

This is the park service that says, we want to wipe out this deer and elk herd because they're not native. They just want to do it because they've got the power to do it. They could easily accommodate our veterans.

COOPER: Is this the role of a national park? The national park service which runs this, basically would be subsidizing a hunting program. They say and critics say, look, there are other places for people with disabilities to hunt. We talked to the Paralyzed Veterans Association they say you know some states even allow those with disabilities to hunt from their cars.

HUNTER: Listen, the reason the national park people have their nice jobs and the reasons we as members of the American public get to enjoy national parks is because of people who wear uniforms who go out in dangerous parts of the world and secure our freedom. So let in some paralyzed veterans, many of whom have been injured in combat, to come have a small piece of this island that almost nobody goes to anyway, is a small repayment for their service to our country. I think the taxpayers would appreciate that.

COOPER: Congressman Hunter, appreciate you joining us, thanks.

Lastly, a letter provided by the Wounded Warrior Project reaffirms discussions and the intent to allow wounded and disabled veterans to enjoy Santa Rosa Island. The letter follows:

AUGUST 28, 2006.

Hon. DUNCAN L. HUNTER,
Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HUNTER: On behalf of the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), I am responding to your legislation that will cease the elimination of all elk and deer on Santa Rosa Island in California and could provide unrivaled hunting opportunities for severely wounded veterans.

The Wounded Warrior Project applauds any effort that supports our endeavors to assist severely injured military personnel. WWP has reached thousands of wounded service men and women, providing assistance in the transition from a hospital bed to an independent and productive life and we believe that Santa Rosa could offer the wounded another chance to participate in meaningful and enriching recreational activities such as fishing, hunting and camping.

This legislation is consistent with Wounded Warrior Project's adaptive sports and outdoors programs like hunting and fishing, snow and water skiing, canoeing and diving. For that reason we encourage the House of Representatives to pass this provision to potentially allow the use of the island for disabled service members.

We hope that together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal organizations, a viable and sustainable daily operations system for the management of Santa Rosa Island can be developed and that our nation's wounded warriors will be able to enjoy the world class hunting that the island has to offer.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

JOHN MELLA,
Executive Director.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1678

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support

for H.R. 1678, The Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2007. This legislation continues and improves a much needed and valuable safety net to help victims of torture recover from their trauma and rebuild successful lives.

Every member of this body knows that torture is a tool used to enforce a level of terror among preyed upon people. Not only can the physical scars of torture last forever, the emotional pain experienced by victims can last a lifetime. Frequently, the aim of brutal torture is not to kill the victim, but to break their will. Victims are humiliated, crippled, traumatized and then returned to their communities as a brutal message of intimidation to others. In many instances, doctors and medical personnel participate during torture sessions to ensure the victim will not die. Groups that sanction, sponsor and commit torture focus on inflicting terror, intimidation and fear on entire communities.

But through appropriate help, services and intervention, victims of torture can heal. The Torture Victims Relief Act provides critical funds to improve access to the health, legal and social services critical to victims and their families through domestic treatment centers for rehabilitation and research and training for health care providers. H.R. 1678 also makes grants available to foreign countries to carry out projects that work to treat the psychological and physical effects of torture.

Treatment is critical, but there is more that can be done. This legislation also creates a partnership by increasing funding for foreign treatment centers and strengthening our commitment to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. This bill sends a strong message to the international community that treating victims of torture is a priority for Congress, and that we welcome the support of our like-minded friends around the globe.

This issue is important in my district. Minnesota is a new home for a growing number of immigrants and refugees and the late Senator Wellstone was a true champion for victims of torture. In addition, Minnesota is proud to be home to the Center for Victims of Torture—a world renowned center for the treatment and healing of torture victims. When the center opened in 1985, it became the first of its kind in the United States and only the third treatment center in the entire world. Today, with centers in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Washington, DC, Sierra Leone and Liberia, CVT is helping thousands of torture survivors from 60 countries.

Madam Speaker, torture is a crime against humanity and unacceptable at any time, by any nation. Any nation that tortures or tolerates torture is truly not free. I strongly encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation and commend the gentleman from New Jersey for his commitment to this issue and his work on this bipartisan legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 10, 2007, my vote on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions to

H.R. 2082, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall vote 340) was recorded as a "yes" vote when I intended to cast a "no" vote. I wish to clarify on the record my miscast vote and my strong support for the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC).

As the Nation's principal center for strategic domestic counterdrug intelligence, the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) in Johnstown, PA, provides critical information on national drug trafficking and abuse trends in the United States. I was pleased to support funding for the NDIC in the Intelligence Authorization bills in both the 108th and 109th Congress.

Not only does the NDIC serve a vital role in our nationwide effort to combat drug trafficking, this center is critically important to the southwestern Pennsylvania region. Having these resources readily available in close proximity to the district I represent in Congress is a tremendous benefit to my constituents. NDIC field representatives on average have more than 30 years' experience in Federal, State, or local drug law enforcement and stand ready to assist my local law enforcement agencies and provide necessary intelligence and training. We are fortunate to have the Center in our backyard and look forward to benefiting from its work in the future.

The NDIC's comprehensive annual report on national drug trafficking and abuse trends within the United States is one of the key tools for the Federal Government to respond to the threat posed by drugs to our families, schools and communities. Formulated in partnership with Federal, State, and local agencies with information from more than 3,400 State and local law enforcement agencies as well as thousands of personal interviews with law enforcement and public health officials, this report is one of the most comprehensive and detailed reports that our Federal Government receives on both domestic and foreign drug threats to our country.

I look forward to continuing my support of the critical intelligence work of the NDIC to protect our families and the Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE DEVOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to join my colleagues here in the House in congratulating the people of Northern Ireland on the formation of their own duly elected government.

This remarkable achievement, the formal implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, sends a message of hope to the entire world. In Martin McGuinness's words, "This marks an end to 800 years of conflict." Surely if the Irish can reach a peaceful conclusion to their differences other troubled places around the world should celebrate the possibilities for themselves.

Much credit goes to the political leadership of Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party. Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness showed great courage in leading their Nationalist side. Rev. Ian Paisley, noted for saying no, said yes to an agreement he helped construct. British Prime Minister Blair and Irish