

Qaeda and relevant insurgent elements, and requires that such assistance be focused primarily on helping Pakistan with its critical counterinsurgency and counterterrorism efforts.

The security of Pakistan and the United States is closely linked. We cannot succeed in defeating al Qaeda by ourselves. Therefore, it is critically important that we develop a robust, long-term relationship with our strategic partners to prevail against those who threaten our national security.

S. 1707 is an essential tool in our efforts to dismantle terrorism and underscores the United States' long-term commitment to the people of Pakistan.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1707, the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009.

#### GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION EXPANSION ACT

### HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2009*

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, today, I introduced the bipartisan Geothermal Production Expansion Act with Representative MIKE SIMPSON, and I thank him for his leadership on this issue. Our bill will ensure that we tap into clean geothermal energy using on-the-shelf technologies.

Geothermal energy has great potential to add clean energy to American electricity supplies. It is especially promising as a renewable resource because it is a base load power which doesn't require any fossil fuel backup.

However, at this point in time, proven geothermal resources have at times gone undeveloped in instances involving adjoining federal lands because speculators increasingly drive up the cost of federal lands adjacent to a geothermal development site. This hurts developers who take on the upfront cost of exploration and developing a site because when an exploration proves fruitful, the developer is bid out of the market due to extremely high leasing costs for adjacent lands. In many cases, the end result is that the development is halted and no clean energy comes online.

Already under EPACK 2005 amendments, BLM is allowed to issue three different non-competitive leases for geothermal resources, which include: non-competitive geothermal leases to mining claim holders that have a valid operating plan (having invested capital), direct use leases and leases on parcels that do not sell at a competitive auction.

The Geothermal Production Expansion Act is a targeted approach to the aforementioned speculation problem, simply creating a fourth category whereby the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may issue a non-competitive geothermal lease, allowing qualified companies who hold legal rights to develop geothermal leases on certain adjoining lands.

An added benefit, the bill will significantly accelerate the development of geothermal projects by reducing the time spent on nominating and waiting for an auction, which can add a minimum of one-to-two years to the development phase of a geothermal resource.

This bill is a reasonable policy to ensure that developers who have invested substantial

capital and made high risk investments can secure and develop geothermal discoveries. Additionally, it will help add renewable, domestically produced energy resources to the American consumers' electricity supply. I believe that this is an important issue and I hope that the House will soon consider this legislation.

#### HONORING OUR NATION'S ICBM FORCE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2009*

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the 20th Air Force as we prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the nation's nuclear Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) force. I have had the privilege of working with the Airmen who maintain this critical piece of our nuclear triad throughout my career in Congress and have seen first hand the commitment and dedication of all of those involved in ensuring that this crucial capability remains ready to respond on a moments notice.

The history of our ICBM force began in 1954 with the establishment of the Western Development Division. The Western Development Division was responsible for the development of the first generation of underground ICBM's, the Titans, and the above-ground Atlas.

This development led to the initial alert of a nuclear warhead equipped ICBM, an Atlas D, at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, in October of 1959. Soon after, work began on the Minuteman I missile, a second generation ICBM that would be on alert by the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. Within three years the Air Force had replaced all of its first generation ICBM's with Minuteman I and a newer more advanced version, the Minuteman II. The Minuteman II would remain in service for the next 30 years.

By the 1970's the Air Force had developed the Minuteman III with the first squadron of Minuteman III missiles at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota reaching operational status by the end of December 1970. With the threat of the Soviet Union developing and deploying an increasing number of multi-warhead ICBM's the Air Force began to develop a third generation ICBM that would become the Peacekeeper. The Peacekeeper would ultimately be deployed in 1987 at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming.

For the past 50 years, the ICBM fleet has provided an important nuclear deterrent, which at its peak included more than 1,200 missiles. Today the Air Force has 450 Minuteman III ICBM's on alert in North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska. As the Air Force activates Air Force Global Strike Command, a brand-new command committed solely to the nuclear deterrence mission, the 20th Air Force and the ICBM mission will transfer from Air Force Space Command to Air Force Global Strike Command.

Madam Speaker, the citizens of the United States have been lucky to have the Airmen of the 20th Air Force diligently working to operate and secure this vital component of our nation's security for the past 50 years. These Airmen

have maintained a constant state of vigilance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, performing vital operations, maintenance and security missions across the missile fields in areas that to the untrained eye look just like any other place in America. This is a mission that demands a constant level of alert to respond in an instant should it ever become necessary to employ our arsenal. This constant vigilance has served America so well in the past is poised to continue well into the future. I know my fellow Members of the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the Air Force's 50 years of commitment to the ICBM mission with the highest standards of performance.

ANTHONY P. DEANGELO

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2009*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Anthony P. DeAngelo, a valued member of my staff. Tomorrow, October 2, is Anthony's last day as the Staff Assistant/Press Assistant in my Washington, D.C. office. His dedication to serving the people of the Illinois Fifth District is very much appreciated, and he will be greatly missed.

Anthony joined my staff prior to my election to Congress in April of this year. He then made the trip to our nation's capital and was instrumental in establishing my Washington, DC office. He helped establish our new media programs, press operations and intern program. He always took the time to make constituents feel at home in our office and ensured that their trips to Washington were memorable and worthwhile.

Tomorrow he leaves to take a position as Deputy Communications Director in the Office of Congresswoman DEBBIE HALVORSON. I am pleased he will continue to serve the people of Illinois, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. VASCO SMITH

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2009*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a great Memphian and a great American, Dr. Vasco Smith. Dr. Smith was one of the true stalwarts of civil rights in the city of Memphis and in the nation. Dr. Smith lived a life of service and sacrifice.

Vasco Smith served our nation in the Air Force in the Korean War. A graduate of LeMoyne College in Memphis and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Dr. Smith was a dentist by profession. In 1955, he and his wife, Maxine, returned to their beloved Memphis, completely segregated at the time, and used their passion and commitment to become leaders in the Civil Rights movement.

In 1962, Dr. Smith convinced the owner of the segregated Malco Theatre in downtown Memphis to gradually integrate by selling tickets to African-Americans in the "whites only"