

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BHOPAL GAS DISASTER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal gas disaster. On December 3, 1984, 27 tons of deadly gases spewed out of the Union Carbide plant, forming a cloud of poisonous gas over Bhopal, India. As a result, 8,000 people lost their lives. In total, the deadly effects of this disaster have left 20,000 dead and another 20,000 with chronic illness.

A 2003 study by the highly regarded Journal of the American Medical Association found that children born to parents affected by this disaster still suffer the effects of Union Carbide's poisonous gases. In fact, a Greenpeace report documented the presence of chloroform, lead, mercury, and a series of other chemicals in the breast milk of nursing women who live near the factory.

Just this past June, a report by the Bhopal Medical Appeal and the Sambhavna Trust Clinic found that the water in and around Bhopal still contains unsafe levels of carbon tetrachloride and other pollutants, solvents, nickel, and other heavy metals. Therefore, it is not surprising that populations in the areas around Bhopal have high rates of birth defects, rapidly rising cancer rates, neurological damage, and mental illness.

It is simply unbelievable that Union Carbide refused to acknowledge which chemicals and gases were leaked for fear of legal liability. This left doctors to treat patients with no knowledge of how to proceed or what treatment to use. Union Carbide's use of unsafe and untested technologies led to one of the worst chemical disasters in world history. Rather than acknowledge the devastation they created and fully pay for the damages, Union Carbide decided to walk away.

However, in 2001 Dow Chemical Company, based in the United States, purchased Union Carbide and acquired all of its assets and liabilities. To this day, Dow Chemical refuses to shoulder the liabilities and obligations that it took on when it purchased Union Carbide.

Dow should clean up the factory site, which continues to contaminate the local environment and should go beyond simply providing compensation to the victims. Dow should also fund the necessary medical care and research studies necessary to treat victims and offer them the chance to live fruitful lives not plagued by chemical affects.

I believe that the Indian Government has a role to play in ensuring that the survivors of the Bhopal disaster and those that continue to face its deadly effects receive dignified care. Despite an order from the Supreme Court of India that clean drinking water should be supplied immediately, more than 25,000 people in Bhopal are forced to consume water known to contain dangerous contaminants.

Last year, along with 15 of my colleagues I wrote to Prime Minister Singh to express support for the people of Bhopal and urged him to personally meet with survivor groups to address the long-standing demands for justice. We expressed our hope that the Indian Government would pursue Union Carbide and Dow Chemical for their civil and criminal liabilities in the country.

We argued the victims of the Bhopal tragedy were right and deserving in their request for a commission to execute social, economic, and medical rehabilitation, implement an environmental clean-up of the polluted land, and provide funding for clean drinking water.

Today, thousands remember the lives lost in Bhopal and protest the current inaction and lack of responsibility associated with the Bhopal disaster. I hope that my colleagues will join me remembering the lives that were needlessly lost because of Union Carbide's negligence and the devastating effects that continue to plague the people of Bhopal.

Although this may be the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal disaster, people are still dying from the horrible affects of the chemicals that Union Carbide's plant leaked. I remain dedicated to fighting for the rights of the survivors of the Bhopal disaster and ensuring that those in Bhopal today receive the assistance needed to live in a clean and healthy environment.

HONORING CORPORAL JAMESON CHAREST UPON HIS RETURN HOME FROM SERVICE IN IRAQ

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest joy that I rise today to join the more than 300 family and friends who have gathered to welcome home Corporal Jameson Charest of Wallingford, Connecticut. I have known Jameson's family for many years. His mother, Karen, served as a Congressional Aide in one of my Connecticut colleagues' District Office and I often had the opportunity to work with her. There are no words to describe how proud we all are of his outstanding service to our nation and, most importantly, to his fellow marines.

Jameson enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Iraq, where he served a 7 month tour. During his tour, he earned both the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Ribbon, when the vehicle he was in was destroyed by an IED. Needless to say, when word spread of his injuries, we were all concerned for his health and safety. Fortunately, Jameson has recovered and is ready to return to service. Though home on leave for the next several weeks, Jameson will report to Okinawa on New Year's Day and, in May, will report to the Pentagon.

Jameson will be the first one to tell you he is not a hero—that he is simply a marine,

doing his job. However, in my mind, Jameson, and all of the men and women who volunteer to serve in our Nation's Armed Forces are heroes. Dedicating themselves to protecting the freedoms and values we all cherish, they often give up much of themselves—and that is particularly true for those who have served in combat. Corporal Jameson Charest is a very special young man who certainly deserves our respect, our gratitude, and our admiration. He is a source of inspiration to all of those fortunate enough to know him.

For now, Corporal Jameson Charest has come home and it is certainly cause for celebration. I am so proud to stand today and join his parents, Karen and Denis, as well as all of those who have gathered this evening to welcome our hero home and to wish him all the best as he continues his service as a United States marine.

HONORING JAMES HARDEN "PAT" DAUGHERTY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable American. Mr. James Harden "Pat" Daugherty, a long-time resident of Silver Spring, Maryland, was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II when he was 19 years old. He was assigned to the U.S. Army's 92nd Infantry Division, known as the Buffalo Soldiers, which was the only division-strength unit comprised of African Americans to fight in the European Theater. The division fought German and Italian troops in northern Italy, suffering thousands of injuries and deaths. Mr. Daugherty watched some of his best friends die right before his eyes. He was decorated with the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement and the Combat Infantryman Badge for outstanding performance of duty in action.

The Buffalo Soldiers were great American heroes who waged a fight for freedom abroad even as they were denied freedom at home. After the war, they returned home to face racism, segregation, job discrimination and widening injustices. At age 23, upon returning from war, Mr. Daugherty felt compelled to document his wartime experiences as an African American. Earlier this year, coinciding with the 65th anniversary of D-day and the election of the first African American President, Mr. Daugherty published his firsthand account as a Buffalo Soldier in his memoir, *Buffalo Saga*.

Following the war, Mr. Daugherty resumed his studies with the aid of the GI Bill and received his bachelor of science from Howard University and his master of public health from Columbia University.

Mr. Daugherty was an educator in the District of Columbia public schools, where he organized an after-school tutoring program and taught students in math and reading. In 1964,

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