

TRIBUTE TO DR. J.M. SAEGER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the City of Lebanon, Missouri, celebrated "Dr. J.M. Saeger Appreciation Day" on June 16, 1999.

Dr. Saeger was honored by the City of Lebanon for his 30 years of service on the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority, where he also served as board president for many years. Dr. Saeger has a long history of public service. A veteran of World War II, he faithfully served his country in the military. He also served as the official Lebanon weather observer for the National Weather Service for 26 years. Dr. Saeger, who holds a doctorate in chiropractic medicine, continues to practice.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Dr. Saeger for his dedication to his community and selfless public service.

[From the Lebanon (MO) Daily Record, June 17, 1999]

DR. SAEGER HONORED FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. J.M. Saeger of Lebanon was honored by friends, family and the Lebanon community Wednesday at St. Francis De Sales Family Center during a surprise birthday party. Dr. Saeger and his family include Joan Harris, Ken Harris, Joey Harris, 7, and Jake Harris, 6, of St. Charles, Dr. Saeger of Lebanon, Angela Prost, and Tom Prost of Columbia, IL, Rita Cole, and Hayley Cole, 2, of Springfield, and Vivian Smith of Kansas City. Lebanon Mayor Bud Allen, State Sen. John T. Russell and State Rep. Beth Long attended the celebration where a proclamation was signed making June 16, 1999, Dr. J.M. Saeger Appreciation Day in Lebanon. Dr. Saeger has served on the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Lebanon for 30 years, serving as board president for many years. He served his country in the military and as a veteran of World War II. He served as the official Lebanon weather observer for the National Weather Service for 26 years. Dr. Saeger earned his doctorate in chiropractic medicine and continues to practice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if I had been present on Friday, June 25, 1999 I would have voted in support of H.R. 1802—The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WINNERS AT THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six outstanding students from my district. These students set their sights high, and as a result, competed in the National High School Speech and Debate tournament.

Two thousands students from all over the country competed in the tournament this year. To qualify these students first competed in rigorous district competitions. Marquette High School's speech and debate team, coached by Mrs. Kim Cranston, sent six talented students to national competition.

First, Edward Tulin was named National Champion of Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking for 1999. Mr. Tulin has been competing in speech and debate for four years and spoke in 13 rounds of competition to win the title.

Second, there were five other students who competed and excelled at the national level. These students were: Justin Kempf who placed 8th in Student Congress' Senate division. Emily Vreeland who was a Semifinalist in Student Congress' House division. Jane Diecker and Edward Tulin who advanced to the 2nd level of competition in Policy Debate. Kane Huang and Elise Manning who competed in the Duo Interpretation competition.

And finally, I would like to recognize Mrs. Kim Cranston whose dedication and tireless efforts have aided in the success of these students and many more. Her commitment to education and belief in the potential of each student is an example of excellence in teaching.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to recognize these extraordinary young people for their achievements. Their success is a true reflection on not only their drive and determination, but also on the parents, family members, and teachers who have supported their hard work and determination. These students are an excellent example of what young people will achieve when given the opportunity.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE WARDELL YOTAGHAN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a real hero. No, he did not hit 70 home runs, steal any bases, slam dunk any basketballs, nor was he an actor. No, he was for real. He was Wardell Yotaghan, a man who lived and worked, who spent his life trying to make life better for people who lived in public housing. Mr. Yotaghan died of a heart attack at the age of 53, much too young, before his time; but that's not unusual for African-American males. Black men have the lowest life expectancy rate of any large group in America.

Wardell did not live long, but he lived well. He lived well enough to help countless others through very difficult times. His wife said, "He went 24 hours a day," and understood that what he did would ultimately help him and his family as well.

In the early 1990's, Wardell helped lead a campaign that resulted in the Federal Government granting some Chicago Housing Authority residents a level of control over their own buildings. Wardell filled many roles over the years, including president of his building at 2450 W. Monroe. His wife said, "Wardell was like a father to the people here." They wouldn't make a move unless they talked to him, wouldn't sign anything unless they confirmed it with Wardell. Everybody knew that he would do the right thing.

Wardell worked at Malcolm X College as a security aide and for 10 years was a Cook County Sheriff's Deputy. Here was a man who truly understood what leadership was really about. "First of all, servant of all," he has now transcended all and leaves a wonderful wife Marie, who shared in his work, three daughters, two sons, two sisters, and eight grandchildren.

Wardell died, but his will and drive to save Public Housing will continue to live on. Wardell was able to bring people together, was full of patience and has a genuine desire to see democracy work. He was love in action.

IN SUPPORT OF PEACE IN KASHMIR, H. RES. 227

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H. Res. 227, legislation expressing the sense of the Congress in opposition to the Government of Pakistan's support for armed incursion into Jammu and Kashmir, India.

The Government of Pakistan has long supported terrorism in India. However, this latest incident is far beyond the usual murder of innocent civilians on a train or at a wedding party. The Pakistan Army, intelligence service and government has moved thousands of men and materials up to the Pakistan side of the LoC and sent hundreds of army regulars across the line. The Pakistan Army is laying down artillery fire in support of the Pakistani invaders.

For many years, India has been suffering from Moslem extremist attacks originating from Afghanistan and Pakistan which are supported by the Pakistani government. Last year Americans received a bitter taste of what India experiences on a regular basis in Kashmir when those same terrorist groups killed our diplomats in two of our embassies in Africa.

The Government of Pakistan gives political, material and moral support for terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. The Pakistani government supports training camps for terrorists that operate around the world. And as I have stated, many Americans have died as a result of their attacks.

Pakistan is the backbone behind the Taliban fundamentalist group in Afghanistan. The Pakistani government gives critical military,

logistical and political support for the Taliban's military effort against legitimate representative political alternatives. The Taliban, as a matter of policy, produces heroin and purposely exports it to the West. The Taliban have been giving refuge to Osama bin Laden, the Saudi terrorist, who is responsible for the deaths of American diplomats. And the Taliban's policy of systematic repression of women is barbaric and unacceptable to both Western, Eastern, Islamic, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist or Jewish cultures.

The Taliban must be stopped. Their existence and growth threatens the current regional movement towards representative forms of government.

One year ago, India and Pakistan tested nuclear weapons. Severe sanctions were swiftly imposed by U.S. law. Since then we have seen a slow but steady effort by Washington and New Delhi to resolve our differences. Regrettably, the effort has not gone as fast as some of us would like. To a large degree it has been slowed down by a misperception by the State Department of India's motivations for the testing. While I am a strong supporter of nuclear non proliferation it is curious that foggy Bottom has difficulty understanding India's concerns about China's regional intentions. China has given nuclear and ballistic weapon support to Pakistan on India's western border. China has a close relationship with Burma's narcodictatorship on India's eastern border having shipped over \$1.4 billion in arms to Rangoon. And of course China brutally occupies Tibet on India's northern border . . . the Tibetan/Indian border is bristling with PLA troops.

Even more puzzling, has been the Administration's failure to acknowledge how State Department policy has helped to bring about India's sense of insecurity by inadequately responding to China's violation of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. We must not forget that China sold and transferred nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan.

If India, or any other nation, is expected to refrain from building a nuclear deterrent, then the U.S. and other nuclear powers must ensure that these non nuclear nations are not bullied by their nuclear neighbors.

Earlier this month, the Senate adopted legislation that has many provisions regarding current sanctions against India and Pakistan. One provision would suspend sanctions against India and Pakistan for a period of five years. While I strongly favor this, I very much oppose a provision in the bill that unconditionally repeals the Pressler amendment. As you must recall, the Pressler amendment requires the President certify to the Congress that Pakistan is not developing nuclear weapons.

The question is, why on earth with Pakistan supplying critical support for the Taliban do we want this time to reward Pakistan by unconditionally lifting the Pressler amendment?

It also should be noted that Pakistan has provided China with assistance that is detrimental to our national security.

The Lahore Summit established a framework for bilateral cooperation and reconciliation between India and Pakistan. Lahore gives hope for the new Indian government that will be elected in September to carry the process forward in Pakistan. Pakistan should with-

draw its forces and get on with it commendable efforts begun in Lahore.

Our own bilateral relationship with India should not be dominated by security issues. The relationship should remain as broad as what we enjoy with other democracies.

India's economic growth, and U.S. investment to help spur that growth, should be at the top of our mutual agenda. India's vast pool of highly trained English speaking professionals offers our nation critical resources in our efforts to stay competitive and to remain the world's leader in high tech industry. We need to offer India a security and economic partnership.

India's testing must be understood in terms of its verifiable, objective security concerns and how the world's nuclear powers have responded to those concerns. Any changes to the Pressler amendment should be considered in terms of U.S. national interests in relation to Pakistan's behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I will soon be introducing legislation regarding sanctions against India and Pakistan. However, before we consider any changes in the law affecting Pakistan there must be fundamental changes in the Government in Pakistan. We cannot support a government that permits and encourages actions that lead to the murder of Americans or any other innocent civilians.

According, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 227.

H. RES. 227

Whereas the United States has a vital interest in ensuring stability in South Asia, reducing tensions between India and Pakistan, and preventing the spread of terrorism;

Whereas Pakistani-backed armed forces and, reportedly Pakistani regulars, have crossed from Pakistan into Jammu and Kashmir, India, and occupied Indian military positions that were temporarily abandoned for the winter season;

Whereas this incursion has the financial and military support of Pakistan;

Whereas Pakistan's strategy is to support the armed incursion into Kashmir and renegotiate the Line of Control;

Whereas the Indian armed forces have been forced into action to defend the territory on the Indian side of the Line of Control and push the terrorists and Pakistani military forces out;

Whereas Pakistani armed forces, reportedly, are involved in these incursions;

Whereas the actions by Pakistan are contrary to the Lahore Declaration, an agreement between India and Pakistan to promote regional stability, peace, and security in South Asia;

Whereas the forces include well-trained and heavily armed Afghans and Pakistanis associated with Osama bin Laden, the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, and the Government of Pakistan; and

Whereas the Group of Eight (comprised of the United States, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, and Russia) on June 20, 1999, called for an immediate end to the hostilities, restoration of the Line of Control, full respect in the future for the Line of Control, and resumption of the dialogue between India and Pakistan in the spirit of the Lahore Declaration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives—

(1) that it should be the policy of the United States to oppose the Government of

Pakistan's support for armed incursion into Jammu and Kashmir, India;

(2) that it should be the policy of the United States to support the immediate withdrawal of intruding forces supported by Pakistan from the Indian side of the Line of Control, to urge the reestablishment and future respect for the Line of Control, and to encourage all sides to end the fighting and exercise restraint;

(3) that it should be the policy of the United States to encourage both India and Pakistan to adhere to the principles of the Lahore Declaration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 25, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 256. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" or "aye" on rollcall vote No. 256.

ARE YOU AN AMERICAN? THOUGHTS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, while participating in the recent Memorial Day observance at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in my District, I was privileged to hear an inspired essay about what it means to be an American. This essay was composed and presented by Elizabeth [Liz] Bokan, a student at Washington Middle School in Seattle. Many of us in the audience were deeply moved by Ms. Bokan's eloquence. Her words lend us confidence that our future as a nation is in the good hands of enthusiastic and creative younger generations.

Mr. Speaker, many of us will celebrate Independence Day by participating in naturalization ceremonies, helping to welcome new citizens to our ranks. I proudly offer Ms. Bokan's essay to all my colleagues as we return to our districts to renew the bonds that hold us together as a nation this July 4th.

ARE YOU AN AMERICAN?

Are you an American? Ask yourself this, and you come upon the easy answer, well yes, I am an American, as I am a citizen of America. But I ask you, is there not more to being an American? And how does a true patriot respond to pressure on one's beliefs, while maintaining the presence of mind that is characteristic of being an American?

In my school, I have been taking a class on American History. The truth will always hurt, no less in the sense of what this country great. I have learned of battles fought, and unnecessary blood spilled, and to what cause? Yet reading these texts, and seeing these illustrations of great American heroes, one thing seems to shine through. The pride individuals appear to hold in their home, in their title, and in their love for themselves and their people. Does that not signify that