

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANTIGUA'S BREACH OF BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to renew a discussion of an ongoing situation which requires our attention.

The expropriation of the Half Moon Bay Resort in Antigua, owned and developed by a group of American citizens since 1971, was entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD almost three years ago by my predecessor, the Hon. Thomas Tancredo (September 24, 2008—E1891).

I would remind this House that the expropriation of this internationally recognized Resort has been the subject of ongoing legal proceedings from 2000 to June 2007, when the Privy Council in London allowed the Government of Antigua to “forcibly acquire” the property under its sovereign right of eminent domain, provided the owners’ rights to payment of compensation were equally upheld.

Since that date, four years ago, the dispossessed owners have had to initiate a number of legal actions against the Government of Antigua to move the process of arriving at compensation as prescribed by Antigua’s own laws and Constitution.

At this point, three issues still remain before the Courts: two in the Eastern Caribbean High Court and one before the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal. The subject matter of the cases have to do with the value of the property as established by a Government appointed Assessment Board, and with the owners’ Constitutional Right to “fair compensation within a reasonable time.”

By request of the Attorney General, representing the Government in each of these cases, the hearings scheduled for dates in the first half of this year have been adjourned without a return date being set.

The hearing before the Court of Appeal may occur during that court’s next sitting in Antigua in September, but the Attorney General has already ignored a filing deadline ordered by that body, which may cause further postponement of that hearing.

Meanwhile, Antigua’s Ministers have announced various agreements that are being signed with developers for the Half Moon Bay property. Even more outrageous is a statement released to the Antiguan press by the Attorney General (who is also Antigua’s Minister of Justice and Minister of Legal Affairs) that such re-development can legally commence prior to any compensation being paid to the dispossessed American owners.

It is an established fact that expropriation of American-owned property and business is a breach of the Caribbean Economic Basin Recovery Act (CBERA) and by ignoring the rights of the owners to prompt and fair compensation, the Government of Antigua has also

breached the WTO International Trade and Investment Rules.

I urge the President, as mandated by the terms of the CBERA, to suspend Antigua’s benefits and rights accorded to preferred trading partners.

While the financial effect of such alienation may be negligible, the political aspect of recognizing the breach is essential to maintain respect for the treaty and its signatories. Our citizens deserve no less.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF GARY LABELLA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding American citizen who has made significant contributions to northern Indiana’s economy through his work on behalf of the recreational vehicle industry, Gary LaBella.

For more than three decades, Mr. LaBella was instrumental in enhancing the recreational vehicle (RV) industry’s image, contributing to the RVIA and the industry’s success. The efforts he led in the marketing of RVs has helped unify this industry and transformed the way consumers think about RVs in this country, now and for the future.

Known for his creativity, Mr. LaBella launched an aggressive industry-wide marketing program that earned high acclaim throughout the travel and recreation communities. Under his direction, RVIA and industry partners launched the Go RVing national advertising program in the mid 1990s, which is often referred to as one of the most successful programs in the industry’s history.

In 2010, Mr. LaBella organized a celebration for the RV industry’s Centennial, culminating with a widely attended June party on the grounds of the RV/Manufactured Housing Hall of Fame and Museum in Elkhart, Indiana. Elkhart is often referred to as the heart of the RV manufacturing community and the RV Centennial Celebration focused on saluting the workers who made the industry great.

RV Business, an industry trade journal, saluted Mr. LaBella in 2010 as one of the industry’s 100 most influential executives of all time. Mr. LaBella received a similar honor in 2005, the year he was inducted into the RV Hall of Fame. At a celebration of his career on December 1, 2010, many of the speakers echoed the sentiment that Mr. LaBella perhaps is one of the most influential individuals in the industry’s history. Mr. LaBella, a graduate of Utica College of Syracuse University who joined the Reston, VA-based RVIA in 1978, has received an “Outstanding Achievement Award” from RVIA, and in 2010, he received both the Chairman’s Award from the Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association and the prestigious Spirit Award from the RV/MH Hall of Fame. In

his farewell to the industry before an appreciative audience of 1,200 at the Louisville, Kentucky trade show, Mr. LaBella said he was leaving the stage with “two overriding emotions—pride in what we all accomplished together to elevate this industry’s image, and happiness that I leave RVIA with only friends.” Today I rise on behalf of the citizens of Indiana’s Second District, to salute his character, his personal achievements and his contributions to the RV industry.

JULY 4, 2011 NATURALIZATION CEREMONY IN HAMMOND

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who took their oath of citizenship on July 4, 2011. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation’s celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony took place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the Hammond Public Library and presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, was held at The Pavilion at Wolf Lake in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the globe to the United States in search of better lives for their families. The upcoming oath ceremony was a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On July 4, 2011, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oath of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Karen Seballos Dela Cruz, Shimei Yan, Suryaprasad Veeravenka Padala, Juan Pablo Diaz Avila, Luis Eduardo Rivera Ramirez, Blagoja Jofceski, Kulvinder Singh, Horacio Garcia Leon, Samip Rabindra Fozdar, Radhika Ragamanjar Chillarige, Annaji Rao Venkata Chillarige, Tin-Chun Lin, Magdaleno Nevarez Sanchez, Ciprian Daniel Bargo, Leonel Alonso Cancino Ortiz, Mouna Youssef Mikhael, Maroun Elias Elias, Jasmina Salkovski, Pedro Flores Rodriguez, Agnes Joh Smith, Francisco Javier Jimenez, Xiao Yan Wang, Mui Hiong Nykaza, Michael Franco Calonia, Alira Mae Navarro Calonia, Zbigniew Jasek, Claudia Jeanette Darak, James Tan Geulen, Gay Karen Geulen, Dung Thi Lux, Naumka Prentoska, Carlos Bayron Martinez Valencia, Chaudhry Ahtsham Sarwar, Mohammed Yahya Moha Atef, Gabriel Eduardo Orta Gonzalez, Varalakshmi Vaddi, Emmanuelle Renee Fran Davallet Fortney, Daisy Ngina

• 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.

Bakary, Juan Carlos Nielo Uy, Stojanco Krstevski, Sandy Yuliana Meza De La Torre, Joan John Dordea, Rocio Galvan, Jose De Jesus Hernandez, Javier Julian, Mahnoush Nikki Malekan, Olama Ziyad Mohammed, Oliberio Ortiz, Jorge Ortiz, and Bernardino Perea.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who became citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2011, the day of our Nation's independence. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate and welcome them.

THE BLACK AND GOLD IN THE
ATL

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, since its founding, the Black and Gold in the ATL has been and continues to be a worthy instrument for reuniting people who have migrated from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, over the past 20 years, the Black and Gold weekend celebration has been held to support the Pittsburgh Steelers and to fellowship with family and friends from Pittsburgh; and

Whereas, the Black and Gold in the ATL weekend has always promoted the concept of One Community—One Goal by working with and for individuals of all walks of life to make Atlanta a place where Pittsburgh natives are seen as well as heard; and

Whereas, its members give of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to serve our community by being productive citizens; and.

Whereas, the lives of many in our district are touched by the members of the Black and Gold in the ATL, our district is a better place due to their commitment to excellence in all of their endeavors; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize their outstanding service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim June 25, 2011, as The Black & Gold in the ATL Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of June, 2011.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCK
BRIDGE BRUINS MEN'S TENNIS
TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rock Bridge Bruins Men's Tennis team for winning the Class 2 A Missouri State Championship on May 26.

These young men and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the 2 A Tennis Championship to their school and community.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Rock Bridge Bruins for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JOHN T.
HARDIN OF THE UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the distinguished 27-year career of Captain John T. Hardin in the United States Coast Guard. Captain Hardin has served in the United States Coast Guard with distinction throughout his career, in particular as the commanding officer of Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, which is located in the First Congressional District.

Captain Hardin graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut on May 23, 1984 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering. His first duty station was aboard the USCG Sherman where he served as Engineer of the Watch, Auxiliary Officer, Electrical Officer, and Fueling Officer. Captain Hardin went on to attend Naval Flight Training and received his wings in May of 1987.

Captain Hardin's diverse career took him to multiple locations including Miami, San Diego, and San Francisco. During these assignments Captain Hardin served as Morale Officer, Public Works Officer, Aviation Material Officer, Rotary Wing Assistant Engineer, Aircraft Salvage Officer, HH-65A Instructor Pilot, Engineer Officer, and even President of the Flight Examining Board. Captain Hardin became dual-qualified in the HH-65A helicopter, the first qualified copilot in the HU-25C Air Interceptor, and earned a Master's of Business Administration in Technologies Management.

Captain Hardin's connection to Elizabeth City, North Carolina began in 1999 with his first assignment as the HU-25 Product Line Manager at the Aircraft Repair and Supply Center. Later, in 2002, Captain Hardin transferred to the Engineering Industrial Supply Center as the Aircraft Repair and Supply Center Chief Engineer. In 2003, Captain Hardin became the commanding officer of the C-130J Aircraft Project Office, and his career culminated in July of 2008 when he assumed command of Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City.

Captain Hardin has dutifully served our country for the past 27 years, and eastern

North Carolina for over 10 years while stationed at Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City. It brings me great joy to honor the dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to duty demonstrated by Captain Hardin.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Captain John T. Hardin on his retirement from the United States Coast Guard and offer my sincere appreciation for his many years of service to the United States of America.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AN OPEN
DOOR CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to congratulate An Open Door Church on its 25th anniversary. In honor of this momentous milestone, a celebratory reception will be held on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at An Open Door Church in Hammond, Indiana. For 25 years, An Open Door Church has been committed to the spiritual and social conditions of residents living in the Hammond area as well as in the greater Northwest Indiana community.

Founded on July 6, 1986 in South Holland, Illinois, by Doctors and Pastors Meredith and Marilyn Shackelford, An Open Door Church began as a small congregation in the basement of the pastors' home. Quickly outgrowing this small space, the church began to rent space, and, after eight years, it was able to purchase its first building in Hammond. The church's congregation continued to grow and the church moved to its current location on Hohman Avenue in Hammond, Indiana six years ago. Currently, the church has an impressive membership of more than 350 congregants.

The church and its parishioners follow a visionary motto, “reaching people to reach the world,” which is carried out through the church's various ministries and programs that work to support change in the lives of others. An Open Door Church places a strong emphasis on the family unit, and has built its organization around the belief that strong families build strong communities. The church's dedication to the welfare of residents in Northwest Indiana is demonstrated through its many outreach projects which include: a summer concert series at Harrison Park where school supplies are distributed to children in need; Wee Care, a child development ministry; a food pantry ministry that feeds over 75 families per month; Give God a Chance, a marriage ministry; a prison outreach ministry; various children and teen ministries; and the Christian Academy, which provides education for grades kindergarten through grade eight. In addition, the church has partnered with numerous community organizations in order to improve the quality of life for countless individuals. These organizations include Calumet Project, Interfaith Worker Justice, and Northwest Indiana Reinvestment Alliance. An Open Door Church, its founders, and its ministry directors show uncompromising loyalty to the community of Northwest Indiana and they are worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in