

hundreds of fisherman, many political candidates seeking support and votes visited John's small Monterey office on the wharf.

Bricky worked with my father, the late Senator Fred Farr to draft and advocate legislation that allowed California's fisherman to collect unemployment benefits. This was one of Bricky's proudest achievements. A proud Italian-American, John also supported the predominantly Italian-American fishing community. He was instrumental in establishing and getting approval from the City of Monterey to have the bocce ball courts created which are still in use today.

Bricky was endearingly referred to within his community as a "character". He was a friend to everyone and very dedicated to his work and fishermen's rights. He was always talking about the plight of the fishermen never having enough money to make it, needing more tonnage and unemployment. Everyone within the community loved Bricky.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to remember Bricky for his honor, humanity, and love for Monterey Bay and its people. John consistently was helpful and loyal as a friend, husband, father and advocate. Our thoughts go out to his family, Kathryn Alkire, John Crivello, and JoAnn Crivello. He was a good friend to me, taking the time to talk about the old days, about my father, and about his love for golfing at Rancho Cañada. I will miss him greatly, but know his life will continue to inspire those he touched.

PEACE CORPS: A MODEL FOR
HOPE

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize that last week was National Peace Corps Week and to applaud the thousands of Americans who have represented the U.S. since 1961 in the Peace Corps in 138 countries. Emblematic of the idealism of America are the 15 volunteers from my district in Southeast Iowa who are currently serving on four continents, in desert villages, mountain towns and city centers from Ukraine to Panama and Morocco.

A Peace Corps volunteer is charged with three missions: the first is to help the people of host countries in meeting their need for trained professionals; the second is to help promote understanding of America around the world; and the third is to help expand American understanding of other peoples and countries.

Thus, the job of the Peace Corps volunteer is not over when their assignment is completed. Volunteers maintain a duty to share their grasp of the people, the language and the culture of the countries in which they served.

Not long ago, in a speech at Yale University, the first Peace Corps Director, Sargent Shriver, declared that he wanted to add a fourth goal: to "bind all human beings together in a common cause to assure peace and survival for all."

No mission is more altruistic; nor more consequential. Geopolitical realists might consider such majesty of purpose to be naive. Actually,

there is no rational alternative in a world where history has known few generations unaffected by the strife of war; where the creation of weapons of mass destruction has increased the vulnerability of the human race. As Einstein noted, splitting the atom has changed everything except our way of thinking. It is the capacity to think that, at its best, characterizes mankind, but, at its least impressive, has yet to be harnessed in such a way as to give confidence that modern man can live with modern technology.

It is in the context of concern for the common fate of all mankind the Peace Corps stands out as the singular institution in American society that provides a model for hope and a cause for optimism.

INTRODUCTON OF LEGISLATION
MAKING AERIAL FIREFIGHTERS
ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL DEATH
BENEFITS

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, in April 1997, John Hirth of Buffalo, Wyoming, and his copilot lost their lives when their air tanker crashed near Blandburg, Pennsylvania. They were on a firefighting mission for a government agency, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

At the time, John was making an aerial scouting of the fire, referred to as a dry run. Fire conditions were gusty, and turbulent wind patterns resulted from the fire itself.

Immediately after dropping the fire retardant, their tanker encountered smoke which affected visibility.

Just as the air tanker flew out of the smoke, its right wing hit an oak tree which stood above the tree line. The aircraft rolled 90 degrees left and flew into the mountainside a quarter mile from the initial tree strike, exploding on impact and instantly killing John and his copilot.

In the mid-1990s, John tried to obtain life insurance through various agencies. He was turned down due to his occupation as an aerial firefighter.

At the time of his death, the business still had to meet payments on the 1997 fire contract operation (which included liability insurance, contract-paid pilots, fuel, oil, parts, etc.), as well as on a second tanker and one spray-er aircraft.

The financial loss from this crash was so devastating that his wife, Connie, did not have the money to pay for her husband's funeral.

While this is heartbreaking to us, it is a very stark reality that many families face when aerial firefighters are lost in the line of duty.

The fact is that the vast majority of those pilots lost were serving under a government contract at the time. They were providing aerial fire suppression services for the government when they lost their lives.

My reason for being here today is to correct a provision in law that is blatantly unfair.

I am re-introducing legislation that will provide some financial security to aerial firefighters and their families.

This legislation recognizes all pilots and crew involved in aerial fire suppression as

public safety officers. In doing so, the bill makes these deserving individuals eligible for death benefits under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, also known as PSOB.

Under current law, aerial firefighters who are under contract with the government are not afforded these benefits simply because they work for private companies that contract with the government.

However, without these contract pilots and crew, the federal government would not have the capabilities to deal with wild land fires.

This legislation is a matter of common sense. Aerial firefighters are public safety officers in every sense of the word. With dedication and enthusiasm, they protect our natural resources, our communities, and often our very lives.

Every day, when our men and women in the Armed Forces go out to do their job, they say to us, "I am willing to risk my life for you today." Our local police officers say it as well and, yes, my friends, so too do aerial firefighters.

John Hirth was the primary wage earner in his air tanker business and his family. If PSOB had been available to them at the time of John's death, the financial hardships endured by his wife could have been minimized.

It is time we start giving back to aerial firefighters because, if we don't, we will be losing a valuable resource. With no aerial firefighters to protect our natural resources, where will we turn?

I don't think any of us want to face that question, so let's make sure we don't. Please support this legislation. It is the right thing to do.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TER-
RORIST APPREHENSION RECORD
RETENTION ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the bipartisan "Terrorist Apprehension Record Retention Act of 2005" or "TARR Act," legislation designed to make it much easier for State and Federal counterterrorism officials to track known or suspected members of a terrorist organization who attempt to purchase dangerous firearms here in the U.S. I am joined by Representative CHRISTOPHER SHAYS of Connecticut.

According to a recently released Government Accountability Office ("GAO") report, over the course of a nine-month span last year, a total of fifty-six (56) firearm purchase attempts were made by individuals designated as known or suspected terrorists by the Federal Government. In forty-seven (47) of those cases, State and Federal authorities were forced to permit such transactions to proceed because officials were unable to find any disqualifying information (such as a prior felony conviction or court-determined 'mental defect') in the individual applicant's background. Under current law, neither suspected nor actual membership in a terrorist organization is a sufficient ground, in and of itself, to prevent such a purchase from taking place.

Even more troubling than this apparent loophole in our current system of gun laws is

the confusion which ensued after such transactions occurred. The GAO specifically determined that, in such instances, the Department of Justice's information-sharing procedures failed to adequately "address the specific types of information from NICS transactions that can or should be provided to Federal counterterrorism officials or the sources from which such information can be obtained."

The TARR Act seeks to correct this problem by making two simple, yet important, changes in current law. First, the bill would require all information regarding such transactions to be shared with all appropriate counterterrorism officials at the State and Federal level. Secondly, it would impose a ten year retention requirement on any records related to those transactions. In sum, the bill proposes two modest changes which—in the long run—will go along way towards keeping our homeland truly secure.

I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
GERTRUDE A. YOUNG

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Gertrude Anderson Young of Warren County. Mrs. Young was born to the late Mr. Wanzie Anderson and Josephine Anderson.

Mrs. Young is a 1973 honor graduate of North Vicksburg High School, a 1976 honor graduate of Mississippi Valley State University where she received a degree in Nursing, a 1983 Hinds Community College honor graduate, and 1999 honor graduate of Alcorn State University.

Mrs. Young has worked as a Registered Nurse for 20 years. Mrs. Young is noted in Warren County for creating a 24-hour hotline and weekly radio program for teens called "Talk to Me". In addition, she was elected as the first woman to serve as Warren County Election Commissioner of District 3. Presently, she is a published writer and she serves as the City of Vicksburg's first female elected official as North Ward Alderman and Mayor Pro-Tem.

Mrs. Young is the 1996 recipient of the State's Child Advocate of the Year award and the Fannie Lou Hamer award. She was inducted into the 2001–2003 Who's Who Among

American Women. Mrs. Young is a member of Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as an Associate Minister. She is the former president of the Mississippi Black Caucus of Local Elected Official (MBC–LEO) and she is a member of numerous local, State, and Federal boards and organizations including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

APPRECIATION FOR ALEC
FRENCH'S SERVICE ON THE JU-
DICIAARY COMMITTEE STAFF
MARCH 10, 2005

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BERMAN, and I would like to commend and thank Alec French for his tremendous contribution as Minority Counsel to the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property. During his five years of service to the Subcommittee, Alec was well-liked by the Members and his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We are sad to see him leave our staff.

Without our system of copyright, trademark, and patent protection for innovations, consumers would not be able to enjoy movies, music, or new technology. Over the last five years, Alec was an invaluable member of our team and he played a crucial role in helping us to protect creative works and to establish the parameters of intellectual property rights. At the same time, Alec made sure that we listened to the needs of all parties involved, namely copyright owners and copyright users, so that decisions of policy were balanced appropriately.

Because of Alec's service, Congress was able to pass into law several bills on these issues, including the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act of 2004, Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act of 2004, the Intellectual Property Protection and Courts Amendments Act of 2004, and the Small Webcaster Settlement Act of 2002. He also shepherded numerous bills that passed the House, including the United States Patent and Trademark Fee Modernization Act of 2004, the Piracy Deterrence and Education Act of 2004, Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act of 2001, Patent and Trademark Office Authorization Act of 2002, Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2001, and Madrid Protocol Implementation Act.

Alec also was instrumental in working with our third branch of the government, the Judiciary. He helped protect the privacy of judges and their staffs, made sure that judges were compensated fairly, and ensured that the courts would have the resources they need to continue serving the American public.

We thank Alec for his exceptional service to Congress and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "SECURITY AND FAIRNESS ENHANCEMENT (SAFE) FOR AMERICA ACT"

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Security and Fairness Enhancement (SAFE) for America Act." This much-needed legislation eliminates the controversial visa lottery program, through which 50,000 aliens are chosen at random to come and live permanently in the United States based on pure luck. The visa lottery program threatens national security, results in the unfair administration of our nation's immigration laws, and encourages a cottage industry for fraudulent opportunists.

Because winners of the visa lottery are chosen at random, the visa lottery program presents a serious national security threat. A perfect example of the system gone awry is the case of Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, the Egyptian national who killed two and wounded three during a shooting spree at Los Angeles International Airport in July of 2002. He was allowed to apply for lawful permanent resident status in 1997 because of his wife's status as a visa lottery winner.

The State Department's Inspector General has even weighed in on the national security threat posed by the visa lottery program. In a report issued in September of 2003, the Office of Inspector General stated that the visa lottery program contains "significant threats to national security from entry of hostile intelligence officers, criminals, and terrorists into the United States as permanent residents." Even if improvements were made to the visa lottery program, nothing would prevent terrorist organizations or foreign intelligence agencies from having members apply for the program who do not have criminal backgrounds. These types of organized efforts would never be detected, even if significant background checks and counter-fraud measures were enacted within the program.

Usually, immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals that have existing connections with family members lawfully residing in the United States or with U.S. employers. These types of relationships help ensure that immigrants entering our country have a stake in continuing America's success and have needed skills to contribute to our nation's economy. However, under the visa lottery program, visas are awarded to immigrants at random without meeting such criteria.

In addition, the visa lottery program is unfair to immigrants who comply with the United States' immigration laws. The visa lottery program does not expressly prohibit illegal aliens from applying to receive visas through the program. Thus, the program treats foreign nationals that comply with our laws the same as those that blatantly violate our laws. In addition, most family-sponsored immigrants currently face a wait of years to obtain visas, yet the lottery program pushes 50,000 random immigrants with no particular family ties, job skills or education ahead of these family and employer-sponsored immigrants each year with relatively no wait. This sends the wrong