

HONORING COLONEL JOHN D. GUMBEL, USMC, ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the fine service of a good friend and outstanding American, Colonel John D. Gumbel, Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Depot located aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina.

A native of California, Colonel Gumbel received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from UCLA in 1977 and his Master of Science degree in Defense Systems Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA in 1987. He is also a 1998 distinguished graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces with a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy and a graduate of the Program Managers Course at Defense Systems Management College, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Commissioned through Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC), Colonel Gumbel then followed The Basic School in Quantico, VA with Aviation Supply Officer training in Athens, GA. In April 1978, Colonel Gumbel transferred to the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) for a year where he worked as an aviation supply officer with Marine Air Groups 12 and 15 and as the embark officer for the 31st Marine Amphibious Unit. Colonel Gumbel next transferred to Pensacola for Naval Flight Officer training and was designated a Naval Flight Officer in March 1980. Following Electronic Warfare training at Mather Air Force Base and EA-6B training at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, WA, Colonel Gumbel was designated an Electronic Countermeasures Officer (ECMO). He reported to Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 2 (VMAQ-2) in June 1981 where he served as an ECMO and a maintenance officer. He deployed twice to WESTPAC and aboard the USS *Saratoga* in the Mediterranean before transferring to the Naval Postgraduate School in 1985. He served his postgraduate payback tour as the Reserve Enlisted Manpower Analyst at Headquarters Marine Corps from 1987 to 1990. Following Aviation Maintenance Officer School and refresher training in the EA-6B, Colonel Gumbel reported to VMAQ-2 in January 1991 in Shaik Isa, Bahrain, for service during the Gulf War. He served as the maintenance officer for VMAQ-2 after their return to the U.S. and as the Executive Officer of VMAQ-2 (Det. X) and later as the Executive Officer of VMAQ-1 following VMAQ-2's split into VMAQ-1, 2, and 3 in June 1992. He deployed to WESTPAC with VMAQ-1.

Colonel Gumbel transferred to Naval Air Systems Command in June 1994, where he served as the EA-6B Class Desk until July 1997. He attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces during the 1997-98 class year and reported to the Joint Staff in June 1998. During his two-year joint tour, Colonel Gumbel worked in J-39, Information Operations, where he focused on Electronic Warfare and special access program issues. From June 2000 to June 2001, Colonel Gumbel was the Military Assistant to the Assistant Sec-

retary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. In July 2001, Colonel Gumbel reported for duty to Naval Aviation Depot Cherry Point, NC.

Naval Air Depot Cherry Point is responsible for providing maintenance, engineering and logistics support on a variety of military aircraft, engines and components. Employing over 4,000 personnel, the facility is North Carolina's largest industrial employer east of 1-95 and is a valuable asset to our nation's military. In 2004, under his command, the depot rebuilt 462 engines for our Navy and Marine Corps helicopters that are currently relied upon to transport our troops in the global war on terror.

Colonel Gumbel's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal Strike/Flight numeral 1, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the end of Colonel Gumbel's 27 year career in the United States Marine Corps, but although he no longer wears the uniform, he will forever be a Marine. I would like to wish Colonel John Gumbel the best success as he enters a new chapter in life and to thank not only him, but also his wife Stacy and their three children Evan, Andrew, and Cameron for their loyal service to this Nation.

SALUTING JUDGE GARY L. TAYLOR FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS A FEDERAL JUDGE IN ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Gary L. Taylor, who is retiring today as a United States District Court judge after a remarkable 19-year judicial career.

Judge Taylor, an Orange County native, graduated from Santa Ana High School in 1956 before going on to earn both undergraduate and law degrees from the University of California-Los Angeles. Following law school, Judge Taylor served his country as a lawyer for the U.S. Army in Missouri before moving back to Orange County, where he enjoyed a tremendously successful 20-year career as a business litigator.

Judge Taylor was appointed as a Superior Court Judge by Governor George Deukmejian in 1986. Just 4 years later, President George H.W. Bush nominated Judge Taylor to fill a vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. He was confirmed by the Senate without opposition before being sworn into office on October 1, 1990.

In his nearly 20 years on the bench, Judge Taylor has demonstrated the best qualities of a trial judge: he is a first-rate legal thinker who is fair-minded, courteous, and unfailingly ethical. He is uniformly respected by the parties and attorneys who appear before him. The president of the Federal Bar Association of Orange County has aptly called him "an outstanding jurist"—and to those of us in Orange County who know him as a friend, he is indeed that and more.

Having had the pleasure of knowing Judge Taylor for many years, I can attest to his quick, agile mind, his kind and generous manner, and his infectious enthusiasm. In the early 1990s, I worked closely with Judge Taylor to win congressional approval of a desperately needed federal courthouse in Orange County. Before the Ronald Reagan Federal Courthouse was built, Judge Taylor and the other Orange County federal judges were housed in trailers in Santa Ana, and the lack of adequate facilities in Orange County severely impeded the ability of the court to serve the taxpayers. Judge Taylor was a tireless advocate for building a federal courthouse in Orange County, and his hard work was instrumental in convincing the Congress to authorize construction of the world-class facility we now enjoy in Santa Ana.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the people of Orange County whom it is my privilege to represent, congratulations to Judge Gary L. Taylor on an exemplary judicial career and an unflinching commitment to public service and the welfare of his fellow citizens.

FREEDOM FOR HÉCTOR RAÚL VALLE HERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Héctor Raúl Valle Hernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Valle Hernández is a pro-democracy leader, the vice president of the Confederation of Democratic Workers of Cuba and an activist in the Pro Human Rights Party. According to Amnesty International, on November 16, 2002, he was interrogated by Castor's thugs and told to stop his activities against the totalitarian regime. Despite the constant harassment, violence, and repression directed at him by the tyrant, Mr. Valle Hernández continued to advocate for human rights and democracy.

In March 2003, as part of Castro's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, he was arrested. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 12 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Valle Hernández is currently languishing in the abhorrent gulag because of his belief in liberty for the Cuban people. According to Amnesty International, Mr. Valle Hernández' family has been harassed and his wife has been "summoned" for taking part in opposition activities. Let me be very clear, Mr. Valle Hernández is locked in a totalitarian dungeon that the U.S. State Department describes as, "harsh and life threatening." His wife and family are harassed and threatened, yet Mr. Valle Hernández and his family have not stopped demanding human rights, labor rights, and freedom for the people of Cuba.

Mr. Valle Hernández is a wonderful example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, no matter how often their families are harassed and threatened, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women

of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, political prisoners are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Héctor Raúl Valle Hernández and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF MR. DANIEL E. GOGGINS.

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual whose tireless dedication to service is continuing to impact the lives of countless Alabama schoolchildren. Over his thirty-four year teaching career, Mr. Danny Goggins came to embody the true nature of a selfless public servant.

His career began by teaching history at Helena Elementary, and he rapidly rose through the ranks to become a High School principal at the young age of thirty-one. The positive and lasting impression that he made on countless people is best known in the growing town of Calera, Alabama. For over two decades, Danny Goggins served as the Principal of Calera High School in Shelby County. In fact, it was not a rare occasion for him to have awarded diplomas to the parents of some of Calera High's most recent graduates.

Mr. Goggins' teaching philosophy was based on knowing that many of his students came from hard-working families not unlike the one he was raised in, and he felt that it was his responsibility to see that Calera's children had the same opportunity to learn as students in much wealthier schools. He accomplished this difficult task by continually hiring quality teachers and by maintaining a positive learning environment. Through his efforts, Calera High School consistently produced the most improved standardized testing scores in Shelby County, and also won several state championships in mathematics and boy's basketball along the way.

He was respected by both his students and teachers because they knew him to be a fair and impartial administrator who would address issues with common sense solutions. In fact, many of his former students often see him out and make it a point to say hello or remind him about the time they had to visit his office for one reason or another. In the end however, I believe the real reason people feel compelled to speak is because they remember him for treating them fairly and as an adult, regardless of who they were. It is Mr. Goggins belief that everyone has an equal chance at success if they behave with a positive attitude and demonstrate the character needed to succeed.

Prior to his retirement in the fall of 2004, Mr. Goggins' proudest moment as an educator came when he had the personal satisfaction of awarding a diploma to his youngest son, who graduated with top honors from Calera in 2003.

Today, Danny Goggins continues to educate younger generations by serving as the Scout

Master for Boy Scout Troop 548 in Alabaster, a post he has held since 1972. It has been my pleasure to recognize a distinguished Alabamian such as Mr. Goggins, who has asked for nothing in return for service to so many.

DIETARY SUPPLEMENT ACCESS AND AWARENESS ACT (DSAA)

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, with the support of my colleagues, Rep. HENRY WAXMAN and Rep. JOHN DINGELL, I rise today to introduce the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act of 2005.

This legislation presents a balanced and reasonable approach to improving the safety of dietary supplements while making sure that consumers continue to have access to them.

According to a report by the National Center for Health Statistics released last year, approximately 62% of adults use some form of alternative therapy, including herbal remedies and dietary supplements. Dietary supplement sales in the U.S. alone are \$19.8 billion. This popularity, however, alarms consumer health advocates. Current law does not require dietary supplements to prove their efficacy or safety, leaving consumers vulnerable to unexpected side-effects and other health risks.

The dilemma we face today is due to Congressional action in the early 1990s. In 1994, Congress passed the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA). Cited as the greatest removal of FDA jurisdiction in the history of the agency, this legislation deregulated the supplement industry. Instead of requiring manufacturers to prove that their products are safe, DSHEA required that FDA prove that the products are unsafe before it can take action against a potentially deadly product. Furthermore, under this law, manufacturers are not required to inform the FDA of any reported health problems associated with supplement use.

This means consumers and regulators may not have access to information regarding the side effects of these products. Former FDA director David Kessler wrote about DSHEA in the New England Journal of Medicine, explaining "Congress has put the FDA in the position of being able to act only after the fact and after substantial harm has already occurred."

The story of ephedra, a product that was pulled from the market only after thousands of reports of serious injuries including heart attack, stroke, and death, demonstrates that FDA does not have adequate authority to protect the public from unsafe supplements. In 2004, only after eight long years, and a Herculean effort to amass a mountain of evidence, the FDA banned the sale of ephedra products.

This past April, a ruling by a federal judge in Utah called into question the ban on ephedra citing insufficient evidence and the lack of authority to ban it without such proof. This ruling, made almost exactly one year after the FDA ban on ephedra, underscores the present difficulty with regulating dietary supplements.

Today with Rep. HENRY WAXMAN and Rep. JOHN DINGELL, I am proud to introduce the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act.

This bill will address the gaps created by DSHEA through greater information exchange and accountability.

Our legislation contains commonsense provisions requiring dietary supplement manufacturers to provide the FDA with a list of their products and reports of all serious adverse events. These actions will alert the FDA to problematic dietary supplements and will give the FDA access to information it needs to take action more swiftly. If the FDA determines that a specific supplement may have serious health consequences, it can require the manufacturer to do a post-market surveillance study to ensure that the product is safe.

Our legislation engages manufacturers in determining the safety of dietary supplements. By providing their studies and other related data, manufacturers and the FDA would come together to make a comprehensive and fair decision for American consumers. It also clarifies the standard the FDA must meet in determining whether a dietary supplement poses an unreasonable risk to consumers. This bill allows the FDA to use data from clinical trials, adverse event reports and other relevant scientific information to reach an informed decision.

Our legislation gives the FDA the authority to prohibit sales of dietary supplements that may pose significant risk to minors. Many young athletes emulate the practices of their professional sport heroes, yet their developing bodies are much more susceptible to the effects of stimulants and steroid-like products such as "andro."

According to Bruce Silverglade from the Center for Science in the Public Interest, "the challenge for most consumers is to determine which supplements are beneficial and which are nothing more than 21st-century snake oil or even dangerous." That is why this legislation includes authorization of funds for physician and consumer education programs regarding adverse reactions.

Certainly, there are dietary supplements that offer benefits. Folic acid intake by women, for example, has been shown to reduce birth defects in unborn children and we are all familiar with the benefits of taking vitamin C and monitoring adequate calcium intake. Despite claims to the contrary, the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act will not take away vitamins and minerals from consumers. In fact, my colleagues and I included language to specifically exempt them from this legislation. This provision should alleviate worries about the Codex Alimentarius and its guidelines for vitamin and minerals.

The FDA has its hands tied behind its back. Limited funding and manpower has left the FDA overextended and diluted its efforts to protect the public. The measures and education programs in this legislation will enable the FDA to gather solid data about the dangers some dietary supplements pose. With this information in hand, the FDA can make sensible, informed decisions and policies about dietary supplements. Consumers can have greater assurance than they currently do about the safety of the products on the market. We cannot continue to stand on the sidelines and let this serious public health threat go unchecked. The health and well being of our young people and loved ones are at risk.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act.