

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SECURING THE CITIES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3493, the "Securing the Cities Act of 2015," which will require the Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection to create a Securing the Cities program.

The codification of the Securing the Cities Program under H.R. 3493, will:

1. Assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in creating and implementing, or perfecting existing structures for coordinated and integrated detection and interdiction of nuclear or other radiological materials that are out of regulatory control;

2. Support the creation of a region-wide operating capability to identify and report on nuclear and other radioactive materials out of operational control;

3. Provide resources to improve detection, analysis, communication, and organization to better integrate state, local, tribal, and territorial property into federal operations;

4. Facilitate the establishment of protocol and processes to effectively respond to threats posed by nuclear or radiological materials being acquired or used by terrorists; and

5. Designate participating jurisdictions from among high-risk urban areas and other cities and regions, as appropriate, and notify Congress at least three days before designating or changing such jurisdictions.

H.R. 3493 would also require the Comptroller General to investigate and assess the effectiveness of the "Securing the Cities Program."

The potential for a terrorist attack using nuclear or radiological material is low, but should it occur the consequences would be catastrophic, and for this reason we cannot be lax in our efforts to deter, detect and defeat attempts by terrorists to perpetrate such a heinous act of terrorism.

I represent the 18th Congressional District of Texas, which is located in the Houston area, which is the 4th largest city in the United States and home to over 2 million residents.

Earlier this year the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that the city of Houston would receive \$30 million dollars over 5 years under the Securing the Cities Program.

The funding, came from DHS's Domestic Nuclear Office and, will be used to work with partners in the Houston area to build a robust, regional nuclear detection capability for law enforcement and first responder organizations.

This is an important federal effort to increase the ability of major urban cities to de-

tect and protect against radiological and nuclear threats.

The Securing Cities Program began in 2006 as a pilot project for the New York City region.

The cities and regions that are participating include Washington DC/National Capital Region, New York City, Los Angeles/Long Beach area, and now Houston Texas.

The DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office provides equipment and assistance to regional partners in conducting training and exercises to further their nuclear detection capabilities and coordinate with federal operations.

Unfortunately, the age of terrorism makes this a more dangerous and uncertain time than the decades following World War II when nation/state nuclear arsenals were being created.

I am pleased that Houston is at the forefront of nuclear safety in our country, and it is time to make the Securing the Cities Program vital for all of our major cities to catch up.

Nuclear threats are more perilous than what our nation faced during the Cold War because these threats come from non-state actors who often do not have the same level of concern for the wellbeing of their people who may face the consequences of a nuclear attack against the United States.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important resolution.

HONORING RAY GARON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MANCHESTER RADIO GROUP AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Ray Garon on his retirement after 20 plus years with the Manchester Radio Group, and thank him for the outstanding work he did during his career.

Mr. Garon's broad expertise in the radio business has been instrumental to the growth of local stations such as WZID-AM, WFEA-AM, The Mill and Hot Hits. Over the last twenty years with the Manchester Radio Group he has been an integral part of the community and his leadership will be greatly missed.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Ray Garon on his retirement, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP W. W. HAMILTON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop W. W. Hamilton on the occasion of the 35th pastoral anniversary of his leadership of the Greater Victory Temple Church of God in Christ in Seaside, California. Bishop Hamilton is a beacon of service to God and his community and an example of love and compassion for all to follow. Under his leadership, Greater Victory Temple has grown into one of the strongest community pillars of the Monterey Peninsula and all of northern California.

Bishop Hamilton was born in San Antonio, Texas. He followed his father, the late Bishop E.E. Hamilton, on the path of religious service and received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Simpson College in San Francisco. He then served as the founding pastor of the Hamilton Memorial Church of God In Christ in San Francisco, California. In 1987, W.W. Hamilton was consecrated as the Bishop and Prelate of the California Northwest Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ, the church his father had established.

In 1980 Bishop Hamilton was appointed to serve as Pastor of the Victory Temple Church of God In Christ of Seaside, California. Under his Pastoral leadership a new church building was completed and on March 16, 1984, the Great Victory Church of God In Christ was dedicated debt free. In addition to the remodeling, Bishop Hamilton sought to provide housing and family resources to his community.

Bishop Hamilton has also focused his leadership on community service. He served as the executive director of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. Later, under his leadership, the Greater Victory Temple has become a force for community service on the Monterey Peninsula. It offers services for youth such as after school tutoring programs, a community computer lab, after school chess club, and hosts scout groups. It also offers a food pantry in partnership with the local food bank, divorce counseling, works with other community organizations to bring peace to the community, and has invested in community based senior housing.

Throughout his 35 years of leadership, Greater Victory Temple has impacted the lives of countless people within the Seaside and surrounding Monterey Peninsula communities. All those who have had the pleasure to meet Bishop Hamilton know first hand his love and personal commitment to his congregation and surrounding community.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in extending our deepest gratitude to Bishop Hamilton for his many years of dedication to the Greater Victory Temple family and the broader community of the Monterey County and Northern California. Our world is a better place because of his efforts.

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