

would have voted, "yea"; rollcall 381, on agreeing to the Kanjorski amendment had I been present I would have voted, "nay"; rollcall 382 on agreeing to the Roskam amendment had I been present I would have voted, "yea"; rollcall 383, on agreeing to the Garrett (NJ) amendment had I been present I would have voted, "yea".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to vote on six amendments to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 378, the amendment offered by Mr. BACHUS. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 379, the amendment offered by Mr. HENSARLING. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 380, the amendment offered by Mr. MCHENRY. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 381, the amendment offered by Mr. KANJORSKI. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 382, the amendment offered by Mr. ROSKAM. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 383, the amendment offered by Mr. GARRETT.

METROPOLITAN POLICE AND FIRE SERVICE ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Metropolitan Police Service Act of 2007. This bill would conform the federal formula for calculating its share of the District of Columbia's Firefighters and Police officers pension to the new 20 year threshold adopted by the District government.

The original bill introduced to the D.C. City Council in 1999 set the minimum to 20 years of service, but then Chief of Police Charles Ramsey asked that the minimum be increased to 25 years. He was concerned that 300 police officers serving on the Police Department in 1999 who were eligible to retire at 20 years might retire en masse. The timeframe for these retirees has passed and the DC government has stepped up to take care of its firefighters and police officers, by resetting the eligibility to 20 years. These firefighters and police officers now request that the United States Congress fulfill its promises to these first responders.

The Federal government made a commitment to pay District of Columbia firefighters and police officer annuity payments that accrued before 1997. Thus, it was necessary when the District of Columbia changed its formula from 25 to 20 years, that the Federal government make the same change for these first responders, so that every first responder has the opportunity for the same annuity payments that accrue at the same time.

This legislation is consistent with what happened in 2000. At that time, the District first

changed the retirement plan for Metropolitan Police Department to permit service longevity payments to be considered part of the basic compensation used to calculate the retirement annuities. Congress then followed suit in 2001, by making the adjustment in the Federal Government's share of the payments, namely, the share attributable to service provided prior to July 1997. Thus, the federal formula for its share of each affected firefighter and police officer then mirrored the formula established by the District of Columbia government.

In January of 2007, Mayor Adrian Fenty signed a new law which amends the District of Columbia formula to provide that eligible firefighters and police officers must complete just 20 years of service to receive their long-term annuity. Chief Ramsey did not oppose the lowering of the threshold. Congress should now proceed, as it did it 2001, to change the federal formula for retirement annuities, so it mirrors the District of Columbia's.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA'S WOMEN VOTER'S

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, during Women Veterans Week, to honor California's more than 165,000 women veterans, whose proud service and unwavering dedication to our country deserve the highest recognition and commendation.

Throughout American history, women have courageously distinguished themselves by their service in the armed forces, even if they were not always under formal military command. Originally, women served as nurses, cooks, couriers, and spies during every American conflict from the Revolutionary War to the Spanish-American War, although it was only in 1901 that the Army Nurses Corps was established and uniformed women were formally incorporated into the military.

The role of women continued to expand throughout the early 20th century, and by the end of World War II, nearly 350,000 women had served in noncombatant military positions, stationed at the frontlines and often targeted by enemy soldiers. In 1948, President Truman signed into law the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, granting women permanent status in our armed forces and paving the way for full integration of women in the military. Each decade since then, women have enlisted in dramatically increasing numbers, taking on increasingly diverse roles as engineers, communication specialists, intelligence analysts, and special forces.

These service members have demonstrated tremendous courage and patriotism, and it's our responsibility to provide them with the strong support they deserve. We owe them no less.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the women of armed forces. Their achievements have made our military the best in the world and their commitment to our country has safeguarded the freedom and way of life cherished by every American.

LARRY WELCH—LAWMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, "The police are the public and the public are police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence." These words spoken by Sir Robert Peel, founder of the Metropolitan Police Force in London, describe the obligation and dedication required to be a law enforcement officer in society.

Peace officers are the last strand of wire in the fence between the law and the lawless. They are all that stands between order and chaos. They are all that stands between the people and the outlaws. Peace officers are the rare breeds—the noble breed that wear the badge of Duty, Honor, Courage, and Service. Larry Welch is one of these Peace Officers.

For 46 years, Larry Welch has served his country and the citizens of the State of Kansas as a law enforcement officer. As a child, Larry knew that he wanted to be a law enforcement officer—specifically an Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI. While most kids in high school were thinking of football games and school dances and the coming college years, Larry was writing to the FBI, inquiring about becoming a Special Agent. After obtaining his bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas in 1958 and his Juris Doctorate in 1961, Larry graduated the FBI Academy and became a Special Agent in 1961.

For the next 25 years, Larry served as a dedicated FBI Agent, a career that spanned eight cities and Puerto Rico. He investigated and served the Bureau in a variety of positions, including serving on the protective detail of U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy, shortly after President Kennedy was assassinated. Larry also had the experience of serving in a supervisory position with the FBI, including director of FBI operations in Kansas.

In 1986, Larry left the FBI to become the Associate Director of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson, KS. The Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center serves as the headquarters for all law enforcement training in Kansas. By 1989, Larry was promoted to the Director of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and was responsible for the certification of all law enforcement officers within the State of Kansas—an incredible responsibility.

But Larry still had his eye on a position with an organization that he had strived to become a member of for over 30 years. Before Larry was hired as an FBI Agent, he had applied to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, KBI. The KBI is the statewide law enforcement organization that provides investigative and laboratory services to criminal justice professionals across the State. A position with KBI appealed to Larry, so a family friend and mentor tried to pull some strings to get him hired; but, KBI refused to waive the 7 years of law enforcement experience requirement and instead Larry joined the FBI. This time, however, KBI was not saying no to Larry Welch and in 1994, he was hired as the 10th Director in the history of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.