

Mine Rescue Association indicates that the depletion of oxygen and the production of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide cause more fatalities than all other causes combined.

Access to and proper operation of SCSRs is a matter of life and death to miners.

The Office of Mine Safety and Health is established by section 6 of S. 2803, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006. The purpose of this office is to enhance the development of new mine safety technology and to expedite its commercial availability and implementations.

Mr. Speaker, section 2 of S. 2803 describes the components of an emergency response plan every coal mine must follow should an accident occur. Section 2(E)(iii)(II), refers to the hour of breathable air required by MSHA's new emergency temporary standard in addition to the hour already required by the mandatory SCSR standard. Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, the provision requires additional "caches of self-rescuers providing in the aggregate not less than 2 hours per miner to be kept in escapeways from the deepest work area to the surface at a distance of no further than an average miner could walk in 30 minutes."

Mr. Speaker, my concern is that in placing the SCSRs the average distance that a miner can walk in 30 minutes may unintentionally discourage technical advances. I am also worried that the provision in this act may unintentionally result in less safety should it result in encouraging miners in emergency situations to remove SCSRs before they are depleted and struggle to don new SCSRs in smoke-filled or other toxic atmospheres. It is not our intention to lock, either, the Secretary of Labor, miners, or their employers into a misguided one-size-fits-all solution. It is my intent that the Secretary would accommodate performance-based determinations of self-contained self-rescuer locations, and not discourage development and deployment of advanced self-contained self-rescuer technologies that provide greater amounts of breathable air than currently available devices, which would protect miners for longer and would require fewer changes from a depleted unit to a fresh unit in hazardous atmospheres.

Mr. Speaker, I would also encourage the Secretary to allow the use of appropriately constructed self-rescue transfer stations to be built in common locations between two parallel and adjacent escapeways. Providing a safe place to abandon old SCSRs and don new equipment during an evacuation will also improve the survivability of the miner.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES
McCLATCHY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to Jim McClatchy, a legend within the newspaper business who helped set the standards for journalism in northern California and across the globe. As his family and friends gather to honor and remember his life at a funeral service next week, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Jim McClatchy

for his service to our Nation, to journalism and to the Sacramento community.

The son of C.K. and Phebe McClatchy, Jim McClatchy was born into a family steeped in journalistic tradition. Early on it was clear he would follow his great-grandfather, grandfather and father into the newspaper business. His studies at Stanford University were interrupted by World War II where Jim served our Nation in the Army Air Corps. Jim returned from World War II, completed his Stanford education and went on to earn a Master's in Journalism from Columbia University.

Jim made his mark as a hard-working reporter with both the Sacramento Bee and the Fresno Bee. Early in his career, he covered subjects ranging from State politics to education and advanced through the ranks to the Bee's Washington Bureau where he covered the 1956 presidential election and Congress. While serving the public as a reporter, Jim continued to serve our Nation in the Army Reserves and was called to duty during the Korean War.

In 1980, Jim became Chairman of the Board of McClatchy Newspapers and in 1987 he was elevated to Publisher. He served on the company's board until his retirement in 2004. Throughout his tenure, McClatchy newspapers received numerous Pulitzer Prizes, advancing the family's commitment to excellence in journalism.

Jim's commitment extended beyond Sacramento and the McClatchy family of papers to strengthening the international free press. Jim worked with the Inter American Press Association in 1994 to help write the Declaration of Chapultepec, a document that established the role of a free press in democratic societies. Dozens of heads of state signed the Declaration of Chapultepec, including President Clinton.

Closer to home, Jim was instrumental in actively planning the Central Valley's future. He led the drive to create Valley Vision, a non-profit that facilitates discussions to solve regional problems. Jim also created an endowment in the name of his mother to support the classics and bilingual education at California State University, Fresno, where he received an honorary doctorate just weeks before his passing.

Mr. Speaker, as Jim McClatchy's family, friends and colleagues gather to honor his legacy, I am privileged to request that the U.S. House of Representatives commemorate his life as a patriot, a community servant and man who always strove for the highest standards of journalistic integrity.

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE
RESIGNATION OF UNITED NA-
TIONS DEPUTY SECRETARY-GEN-
ERAL MARK MALLOCH BROWN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I call for the immediate resignation of United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Mark Malloch Brown.

Last week, Mark Malloch Brown, the U.N.'s number two man behind Secretary-General Kofi Annan, gave an anti-American speech at a left-wing seminar.

The event, entitled, Power and Superpower: Global Leadership in the 21st Century was sponsored by the Century Foundation and the Center for American Progress, which receives funding from the Blame-America-First-Expert, George Soros.

At the event, Malloch Brown derided America's foreign policy objectives and accused American news journalists, such as Rush Limbaugh and those at Fox News channel of detracting and misleading U.N. successes, especially with stealth diplomacy in Middle America. In effect, he criticized Middle America—inferred we don't understand the U.N. and are being manipulated.

Malloch Brown's comments were completely out of line and unwarranted. He singled out a U.N. member-State, the United States, outside of normal protocol, derided the U.S. and its leading contributions to the U.N. reform effort, and involved himself and the U.N. in internal U.S. politics.

I do not have to remind Mark Malloch Brown that the United States provides one quarter of the entire U.N. budget and there are serious calls in Congress, that I believe we should consider, to withhold all future funding to the U.N. until accountable, effective and transparent reform is achieved.

If the United Nations is serious about reform, it has to reform itself from the inside. And that is why, today, I call on Mark Malloch Brown to immediately step down as Deputy Secretary-General, for the good of the United Nations as well as for the pride of the American people.

The United States cannot have faith in the U.N. if its senior leaders have such a biased opinion of the people and policies of the United States.

OPPOSITION TO CURRENT SYSTEM
OF AUTOMATIC PAY INCREASES
FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the current system of automatic pay increases for Members of Congress. This system does not allow for a clear up or down vote on the annual cost-of-living increase in Members' salaries.

This increase is conducted in a manner that only serves to increase cynicism towards the political process and confirms the feeling of many voters that their representatives are out of touch. The American public deserves better. Kansans deserve to see whether or not I support a pay increase. So I would like to share that my vote would be against a salary increase.

The need for a cost-of-living adjustment is not limited to Members of Congress, it also includes the public—veterans, teachers, farmers, the retired. These people, who we represent, deserve responsible government and Congress should not receive an automatic cost-of-living increase during these challenging economic times.

SALUTING OUR SOLDIERS OF
TOMORROW

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I salute our soldiers, marines, seamen, and airmen of tomorrow, the service-bound academy students of the Third District of Texas. This district of Texas is home to some of the best and the brightest young people. It is always a tremendous honor to recommend such fine students to our nation's service academies.

Each year, thousands of students apply to these prestigious academies, but only the cream of the crop makes the cut. I am very proud of these future leaders. Their appointments truly are a testimony to their hard work, discipline and strong desire to serve our country.

While they passed the rigors of the nomination and appointment process, the real test has just begun! In just weeks these fine students will report in to begin an intensive basic training program before they begin a tough, and gratifying, four-year education. They have such exciting futures ahead of them. I know they are ready to join the premier military force of the world. To the appointees I say, "God bless you. God bless America. I salute you."

The appointees and their hometowns are as follows:

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY: John Kottlowski—McKinney, Texas—McKinney North High School, Preston Pham—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School, Colin Skowronski—Plano, Texas—Plano East Senior High School, Anil Tilbe—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School.

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY: Lindsay Atwood—Garland, Texas—North Garland High School, Jacqueline Juhn—Plano, Texas—Plano West Senior High School.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY: Ridge Flick—Plano, Texas—Plano West Senior High School, Daniel Fulcoly—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School, Mallory Morgan—Parker, Texas—Pecan Orchard Academy, Vanessa Warwick—Plano, Texas—Ursuline Academy.

UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY: John Toretto—Plano, Texas—Bishop Lynch High School.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG
POLITICAL LEADERS

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) as the organization celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

Since 1966, ACYPL has provided bipartisan international exchange programs, educational forums, and leadership training in order to better prepare young political leaders for future positions of responsibility in local, state, and

federal government. ACYPL's programs offer young leaders, some who may have never traveled outside the United States, the opportunity to enhance their awareness and understanding of other cultures through in-depth study tours.

Founded during the Cold War, the organization's efforts initially focused on Western Europe. Over the past four decades, however, ACYPL programs have expanded to include over 90 nations throughout the world, including the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Hemisphere, East Asia, and the Pacific Rim.

Many of ACYPL's more than six thousand alumni worldwide have risen to positions of great responsibility. In the United States, alumni include members of Congress, the Cabinet, ambassadors, and many senior level officials who serve in local, state, and national government. Internationally, past participants of ACYPL programs now serve as cabinet members, ambassadors, parliamentarians and as other senior level policymakers. Establishing early relationships among such future leaders helps facilitate international dialogue and strengthen and promote U.S. policy objectives.

As an alumnus of an ACYPL program to the then Soviet Union in the 1970s, I can attest to the effectiveness of citizen-to-citizen exchanges in fostering cross-cultural understanding and cultivating international ties among young political leaders. I applaud ACYPL's work over the past decades and wish them continued success in future efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during yesterday's rollcall votes on final passage of H. Res. 794, H. Res. 804, H. Res. 608, and H. Con. Res. 338; and on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 857.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of these measures.

CONCERNING DESECRATION OF
HMONG GRAVE IN THAILAND

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Royal Thai Government to immediately cease any further destruction of Hmong burial sites and stop the exhumation of Hmong graves located inside and surrounding Wat Thamkrabok monastery. Furthermore, I would ask that the Royal Thai Government address the serious plight of Hmong-American families that I represent who no longer know where their loved ones' remains are located.

Mr. Speaker, between 1995 and 2003 many Hmong families living in Thailand as refugees from Laos had buried their deceased loved ones in the Wat Thamkrabok sanctuary. In

December 2003, the U.S. Department of State announced the last resettlement of 15,000 Hmong refugees residing in the Wat Thamkrabok monastery, which concluded last year by bringing nearly 5,000 new arrivals to Minnesota, a significant number of whom have settled in St. Paul and surrounding communities which I represent.

It has been reported that between November 4 and December 30, 2005, approximately 900 Hmong graves were exhumed with the human remains taken to unknown destinations. Hmong-American families were shocked and profoundly disturbed to see the horrific video images of human remains, possibly of their own loved ones, being treated in a disrespectful and unspeakably offensive manner. To this day, Hmong-Americans remain unable to receive reliable information regarding the whereabouts of their loved ones' remains.

As a Member of Congress representing more than 35,000 Hmong-American constituents, I join them in expressing shock at this disturbing episode. The dignity of their deceased ancestors deserves respect. There can be no doubt that this entire situation has caused considerable anguish and emotional distress to relatives now living in the United States and elsewhere.

The Royal Thai Government is a friend and ally of the United States. Our bilateral relationship is vital and it would be my desire to see a strengthening of all aspects of this relationship. Yet, in Minnesota today, it is very difficult for me to champion this relationship with the pain and distress felt by so many of my constituents as a result of the desecration of their ancestors' graves. Once again, I would urge the Royal Thai Government to work to prevent any further Hmong grave exhumations, while fully investigating the circumstances surrounding this action in order to help facilitate long-lasting healing for those families affected by this terrible situation.

HONORING SEVEN U.S.N. AIRMEN

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, sixty-four years ago today, a twin-engine Navy PB5A amphibious reconnaissance aircraft departed the Naval Air Station on Kodiak Island, Alaska as part of the Kiska Blitz—the bombing of Japanese targets in Kiska Harbor at the western end of the Aleutian Islands. On board were Ensign Robert F. Keller, Aviation Machinist Mate First Class Leland L. Davis, Seaman Second Class Elwin Alford, Seaman Second Class Dee Hall, Aviation Machinist's Mate Second Class John H. Hathaway, Aviation Radioman Second Class Robert A. Smith, and Aviation Pilot Third Class Albert J. Gyorfi. Flying into a storm of inclement weather and enemy anti-aircraft blasts, the plane was hit and crashed on the side of the Kiska Volcano. None of the crew survived.

In August 1943, the United States successfully retook Kiska Island from the Japanese and the remains of seven men were found amid the wreckage at the crash site. They were buried in a common grave with a wooden marker reading "SEVEN U.S.N. AIRMEN." After the war, the grave could not be located again.