, or Child Molesters Act (Aimee's Law).

Each year more than 14,000 murders, rapes, and sexual assaults are committed by previously convicted murderers and sex offenders. While the United States has been moving towards lengthy mandatory sentences for a number of crimes, sentences for murder, child molestation and rape often fall short.

Aimee's Law would add accountability to the existing formula for distributing federal crime funds to states that convict a murderer, rapist, or child molester, if that criminal had previously been convicted of the same crime in a different state. The cost of prosecuting and incarcerating the criminal would be deducted from the federal crime funds intended to go to the state where a criminal previously committed one of these horrible crimes, and instead be sent to the state that is forced to prosecute the same criminal, for the same crime, against another innocent victim.

Tragedies like this are happening all across America, including in my home state. This type of tragedy struck close to home when a child in my District was molested and murdered by a repeat offender. Every day that we