

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to inclement weather in the Sixth District.

On Monday December 11, 2007, I missed rollcall votes 1142, 1143, and 1144. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all votes.

TRIBUTE TO DICKEY LEE
HULLINGHORST**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true public servant, Ms. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst. This month Dickey Lee is retiring as the intergovernmental relations director for Boulder County, Colorado, after nearly 23 years of public service. Her dedication, energy, insight and collaborative spirit will be greatly missed.

In 1985, Dickey Lee became the intergovernmental affairs director for Boulder County. In this capacity, she provided policy analysis to the county commissioners and other county officials, while also communicating and working with other governmental offices throughout the Denver metro area, the Colorado State legislature, State and Federal agencies, and the Colorado congressional delegation. With Dickey Lee in this position, these officials, offices and agencies were kept apprised of what was happening in the county and were consulted on important policy issues.

Dickey Lee also brought her expertise and collaborative, professional approach to various regional committees, such as Boulder County's Consortium of Cities, Open Space Task Force, Solid Waste Task Force, Regional Transportation Task Force, and Regional Transit Committee.

Prior to her service to Boulder County, Dickey Lee gained a broad range of experience. She was a senior vice president at Herrick S. Roth Associates, a public policy consulting firm in Denver. She was legislative affairs director for the Colorado Open Space Council, which was later renamed Colorado Environmental Coalition. And she was a computer programmer for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, here in Washington, DC.

She was also involved in many community activities, serving on the board of directors or advisory committees of Colorado Open Lands (also a founding member and treasurer), EcoCycle (the main recycling organization in Boulder), the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee, Political Action for Conservation, Boulder County Healthy Communities Steering Committee, Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board, Plan Boulder County, City of Boulder Blue Ribbon Commission on Revenue Stability, currently serving, and Boulder County Mental Health Center, currently serving.

Her energy and skills were also recognized by Colorado's governors, who appointed her to serve on the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board, the Front Range Project Steering Committee and to co-chair the Patterns of Development Committee and Open Space Task Force, and the Metropolitan Water Roundtable.

Her work and involvement in these important community activities—as well as other significant initiatives—have been acknowledged with numerous awards including: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Quality of Life Award for her role in helping to pass the Colorado Clean Air Act and the inspection and maintenance program for emissions from automobiles; EcoCycle's "Volunteer Oscar" for her work on recycling initiatives; the Boulder County Democratic Party's "Give 'em Hell Harry" award; the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Metro Vision First Place award for her role in the development of the Boulder County "Super IGA," an intergovernmental agreement among the municipalities in Boulder County and Boulder County on growth boundaries and rural preservation; the National Association of Counties intergovernmental cooperation award, also for the "Super IGA;" and DRCOG's Local Government Collaboration Gold Award for her role in the development of the Louisville/Boulder County/Colorado Highway 42 Revitalization Commission Urban Renewal Intergovernmental Agreement.

In addition, Dickey Lee has been active in politics in Boulder County. She has been very involved with the Democratic Party and has helped bring a level of common sense and grounded perspective to her political activities.

Dickey Lee has been one of those who composes the "backbone" of community life. She works hard and with a true respect for what government can and should do to make people's lives better and help make government work better. Her accomplishments and record of service stand as a model for what a true public servant can do and how they should conduct themselves—with decorum, respect and dedication to the common good.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dickey Lee for all that she has done for the people of Colorado, Boulder County, and the city of Boulder. I wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RITA
ENGLE WELLS**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Rita Engle Wells a resident of the First District, who died November 28 of this year.

Mrs. Wells was a pillar of her community and cornerstone of her family. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Randy and two daughters Ashley and Rachele. She was active in the youth ministry as a member of Solomon Lutheran Church.

She loved life and shared that with the children at East View Elementary School, where she was a second-grade teacher. Her kindness for others showed on a daily basis.

Mrs. Wells was well respected by her students, colleagues, and parents as an admired educator. She had been described as a 'light of love' to those around her.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my fellow members to join me in honoring the life of Rita Engle Wells, a loving wife and mother, a true servant in her community, and a compassionate educator, whose commitment and unwavering determination will be greatly missed throughout East Tennessee.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a step in the wrong direction. Our current focus should be on rebalancing our energy portfolio and responsibly accessing and managing our domestic energy resources to decrease our dependence on foreign countries. This legislation does not improve our energy security in any way. The included Renewable Fuel Standard mandates biofuel production levels which increase our Nation's dependence on the same supply source for both our energy and our food. Basing laws on unavailable technologies and taxing the industry that actually provides energy to the country now, does nothing to decrease our dependence on foreign countries' oil and gas.

I offered an amendment to strike the manufactured language in Sect. 413 of the bill. The bill in its current form would have detrimental effects on the industry, which is a significant contributor to the Indiana economy, and it would undoubtedly result in higher manufactured home prices for consumers.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has an ongoing stakeholder process to improve energy efficiency of manufactured housing. The HUD process strives for cost-effective efficiency standards that add real value for consumers and keep the overall product affordable. Section 413 would inject the Department of Energy into the process. Consumers and manufacturers fear that DOE's "price-is-no-object" track record on efficiency standards will mean that manufactured housing will be priced out of the lower and moderate income markets, harming consumers and costing jobs in the industry. Meanwhile, it will not help energy efficiency since the alternative, stick-built homes, have no national energy standards. Improving the energy efficiency of homes is important, and it is necessary that these efforts take into account cost criteria as well. The manufactured housing industry is already working to meet efficiency standards previously legislated in the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000. This energy bill's manufactured housing language would only add confusion by creating a duplicative program while simultaneously increasing the price of housing.

At a time when the United States' housing market is unsettled, Congress should be making use of every opportunity to assist the average American in their dream of homeownership. This energy bill would make an affordable housing option unaffordable for many Americans.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard in this bill also concerns me acutely. Without regard for the effect it will have on consumers' electricity costs, this standard would require States' investor owned utilities to meet 15 percent of their power generation with renewable energy. Coal is conspicuously absent from the list of acceptable fuels. Indiana has a 250 year supply of alternative energy in the form of coal. Coal is Indiana's most prevalent energy resource, and I cannot support a bill that does not take that into account. I cannot support a bill that increases our reliance on foreign countries for energy, limits States' access to their own resources, and drives up the costs of electricity for hard working Hoosiers when they are already shouldering higher gas prices, and home heating costs. Furthermore, the bill does not include nuclear energy as an acceptable source. This is most confusing because the bill claims to be about addressing greenhouse gas emissions, and nuclear energy emits no Carbon Dioxide. Responsible Federal policy does not walk all over States' rights, disregarding their unique economies and natural resources.

Democrats declare this bill an answer to rising energy costs, but it will only increase energy prices for Americans, and Hoosiers.

This is bad energy policy for our country. It is bad for consumers' pocketbooks, bad for Indiana and bad for my constituents. I urge my colleagues to vote no on Senate Amendments to H.R. 6.

TRIBUTE TO JIM WILLIAMS ON
HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a fine American, a hard-working family man and a good friend, Jim Williams.

Jim was born in Jonesboro, AR, on January 9, 1928, and graduated from Valley View High School. Jim and his wife Joyce were married on December 27, 1953, in Bono, AR. After school he joined the United States Air Force and honorably served our country overseas for 2 years. After serving, he returned home to Arkansas to become a farmer and eventually took a job working for the tool and die shop.

When he realized that working in a factory was not what he wanted to do, he moved to Detroit to learn automechanics from the Wolverine Trade Institute. Armed with specialty training and knowledge, he returned to Jonesboro to become a service manager at Aycock Pontiac and soon became one of the most highly regarded service managers in the country. Jim retired from Aycock when he was 62 after more than 20 years of loyal service to the business. Today he is enjoying his retirement years by spending time with his family and is an active member of the Walnut Street Baptist Church.

Whatever endeavor Jim decided to do, from being a service manager to driving the tractor on the family farm, it was evident that he had an impeccable work ethic. In addition, he always treated everyone with respect and dignity, which is one of the many reasons he was a successful service manager at Aycock Pon-

tiac and well regarded throughout his community.

Jim has been married to his wife Joyce for 53 years. They have one daughter, two grandchildren and are expecting their first great-grandchild in the spring. Jim's commitment to our country and his decades of service to his community and his family are remarkable. In honor of his 80th birthday, I ask my fellow members of Congress to join me in congratulating Jim on this special occasion.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE
VICTIMS OF CYCLONE SIDR IN
SOUTHERN BANGLADESH

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 842, a resolution that I introduced. This legislation expresses sympathy to and pledges the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States to help the victims of Cyclone Sidr in Southern Bangladesh.

Cyclone Sidr struck southern Bangladesh with 155-mile-an-hour winds on November 15th. Since then, its impact has been felt by more than 8.7 million Bangladeshis—more than 3,000 of whom were killed by this storm, 1.5 million who have lost their homes and livelihoods, and thousands of children who have lost one or more parents, their schools and their access to food and water.

The damage caused by Cyclone Sidr was widespread. In fact, the southern districts of Bangladesh were so devastated by the cyclone that one relief worker commented that Bagerhat—one of the districts most damaged—looked like a “valley of death” in the days after the storm. Even Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh that is located more than 130 miles away from the southern coastline, was impacted by the storm—losing access to power and water for days.

In addition to the human loss of life and livelihood caused by this storm, another great loss was felt by the flora and fauna of Bangladesh. During the cyclone, a massive tidal wave hit the Sunderbans, the world's biggest mangrove forest and the home of the endangered Royal Bengal tiger. While researchers have yet to verify how many of these endangered tigers were killed in the storm, the damage that resulted from the cyclone has led experts to declare the forest an “ecological disaster.”

However, in the midst of this death and destruction, the U.S. government has been doing invaluable work to help the people of Bangladesh. That is why this resolution also expresses support for the U.S. government's efforts to provide emergency assistance to the people of Bangladesh. In fact, I want to single out the work of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which has thus far provided the people of Bangladesh with more than \$19.5 million in emergency food aid and other humanitarian assistance. USAID has also—in collaboration with the government of Bangladesh—quickly reached over 8 million of the most vulnerable people in the wake of this disaster to provide assistance and help relieve human suffering.

Mr. Speaker, while Cyclone Sidr took away thousands of lives in Bangladesh, it has brought out the best in both American and Bangladeshi aid workers—enabling them to work together to help millions of people hurt by this storm and provide them with humanitarian assistance. I commend them for their efforts and call on my colleagues to join with me in supporting this legislation so that we may express the House's strong sympathy and support for the people of Bangladesh in their time of crisis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, December 11, 2007, due to my flight being delayed due to mechanical issues, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 842, H. Res. 847, and H.R. 4343.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 1142 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 842, Expressing sympathy to and pledging the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for victims of Cyclone Sidr in southern Bangladesh, I would have voted “aye.”

Had I been present for rollcall No. 1143 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 847, Recognizing the importance of Christmas and the Christian faith, I would have voted “aye.”

Had I been present for rollcall No. 1144 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 4343, the Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act, I would have voted “aye.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall vote Nos. 1142 through 1144 on December 11, 2007. My plane was delayed due to mechanical problems in Atlanta.

If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 1142, H. Res. 842—expressing sympathy to and pledging the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of Cyclone Sidr in southern Bangladesh, “aye”; rollcall vote No. 1143, H. Res. 847—recognizing the importance of Christmas, “aye”; rollcall vote No. 1144, H.R. 4343—the Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act, “aye.”

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARBARA
H. WORTLEY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of internationally