

Gary was, however, far more than a respected member of our police force. He was a loving husband for more than 18 years, he was the proud father of two, and he was an active, well-recognized, and beloved member of Port Richmond—a home to many Philadelphia police officers.

I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Gary Skerski and in remembrance of the 56 United States law enforcement officers who have died this year in the line-of-duty.

These brave men and women in uniform have given their lives while protecting our communities. These brave men and women died while enforcing and upholding our laws. And, these brave men and women left behind family, friends and colleagues for the benefit of others.

Our nation must never forget their contributions to the safety, security and betterment of our neighborhoods. I know I and my staff will not forget Gary, his sense of dedication, and the contributions he made to our community.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with the Skerski family during this very difficult time. And, I know that all of my colleagues, and all Americans, join me in honoring Officer Gary Skerski and all of the officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote 159. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" for 159. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the permanent RECORD immediately following these votes. H. Res. 740, Roll Call No. 159, Vote "Aye".

FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4200) to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-Federal lands damaged by catastrophic events, to revitalize, Forest Service experimental forests, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Chairman, I would have hoped to be able to rise today to support a bill that strengthened our existing law in caring for and protecting our environment. Unfortunately, this is not so.

When the Forests Emergency Recovery and Research Act was introduced, I did not consider it perfect, but I felt that the intent was

good. I had faith that as the bill moved through committees, any weaknesses or inconsistencies would be amended, and that ultimately we would have on the floor a bill that I would want to support.

Unfortunately, this does not seem to be the case. The bill purports to provide for emergency recovery projects to help lands heal from natural disasters such as floods and fires, when in fact it imposes unnecessary exemptions from provisions in the Clean Water Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

New research and peer-reviewed science is emerging that verifies that post-disturbance or post-fire logging destroys wildlife habitat, pollutes watersheds, and delays a forest's ability to regenerate itself. In fact, what some term "salvage logging" may even increase the risk of fire.

These studies have indicated that ecosystems have an amazing ability to recover quickly from fires; in fact, fires are needed for regeneration and re-growth. Forests are, in fact, much like the legendary Phoenix, experiencing a majestic rebirth from ashes periodically. Dead or damaged trees help to insulate ground-level growth and absorb moisture, preventing fire. These "snags" also serve as protective homes for multitudes of wildlife before they decompose and return sustenance to the soil.

At stake here, however, is writing into law land management practices that are quickly proving themselves not only out of date, but detrimental to the environment. We must remember that fire clean-up and logging profit is not the only goal—our main goal should be to preserve these forests for posterity.

Therefore I can not support this bill in its current form, and I encourage my colleagues to vote against an act that attempts to undermine existing environmental protections and damage delicate ecological balance.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM F. HARVEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William F. Harvey who donates his optometric services to the Paiute Tribe Health Services, and the Las Vegas Blind Center.

Dr. William F. Harvey was born in Las Vegas, Nevada, on November 2, 1948. Dr. Harvey attended Western High School in 1967 before finishing his undergraduate education at Brigham Young University in 1972. Dr. Harvey graduated at the top of his class at Illinois College of Optometry in 1976 and moved back to Las Vegas to start his private practice.

Dr. Harvey works hard in his private practice and is a devout husband, father of three, and grandfather of six; however, he still reserves time to serve the community. Since 1993 Dr. Harvey has donated his time to the Las Vegas Blind Center and continues to serve the Paiute Tribe Health and Human Services, giving their patients free optometric care.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. William F. Harvey on the floor of the House. I commend him for his continued service to the residents of southern Nevada.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS MERSHON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas Mershon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over any years Thomas has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas Mershon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO WILBERT "BILL" TATUM, RECIPIENT OF THE 2006 "HUDSON LINK'S BILL WEBBER AWARD"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a dear friend and colleague on the occasion of a very special awards recognition to honor him with the Hudson Link's Bill Webber Award.

Wilbert "Bill" Tatum has been an integral part of the fabric of New York for many, many years. When I think back on the years of our association many thoughts come to mind. Bill is not only an intellectual, in the best sense of that word, but a pioneering journalist, and entrepreneur who for more than 30 years has guided the Amsterdam News, one of the Nation's most important newspapers. In doing so, he has dedicated his professional life to informing and defending his people, building his community, and fighting to make our country better.

In April 1971, when he, along with Percy Sutton and Clarence Jones, acquired the Amsterdam News, Bill Tatum was determined to play a role in changing the social climate in New York. By the mid-1970's the newspaper took what some called militant positions on civil rights issues but by the end of the decade began to focus more broadly on the social and economic issues. Under Bill's leadership, the Amsterdam News continued to flourish and gained a reputation as an intrepid African American voice on controversial local issues.

Most New Yorkers can remember how tenacious Bill Tatum was when he applied pressure on the then New York mayor, Ed Koch. Bill, through the newspaper, constantly monitored the activities of city hall and the mayor. Holding the mayor's feet to the fire, brought New Yorkers out of the polls, and cleared the way for the election of David Dinkins, New York's first African American mayor.