

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT
FREDERICK E. BRAGG

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for Special Agent Frederick E. Bragg—a dedicated public servant and an outstanding President of the FBI Agents Association (FBIAA). The FBIAA is over 20 years old and has grown from several hundred agents to a professional association of over 11,300 current and former agents from across the country.

Mr. Bragg's long history of public service began in 1986 with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department in Syracuse, New York where he worked as a patrol deputy and an investigator. Mr. Bragg joined the FBI in 1991 and has served as the President of the Tri-County Law Enforcement Association, spent a decade as an Assistant Team Leader of the Minneapolis SWAT Team, and has helped lead efforts to combat terrorism, public corruption, and health care fraud. Mr. Bragg's commitment to the mission of the FBIAA began in 1995 and in 2003 he was elected President of the FBIAA. Throughout the duration of his involvement with the FBIAA, Mr. Bragg has advanced the charitable and law enforcement goals of the FBIAA, and his efforts have benefited agents and their families worldwide.

Mr. Bragg has been a leader when it comes to providing for the families of FBI Special Agents who give their lives in the service of our country. Mr. Bragg has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the FBIAA Memorial Scholarship Fund, which helps provide college scholarships to children of deceased FBI Agents. During Mr. Bragg's time as President, this scholarship fund grew to a level where 80% of a student's college costs are now covered—and because of his efforts it is likely this percentage will continue to increase.

In addition to his charitable work, Mr. Bragg has also been an effective voice for FBI Agents on questions of policy. I have had the opportunity to work personally with Mr. Bragg and have witnessed firsthand his unwavering commitment to our nation's FBI Agents. His advocacy played a key role in many important policy issues, such as debates over whether a domestic intelligence agency should be created, the implementation of new "pay for performance" standards, and the importance of criminal investigations to our nation's security.

As a former FBI Special Agent, I commend Mr. Bragg for his excellent service on behalf of our nation's premier law enforcement agents. His work has earned the thanks and appreciation of this body.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I support our troops, and that is why I voted for the Defense Authorization bill when it came before the House earlier this year in a straight up-or-down vote. Unfortunately, Speaker PELOSI decided to use our troops as political pawns by allowing the unrelated and ill-conceived "thought crimes" bill to be rammed into the final version of this conference report.

It is a sad day for our country, and a shameful precedent, when the liberals running Congress hold our troops hostage to pass their radical social agenda. It is an insult to our servicemembers who are offended that they are being used as "human shields" in a political war waged by Speaker PELOSI to pass her radical social agenda, and I'm standing up for our troops by opposing this abuse of power. Speaker PELOSI and the liberals running Congress owe our military and their families an apology for playing political games with their mission.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ASIAN
AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my support for the National Council of Asian American Business Associations (NCAABA), and for the important work the NCAABA has done for the Asian American and Pacific Islander business community.

NCAABA was founded in 2000 to be the voice of Asian American business owners at the national level, serving as a conduit of resource and information, to educate the public, private and business sectors, to advance America's economic growth and stability.

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders (AA NHOPIs) are the fastest growing demographic group in America. In 2002, there were 1.1 million Asian American-owned firms in America, generating \$326 billion in revenues, with the number of Asian American-owned firms growing 24% from 1997, about twice the national average for all businesses. In addition, there were 29,000 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPi)-owned firms, generating \$4.3 billion in revenue, with the number of NHOPi-owned firms growing 49% from 1997, roughly 4 times the average for all businesses. In fact, California, with more than 1/3 million Asian American-owned firms has the largest number of Asian American-owned firms of any state in America.

As America's companies aim to meet the demands of the emerging markets in America, and Asia, AA NHOPIs, who have the cultural and communications skills to create new opportunities, new jobs, and new investments, are in demand.

Given this dramatic growth of AA NHOPi business owners, supplier diversity or the use of minority owned vendors as suppliers, has become a practice that is increasingly important to the success of any business. I want to take this opportunity to commend the National Council of Asian American Business Associations, and presenting sponsor Wells Fargo, in launching the NCAABA Supplier Academy at UCLA on October 14–15, 2009, to ensure that AA NHOPIs will have the cultural and linguistic leadership skills to optimize the resources of the global market, to create sustainable economic change and climate change.

HONORING MR. KEVIN LEE
MITCHEM OF MATHEWS COUNTY,
VIRGINIA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Kevin Lee Mitchem. Kevin Mitchem was a proud Mathews County resident and a fervent supporter of public education, and he was committed to lending his time and knowledge to youth in the community. Kevin was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Sara, and a dedicated father to their two children, Rachel and Daniel.

As the owner of Mitchem Seafood, Kevin was a staunch supporter of watermen and the seafood industry. At the time of his passing, Kevin Mitchem was the Chairman of the Mathews County Board of Supervisors and prior to the chairmanship, he served for twelve years as a board member. Additionally, he served on the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission.

Kevin was deeply involved in his community and dedicated much of his time and effort to serve the residents of Mathews County. He helped coach Mathews County Little League Baseball, Youth Basketball, High School Junior Varsity Girls Basketball, and Junior Varsity Baseball. Mr. Mitchem was a strong supporter of community youth programs and he was instrumental in purchasing and renovating a facility for the senior citizens of Mathews County.

Furthermore, Kevin was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Oriental #20 A.F. & A.M. of Mathews County, the Scottish Rite Temple of Newport News, and the Tidewater Shrine Club. Kevin was also an avid sports fan. He was a lifelong fan of the Baltimore Orioles and Washington Redskins.

Kevin Lee Mitchem will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He touched so many people's lives and the work that he did for his

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