

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STAFF
SERGEANT EMMANUEL LEGASPI

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Emmanuel Legaspi, who died of injuries sustained in Tal Afar, Iraq on May 7, 2006.

Sergeant Legaspi had lived in the United States for only a year when he signed up with the Army. At 32, he was much older than the typical recruit. But for the native of the Philippines, military service was a opportunity to show how much he appreciated a chance at life in America. Sergeant Legaspi, who was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Friedberg, Germany, was injured, and later died, when his unit came under enemy small arms fire during combat operations. For his valor, Sergeant Legaspi was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Emmanuel Legaspi. Sergeant Legaspi made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while fighting the War on Terror and defending democracy and freedom.

THE ISSUE OF CRIMINAL ALIENS,
HOW THEIR DEPORTATION AFFECTS THEIR
HOMELAND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an editorial from the New York *CaribNews* newspaper dated May 16, 2006 that draws attention to the "long-standing and thorny problems" associated with the deportation of criminal aliens and the resulting initiatives needed to re-integrate them into the society of their Caribbean homeland.

The article addresses Caribbean born individuals who have broken the law in the United States and subsequently banished back to their homeland. There are varying opinions surrounding the re-integration of criminal aliens. Some feel that their return is creating serious problems while others blame the situation on the United States and other country that deport them.

Mary Kramer, the U. S. Ambassador to several Caribbean nations believes that the deported criminal aliens are no real threat to the Caribbean states and are in fact productive law-abiding citizens. She also asserts that the criminal aliens are not playing a significant role in the upsurge in crime in the Caribbean. Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell shares his opinion that in the criminal enterprise Americans have imparted all of their bad ways on the aliens and then deport them back to their regions as hardened criminals. P.J. Patterson, former Prime Minister of Jamaica cautions Ms. Kramer against relying on the U.S. statistics and conclusions reached by U.S. researchers. In this article he shares a concern about the relationship maintained by criminal aliens and gang members abroad.

In the article, the editor offers several solutions to solve the problem of coping with deported criminal aliens. Similar pilot programs have been developed and implemented in other countries. Based on the statistics, there will continue to be an influx of criminal deportees to the Caribbean. If other well-to-do nations are truly interested in the economic and social development of the island-nations they should be prepared to assist financially in the re-integration process for Caribbean criminal aliens.

Mr. Speaker: I submit this interesting and informative editorial from the *CaribNews* newspaper for submission to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the New York *CaribNews*, May 16, 2006]

CRIMINAL ALIENS: AN EDITORIAL

Just when everyone thought that the question of why undocumented immigrants should stay in the United States was the only item on the table for discussion, we have been jolted back to reality to deal with a long-standing and thorny problem: criminal aliens.

From London, Ottawa, Toronto, Kingston and Bridgetown to New York, Washington and other cities, we are being forced to focus our attention once again on the deportation of persons who have broken the law in the countries to which they have emigrated from the Caribbean.

The trouble is that in deporting immigrants who have committed crimes in the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom, are creating serious problems for their friends and allies in the Caribbean.

That issue is at the root of a dispute involving the U.S. Ambassador to several nations in the region—Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

It seems as if Mary Kramer, America's top diplomat to those island-nations, has convinced herself that not only are the criminal aliens no real threat to the Caribbean states but they are productive law-abiding citizens in their homeland.

Nothing can be further from the truth. Granted, some of them have become productive citizens. Also true, the U.S. has a responsibility to protect its borders and its people from persons, whether native born or immigrants from disrupting the society. And it can do that by enforcing its law.

But to ignore the hard reality of what's happening in the Caribbean, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, included, is akin to burying one's head in the proverbial sand by pretending that choirboys and girls are being shipped to the region.

That's unreal. According to a news agency report, Kramer believes that the deportees are not playing a significant role in the upsurge in crime in the Caribbean. In addition, she wants to get the word out that the U.S. was "not deporting people who go to the U.S. as very small children and learn bad behavior."

The evidence indicates otherwise. Many of the persons deported to Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, St. Lucia, Guyana, Haiti, Barbados and their neighbors left the U.S. as underage children and were sent back as hardened criminals. Just as bad they had lived in the U.S. for so long that on their return they knew no one and nobody knew them, a point made by Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell, when he addressed Grenadians at a recent town meeting in Brooklyn. "They are sending people from America and they got all of their bad ways in America and Canada and they send them back to the region," was the Dr. Mitchell put

it. "Each time you notice a problem home involving young people there is someone from North America (involved in Grenada)."

It's clear that criminal aliens are causing problems, serious problems in the English, French, Spanish and Dutch-speaking nations and territories in the Caribbean.

It's also a fact, an awful reality that far too many of the deportees are involved in criminal behavior in the region. To deny that, as Kramer seems to have done is to engage in ostrich like conduct. The mistake she made was relying entirely on the statistics which U.S. funded surveys have unearthed.

P.J. Patterson, until recently Jamaica's longest-serving Prime Minister, cautioned the Ambassador against relying on the data and the conclusions reached by the researchers.

"I don't think that one can look at it only in narrow statistical terms," Patterson told this paper. "I say that because very often, especially in areas connected to drugs those who return get involved in leadership of gangs that maintain relationship with gangs that operate abroad and really influence the criminal activities that are taking place in particular communities in which they return."

Cabinet ministers from St. Lucia, St. Kitts-Nevis, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Dominica have all made essentially the same complaint. Kramer should stick to the line taken by senior U.S. State Department officials and members of the U.S. Congress who have told Caribbean nations that American authorities are simply following the law and that's not going to change. To try to defend the bad bit of legislation and its damaging consequences on the Caribbean by denying the obvious isn't going to solve the problem.

The solution isn't difficult to figure out. The countries deporting the criminals and those being forced to accept them should sit down and work out a reasonable policy that (1) ensures only Guyanese are deported to Guyana, Haitians to Port au Prince, Jamaicans to Kingston or Dominicans to Santo Domingo and so on; (2) Caribbean nations are given a reasonable amount of time to find out if the deportees are their nationals before they are put on a plane back home; (3) Caribbean states must accept the awful truth: U.S. lawmakers and the Bush Administration aren't going to change the law to stem the flow of deportees; and (4) a resettlement scheme funded by the U.S. and Caribbean nations should be undertaken to ease the re-integration of the deportees back into their birthplaces. Such programs have been developed and implemented on a pilot basis in a few countries and if the organizations involved are to be believed they seem to work. A re-integration effort is needed not only for detainees from the U.S. but from Canada and the United Kingdom and those countries must help too.

Just last week, Tony Blair, the British prime Minister, fired his Home Secretary, Charles Clarke because his ministry had failed to deport criminal aliens after they had completed their jail sentences. The criticisms showered on the head of the Blair government and the public's demand that something about people who enter Britain and then commit crimes were so strong that they are bound to trigger a flood of deportees to the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific.

Of the 77,000 inmates in British prisons, 10,113 of them are from foreign countries, including nearly 2,000 from the Caribbean.

The outcry should serve as a warning to the Caribbean, expect more criminal deportees on your shores and it also cries out for some help from the rich nations. If, as they