

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL
MINER'S DAY RESOLUTION**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, as we, in the Congress, continue to debate the course of energy in America; as we consider the science of efficiency, the effects of power generation on the environment, and the impact of energy supply on the economy and on national security, I believe we also need to remember some very fundamental things.

We need, for example, to pay acute attention to the effects that the decisions we make in Washington will have on the men and women, the families, and the communities back home who have, for generations, provided the natural energy resources that fuel America.

Today I am proud to introduce—along with my colleagues from West Virginia, Representatives ALAN B. MOLLOHAN and SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO—a resolution honoring America's miners.

The government has long recognized that it has an obligation to do all that it can to ensure that our coal miners have safe, healthy workplaces. But I contend that we also have an obligation to do all we can to ensure that our miners simply have work.

America has grown strong through the labor of coal miners. Their work has provided, light, warmth, and economic security for generations of growing American families. It has fueled the steel furnaces that built our great cities and our military might. And the labor of miners has made reality of the creative imaginings of America's most inventive minds.

These hard-working, selfless, earnest men and women, their livelihoods, their way of life, and the future of their families and their communities are at stake. Mining can be difficult, dangerous work, but mining is also a noble, honest profession, and miners and their families are proud of the work they do for America, as well they should be.

We can mine and use coal more safely, more cleanly, and more efficiently. And we will. Our future depends upon it.

So, Madam Speaker, I introduce this resolution to support the goals and ideals of a National Miner's Day that will commemorate the work and the sacrifice of miners past and present. But I do so, as well, as a demonstration of support for the jobs of miners future.

HONORING ZACK GRAHAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zack Graham, a very special young man who has earned a spot on the National USA Karate Team. I join with Zack's family and friends in expressing best wishes on his significant achievement. I commend Zack on attaining such a high honor and wish him the best of luck as he competes in the World Karate Championships in Dublin, Ireland, this October.

Gaining recognition for this remarkable achievement reflects both Zack's hard work and dedication. As a member of the stand-alone Missouri team, as well as the team with the largest number of students to be selected from a single school, Zack should be proud of his accomplishments. He is a member of a celebrated team and has represented the State of Missouri well. With such drive and determination I am certain Zack will be a strong contribution to the national team.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending Zack Graham for his success with Sensei Mark Long's Shotokan Karate team and for his effort put forth in achieving this prestigious goal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday I missed the six rollcall votes of the day. Unfortunately I missed these votes because I was detained in my district.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 835, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 3949—Veterans' Small Business Assistance and Servicemembers Protection Act of 2009.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 836, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—H. Res. 398—Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift's success.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 837, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—H. Res. 866—Expressing support for designation of a National Veterans History Project Week to encourage public participation in a nationwide project that collects and preserves the stories of the men and women who served our nation in times of war and conflict.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 838, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended—H. Res. 867—Calling on the President and the Secretary of State to oppose unequivocally any endorsement or further consideration of the "Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict" in multilateral fora.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 839, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—H.R. 3157—To name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Alexandria, Minnesota, as the "Max J. Beilke Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic."

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 840, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 736—Honoring President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address on "Dedication Day", November 19, 2009.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Reauthorization Act of 2009. This legislation is a companion to S. 76, which was introduced earlier this year by Senator DANIEL K. INOUE.

Native Hawaiians, like American Indians and Alaska Natives, are an indigenous, native people. The Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of 1988, 42 U.S.C. 11701 et seq., provided the authority for the establishment of a range of programs and services designed to improve the health care status of the native people of Hawaii. While Native Hawaiian health care programs have been continuously funded since 1988, they have not been reauthorized since 1992. The bill I introduce today will reauthorize the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act through 2014.

Native Hawaiians have the highest cancer mortality rates in the State of Hawaii—216.8 out of every 100,000 male residents and 191.6 out of every 100,000 female residents. These cancer rates are 21 percent higher than for the total state male population—179.0 out of every 100,000 residents—and 64 percent higher than that for the total state female population—117.0 per 100,000. With respect to breast cancer, Native Hawaiians have the highest mortality rates in the State of Hawaii and nationally Native Hawaiians have the third highest mortality rates.

The death rate from heart disease for Native Hawaiians is 68 percent higher than that for the entire population of the State of Hawaii. The death rate from hypertension is 84 percent higher and the death rate from stroke is 20 percent higher for Native Hawaiians than for the general population of the State of Hawaii.

Congress has previously recognized the unique and historical relationship between the United States and the indigenous people of Hawaii. I urge my colleagues continued support for the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo (thank you).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, November 3, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 835—"yea"; rollcall 836—"yea"; rollcall 837—"yea"; rollcall 838—"yea"; rollcall 839—"yea"; rollcall 840—"yea."