

IN HONOR OF COLONEL JOHN B.
O'DOWD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel John B. O'Dowd for his outstanding work and leadership in the New York District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. His tenure as Chief Engineer has been one of exceptional work and dedication.

Colonel O'Dowd assumed command of the New York District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers in July 2001. Since his appointment, Colonel O'Dowd has brought great leadership, focus, and passion to his position. Responsible for the water resource development, navigation, and regulatory activities in parts of New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, Colonel O'Dowd has led by example and has worked tirelessly to achieve his objective.

Prior to his position with the Army Corps of Engineers, Colonel O'Dowd commanded and served as Executive Officer of the 30th Engineer Battalion at Fort Bragg. He also served as Executive Officer for the Engineer Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea, and was assigned as the Operations Officer for the 20th Engineer Brigade during Operation "Uphold Democracy" in Haiti.

For his distinguished work and military service, Colonel O'Dowd has received numerous awards and citations, including the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Master Parachutist Badge.

Colonel O'Dowd received his bachelor's degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1978 and a Master's Degree from John Hopkins University in Environmental Engineering in 1989. He is also a loving husband to his wife and dedicated father to his three children.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel John B. O'Dowd for his outstanding leadership, courage, and service to this great country. He will be greatly missed as he leaves the New York District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. It has been an honor and a pleasure to have worked with him the last three years and I wish him all the best in his new assignment in Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Associated Builders and Contractors of Southern California as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary.

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Southern California was established in 1974 with 78 charter members to assist businesses

large and small with the necessary skills to become a successful operation. Providing their members with management leadership skills and safety training, the Associated Builders and Contractors of Southern California have created an industry with high standards and quality employees.

Founded on the belief of the free enterprise system, the Associated Builders and Contractors of Southern California actively promote the Merit Shop Philosophy whereby contractors pay, promote and recognize their employees based on individual merit. It is this philosophy and their commitment to providing employees with adequate wages, benefits and safe working conditions that has made this association a pioneer in the construction industry.

Recognizing the valuable contributions to the industry and the community, I would like to congratulate the Associated Builders and Contractors of Southern California on their anniversary of thirty successful years.

TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE HIGH PRICE OF GAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the increasing pressure rising gas prices are placing on the constituents of Ohio's tenth district, and consumers around the country.

Today, I received a petition, presented to me by WEWS Television Station in Cleveland, Ohio, from those in the Cleveland area who are being harmed by the recent spikes in gas prices. This petition, with over 14,000 signatures, is evidence of the strains placed on consumers in an already bleak economic market. To address these concerns, I, along with 67 other members of the House of Representatives, am sending a letter to President Bush expressing my concerns.

Effectively addressing high gasoline prices will take six steps—none of which are included in the energy legislation.

First, require oil companies to expand gasoline storage capacities, require them to hold significant amounts in that storage, and reserve the right to order these companies to release this stored gas to address supply and demand fluctuations.

Second, block mergers that make it easier for oil companies to manipulate gasoline supplies, and take steps, such as forcing companies to sell assets, to remedy the current highly concentrated market.

Third, re-regulate energy trading exchanges that were exploited by Enron and continue to be abused by other energy traders.

Fourth, discontinue filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve while prices are high and conduct a study of building crude and product reserves that can be used as economic stockpiles to dampen price increases.

Fifth, reduce oil consumption by implementing strong fuel economy standards. Substantially improving CAFE standards over a ten-year period would reduce the oil used by one-third in 2020 and save consumers \$16 billion at the gas pump.

Sixth, request the Federal Trade Commission conduct a study of the reasons why the

market forced the closure of over 50 predominantly small and independent refiners in the past 10 years and assess how to bring fair competition back to the refinery market and thus expand capacity.

By employing all six of these strategies, substantial reductions in the price of gasoline are attainable.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in supporting these strategies to lower gasoline prices for consumers. I want to thank WEWS for their public service of bringing these signatures to Washington. The people of Ohio have spoken. It is time for Congress and the Administration to respond to meet the people's needs.

HONORING MICHAEL DOYLE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Michael Doyle who was former Knight Journalism Fellow at Yale Law School and recent author of *The Forestport Breaks: A Nineteenth-Century Conspiracy along the Black Forest Canal*. I have had the pleasure of forming a relationship with Michael Doyle because of his continued fair and balanced Washington Politics Beat coverage in my district newspaper, the Fresno Bee. Doyle's latest literary achievement follows a string of exceptional work including numerous articles for McClatchy Papers in California's Central Valley. *The Forestport Breaks: A Nineteenth-Century Conspiracy along the Black Forest Canal* depicts a conspiracy to sabotage part of the Erie Canal system along the Black River Canal.

A *Publisher's Weekly Review* called the work "carefully researched and nimbly written . . . Doyle's account of a 19th-century conspiracy to sabotage part of the Erie Canal system is a delight to read. Completed in 1825, the Erie Canal was an engineering marvel that vastly improved commercial transportation. In 1856, canal boats carried over four million tons of goods—more than twice the load of the railroads. But by 1869, the tide had turned in favor of New York's railroads; the canal had fallen into disrepair and was subject to costly breaks that flooded the countryside. In 1895, New York voters approved \$9 million in improvements—but a subsequent investigation revealed that all but \$25,000 of the money had been spent, but only one third of the work was complete. The subsequent scandal made heads roll, including the governor's. After Theodore Roosevelt was elected in 1898, he appointed Colonel John N. Partridge as superintendent of public works. Aware that Forestport in Oneida County (which was along the Black River feeder canal) had acquired an unsavory reputation, Partridge hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency to investigate. The locals fought the Pinkertons as enemies of the working man, but the latter eventually uncovered a plot that involved nearly every family in Forestport (and, in the words of one prosecutor, had 'no parallel in viciousness') in which the canal was 'the plaything of the politically connected' while the working men assigned to protect it damaged it for a tiny slice of the pie. In the end, 13 men went to jail for