

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 338, on approval of H. Res 310, providing for the consideration of H.R. 2211, the "Ready to Teach Act." Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H. Res 310.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, QUEENS CHAPTER #32 ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF 76TH AVENUE IN GLENDALE, NEW YORK AS "VIETNAM VETERANS LANE"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the veterans of the Vietnam War and to honor in particular the members of the Queens Chapter #32 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. All of us owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Americans who served abroad in the armed forces during our nation's longest and perhaps most difficult military conflict. I am pleased to recognize the service to our country of all the members of Queens Chapter #32 of the Vietnam Veterans of America and of its President, Pastor Toro, Jr.

This month, in recognition of their service to our nation and to our city, the Queens Chapter #32 of the Vietnam Veterans of America is being honored by the rededication of a portion of 76th Avenue as "Vietnam Veterans Lane." This thoroughfare, located between Woodhaven Boulevard and 88th Street in the Glendale neighborhood of the Borough of Queens in New York City, is the permanent location of Queens Chapter #32 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. The members of the Queens Chapter #32 have truly earned our gratitude, admiration, and appreciation.

At the dedication ceremony for Vietnam Veterans Lane, the "Order of the Silver Rose" will be presented to several Chapter members who have suffered from a multitude of illnesses and symptoms associated with exposure to "Agent Orange." These veterans continue to pay a price for their willingness to serve our country, and it is only fitting that we acknowledge their sacrifice on behalf of all of us.

Although it has been just over three decades since our troops engaged in active combat in Vietnam, we will never forget the bravery of all those who served and the ultimate sacrifice of the more than 58,000 military personnel who gave their lives in service to their country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring the veterans of the Vietnam War. It is a fitting tribute that New York City is naming a street in honor of those who served in Vietnam.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAIWAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian recently celebrated his third anniversary in office. He has done many good things for his country and strengthened Taiwan's ties with America.

Taiwan has been very cooperative with the United States in our global war against terrorism, and Taiwan has pledged assistance to post-war Iraq. In addition, Taiwan has provided medical assistance and humanitarian aid to a number of African nations.

We hope Taiwan will continue to prosper in the future. We are glad to hear that Taiwan has been declared SARS free and it is now safe to travel to Taiwan and other parts of Asia.

We also hope that the United States will soon increase trade opportunities with Taiwan by launching negotiations on a free trade agreement.

Congratulations, President Chen.

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY CHIEF

MICHAEL J. SIKA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to an exceptional individual, Michael J. Sika, who was officially sworn in as Deputy Chief of Detectives for the Passaic County prosecutor's Office on Wednesday, July 2, 2003.

For the past 22 years, Deputy Chief Sika has devoted himself to ensuring the safety of the people of New Jersey. It is only fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

Michael Sika began his career in law enforcement in 1981 as a New Jersey State S.P.C.A. Officer. In 1983, he was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the Special Investigations in the Severe Cruelty to Animals Unit where he and his unit targeted pit bull fighting and cock fighting matches.

It was only four short years later that Michael began working as a Passaic County Investigator in the Prosecutor's Office. In addition to his duties in the Juvenile Court Unit, the Court Squad / Extraditions Unit and the Environmental Prosecutor's Unit, Michael began to augment his previous training in Title

4—Statutes, Arrest, Search & Seizure and Firearms, by attending the Division of Criminal Justice Training Academy where he received the Academic Excellence Award.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps most impressive is the work that Michael has done since his 1992 promotion to the position of Sergeant in charge of the Environmental Crimes Unit. During his eleven year tenure with the Environmental Crimes Unit, Michael worked with Federal, State, and Local authorities in the investigations of over 300 cases involving hazardous waste. He attended numerous courses in Explosives, Weapons of Mass Destruction, and Haz-Mat Techniques, and he has served as a Certified Instructor in Firearms and Environmental Crimes at the Passaic Police Academy since 1994.

In September 2002, Michael Sika was promoted to the rank of Captain and assigned as the Commander of the newly formed Passaic County narcotics Task Force. Less than a year later, he was promoted to Acting Deputy Chief, and was subsequently reassigned to assist Chief Glenn Brown in the reorganization of the Investigators' Staff of the Prosecutor's Office.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the accomplishments of such an outstanding individual. Deputy chief Michael Sika's long history of service to the people of Passaic County, and his commitment to educating those that choose to follow in his footsteps is beyond compare.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office and me in recognizing the invaluable service of Deputy Chief Michael J. Sika.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, June 25, I attended the funeral of the Honorable Bob Stump in Phoenix, Arizona and missed votes on the following measures:

S. 858—To extend the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and for other purposes (#312). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 2474—To require that funds made available for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships be administered through the Congressional Hunger Center (#313). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H.J. Res. 40—To recognize the important service to the Nation provided by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture on the occasion of its 50th anniversary (#314). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H. Con. Res. 49—To express the sense of the Congress that the sharp escalation of anti-

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Semitic violence within many participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is of profound concern and efforts should be undertaken to prevent future occurrences (#315). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 199—To call on the Government of the People's Republic of China immediately and unconditionally to release Dr. Yang Jianli, calling on the President of the United States to continue working on behalf of Dr. Yang Jianli for his release, and for other purposes (#316). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 294—To condemn the terrorism inflicted on Israel since the Aqaba Summit and expressing solidarity with the Israeli people in their fight against terrorism (#317). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

THE STATE OF AFRICA: THE BENEFITS OF THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT—NEXT STEPS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has been in effect for over 2½ years. It was implemented on October 2, 2000.

At present, 38 sub-Saharan African countries are designated as eligible under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA); however, implementation of trade benefits for two of these countries, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Gambia, is not final. Two other countries achieved eligibility on January 1, 2003, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone. (The attachment lists the eligible 38 countries.)

To date, small countries near South Africa have been the most successful users of the program so far—Lesotho and Swaziland have tripled exports to the United States since 1999. Lesotho's exports to the United States, for example, are up from \$110 million to \$321 million in 2002. In practical terms, these sales have created 15,000 jobs. Farther north, export growth has been strong in Kenya—whose government believes AGOA has created 150,000 local jobs. South Africa is now an auto exporter, shipping 17,000 cars to the United States in the first 10 months of 2002.

Additionally, 19 AGOA countries have met the additional requirements to receive duty-free and quota-free treatment for exports of their apparel and textiles products. Seventeen of the 19 countries have qualified for the provisions for less-developed countries, which allows the use of non-U.S. and non-AGOA fabric through September 30, 2004 (only Mauritius and South Africa are not eligible).

AGOA's sectoral effects to date have been most evident in the textiles and apparel sector. In 3 years, AGOA textile and apparel exports to the United States have doubled, rising from \$570 million in 1999 to \$1.1 billion for 2002. This total comprises 9 percent of all AGOA exports. AGOA exports now comprise approximately 2 percent of all U.S. textile and apparel imports—a 100 percent increase from 2000, when AGOA took effect. Africa's 92 percent export growth rate in textile and apparel products is 10 times that for China, Latin America, Europe and other major textile and apparel exporters.

Energy-related exports from AGOA countries continue to predominate; however, their overall share is declining, e.g., down to 76 percent of AGOA imports in 2002, from 83 percent in 2001. Additionally, the reason for the decline is not because energy exports from AGOA countries have dropped, but rather other imports have increased. For example, AGOA imports of transportation equipment were 4 percent of all AGOA imports in 2001, but those imports grew by 81 percent and are now 6 percent of all imports under AGOA.

Not all African countries have participated fully and equally in AGOA's remarkable early record of success. Progress has been less evident for Tanzania, Ethiopia and much of West Africa. Moreover, despite the success in textiles and apparel, overall U.S. imports from Africa dropped by \$3.4 billion, or about 25 percent, last year. This is because most African countries still rely on natural resources (especially oil, diamonds and precious metals) whose prices are volatile. Higher light-manufactured exports were thus offset by lower prices for oil and natural gas early in 2002, which cut Africa's energy export revenue by about \$4 billion, while South Africa saw a \$400 million decline in exports of platinum, palladium and rhodium.

More serious in the long term is that AGOA benefits are limited in agriculture. Here, largely due to lower coffee and cocoa prices, Africa's exports are down by 4.5 percent (or \$25 million) since 1999. EU and American subsidies also probably hamper African farmers trying to diversify out of tropical commodities. However, AGOA does seem to be helping Africa export value-added agricultural products; while preserved fruits, vegetables and juices are still a small percentage of Africa's total farm exports, they are up from \$22 million to \$39 million since 1999, with South Africa the leading supplier.

To ensure that AGOA's early successes continue, it needs to be updated, extended and expanded to meet the current and future challenges in the U.S.-Africa trading relationship. Key issues that need to be addressed include the following:

The more liberal apparel benefits for least-developed AGOA countries are set to expire in 2004, just as worldwide quotas will be eliminated. (Currently, least-developed AGOA beneficiaries can use third country fabric in qualifying apparel. This flexibility was necessary because few of these countries have fabric-making capacity.)

I propose to extend LDC benefits for a short period of time, while creating incentives for LDC countries to develop fabric-making capacity. All AGOA benefits (apparel and otherwise) expire in 2008. The President has already indicated he will support an extension of the overall program beyond 2008. I propose to make AGOA benefits permanent. Sub-Saharan Africa has a tremendous amount of opportunity to export agricultural products. Unfortunately, many of the products do not meet U.S. sanitary/phytosanitary requirements. Currently, there are only about three USDA personnel (APHIS workers) providing technical assistance to the Africans to meet U.S. standards. Include a provision providing substantially more technical assistance for development of the agricultural sector.

The AGOA apparel rules of origin (yarn forward requirements, very specific rules on findings, trimmings, etc.) are fairly onerous, and in

many cases, make little commercial sense. Streamline the rules of origin.

The United States is currently a party to dozens of international tax treaties with other countries. These treaties prevent double taxation for U.S. firms operating abroad, and include transparency requirements for other countries' systems of taxation.

Include a provision encouraging the Secretary of the Treasury to negotiate tax treaties with appropriate AGOA countries.

HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis epidemics continue to plague the continent. Include a provision to provide tax credits to U.S. firms with operations in AGOA countries when they make cash contributions to the global fund to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

The main deterrent to African investment is the lack of infrastructure in AGOA countries. Find a way to increase development in this area—perhaps through OPIC or the World Bank/IMF. There are several areas where Congress can clarify its intent. An AGOA III bill would be a natural venue to address these issues.

Imports under AGOA have been a significant share of all U.S. imports from sub-Saharan Africa. In 2001, AGOA imports were \$8.2 billion, or 39 percent of the total U.S. imports from sub-Saharan Africa of \$21 billion. In 2002, AGOA imports rose to \$9 billion, or 49 percent of the total U.S. imports of \$18.2 billion from the region.

Since petroleum imports are by far the major imports under AGOA, Nigeria, a leading oil producer, is the major import supplier under AGOA. Nigeria supplied 60 percent of AGOA imports in 2002, and together with South Africa (15 percent) and Gabon (13 percent), accounted for 88 percent of all AGOA imports last year. In comparison, 14 AGOA-eligible countries accounted for less than 1 percent of AGOA imports, and of those, 5 did not ship anything.

In 2002, the 107th Congress approved several amendments to the AGOA in the Trade Act of 2002. These amendments are commonly called AGOA II. They include doubling the cap for apparel assembled in an AGOA country from fabric made in an AGOA country to 7 percent of overall imports over an 8-year period (by 2008). However, the cap under the special rule for lesser-developed countries was left unchanged. They allowed Namibia and Botswana to qualify for the special rule for less-developed countries, even though their per capita incomes exceed the limit set under AGOA. They clarified that AGOA benefits be given to "knit-to-shape" articles, garments cut in both the United States and an AGOA beneficiary country ("hybrid cutting"), and merino wool sweaters knit in AGOA beneficiary countries. They authorized \$9.5 million to the Customs Service for textile transshipment enforcement, and broadened trade adjustment assistance to cover production shifts to an AGOA beneficiary country.

The United States and five southern African countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland) are scheduled to begin free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations in late May. Preliminary discussions have focused on the negotiation's timetable and framework. Once begun, FTA negotiating rounds are expected to occur every 7 weeks with the target completion date set for the end of 2004. USTR notified Congress of its intent