

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4830, BORDER TUNNEL PREVENTION ACT OF 2006; FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6094, COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2006; AND FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6095, IMMIGRATION LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4830, the Border Tunnel Prevention Act.

We need to secure our borders and ensure the safety of our country. The Border Tunnel Prevention Act is one positive step toward preventing criminals from entering our country unnoticed and illegally. This law creates new penalties for anyone using a tunnel to smuggle people, drugs or weapons into the United States. This effort is another tool for law enforcement and border security to begin to address illegal immigration and to aid in their efforts to keep our communities safe.

I have heard numerous times from Minnesota law enforcement agents about illegal drugs that pass through the Twin Cities on a regular basis, much of it originating south of the border and intended for the U.S. or Canada. While our law enforcement has made progress in shutting down meth production in the U.S., 80 percent of this dangerous drug comes from "superlabs" in Mexico. No legislation can entirely stop the flow of illegal drugs into our country, but this bill will add increased provisions to punish those who smuggle drugs into the U.S.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 4830 today as a first step in what I hope will be a comprehensive effort to address immigration reform and the challenges law enforcement faces in keeping our communities and our country safe.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANDREW WATSON

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, Mr. Andrew Watson of Larkspur, Colorado. Mr. Watson 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.

Mr. Watson has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership 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 Andrew Watson, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN IVERSON

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Marilyn Iverson, the Chief Operating Officer of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES). She is retiring after more than 34 years of service to our men and women in uniform. Ms. Iverson has been an exceptional leader and has played a key role in lifting AAFES to new levels of excellence in providing service members and their families with quality products and services. I am proud to honor Ms. Iverson for her superb accomplishments and outstanding service to Army and Air Force military communities around the globe.

Marilyn Iverson began her career with AAFES in May 1971 and held many positions before becoming the Chief Operating Officer (COO) in 2002. During fiscal year 2005, AAFES revenues reached \$8.7 billion worldwide and are expected to exceed \$9 billion during fiscal year 2006. During her tenure AAFES generated more than \$793 million in direct support for the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs that are so highly valued by military members and so critical to combat readiness.

After a number of visits to Iraq and Afghanistan and other locations where U.S. forces are deployed, I have been most impressed with her efforts to provide unparalleled support to our deployed military with operations at 120 exchange facilities in 13 countries including many austere and hazardous locations. Under her leadership, AAFES also achieved a steady growth in sales, invested in a record 93 major construction projects on military installations, and developed a program to hire and develop a more diverse workforce.

Our men and women in uniform have benefited from Ms. Iverson's unfailing work ethic, outstanding professionalism, and superb leadership. Her efforts have enabled our military leaders to provide essential quality of life programs and service to our deployed soldiers and the families they leave behind. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank her for her service to our country and wish her well in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MARY JEAN DUCKETT

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Mary Jean Duckett.

Ms. Duckett served as the Deputy Director of the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHPG) within the Center for Medicaid and State Operations at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and retired on March 3, 2006 after 39 years of distinguished Federal service. More than half of her career was dedicated to the Medicaid program at CMS, and I rise in honor of her service.

Ms. Duckett served as a champion for people with disabilities and long-term illness to live meaningful lives in the community. She

worked tirelessly to ensure Medicaid beneficiaries received effective and high quality services. Most recently, her skillful and seasoned insight was of great assistance to the Energy and Commerce Committee during the development of home and community-based care legislation, including the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration that was passed as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Ms. Duckett can be proud that her work on this legislation will have a significant impact on the lives of many people with disabilities and enable them to live and work in the community.

Ms. Duckett started her career in the Social Security Administration working the graveyard shift as a secretary so she could attend college full-time during the day. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and then went on to earn a Master's degree in Social Policy while still working full-time and raising two children with her husband. Using this education and her experience, she worked her way up into the CMS management team as the Director of the Division of Benefits Coverage and Payment in DEHPG within the Center for Medicaid and State Operations and eventually became the DEHPG Deputy Director. She provided national leadership in increasing care options for individuals with disabilities by assisting states and others stakeholders in designing financially sound Medicaid programs that emphasize long-term services and supports that foster choice and opportunity for full participation in community life, including independent living, economic self-sufficiency and recovery for individuals of all ages.

Ms. Duckett served as a pioneer in helping states provide alternatives to institutional settings. She is part of the foundation upon which the home—and community-based service (HCBS) program in CMS has been built. The HCBS program was created in 1981, and she contributed to the development, approval, and implementation of each of the approximately 290 home and community based programs operating throughout all 50 states today. The wealth of knowledge she developed will continue to benefit individuals with disabilities and long-term illnesses across the country every day.

Ms. Duckett's expertise was invaluable and extensive, and her commitment to serving individuals with disabilities and long-term illness served as a model for people that worked for her. She provided an infallible sense of public service, and she always put other people first. Her contributions will be carried on as further steps are taken towards improving or maintaining the ability of individuals to contribute to society in a setting of their choice, averting deterioration in individuals' functional status, and reducing the likelihood that individuals with disability and the elderly will need institutional care.

On behalf of the million plus people living in the community of their choosing instead of an institution, who may never know who she is, or how directly and fundamentally her work impacted them, I sincerely hope that you will join me in recognizing and thanking Mary Jean Duckett for her dedication and service to the Federal Government, and in wishing her the best in her retirement.