

TRIBUTE TO MR. NICK GEORGE
BRONZAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Nick George Bronzan of Fresno, California. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, two daughters, Mary and Ann, and son Bruce.

Mr. Bronzan lived a life of honor, compassion and sincere loyalty to those he cared for and to the causes for which he fought.

Born in Stockton, California, Nick spent his childhood in Manteca. Upon graduation from high school, he attended California State University, Fresno and was a Bulldog academically and competitively as the captain of the Fresno State football team. Colleagues recall him as being a real leader and remember him being more interested in the condition and lives of the players than in winning the game.

After graduating from Fresno State in 1939, Mr. Bronzan spent five years as the Kerman High School coach in various sports and teaching mathematics. He worked for 4 years in the Fresno Young Men's Christian Association before becoming the executive secretary of the YMCA in Southern California. Finally settling in Fresno, Mr. Bronzan took a job as the executive director of the Central Valley YMCA in 1968.

Mr. Bronzan was a longtime advocate for youth, seniors, and foster children. He fought for the rights of those who could not fight for themselves. Not only did he work for the foster grandparents program but also served as its director. Mr. Bronzan volunteered alongside others older than 60 to work with children lacking parents and families. He was a member of the Fresno Rotary Club and was elected chairman of the Fresno-Madera Counties Service Area Task Force. His contributions helped develop the Area Agency on Aging for those two counties and in 1984 he was reappointed to the California Commission on Aging and Long-Term Care.

Mr. Bronzan served his community in more ways than one. Although his passing brings sadness to his family, Nick Bronzan's memory will forever live on in the lives of the many people he touched.

PROVIDING THAT HAMAS AND
OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZA-
TIONS SHOULD NOT PARTICI-
PATE IN ELECTIONS HELD BY
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 575, expressing the sense of Congress that Hamas should not participate in elections held by the Palestinian Authority.

Now, many of my colleagues might suggest that my opposition to this non-binding resolution means that I stand with the terrorists. I would argue that it means exactly the opposite.

You see, Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I want to see peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. I want a free and democratic Palestinian state to stand side by side with the free and democratic Israeli state. And most importantly, I want both states and their peoples to be safe and secure.

For the first time, the Palestinians are engaging in a truly democratic process. I would defer to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian people on how to do this. Mr. Speaker, I have to be honest with you, I do not want foreign leaders telling the United States how to conduct our elections and I think we owe President Abbas and the Palestinian people the same courtesy.

In fact, this is one of the rare occasions that I actually agree with the Bush Administration. On September 20th, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in response to a question regarding Hamas being a part of the election, ". . . we understand that the Palestinian political system is in transition, that it is in transition toward a democratic system, and that has to be a Palestinian process." Secretary Rice went on to say, "This is going to be a Palestinian process and I think we have to give the Palestinians some room for the evolution of their political system."

We need to vest Hamas in the democratic process.

I want to be clear, Mr. Speaker, terrorism is wrong and it should not be tolerated.

However, if Hamas is brought into the process and given the opportunity to run for political office and become part of the political establishment, they will assume responsibility for governance—leading to moderation.

I would submit for the RECORD a statement by Debra DeLee, President and CEO of Americans for Peace Now. Ms. DeLee nicely lays out the position that Palestinian Authority President Abbas is in and why it is important for the elections to go forward in a way that is inclusive in order to moderate those who traditionally turned to terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I find myself in the interesting position of voting against this resolution and agreeing with Secretary Rice: the United States must let the Palestinians find their way to a democratic state.

THE SHARONIZATION OF HAMAS

(By Debra DeLee)

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's recent statement that he would withhold Israeli cooperation from Palestinian legislative elections in January if Hamas candidates take part flies in the face of his own experience with the moderating influence that holding public responsibility can have on extremist views. In explaining his 180 degree turn from being a strong advocate of Israeli settlements in Gaza to the driving force behind their evacuation, Sharon has repeatedly observed that, "what you see from here [in the Prime Minister's Office], you don't see from there." In other words, it was not until he obtained a position of ultimate responsibility for Israel that Sharon began to recognize the burden that the Gaza settlements imposed on the state.

There is no equivalence between the horrific terrorist acts that Hamas has inflicted on Israelis and Sharon's passion for settlement expansion.

Yet it's clear that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is trying to rein in his Islamist opposition through the process of Sharonization (i.e., co-opting the militants by encouraging them to run for public office

and to assume responsibility for governance, in the hope that this process will lead to their moderation.)

In an ideal world, Abbas would decide to round up Palestinian terrorists, place a call to his Interior Minister, then sit back to watch the thugs put in prison or die in attempting to evade arrest. But we do not live in an ideal world. While Abbas deplores terrorism, he wants to avoid a Palestinian civil war. And even if he was willing to launch one, with Abbas already struggling to control events on the ground, it's doubtful that the troops at his disposal would win.

Further, if defeating Palestinian terrorists with force alone was so easy, Israel would have done it long ago. Israel's military might has been vigorously applied to the occupied territories for nearly 40 years. It's chalked up some impressive tactical victories. But it has not succeeded in drying out the swamp of terror. Hamas and its fellow travelers are still around, which is why Sharon is busy encouraging Abbas to fight them.

Abbas deserves a chance to see if his way will work better, with the caveat that he must be prepared after the Palestinian legislative elections to forcefully confront those individuals who continue to engage in terror. It is in Israel's interest to see that Abbas is fortified with development aid and encouraged to carry out internal reforms, as well as to ensure that the Palestinian security forces loyal to him are strengthened in order for him to be able to carry out this task.

It is also in Israel's interest to ensure that these upcoming elections go as smoothly as possible. With its departure from Gaza, Israel will not be able to impede the contests in that region. But it could decide—as Sharon has said—to make it impossible for Palestinian voters in East Jerusalem to cast ballots or for candidates, campaign workers, and voters to move from town to town in the West Bank. If such Israeli impediments are put in place, they would delegitimize any victory that secular nationalist candidates might achieve over Hamas candidates, thereby strengthening the hand of the very terrorists that Israel seeks to weaken. They would also shatter the calm that allowed Israel to withdraw quietly from Gaza.

If the Bush Administration has been less than enthusiastic about Sharon's views of the Palestinian elections, it's because the White House has been pursuing the Sharonization of militants operating in areas under American control. Kurdish and Shiite militias have not been forced to disband in Iraq, yet that hasn't stopped representatives of those groups from running in elections and winning top positions in the current government. If the U.S. demanded that the armed supporters of these candidates lay down their weapons before their leaders could assume power, it must have done so in a whisper.

Hamas candidates did well in two earlier rounds of municipal elections. Lo and behold, they have found it necessary to work with Israelis at the local level in order to deal with mundane issues like sewage and water. And their Israeli counterparts have been willing to talk to them. This kind of practical contact is a long way from having terrorists beat their spears into pruning hooks, but perhaps it points to a way forward.

The Bush Administration should encourage Sharon to let Abbas see if he can duplicate this process at the national level of Palestinian politics. If it succeeds, Israel will be more secure, and Palestinian society will be more stable. If it fails, Israel will still have ample military strength upon which it can rely.

CONGRATULATING BORDER PATROL AGENT THOMAS H. NUETZEL ON RECEIVING THE 2005 TOP HUMANITARIAN AWARD FROM THE U.S. BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, as we continue our commitment to securing our nation's borders, I would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to one of our outstanding border patrol agents, a former resident of Kailua, Hawaii and a real "local boy": Thomas H. Nuetzel.

Today, at the 2005 Commissioner's Annual Awards Ceremony, Tom will receive the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection's Top Humanitarian Award in recognition of his bravery and service. Tom is currently assigned to the Office of Field Operations at the Douglas Port of Entry in Arizona.

In July, while on the way home from dinner, Tom, his wife Dawn, and their two children observed a rollover vehicle accident. The couple stopped to assist the two adults and two young children trapped in the vehicle. The driver told Tom that there were several full gas cans in the trunk of the overturned vehicle. The heavy rainfall, flooding, and severe lightning magnified a critical situation.

Tom and Dawn immediately called Emergency Medical Services. Then, standing in knee-deep water, Dawn kept the passengers calm as Tom extracted each family member through a broken window. The passengers awaited the arrival of EMS in Tom and Dawn's car. All victims of the rollover accident are doing well, thanks to the selflessness of Tom and Dawn Nuetzel.

Again, I extend a sincere mahalo (thank you) to Tom and Dawn for their act of courage and compassion. I would also like to thank all our border patrol agents that work daily to keep our nation safe and secure.

Mahalo, and aloha!

REQUIRING RATE INTEGRATION FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will require rate integration for wireless interstate toll charges. Specifically, this legislation would amend Section 254(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, to provide for rate integration of wireless long distance service within the United States, including the territories. With this legislation I intend to require uniformity in rates charged by cellular phone and other wireless service providers for calls and communications to and from Guam within the United States.

Section 254(g) directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) "to adopt rules to require that the rates charged by providers of interexchange telecommunication services to subscribers in rural and high cost areas shall

be no higher than the rates charged by each such provider to its subscribers in urban areas."

Pursuant to Section 254(g), the FCC promulgated a regulation (FCC Order 98-347) to cover Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) as an interexchange service. CMRS includes Personal Communications Service (PCS) and cellular services. In defense of their Order, the FCC noted that "if Congress had intended to exempt CMRS providers, it presumably would have done so expressly as it had done in other sections of the [1996 Telecommunications] Act."

Subsequent to its issuance, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit vacated FCC Order 98-347, by ruling that interexchange telecommunication services do not encompass CMRS. In its ruling, the Court cited the phrase "interexchange telecommunications service" contained in Section 254(g). Since wireless telecommunications do not use exchanges, the Court held that "it is by no means obvious that the Congress, when it used a phrase in which the word 'interexchange' is an essential term, was referring to CMRS."

It is unclear from the language of the statute whether section 254 applies to wireless services. Section 254 does not include specific language regarding its applicability to wireless services, not does it specifically exclude such services. Moreover, the legislative history of Section 254(g) is not instructive as to Congress' intent regarding the applicability of the rate integration requirement to wireless services.

Clearly, ambiguity in the law exists. As a result, cellular customers are subject to varying rates for calls made within the United States. This is particularly evident with respect to rates assessed to calls made to Guam and the other U.S. territories under service plans offered to cellular customers within the 48 contiguous states of the United States. Again, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires rate integration for noncellular, landline communication services. The legislation introduced today would simply extend this same requirement to wireless communications.

Rate integration for wireless interstate toll charges is important to businesses and individuals located on the U.S. mainland who engage in regular and reoccurring voice communication with other businesses and contacts located in the offshore territories. Family members and friends are among the customers who are assessed higher and different rates for cellular calls made to Guam or the other territories. These differences in wireless rates exist despite the fact that the U.S. territories are included in the North American Numbering Plan, the numbering plan for the Public Switched Telephone Network of the United States.

This legislation would bring the uniformity and fairness in rates desired by those in Guam wishing to keep in closer contact with relatives, friends, and associates who reside in other parts of the United States through the latest technology. Additionally, as technology in telecommunication advances, laws should be updated and developed to keep pace. This legislation would update existing law to take into account advances in and the popularity of wireless telecommunications since enactment of the 1996 Act. The legislation would do so in a manner consistent with both a previous,

but vacated, FCC Order and with rate integration requirements applied to other more traditional telecommunication technology.

I look forward to addressing the issue of rate integration for wireless services as part of the legislative effort to reauthorize the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. WILLIAM B. BLACK

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to extend congratulations to a government employee who has shown outstanding dedication through his services to the Department of Defense.

Deputy Director, Mr. William B. Black has serviced the Department of Defense for over forty-five years. He is the recipient of the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, which is the highest honor a civilian can receive by the Secretary of Defense. The award is given to an individual whose career reflects exceptional devotion to duty, as well as, significant contributions to the efficiency, economy, or other improvements in the Department of Defense operations.

Mr. Black aided in the success of intelligence production and cyber operations for assignments in Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, and the War on Terror. His determination and ambition has also abetted the National Security Agency's mounting field of information operations as a result of his role as the Special Assistant to the Director for Information Warfare.

The National Security Agency was able to participate resolutely in the War on Terror because Mr. Black led signals intelligence and information assurance missions into the digital network era.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to recognize Mr. William B. Black for his service to this country. The exceptional work he has done for the Department of Defense warrants great recognition. Dedication to this country and to the betterment of our intelligence operations is a vital part of our success as a powerful nation and should be observed and commended more frequently.

TO PROVIDE CERTAIN AUTHORITIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am attaching an exchange of letters between Chairman HYDE and Chairman DAVIS concerning the bill H.R. 4436, "To provide certain authorities for the Department of State, and for other purposes" for printing in the RECORD.