

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to congratulate Thelma for this phenomenal achievement. She is an exceptional individual and I wish her only the best and continued prosperity. Happy Birthday Thelma!

OPPRESSION OF AFGHAN WOMEN

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my distress over the oppression of Afghan women. These women, who only won their freedom for a few years in all of history, have been driven back into oppression by a brutal, violent and blindly ignorant regime. Forced by the Taliban out of the schools allowed by former ruler Nur Mohammed Taraki, women are now uneducated. Women cannot work, but can be forced to beg for bread.

Women are forbidden to sing or listen to music, and will be viciously beaten if seen in public with men who are not relatives. Women in today's Afghanistan cannot be treated by a male doctor, and will be killed if they are treated by one. The life expectancy of Afghan women is 43, almost half that of American women. This vicious oppression is not the will of God or of any decent man.

Women have been oppressed throughout the ages by every society on earth, but have gone a long way toward gaining freedom and dignity. Afghanistan's brutal rulers and their fundamentalist counterparts in other religions must not be allowed to destroy the lives, the futures, and the honor of women.

This Congress must support these desperate victims and any counterparts they have in any other part of the world. People of faith from every nation and every religion must unite to end all use of twisted religious rhetoric, to oppress any person. We must apply this principle to Afghanistan now, and to our own lives everyday.

TRIBUTE TO BOB LARSON, FOUNDER OF NORTHWOODS AIRLIFELINE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michigan resident Bob Larson, a man who turned his own passion for flying into a non-profit, lifesaving organization that serves the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Bob is the prime mover behind Northwoods Airlifeline, an organization of pilots who volunteer their time and aircraft to help obtain medical assistance unavailable in Upper Michigan. Since Bob conceived the service in 1989, Northwoods Airlifeline has flown more than 1,100 missions—all free of charge, Mr. Speaker—to destinations all around the Midwest.

Northwoods Airlifeline fills a gap in critical services by transporting patients who may be financially distressed, who may be unable to travel by car or commercial transportation, or who for medical reasons may face severe time constraints.

The primary need of individuals served by Northwoods Airlifeline has been organ transplants, since there is no facility in Upper Michigan to perform this procedure. The service has also met the needs of chronically-ill people who cannot afford to fly or drive long distances, and it has transported medical patients who are beyond medical help to be with their loved ones.

Bob Larson, a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a World War II Navy veteran, took flying lessons after he left the service and went to work in Chicago, where he bought his first plane in 1958.

But Bob, along with Ruth, his wife of 57 years, who is a registered nurse, eventually moved back to the North Woods, settling in the small town of Witch Lake in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The Larsons shared a dream of forming an air medical service to assist friends and neighbors in times of medical emergency.

From these two caring, giving, loving individuals Northwoods Airlifeline was born, and it is still coordinated by Bob today. The organization recruits volunteer pilots, operates a dispatching network to receive and fill requests for transportation, and conducts community education and fund raising programs for its services. There are no salaried personnel or rental expenses. Pilots and volunteers absorb fuel costs and other expenses, and all donations go toward the administrative costs of transporting those in need.

The high regard in which the service is held can be summed up in the comments of a man who was flown out of state for a surgical procedure, "Well, I have met some real-life angels, wings included," he said, "only their wings are attached to the airplanes they fly."

Bob Larson is being honored on Oct. 20 by Iron Mountain Chapter #44, Order of the Eastern Star, which has selected him as the 13th recipient of the annual Eastern Star Community Service Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual, not affiliated with any Masonic or Masonic-related organization, who has shown unselfish dedication for the betterment of the community and the world in general.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage you and all our House colleagues to go on the World Wide Web at www.northwoodsairlifeline.org and read about the other men and women who make this vital service possible, and read the wonderful stories of the families that Northwoods Airlifeline has assisted.

We say that dreamers have their heads in the clouds, Mr. Speaker, but maybe it's up in the clouds, where Bob Larson spent so much time, that one gains the best perspective of the world and the place of each individual in it. So I ask you to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of two dreamers, Bob and Ruth Larson, and the wonderful volunteer organization they have brought into being.

ON INTRODUCTION OF THE TERRORIST RESPONSE TAX EXEMPTION ACT

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I rise with my colleague, Congressman VITO

FOSSELLA of New York, to introduce the Terrorist Response Tax Exemption Act, which would provide our first responders with the tax benefits that they deserve for serving on the front lines of our war against terrorism.

As we speak, men and women are putting their lives at risk to fight terrorist threats both abroad and at home. For the American military personnel who are overseas, the federal government currently excludes from taxable income the salary they receive in any month they serve in a combat zone. This is a suitable recognition of the increased risk in which they place themselves to protect our freedoms and of the increased burdens on their families given that risk.

But, today, we know that the men and women who serve as fire, rescue, and police personnel can be just as much at risk. Terrorists have brought the frontlines into our communities, and it is these first responders that are first on the scene, first to assess the situation, and first to respond to the needs of the victims. As the World Trade Center attack has proven, they are just as much in jeopardy of losing their lives as the soldiers and sailors engaged overseas—perhaps even more so as our military technology advances. They and their families deserve the same tax benefits for serving in terrorist attack zones.

That is precisely what the Terrorist Response Tax Exemption Act does. It exempts from federal income the basic pay that a uniformed civilian employee earns for any month in which they serve the public in a terrorist attack zone. It provides well-deserved recognition of the hard and dangerous work that these individuals perform. The Senate companion bill, S. 1446, has already been endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and other organizations that represent our public safety personnel.

It is not that we anticipate that this tax incentive will encourage this kind of heroic public service. In fact, we know for a fact that these men and women perform their duties out of a sense of honor and an overwhelming desire to help others in need. But, we should show them our gratitude with more than words of thanks. I encourage my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANTHONY T. CAPOZZOLO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the life and memory of Anthony T. "Capps" Capozzolo, a man who always sought to brighten the horizons for others, especially through increasing educational opportunities.

Born at his father's dairy farm in Pueblo, Colorado, Capps learned what hard work was at a very early age. At one time, he sold newspapers while attending school and tending to the chores of his family's farm. Capps followed his heart, however, and proved to be a fantastic dancer. At the age of 18, Capps left Pueblo and joined his brother in California where he pursued his passion for dancing. It was here that he met his dance partner, Theresa Harmon, who would eventually become

his wife. The couple performed in numerous reputable studios like Columbia Pictures and MGM. Capps and Theresa also worked to help raise money for charitable contributions.

Beyond his dancing performances, Capps served his community whenever he could. He was a charter member of the Assistance League in Palm Springs, California, the Desert Hospital Auxiliary and the Opera Guild of the Desert to name only a few. Upon the death of his wife Theresa, he founded a gallery of art at St. Martin's Abbey and College in Lacy, Washington. Furthermore, Capps became a generous donor to the performing arts at the University of Southern Colorado and funded a scholarship and various activities of the University. In August of 1998, his honorable service to others was recognized with the 1998 Pope John XXIII award offered by the Italian Catholic Federation, which recognizes community achievements, civic involvement and religious vitality.

Mr. Speaker, Anthony Capozzolo was an honorable man who will be remembered by many. At this time, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions that Capps made and recognize his selfless acts of kindness. He truly was an example for others to emulate. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the Capozzolo family during this time of remembrance and I would like them to know that my thoughts and prayers are with them now and for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ONE EARTH ONE PEOPLE ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize One Earth One People, an organization in Cincinnati, Ohio that will celebrate its 10th Anniversary on October 26, 2001.

One Earth One People was founded by Jane Church in October, 1990. Jane continues to serve as its president, and she has played a key role in making this innovative nonprofit environmental education organization such a success.

The vision of One Earth One People is to "network youth around the world via Interactive Telecommunications to prepare them to preserve their local and global environment." And, its mission is to work with all sectors and ethnic groups, "offering students hands-on educational experiences to increase their scientific knowledge, enhance their communication, leadership and other lifelong skills and attitudes to protect the environment through sharing, cooperation and cultural understanding."

Although One Earth One People is based in Cincinnati, its work can be seen throughout Ohio, across our nation and around the world. Some of its activities and accomplishments include: running 21 student workshops in local elementary, middle and high schools; publishing "The OEOP Newsletter," which is read by over 1,500 area teachers, students, com-

munity organizations and supporters; and attending several seminars and conferences held by Earth Day USA and the United Nations Environment Programme.

One Earth One People's work also includes the Youth Cloth Bag Project, which encourages consumers to use reusable cloth bags when they shop. Just this year, the Youth Cloth Bag Project was expanded so that schools that sell cloth bags can use the proceeds to help preserve wildlife habitats in Adams County, Ohio and in the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor in Belize.

I have enjoyed meeting with the participants involved in One Earth One People. It provides young people with valuable knowledge about the environment and how to work together as team players and communicators. It also offers hands-on experience in organizing, problem solving, decision making and other important life skills.

Mr. Speaker, One Earth One People has been an effective organization in the Cincinnati area. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking its members for their dedication to our environment and in congratulating the organization on 10 years of community service.

PATRIOT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, the House was scheduled to take up H.R. 2975, a bill to give law enforcement greater latitude in finding and combating terrorism. The version that was scheduled to come to the floor was the result of bipartisan negotiations between the Republicans and Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee. The Committee was careful in crafting this bill, since any effort to give law enforcement these greater investigatory powers has an impact on the civil liberties of all Americans.

However, Friday morning, the House Rules Committee reported a measure providing for debate of H.R. 2975 that inserted a substitute measure still warm from printing. With the exception of the Members of Congress directly involved in the substitute's drafting, the majority of the Members of the House had little idea what the 175 pages of this bill would do to our laws. It is crucial that our legislative branch of government has adequate time to scrutinize and debate legislation that could have a drastic effect on the privacy and civil rights of our people.

This bill would dramatically alter our existing wiretap laws under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). FISA sets the bar for obtaining a wiretap order to investigate foreign agents much lower than laws governing regular domestic criminal investigations. In the past, the courts have held that the Fourth Amendment's prohibition on unreasonable search and seizure protects our citizens from surveillance without probable cause, except in cases concerning foreign intelligence operations. Surveillance under FISA is granted by a secret court whose decisions and pro-

ceedings are not part of the public record, and those being wiretapped never know that such an order has been granted, and have no way to appeal the court's decision.

Presently, a wiretap under FISA can be obtained if the target is suspected of being an agent of a foreign power, without probable cause. The bill passed by the House would allow a person to be secretly wiretapped under the easier FISA rules as long as foreign intelligence is at least one component of the investigation. This means that Americans not suspected of being spies can now be placed under surveillance as if they are foreign agents, without the usual protections of the Fourth Amendment. So, without probable cause, the government would be able to secretly authorize wiretaps to trace the calls made to the person being monitored, as well as monitor their Internet activity. Although the bill says that the Internet surveillance is limited to the address visited but not the content, all a government agency has to do to capture content is to use the Internet address information gathered and visit the site in question.

Not only does this allow American intelligence agencies to spy on Americans, but the bill authorizes the sharing of information gathered with other federal agencies without judicial authorization. This means American intelligence agencies like the Central Intelligence Agency would be able to collect information from other agencies about the activities of our citizens. Also, under this bill's more relaxed rules, FISA can be used to authorize "black bag" searches, which would allow the government to secretly enter a person's home without their knowledge and remove or copy documents and other items.

Another troubling provision grants the authority to the secret court established by FISA to allow the Federal Bureau of Investigation to obtain individuals' financial and personal records without that person's consent or knowledge. Because this would be done under the relaxed requirements of FISA, the judge's order is sufficient to allow the FBI to obtain personal information without probable cause, yet another instance where the bill goes around the Fourth Amendment.

The bill the House was scheduled to consider would sunset most surveillance provisions in 2003, when Congress could review and then renew these changes if necessary. The bill that was actually taken up would sunset its surveillance provisions in 2004, and allow the President to further extend the sunset provisions by an additional two years, which would effectively be a five-year sunset provision.

It has been said that extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. While this may be true, it is also true that our civil liberties are what sets America apart from other nations. Although the House-passed measure contained language to sunset some of the bill's provisions, I fear that once this line is crossed, we will never be able to go back. Without adequate discussion of this bill's merits and effects on our rights, I could not support this measure. I hope that the House-Senate conference committee will carefully consider the impact this legislation could have on our lives, and make corrections so that I can support the final version of this bill that we send to the President to become the law of the land.