

which included facilities for the Active and Reserve Components and Army Family Housing.

His efforts, recognized within the Army Family Housing, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and Congress, have focused specifically on the Secretariat policy and oversight for the Army's Transformation to the Army Modular Force, Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy, and supplemental request to support the global war on terrorism and responses to natural disasters. Throughout his career, he has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment to his colleagues. He is an exemplary civil servant and will be missed by the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate Peter Tamilin for his service to our country. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding his past accomplishments and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 6, 2005, I was unable to cast votes on two measures on the suspension calendar. I ask that my absence be excused, and that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 535, honoring the legacy of Yitzhak Rabin, and "yea" on H. Res. 479, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

LET'S GET SERIOUS ABOUT SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today's actions are a shameful disservice both to our soldiers in Iraq and to Americans here at home. Republicans are denying the Nation an open debate on the war in Iraq. On tonight's agenda, the Republicans not only have replaced Mr. MURTHA's resolution on Iraq with H.R. 571, a perversion of the Murtha Resolution that Representative HUNTER introduced, and which in no way conveys the sentiment of Representative MURTHA's proposal. They also have had the temerity to characterize it as a "Democratic proposal."

Representative MURTHA's Resolution states that, "The deployment of U.S. forces in Iraq, by direction of Congress, is hereby terminated and the forces are to be redeployed at the earliest practicable date." It also provides for deploying a contingency capability outside of Iraq, and requires America to pursue security and stability in Iraq through diplomacy. The Republican legislation contains none of this language.

I am a member of the "Out of Iraq Caucus" because I believe we should bring our troops home from Iraq as soon as practicably possible, as does Representative MURTHA. The

citizens of this country deserve to have a true floor debate on why this is right and on how best to do it. Then their Representatives owe them an up or down vote on this issue. Mr. MURTHA's speech should open serious hearings on the issue, followed by extensive debate on our policy in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, to paraphrase FDR: Tonight it's clear that the only thing the Bush White House has to fear is public debate itself.

It is the height of hypocrisy for the Republican leadership to schedule a sudden, strait-jacketed mini-debate and vote on their version of Mr. MURTHA's resolution. To understand this hypocrisy its necessary to put their deceit in context.

The House Majority Leadership has consistently refused to allow the House to debate H.J. Res. 55, an earlier bill offered by 63 House members in a bipartisan fashion. It would require the President to set forth a plan for withdrawal from Iraq and to begin to implement it next fall. The Republican Leadership has stonewalled efforts to have this bill considered in committee and brought to the Floor for consideration. They have forced us to employ the parliamentary last resort of filing a discharge petition, in order to force the Leadership to let us debate H.J. Res. 55. The issue before the House at this point is not even the merits of that resolution. Instead, it is preservation of the basic democratic process and the ability of the public to hear debate on the most pressing issue facing this country.

Now, in a 180 degree reversal, the Leadership suddenly wants an abbreviated debate on our policy for ending President Bush's disaster in Iraq. Why this bizarre turn-around, Mr. Speaker? The answer is simple. Mr. MURTHA, the Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee yesterday struck fear in the Leadership and the White House with his statement of plain truths. Because of his stature in this body, the gentlemen from Pennsylvania, with that single speech, shredded the White House's defense of its flawed policies.

Until now, the President and Vice President have relied on questioning the patriotism of their critics on Iraq. They have hidden behind the claim that—any critics of their war do not support our troops and do not respect our troops' sacrifices. They have repeated that outrageous mantra over and over, most disgracefully in President Bush's remarks on Veterans Day.

Those false claims to discredit critics were demolished in one stroke by Mr. MURTHA's statement. The White House knows full well:

that there is no more patriotic Member of this House,

that there is no Member who loves our troops more,

that there is no Member who has supported our troops more, and

that there is no Member who has served in our military more bravely than Mr. MURTHA.

The White House political spinners also realize that the American people are disgusted when attacks on a patriot like Mr. MURTHA are made by elected officials in the White House who sought to evade military service in time of war. So now they resort to this sleazy tactic. They pretend to have the Nation consider the issues raised by Mr. MURTHA's candid analysis, but in reality they seek to sweep those powerful remarks under the rug.

Then they will pretend that the Congress has seriously considered the tragic issues of

life and death and claim that this steam-rolled vote reflects the fully-informed, considered opinion of our constituents. That's nonsense.

This is a disgrace to the House, and more important, it's a disgrace to all that our men and women in Iraq are fighting and dying for. The American people and our soldiers deserve better than this cheap trick. To those across the aisle who want to prevent the American people from learning the awful truths about Iraq and who seek to stifle real national debate, there is only one thing to say: "Shame on you."

Mr. HUNTER's charade should be defeated.

S. 136; TITLE III—REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN and Chairman POMBO for their support of my legislation to adjust the boundary of Redwood National Park to include the State of California's recent Mill Creek acquisition. This legislation is included as Title III in S. 136—The Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act.

In 1994, the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation established an historic framework for cooperative management of the four redwood parks included in the boundary of Redwood National Park. Now officially known as Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP), this partnership is viewed as a nation-wide model of interagency cooperative management effort. Prior to the cooperative agreement, there were inefficiencies, duplication of effort, management and operational conflicts and confusion for the visitor. Now the park appears to the visitor and the traveling public as a seamless park unit. A Redwood National and State Park general management plan was adopted in 2000 that guides the future management and protection of these parks. The proposed boundary revision will enable the two park systems to extend the unique RNSP partnership to the Mill Creek acquisition.

The Mill Creek acquisition is contiguous to the existing boundary of RNSP. It is bordered to the west by Del Norte Redwoods State Park, to the north by Jedediah Smith State Park and to the east, by Six Rivers National Forest, Smith River Recreation Area. My legislation adjusts the RNSP boundary to include the State acquisition of the Mill Creek and Rock Creek watersheds.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation acquired the approximately 25,000 acres of redwood forest in Del Norte County in 2002. The addition of this land protected two important watersheds that link the Pacific Coast with the inland mountains. The Mill Creek and Rock Creek watersheds are important coho salmon rearing tributaries to the Smith River, California's largest remaining undammed river. Protecting and restoring habitat for coho salmon in these areas will help increase salmon populations along the Northern California and Southern Oregon Coasts. It will

ultimately help reduce regulatory burdens on all stakeholders in the watershed. Stimson Lumber Company, who logged the area since the mid-1800s and had gradually phased out its timber operations on this property, initiated the sale of the land.

The property was purchased by Save-the-Redwoods-League and the State of California for \$60 million. The purchase price was funded by a variety of state sources, including \$42.5 million from Proposition 12, Proposition 13, Salmon Habitat Funding (SB271) and the Governor's Land Conservation Matching Grants. Save-the-Redwoods League provided \$15 million and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided an additional \$2.5 million.

As a result of negotiations between the State, Save-the-Redwoods-League, Stimson Lumber and Del Norte County, a mitigation payment was established to off-set the loss of local property tax revenue. Del Norte County received a one-time \$5 million payment. The county has preserved the principal and hope one day to be able to invest the interest to grow the fund.

This legislation is supported by the State of California, the National Park Service, the County of Del Norte, Save-the-Redwoods-League and many of my constituents. Passing it today will strengthen the management of these lands and benefit visitors who come from across the country and around the world to see the redwoods and it will help protect important coho habitat.

Again, thank you for your support of this bill which will help both the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation work more efficiently and cost effectively. I urge your "aye" vote.

TSUNAMI READINESS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I shared the letter below from Admiral Lautenbacher, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to all U.S. coastal governors as well as the governors of U.S. territories.

During a recent radio broadcast, I heard a NOAA official state that it was not a question of if a tsunami would hit the United States, but when. The letter below from Admiral Lautenbacher confirms this statement.

It is my hope that our coastal states will contact the NOAA National Weather Service state liaison to receive more information about NOAA's TsunamiReady program.

It was only one year ago that the deadly tsunami struck Indonesia. We must not forget this tragedy and should remember how important it is to be prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE, THE UNDER SEC-
RETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS
AND ATMOSPHERE,

Washington, DC, November 22, 2005.

Hon. FRANK WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: Thank you for your recent inquiry regarding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

tion's (NOAA) tsunami education and community preparedness programs.

All coastal communities in the United States are at some risk. It is a matter of when, not if, a tsunami will strike. The anniversary of the devastating Indonesian tsunami of December 26, 2004, can serve as an opportunity to educate residents of the United States about our vulnerability to tsunamis, and help them minimize personal risk.

Many lives can be saved during a tsunami if the community and local emergency managers are educated and prepared. NOAA has a ready-to-implement program available to coastal communities called TsunamiReady. The TsunamiReady program helps ensure a community is prepared—from understanding what is a tsunami, to ensuring a warning notification system is in place, and establishing evacuation routes and response actions in case of a tsunami warning.

One key to a successful warning program is public notification. TsunamiReady uses NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) as one method to alert individuals when a warning is issued. NOAA Weather Radio continuously broadcasts National Weather Service forecasts, warnings, and other crucial weather information. NOAA Weather Radios can be programmed to receive information specific to a certain area, and sounds an alarm to alert users to dangerous situations, including tsunamis.

For further information, please contact Kim Campbell (Kimberly.Campbell@noaa.gov), NOAA's National Weather Service Performance and Awareness Branch Chief, at (301) 713-0462 extension 118, or the appropriate State Liaison office from the enclosed list.

We appreciate your ongoing interest in NOAA.

Sincerely,

CONRAD C. LAUTENBACHER, JR.,
*Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Under Sec-
retary of Commerce for Oceans and At-
mosphere.*

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINIS-
TRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STATE
LIAISON OFFICES

Alaska: Anchorage, Robert Hopkins, Tel. 907-266-5117; Juneau, Tom Ainsworth, Tel. 907-790-6804.

Alabama: Birmingham, Jim Stefkovich, Tel. 205-664-7829.

California: Sacramento, Elizabeth A. Morse, Tel. 916-979-3041.

Connecticut: Boston, MA, Robert M. Thompson, Tel. 508-823-1900.

Delaware: Philadelphia, PA, Gary Szatkowski, Tel. 609-261-6600.

Florida: Tallahassee, Paul Duval, Tel. 850-942-8833.

Georgia: Atlanta, Lans Rothfusz, Tel. 770-486-1133.

Hawaii: Honolulu, James Weyman, Tel. 808-973-5270.

Louisiana: New Orleans/Baton Rouge, Paul S. Trotter, Tel. 985-649-0357.

Maine: Portland, Albert W. Wheeler, Tel. 207-688-3216.

Maryland: Baltimore/Washington, James Lee, Tel. 703-260-0107.

Massachusetts: Boston, Robert M. Thompson, Tel. 508-823-1900.

Mississippi: Jackson, Alan Gerard, Tel. 601-936-2189.

New Hampshire: Portland, ME, Albert W. Wheeler, Tel. 207-688-3216.

New Jersey: Philadelphia, PA, Gary Szatkowski, Tel. 609-261-6600.

New York: Albany, Eugene Auciello, Tel. 518-435-9580.

North Carolina: Raleigh/Durham, Darin Figurskey, Tel. 919-515-8209.

Oregon: Portland, Steve Todd, Tel. 503-261-9247.

Rhode Island: Boston, MA, Robert M. Thompson, Tel. 508-823-1900.

South Carolina: Charleston, Mike Emlaw, Tel. 843-744-3207.

Texas: Austin/San Antonio, Joe Arellano, Tel. 830-629-0130.

Virginia: Wakefield, Anthony Siebers, Tel. 757-899-4200.

Washington: Seattle/Tacoma, Christopher D. Hill, Tel. 206-526-6095.

Puerto Rico: San Juan, Israel Matos, Tel. 787-253-4586.

Guam: Guam, Genevieve Miller, Tel. 671-472-0944.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HAROLD "SANDY" SANDELMAN

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Harold "Sandy" Sandelman, a resident of Laguna Woods, California, for turning 100 years old on November 26, 2005.

Mr. Sandelman, a son of a Russian immigrant, was born in Sault Saint Marie, Michigan, on November 26, 1905. In 1912, his family moved to Detroit, Michigan where Mr. Sandelman attended high school and became known for his ability to sing, dance, and play the banjo. In fact, the students named Mr. Sandelman "Banjo Buddy" because of his passion for playing the instrument.

Following high school, Mr. Sandelman attended Wayne State University for one year. After a year of college, Mr. Sandelman returned to Detroit and worked for Metro Goldwin Mayer selling motion pictures to various theatres in southern Michigan. Mr. Sandelman also worked in the advertising business for several years before becoming a salesman of building materials until he retired at the age of 75.

Mr. Sandelman has also enjoyed a long life of playing golf from age fifteen into his early nineties. His drive, energy and enthusiasm should encourage us all to live life to the fullest.

Mr. Sandelman is the father of Mrs. Carole Lynn Jones who is married to Mr. Robert R. Jones, who resides in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, a part of Michigan's Ninth Congressional District, which I represent.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to wish Mr. Sandelman a happy 100th birthday.

BRIGADIER GENERAL ERNIE TALBERT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Brigadier General Ernie Talbert. This amazing man was also the first African American promoted to the rank of general in the 350-year history of the Delaware National Guard. I chose to wait until today to recognize General Talbert's first because today is also another great first—it is Delaware Day, which signifies the birth of our Nation. At his promotion ceremony on December 4, 2005, he was described by Major General Frank Vavala, as