

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL  
"MICK" GILLINS

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael "Mick" Gillins for his exemplary service in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, LVMPD.

As a 19-year veteran of the Las Vegas Metro Police, Mick has a long history of admirable service and is a hero in the very essence of the word. In September, 1989, Mick arrested a suspect that had stolen military explosives that were intended to go to gang members. For this, Mick received a "Job Well Done" citation from the LVMPD. In January, 1992, Mick was nominated by the LVMPD for the American Legion Police Post #55 "Outstanding Officer of the Year" award; although he did not win this award, he was given a letter of Commendation from then Sheriff, John Moran.

Mick's dedication and service has affected countless lives; most noticeably on December 27, 1991 when he saved a drowning child's life by administering CPR. When Mick arrived on the scene, the child was clinically dead; but due to Mick's expertise the child was revived and suffered no brain damage. For his heroism, Mick received the "Exemplary Service Award" from the LVMPD, the "Life Saving Award" from Mercy Medical Services, and the "Community Service Award" from the Las Vegas Fire Department.

Recently, Mick was injured in the line of duty. On May 23, 2006, Mick was finishing up a traffic stop when he was struck by a car while sitting on his motorcycle. He sustained a broken left leg and two bulging disks in his lower back. The driver of the car that struck him was charged with driving under the influence, and toxicology reports indicated that she had more prescription drugs in her system than prescribed.

I also worked personally with Mick during my time as a Nevada State Senator. Mick spent a number of sessions at the Legislature for the LVMPD and the PPA, lobbying on behalf of his fellow officers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Michael "Mick" Gillins. His commitment to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and to the Las Vegas Community has improved countless lives. I applaud his dedication and I wish him a speedy recovery.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE  
SHEEHAN

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Danielle Sheehan of Littleton, Colorado. Ms. Sheehan has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Sheehan has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leader-

ship potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Danielle Sheehan, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

WHY CONGRESS SHOULD TAKE A  
CLOSER LOOK AT RUSSIA'S WTO  
ACCESSION PROCESS

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, as Congress leaves for the upcoming November elections, I would like to raise an issue that will gain more attention over the next few months—a U.S.-Russia bilateral agreement on Russia's membership in the World Trade Organization. As someone who is watching the U.S.-Russia WTO negotiations very closely with a keen interest in the outcome, I think it is important to acknowledge the obstacles that remain. While a successful U.S.-Russia WTO agreement can be imagined, the reality of the current situation is that both sides are still apart on key issues. I urge my colleagues to keep a watchful eye on these negotiations, which will have important consequences for U.S. industries, workers and consumers.

Some say Russia has made progress in its actions, commitments and negotiations with the United States over the past year. However, both countries were unable to meet the goal of concluding WTO talks at the July Group of Eight meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia. The new goal for the completion of negotiations is when Presidents Bush and Putin meet at the November 2006 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Vietnam.

The United States and the global community will ultimately benefit when Russia becomes a member of the World Trade Organization. Although Russia's economy in a developing stage in many respects, its economic progress since the end of the cold war and potential for growth are positive trends. The complete integration of Russia into the global economy is an important step that will help Russia and its trading partners. It will also help to support the continuation of positive U.S.-Russia relations.

However, at this stage, significant obstacles to Russia's WTO accession remain and must be addressed. Russia's behavior in a number of areas and its lack of concrete commitments on important issues is contrary to the spirit of free trade and the WTO and must be reversed. In essence, the WTO is a set of rules and commitments and a forum for dispute resolution, factors that make it fundamentally different than most international organizations with extended bureaucracies. In this manner, these rules and commitments must be honored if the WTO is to have any meaning whatsoever.

Russia is failing to uphold standards that many in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere believe are essential for WTO accession. The area of intellectual property is a prime example.

Due in large part to Russia's failure to enforce its anti-piracy and intellectual property protection laws, 421-2 of my House col-

leagues joined me in passing a resolution in December 2005 (H. Con. Res. 230) that called on Russia to provide adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, or it risk losing its eligibility to participate in the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program and to ensure that intellectual property is securely protected in law and in practice to demonstrate that it can meet international commitments like the WTO.

Earlier this year, House Ways and Means Chairman BILL THOMAS (R-CA) and Ranking Democratic Member CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) as well as Senate Finance Committee Chairman CHARLES GRASSLEY (R-IA) and Ranking Member MAX BAUCUS (D-MT) co-signed a letter to President Bush stating that they will not support Permanent National Trade Relations for Russia unless Russia takes definitive action to address current issues.

In the energy sector, the Russian government's interference in the market and de facto renationalization of selected assets calls into question its commitment to free and fair trade. The Council on Foreign Relations, task force on Russia listed a number of disappointing trends in Russia's energy market, including "the revocation of longstanding Exxon Mobil licenses for the Sakhalin natural gas fields and the destruction of the Yukos Oil company as part of a reassertion of state control over the energy sector." The report also mentioned the cut off of natural gas supplies to Ukraine in response to its pro-western orientation. With U.S. oil and natural gas prices reaching record highs, it is very important that we develop a tough, but open, energy trade policy with Russia.

The United States remains concerned about access to the Russian banking, financial services and insurance markets, all of which are substantially restricted for foreign companies. The U.S. is advocating on the opening of bank branches, but Russia has repeatedly insisted that foreign banks be required to open a full subsidiary, not a branch, when entering Russia. In the insurance industry, Russia does not allow foreign insurance companies to underwrite and reinsure mandatory forms of insurance, including motor vehicles, health and government institutional insurance. Before Russia passed legislation in late 2003 to expand foreign ownership to 25 percent, the EU had considered the Russian insurance industry essentially closed.

According to the President's 2006 Trade Policy Agenda and 2005 Annual Report, the U.S. remains concerned about market access for poultry, pork and beef in the wake of a June 15, 2005 agreement with Russia. The issue of how the agreement is being implemented, specifically questions that a U.S. quota could be used by other countries, is currently under discussion.

The United States is currently in the midst of its bilateral negotiations with the Russian Federation to agree to Russia's membership and participation in the World Trade Organization. The United States is one of only a few nations remaining that must conclude a bilateral WTO agreement before Russia formally accedes to the WTO.

As this process continues, it is critical that Congress consider Russia beyond specific commercial issues and commitments on trade issues. Congress should consider that Russia's is regressing in its movement towards a more democratic society and free market

economy because both issues have important ramifications for our trade relationship.

As a member of Congress who serves on the House Judiciary and International Relations Committees and Chairs the Energy and Resources subcommittee of the Government Reform Committee, I am engaged in the formulation of policy on intellectual property, U.S. foreign policy, and energy issues. Therefore, I see the U.S.-Russia trade relationship from a variety of perspectives. I also see the important relationship between market and democracy trends and Russia's WTO accession process.

I urge my colleagues to pay attention to these larger trends, some which are disturbing, as you consider Russia's progress on WTO negotiations with the United States and the eventual consideration of the Jackson-Vanik legislation and granting of PNTR to Russia. Russia must be held accountable under a WTO agreement that protects free and fair trade.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am in exchange of letters between DON YOUNG and RICHARD POMBO for the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, September 28, 2006.

Hon. DON YOUNG,  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have reviewed the text of H.R. 5681, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2006, and believe that the Committee on Resources has a jurisdictional interest in provisions in this important legislation dealing with fisheries. Specifically, we have identified a provision dealing with the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fishery in the Northern Region of the management plan.

Recognizing that the House of Representatives has a dwindling number of legislative days left before the 109th Congress adjourns, I will forego seeking a sequential referral of H.R. 5681. Waiving the Committee on Resources' right to a referral in this case does not waive the Committee's jurisdiction over any provision in H.R. 5681 or similar provisions in other bills. In addition, I ask that you support my request to have the Committee on Resources represented on the conference on this bill, if a conference is necessary. Finally, I ask that you include this letter in the Congressional Record during debate on H.R. 5681 when it is considered by the House of Representatives.

I appreciate your leadership on this bill and I look forward to working with you on H.R. 586.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, September 27, 2006.

Hon. RICHARD W. POMBO,  
Chairman, Committee on Resources,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN POMBO: Thank you for your letter expressing the jurisdictional in-

terest of the Committee on Resources in H.R. 5681, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2006. The Committee on Resources has a recognized claim to jurisdiction over the conversion to catcher processor provision that is included in this bill as proposed to be considered under suspension. I appreciate your agreement to allow this measure to proceed under suspension and to waive further consideration.

I understand that your agreement to allow this bill to proceed under suspension is conditioned upon our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation, or your decision to waive further consideration, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Resources over provisions of the bill that are in your jurisdiction. I also understand that this waiver does not affect the right of the Committee on Resources to have its members named as conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate on this bill.

I greatly appreciate your cooperation in allowing the conversion to catcher processor shares provision to move on H.R. 5681. This issue impacts only fisheries in Alaska.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,  
Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO HUMBOLDT VETERANS "WALL OF HONOR"

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute today to one town's effort to remember all of its veterans from the Civil War to the current War on Terror. Remembering the brave men and women of our military is something we should all strive to do in some fashion.

Humboldt and Humboldt Township is a small community in north-central Illinois. Thirty-five miles south of Champagne and nine miles north of Mattoon, Humboldt and Humboldt Township revolve around agriculture and farming. The 1,300 people of Humboldt Township, including the 500 that live in the town of Humboldt, define the essence of hard-working Americans.

The citizens of Humboldt Township are embarking on a remarkable memorial to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces. Next month the "Wall of Honor" will be on display at the Humboldt Township building. This tribute will honor veterans from the Humboldt area dating back to the Civil War and continuing to the present day. There will be hundreds of pictures mounted on the walls and articles of interest will be displayed on tables.

While Humboldt may not be large, their contribution to the U.S. military has been great. Humboldt residents have served during times of peace and times of war. When needed, they have heeded the call of duty and traveled far from home to defend the United States. They have triumphed at Vicksburg during the Civil War, flown bombing missions over the Pacific in World War II, rescued fellow soldiers as the U.S. engaged in the Korean War, courageously served in Vietnam, liberated a country held hostage during the Gulf War, and fought in the War on Terror and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, during this time when the military is so important to the United States, it is

gratifying to see local communities make efforts to remember those that have dedicated their lives to protecting this nation. I congratulate the citizens of Humboldt and wish them the best.

HONORING FAIRFAX CITY'S VFW POST 8469

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of VFW Post 8469, and the veterans whose dedication and service to this country are a remarkable testament to the past and present character of America's servicemen.

On October 7, 2006, Fairfax City's VFW Post 8469 will celebrate its 60th anniversary. This Veterans of Foreign Wars Post includes members who have served their country in several foreign conflicts, including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and most recently Iraqi Freedom. It is the history of this fine group of patriots that is celebrated. And history tells a tale.

Sixty years ago Fairfax was a bucolic little southern county. There were only two high schools. The Fairfax County Police Department had only six officers. Most of the young men who went off to war in the preceding 5 years knew each other, as did many of their families. They generally left for war at different times and typically served in different units, spread all over the globe.

These soldiers saved the world and then they returned to an America that had radically transformed in their absence; specifically, to a county poised on the verge of a period of unprecedented growth. The only thing that had changed more than their world was the soldiers themselves. The returning soldiers, in the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, "[had] shared the incommunicable experience of war . . ." This theme, and the reality of their circumstance, helped to underscore the necessity for a place and a venue where the veterans could find comradeship, work for the common good of the community, their fellow veterans, the widows and orphans, and to remember their fallen.

Mr. Speaker, today VFW 8469 is blessed with the presence of four of the 108 charter members of our Post from October 1946. All members of VFW 8469 stand on the shoulders of these and other giants.

The Charter Members named VFW 8469 the "Blue and Gray Post", in honor of the area's famous 29th Infantry Division and in recognition of the healing power of a post-Civil War poem titled, *The Blue and the Gray*, by Francis Miles Finch. The first verse of which reads:

"By the flow of the inland river,  
Whence the fleets of iron have fled, [the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River]  
Where the blades of the grave-grass quiver,  
Asleep are the ranks of the dead: [Arlington Cemetery]  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgment-day;  
Under the one, the Blue,  
Under the other, the Gray."

All Americans owe an unfathomable debt to our American soldiers who have taken up