

IN HONOR OF DR. J.H. FLAKES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. J.H. Flakes of Columbus, GA, who on Sunday, October 18, will celebrate his 48th year as the Senior Pastor of the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus. I have known Reverend Flakes for many years and feel honored to call him a friend, a constituent, and an inspiration.

Reverend Flakes was born in Phenix City, AL, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from American Baptist College in Nashville, TN. He continued his biblical studies at Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, GA, the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education in Houston, TX, and the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia in Rome, GA. In addition, he has received an honorary doctorate from A.B. Lee Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, FL, and an honorary doctorate degree from his alma mater, the American Baptist College.

As the Word says in Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Reverend Flakes has truly lived by this principle. Since his arrival at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church, he has sought to implement the church's mission to "obey the will of God through preaching, teaching, witnessing, stewardship and fellowship."

Reverend Flakes has received numerous awards and recognitions to honor his steadfast commitment to his parishioners and his community, including the Outstanding Personality of the South, Ten Outstanding Ministers in the State of Georgia, the Alpha Phi Alpha Martin Luther King Award, Operation PUSH Martin Luther King Award, as well as the Knighthood Award from the Congress of Christian Education.

With ordained leadership and divine grace, Reverend Flakes has built a church that delivers God's message and works daily to implement God's vision. Reverend Flakes personifies the love of God through his teaching and his way of life. I thank him for his years of service to his parishioners, the Columbus community, Georgia's Second Congressional District, and the Nation. Moreover, I wish him many more fruitful years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE VITAL ROLE FAMILY READINESS VOLUNTEERS PLAY IN SUPPORTING SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H. Res. 408, "Recognizing the vital role family readiness volunteers play in supporting servicemembers and their families". I would like thank my colleague, Representative

DAVIS, for introducing this resolution, as well as the co-sponsors.

Since 2001, nearly 2,000,000 active duty and reserve sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guard personnel have deployed for duty in the battlegrounds of Afghanistan and Iraq. To add to this service, the more than 1,800,000 family members of regular component members of the Armed Forces and an additional 1,100,000 family members of reserve component members make significant sacrifices on behalf of the United States in support of their loved ones deployed overseas.

But while the readiness of the United States Armed Forces is predicated on the ability of each member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard to focus on their mission during deployments, this military necessity of long and often unpredictable deployments, frequent relocations, and infrequent family contact for members of the Armed Forces can be extremely challenging for members and their families.

In response to these sacrifices and challenges, family readiness volunteers from each branch of the Armed Forces have stepped forward to provide critical support during deployments to servicemembers and their families. These programs in each service help commanding officers have a better understanding of the welfare of the families within his or her command during a deployment and allow families to be informed about the status of their loved ones' unit overseas.

The thousands of family readiness volunteers are generally spouses of members of the Armed Forces who provide assistance to military families while also enduring the challenges of military life. They consist of Army Family Readiness Volunteers, Navy Ombudsmen, Coast Guard Ombudsmen, Air Force Key Spouse Volunteers, and Marine Corps Key Volunteers. These volunteers are motivated by the desire to improve the lives of other military families and to assist future generations.

Family readiness volunteers also connect the community with military families and local military installations, often leveraging donations and resources for military families, as well as provide their services on a voluntary basis, with little public recognition and financial assistance, and often contribute their own resources to help other military families.

It is no exaggeration to say that the outstanding performance of our servicemembers is a testament to the great success of family readiness volunteers. That is why I join this distinguished body in recognizing and honoring the family readiness volunteers of each branch of the Armed Forces who selflessly devote their time, talent, energy, and resources in service to the United States and commend family readiness volunteers for their dedicated contributions to the quality of life of members of the Armed Forces and their families.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA STOP MODERN SLAVERY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Virginia Stop Mod-

ern Slavery (VASMS) and its efforts to educate parents, teachers and child-care providers on the danger sex trafficking poses to our communities.

VASMS was established in August of 2009 by Jessica Johnson of Annandale, Va. Its volunteers work to preserve safe, family friendly communities. They work to eliminate human trafficking in America by educating and supporting victims' service providers, legislators and local law enforcement officials. Members of VASMS build community partnerships and coordinate outreach events because they understand that bringing this issue to the forefront of public discussion starts with a dedicated grassroots effort.

On October 10, 2009, VASMS hosted The Safe Child Fair in Gainesville, Va., through a partnership with the Bridge to Freedom Foundation, Courtney's House and RIJI Green. The fair offered children's activities and games while parents learned how to protect their children from child exploitation. Events like The Safe Child Fair bring communities together to rally around a common call to action. Eradicating sex trafficking in America requires the involvement and due diligence of all communities, and I urge all to join in this battle to protect our children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the efforts of Virginia Stop Modern Slavery. The prevalence of human trafficking in the United States is deplorable, and I wish VASMS continued success in its campaign to raise awareness for this issue.

H.R. 3632, THE "FEDERAL JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009"

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The purpose of H.R. 3632 is to implement non-controversial administrative provisions that the Judicial Conference and the House Judiciary Committee believe are necessary to improve the operations of the Federal judiciary and provide justice for the American people.

The Judicial Conference is the policy-making body of the Federal judiciary and through its committee system evaluates court operations. The Conference endorses all of the provisions in the bill.

H.R. 3632 affects a wide range of judicial branch programs and operations, including those pertaining to financial administration, process improvements, and personnel administration.

The bill incorporates nine separate items, including:

A section that clarifies that senior judges must satisfy minimum work thresholds to participate in court government matters, including the selection of magistrates.

A section that eliminates the references to divisions and counties in the statutory description of the Judicial District of North Dakota, which enables the court to better distribute the workload between two active district judges and reduce travel for litigants in the northern central area of the district.

A section that authorizes the "statement of reasons" that judges must issue upon sentencing to be filed separately with the court. Current law requires the statement to be bundled with other information in the case file distributed to the Sentencing Commission, where it can be difficult to maintain a seal related to confidential information.

A section that specifies that federal pretrial services officers can provide the same services to juveniles as they do for adult offenders. An example would be drug treatment.

And a section that applies an inflationary index to the threshold amount requiring approval by the chief judge of reimbursements for the cost of hiring expert witnesses and conducting investigations for indigent defendants. The dollar thresholds are statutorily fixed and erode over time. This means chief judges must devote greater time approving what are otherwise not genuine "high-dollar" requests.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3632 is necessary to improve the functioning of the U.S. courts, which will ultimately benefit the American people. This is a non-controversial bill and I urge my colleagues to support it.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 2892, "Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: TSA, Aviation Security

Project Amount: \$1,250,000.00

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Safe Skies Alliance, 110 McGhee Tyson Boulevard, Suite 201, Alcoa, Tennessee 37701

Description of Request: This funding will be used to create a research and training center that will provide critical improvised explosives recognition training to TSA Transportation Security Officers, law enforcement personnel, fire fighters, emergency services personnel, first responders and others.

IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, for many years, I have advocated for high-level, diplo-

matic negotiations between the United States and Iran without preconditions. Under the previous administration I was compelled to do so with fervor due to the use of reckless saber rattling that accomplished nothing save for heightened tensions between our two nations.

I opposed this bill because I do not believe that additional economic sanctions at this time support U.S. actions to engage Iran diplomatically. Furthermore, it sends a mixed message: On one hand, the U.S. President wishes to engage in diplomacy. On the other hand, the U.S. Congress is punishing Iran during diplomatic engagement.

During my time in Congress, I have called for the kind of diplomatic dialogue that the U.S. and Iran engaged in for the first time in three decades on October 1st, 2009. These negotiations brought together not just Iran and the U.S. but France, Great Britain, Russia, China and Germany.

The talks proved a successful beginning to reinstating U.S. diplomatic ties with Iran. The two countries now have a foundation from which we can build. This must be nurtured so that mutual understanding and opportunities for collective action can be had on even the most difficult issues such as the Iranian nuclear program, Iraq and the protection of human rights. Additional economic sanctions only serve to threaten further engagement.

I question the wisdom of bringing a sanctions bill before this body when, after 30 years of isolationism and antagonism, the Obama Administration is finally beginning a new path forward with respect to diplomatic engagement to bring Iran into the international community in a way that promotes international security.

In the past, sanctions have had little impact on influencing the behavior and decisions of the Iranian government who have managed to remain insulated from the intended effects of sanctions. Instead it has been the people of Iran who bear the brunt of the impact.

I do not think it is the intention of this body to punish the Iranian people; particularly in light of their bravery following the elections of June 12th. It is clear that the people of Iran desire change and are willing to endure that which is necessary to achieve it through peaceful means. We must support their actions by doing all that we can to ensure their voices are heard rather than passing legislation that is intended to cause further harm to their economy.

Passage of this bill fails to recognize the sensitivity and importance of the dialogue that was begun on October 1st. And it fails to support the bravery of the Iranian people who will be the ones to feel the impact of the legislation. I oppose the legislation.

HONORING RICHARD LONG

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Richard Long, a lifelong champion of the American labor movement, my mentor, counsel and dear friend on the occasion his retirement from the United Auto Workers where he served as National Community Action Program (CAP) Director for the past nine years.

This year, Dick retires from a 46-year-long career which began in 1963 at the former Pontiac Motor Division in Pontiac, Michigan, where he first became a proud member of UAW Local 653. Over the ensuing years as Dick advanced on the shop floor, he also advanced and deepened his involvement in the UAW, which would chart his personal and professional trajectory for the next 40-plus years.

Some years later in 1987, Dick was elected Vice President of his UAW local and the following year he was elected its president. His leadership, commitment and talent was fully recognized in 1998, when then-UAW President Stephen Yokich named Dick his Administrative Assistant and, again, in 2000 when Dick was appointed National CAP Director. I remember well my pride and optimism when I learned that Dick had been appointed National CAP Director. For many years, Dick had mentored and counseled me so ably and devotedly; I was certain that in his new role, he would educate and organize others with as much verve and dedication as I had experienced.

As CAP Director, Dick was well-suited to the role and charge of "developing and advancing policies that improve social and economic conditions and enrich the quality of life for all people." By any account, Dick made a powerful impression on the State and National political landscape. His effectiveness was rooted in his ability to be equally comfortable working on the national stage or alongside grassroots volunteers in a makeshift office space.

Dick's contributions to the community and commitment to civil rights and social justice have been his personal and professional legacy. Whether in his role as a local president, supporting Oakland University with his wife Jackie, National CAP Director, or working on behalf of the many community organizations he champions, Dick has worked to create a better future for America's families and workers. For that legacy and commitment, he is much admired by me and many others.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my salute today to an important and formative figure in my life: Richard Long, a man to whom I am deeply indebted for his friendship and good counsel and a man whose 46 years of untiring work on behalf of America's working families and the ideals of social justice should be heartily commended and passionately emulated by each of us.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PIRAN TALKINGTON OF WOODBRIDGE, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize twelve-year-old Piran Talkington of Woodbridge, Va. On June 24, 2007, Piran successfully executed the Heimlich maneuver to save the life of his four-year-old sister Caitlyn. Just 10 years old at the time, Piran showed remarkable composure by calmly employing this life saving technique.

As a Cub Scout in Pack 289 of Woodbridge, Piran learned basic life-saving skills as part of his training to become a Boy Scout. Piran's attentiveness during these lessons proved invaluable when he was able to unblock his