

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE LAUNCH BY THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF PALM BEACH COUNTY OF ITS ARMED SERVICES ADVOCACY PROJECT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch by the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County of its Armed Services Advocacy Project, ASAP, made possible through a grant from the Florida BRAIVE Fund at the Dade Community Foundation. More than 1.7 million veterans call Florida home, one of the largest such populations of any State. Palm Beach County alone is home to 1,200 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The need for services for these people is tremendous.

This new project's mission is to provide civil legal assistance to active duty Armed Forces service members and veterans who are serving or have served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom and/or their families living in Palm Beach County. Specifically, the Armed Services Advocacy Project will provide legal advice, education, counsel, and representation with regard to pre-deployment, deployment and post-deployment issues, free of charge.

Legal services offered to personnel and/or their family members will include access to benefits, benefit denials, disability determinations, discharge matters, housing and financial issues, access to health care and mental health resources, employment rights and much more. Individuals may also receive assistance with specialized military issues including navigating the physical disability evaluation system, appealing involuntary administrative separations, defending inappropriate discharge, discharge characterization, or disability rating and filing claims for Traumatic Injury Insurance Under the Service Members Group Life Insurance, TSGLI.

The ultimate goal of the Armed Service Advocacy Project is to improve the lives of Palm Beach County residents who have served or are serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families through legal intervention aimed at providing safer living conditions, meeting medical needs or reducing the time and frustration involved in navigating social services and veterans' assistance systems.

Madam Speaker, I am quite familiar with the problems active duty and retired service members have faced with these issues. I am delighted to know that the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, an old and very trusted agency, has created the Armed Services Advocacy Project, and I wish them great success with their efforts on behalf of one of America's most beloved and respected populations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 830, H.R. 3854, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on October 29th, 2009, I was absent for four rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote No. 828; "no" on rollcall vote No. 829; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 830; and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 831.

COMMENDING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICTS IN OREGON

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Public Power Week 2009 in the State of Oregon. The history of public power in Oregon stems from a grassroots campaign of Oregonians in the 1930's who, due to their rural service areas, did not have access to electricity. They spearheaded an initiative and Oregon eventually passed a measure allowing for the development of publically owned and operated energy utilities.

As President Franklin Roosevelt stood at the gates of the Bonneville Dam and inaugurated the Bonneville Power Administration, BPA, these Oregonians finally had a viable option towards implementing their publically owned energy facilities. By the 1940's, four People's Utility Districts were formed across Oregon in Lincoln, Tillamook, Clatskanie, and Wasco Counties. By the early 1980's, two more were created: Emerald and Columbia River People Utility Districts.

Oregon's PUDs are a testament to the cooperation of more than 250,000 Oregonians who publically own and operate their energy company. Oregon's PUDs focus on renewable generation, conservation, and energy efficiency programs has resulted in over 90 percent of their power generated and distributed being green and renewable. This is quite an achievement. Today, Oregon's PUDs are thriving with green technology innovation while still providing low-cost rates and quality service to their consumers.

There are two PUDs that serve my district: Central Lincoln PUD and Tillamook PUD. I

would like to take a moment and highlight the excellent work they continue to do:

Central Lincoln PUD—Central Lincoln PUD, serving portions of Lincoln, Lane, Douglas and Coos counties, provides affordable electricity to nearly 84,000 Oregonians, supporting thousands of jobs in the tourism, fishing, and forest products industries. Central Lincoln has helped many of its commercial and industrial customers with long-term energy saving projects, including the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport and the Georgia-Pacific paper mill in Toledo. Central Lincoln is a platinum sponsor of cutting edge renewable energy and electricity storage research at Oregon State University's Wallace Energy Systems & Renewables Facility at its school of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Additionally, Central Lincoln is enhancing its focus on conservation and energy efficiency, including the hiring of an energy services specialist, who will provide technical assistance and information to customers and the general public regarding practical application of a variety of energy technologies. Central Lincoln is also a recent recipient of a \$10 million smart-grid grant from the federal government.

Tillamook PUD—Tillamook PUD and Hampton Lumber's Tillamook Lumber Mill have a strong working relationship and have worked together on energy efficiency improvement projects for more than two decades. Tillamook Lumber, one of Tillamook PUD's largest customers, has always valued conservation, and has demonstrated its importance even through this rough economic downturn. During the spring, operations at the mill decreased from a 24 hour operation to one shift, leaving nearly one-third of its employees out of work. With rebates and assistance from Tillamook PUD, Hampton installed new motors and variable frequency drives in several areas of the mill, resulting in annual savings of over \$90,000. More than 40 percent of the \$486,000 project costs were paid through the Tillamook PUD/BPA rebate program. Tillamook PUD and the Port of Tillamook are also converting a very valuable asset from its famous cows into energy. In 2003, the Port constructed a centralized methane digester to biologically process the manure from 4,000 of the county's 30,000 dairy cows. The digester has the ability to produce and capture methane from the manure and reduces the amount of methane that otherwise would enter the atmosphere. The green power generated is sold to Tillamook PUD, powers approximately over 200 homes, and maintains more than 150 family-wage dairy industry jobs in the community.

Madam Speaker, while more than 70 years has passed since the establishment of public power in the State of Oregon, I am proud to say that they represent a spirit that I believe all Americans share: the spirit of community first. I honor them as they celebrate Public Power Week 2009 and wish them continued success in the coming years.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"
CASAMO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mr. William "Bill" Casamo, community activist, human rights leader, and U.S. Veteran. Bill lived the kind of full, robust life we all hope to live, leaving us at the distinguished age of 92 on October 21, 2009, at his beloved home in Alexandria, Virginia.

Mr. Casamo was a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a one-man force throughout the modern American labor movement. His deeply held values and experiences truly reflect the best of what the "Greatest Generation" had to offer our nation.

Bill was the second child of immigrant parents, Hilda Johanson from Norway and Anthony Casamo from Sicily. In 1921, in an effort to provide a better life for their family outside bustling New York City, they moved to Patterson, NY. Early in his childhood, Mr. Casamo demonstrated the strong work ethic that would carry him throughout his life. During his summers in Patterson he worked at local restaurants, slaughterhouses and meat packing plants to help support his family. In 1943, he enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps, leaving behind his wife and first child to fight in World War II. Mr. Casamo served honorably in the Pacific Theater until his discharge in February 1946.

After the war ended, Mr. Casamo began what would be a lifelong dedication to the American labor movement. The map of his career truly traces the rise of labor throughout our country. His first union job came at the early age of 20 when he was elected a union representative at a meat packing plant in New York. Over the next half-century he dedicated himself to numerous union organizations, including the United Furniture Workers Union, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFSCME, the International Industrial Engineers, and the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Papermill Workers, which later became the International Brotherhood of Papermill Workers, IBPW. He retired in 1985 as the Director of the Retiree Affairs Department for IBPW. Mr. Casamo has always been proud of his work, often penning a Labor Day message to express his gratefulness for the courage, fortitude and vision of American workers. The same can be said of a nation's gratefulness for Mr. Casamo.

Bill Casamo will be deeply missed. He set the standard as an exemplary individual who spent his life fighting to make a better life for his family and for his brothers and sisters in the labor movement. He is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Eileen Casamo, 4 children, 16 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Bill will be missed, but his warmth, kindness and strength of character will be remembered always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Spaker, on rollcall No. 828—Flake Amendment, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CHINESE HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEYS TESTIFY BEFORE THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the following testimonies of two Chinese human rights attorneys who submitted testimony for a hearing last week of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

[Written Testimony submitted to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the rule of law in China, Oct. 29, 2009]

BY CRACKING DOWN ON HERESIES, THE GOVERNMENT REDUCES VENUES FOR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN RURAL AREAS

(By Mr. Wang Guangze)

From May 2006 to July 2007, I was working as Beijing-based editor and commentator for the magazine Phoenix Weekly, a subsidiary operation of Phoenix Satellite TV. During that period of time, I had tried to make some reports on the status of religious freedom. Phoenix Satellite TV and its subsidiary magazine Phoenix Weekly were registered in Hong Kong, but due to their pro-CPC features, the CPC gave them the special permission to set up a reporter's station in Beijing and recruit employees. The restrictions on its scope of news reporting are rather lax as compared with other media outlets in mainland China. This is also the main reason why this witness was able to report on religious cases, while other media outlets in China had no such right to report on related content during the same period of time.

The religious case of "Three Grades of Servants" was published in the eleventh issue of Phoenix Weekly in 2006, in a Chinese article of as many as 11,000 characters. The entire report consisted of three articles: "An underground church and sixteen cases involving death," "Xu Wenku and his religious kingdom," and "Religious reality in a rural village." The entire report was written by two journalists, Deng Fei and Liu Zhiming, after they conducted interviews. They were notified by a witness, who also gave guidance on conducting interviews. In the end, I edited on the articles and published them.

Through investigations and interviews, we found that the mainland Chinese Public Security department and prosecution department accused "Three Grades of Servants," a Christian church under the management of Xu Wenku, of carrying out an order to murder twenty members of another Christian house church that called itself "the Lighting in the Orient." Both police and prosecution agencies believed that the two parties not only had the motive of competing for the recruitment of believers, but that there were also conflicts between their religious creeds. After the case was cracked, mainland Chinese police effectively cracked down upon

this type of mutual hate-killings between different religious factions, stopping this kind of hate-killing from spreading. In the meantime, mainland police also destroyed the religious activities of the two house churches. According to estimates, the religious belief of tens of thousands of people's may have been affected.

According to the indictment, Xu Wenku and others swindled people out of 20.5 million RMB in various parts of mainland China by illegally hiring believers and collecting contributions, etc. At the beginning of 2007, Xu Wenku and other core members of "Three Grades of Servants" Church were sentenced to death and were immediately executed.

Through investigations and interviews, we believe that the relatively secluded venues for religious activities in rural areas have given rise to religious heresies or have led some people to be engaged in illegal activities in the name of religion. On the other hand, mainland police, while cracking down on heresies, also take the opportunity to destroy venues for religious activities in rural areas, reducing the number of venues for villagers' religious activities. I believe that mainland police have failed to distinguish the normal religious activities from the illegal and criminal behavior in the religious activities that should be cracked down. As a result, the religious environment in the countryside continues to deteriorate and has entered into a sort of vicious cycle: While cracking down on heresies, the venues for religious activities were reduced. After the venues for religious activities were reduced, the religious activities of villagers were forced to be more secret, and secret religious activities often tend to nourish the creation of heresies and varying degrees of illegal religious activities.

For more evidence, please view the following relevant report at: <http://www.boxun.com/hero/wanggz/>.

[Written Testimony submitted to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the rule of law in China, Oct. 29, 2009]

EXPECTING THE SECOND TRANSFORMATION OF CHINA'S RELIGIOUS POLICIES

(By Mr. Cao Zhi)

1. FOUR STAGES OF RELIGIOUS POLICIES IN CHINA

1. In the 1950s before the Cultural Revolution, the system of administration of religions was formed. The basic characteristics of the system were that the religious organizations were politicized, were classified under the administration as a 'work unit,' and everything in terms of religious life was simplified. In 1978, after the Cultural Revolution, the political program of the country turned to the "priority of economic development" from the "class struggle." In March 1982, "Basic Viewpoints and Basic Policies of Religious Issues of Our Country During the Period of Socialism" (i.e. Document No. 19) was promulgated. This was the first transformation of religious policies in China. On the one hand, this document required the restoration of religious activities held by religious organizations at sites designated for religious activities. On the other hand, however, the predominant idea was that "class struggles still exist within certain areas," and it confined the religious activities within the "normal limits." In 1982, Article 36 of the Constitution, essentially the "Clause on Religious Belief," was formulated based on the religious policies defined in Document 19. With its promulgation, the state now must recognize what it considers "normal religious activities," while at the same time, it must prohibit or crack down on religious activities outside its control. The idea of "the state protects normal religious activities" must be interpreted in the context of this contradiction.