

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, during the Independence Day district work period, this Member had the opportunity to continue his series of town hall meetings in his congressional district in Nebraska. At these meetings, and at my earlier listening sessions, two main topics have been vigorously addressed by constituents. The first of these is the desperate conditions that farmers are now facing in this country, which this Member addressed Monday on the House floor. Another issue that was also discussed at these town hall meetings was the very inadequate level of veterans medical care funding available today. Veterans in my state understandably are *not* satisfied with the current situation, and it is clear that the Federal Government is not meeting its responsibility to the health care needs of our military veterans.

Over the last several years, Congress has provided a slight increase in funding each year for veterans health care. However, the level of funding in the past and present has been far from the amount needed for these vital health programs. The simple fact is that the Federal Government must provide greater funding for veterans health care. We have a bulge in World War II veterans in need of more health care services at this time. The number of veterans treated in VA facilities in the year 2000 is projected to rise by more than 30 percent compared to 1997. Funding must be substantially increased to keep up with this demand. However, the President's budget request for veterans medical care funding is less than 2 percent above what it was in 1997. In fact, over the past few years, the President's budget request has always been less than what Congress actually appropriated for these important health programs.

The fiscal year 2000 Budget Resolution contained a 1.7 billion dollar increase for veterans health care. This Member strongly encourages the Appropriations Committee to support this increase in funding, and would support an even greater amount to insure that at least minimally acceptable veterans' health needs of all eligible veterans are met. This Member would also like to send a message to the Administration, encouraging them to stop ignoring the essential health care services veterans deserve, and to propose and support the greater funding levels needed to adequately serve our veterans.

The inadequacy of VA health care funds in this Member's home state of Nebraska is accentuated by a Clinton Administration funding formula called the Veterans Equity Resource Allocation, or VERA. Its results are anything but equitable to veterans in Nebraska. The

VERA system was created and implemented in April of 1997 in an ill-advised attempt to more equally allocate VA health care resources among different regions of the country.

However, this system is not equitable. Funds are allocated among the 22 VA regions strictly on a veteran per-capita basis, which means that the Sunbelt regions where veterans are retiring have far more resources to provide the necessary base of service. Sparsely populated states, like Nebraska in the Northern Great Plains, have a smaller and shrinking veterans population. These lower-population states simply do not have the numbers to receive adequate funding under this system in order to provide for even the minimum services and facilities required. No matter what state a veteran lives in, he or she is entitled to an acceptable level of health service. This level is not being met in Nebraska under VERA. This Member calls on the Clinton Administration to take off their blinders and address this problem with an adjusted formula. This Member will also continue to actively oppose VERA, and will work to restore more funding for VA facilities in Nebraska.

Veterans fought to protect our freedom and way of life. As they served our nation in a time of need, the Federal Government must remember them in their time of need. Therefore, the needs of these veterans, especially health benefits, must be met to the fullest extent possible. The people of the U.S. owe a tremendous debt to our veterans. We should keep the promises made to them.

COLORADO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 99-1060

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, the Colorado House recently adopted H.R. 1000, the "Aviation Investment and Reform Act." This measure is of great interest to my constituents and the entire state of Colorado. Indeed the Colorado General Assembly has called upon the Members of Colorado's Congressional Delegation to support H.R. 1000.

It was upon the recommendation of the Colorado Legislature, and for the reasons stated in Colorado's House Joint Resolution 99-1060, that I was persuaded to cast my vote, on behalf of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, in favor of H.R. 1000.

I furthermore commend Colorado's position on the matter to Members of the House, and hereby submit for the RECORD, the full text of Colorado H. J. R. 99-1060.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 99-1060

Whereas, Safe, timely, and adequate intrastate air service is essential to the citizens of Colorado; and

Whereas, The 1998 Colorado General Assembly Interim Committee on Intrastate Air Service reviewed and studied the need to improve the safety and adequacy of intrastate air service in Colorado; and

Whereas, There exists a federal "Airport and Airway Trust Fund", created by section 9502 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to assist airports and airport air service throughout the United States, including many of the intrastate air service needs in Colorado; and

Whereas, The federal "Airport and Airway Trust Fund" is not being used for its intended purposes and historically has been used to mask past federal budget deficits; and

Whereas, United States Representative Bud Shuster (R-PA), has introduced H.R. 1000, the "Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century", which includes "Title IX—Truth in Budgeting", that requires that the federal "Airport and Airway Trust Fund" be used for its intended purposes; now, therefore, be it.

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein: That the members of the Sixty-second General Assembly call upon Colorado's Congressional Delegation to support H.R. 1000, the "Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century", and specifically "Title IX—Truth in Budgeting", and, upon its passage, to work to provide funds to improve the safety, timeliness, and adequacy of intrastate air service throughout Colorado; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to each member of Colorado's Congressional Delegation.

MARK D. ROLNIK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mark D. Rolnik was born on January 1, 1954. He grew up in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, and attended the Bronx High School of Science.

Thereafter he attended the University of Buffalo, where he graduated in 1976. He then attended Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, of Yeshiva University, and received his law degree in 1979.

After three years of working for the law firm of Lester Schwartz & Dwyer, Esq. Mark opened his own office on Lower Broadway in Manhattan, and began practicing personal injury law. He has been engaged in this practice since 1982, and continues to practice personal injury to date.

In addition to his law practice, he is on the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Kings Basketball Team, a professional basketball team that plays in Brooklyn, New York. This is the first professional sports team to play in Brooklyn since the Dodgers left Ebbets Field in 1958.

● 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.

He is also on the Board of Directors of the Reality Chek Foundation, a Brooklyn charity dedicated to providing learning experiences to inner city youths.

He and his wife Adria have two children, Elizabeth, age 13, and Alexandra, age 11. They currently reside in Short Hills, New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Rolnik for his contributions to supporting programs for inner city youth.

RECOGNIZING THE BROWNIE
BAKER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis Perkins and The Brownie Baker for winning the Small Business of the Year Award in 1999. The Brownie Baker bakes and sells a variety of brownies, muffins, and cookies on a wholesale basis, primarily to the convenience store industry.

The Brownie Baker started as a family business with Marion Peterson and her sister, Susie Spotts. Dennis Perkins, then the Director of Business Development for Pepsi-Cola, bought the business on August 1, 1990.

The company has expanded its markets and the financial reports reflect this. Accounts are concentrated in California, but expand nationwide. Perkins has done an excellent job operating the company as evidenced by its growth. Sales were 1.8 million as of June 30, 1994. They have more than doubled since that time to 3.9 million as of June 30, 1998.

Perkins reorganized the means of distribution, increased product size, developed new products, changed the labels, bought a larger bakery, and bought out a competitor called Carol's Cookies. This acquisition has increased sales nearly 50 percent, growing the company from five to 48 employees. During 1998, Perkins installed a completely automated muffin line, and also many new technologically advanced money and time savers for the company.

Nearly a third of those employed at the bakery are Southeast Asian refugees placed there through the CalWORKS program.

The Brownie Baker will be diversifying its line by adding Mexican pastries.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize The Brownie Baker for its accomplishments. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Dennis Perkins and The Brownie Baker many more years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW WILLIAM
ADKISSON FOR HIS PROMOTION
TO THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Matthew William Adkisson, Boy Scout, from San

Antonio, TX, upon the notification of his advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts are awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout based on their faith and obedience to the Scout Oath. The Scout Oath requires members to live with honor, loyalty, courage, cheerfulness, and an obligation to service.

In addition, the rank of Eagle Scout is only bestowed once a Boy Scout satisfies duties including, the completion of 21 merit badges, performing a service project of significant value to the community, and additional requirements listed in the Scout Handbook.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Eagle Scout Matthew William Adkisson will guide and inspire his peers, toward the beliefs of the Scout Oath. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Matthew on this respected accomplishment.

HONORING THE 54TH INFANTRY OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and remember the contributions of the 54th Massachusetts regiment. On July 18, 1863, 136 years ago this week, the 54th Infantry, which consisted exclusively of African American soldiers, led a gallant assault on Fort Wagner where they valiantly fought and sacrificed their lives for our country.

Despite the controversy and discrimination directed towards them, the heroic 54th failed to retreat. Feeling the need to prove themselves capable soldiers, they fought harder and accepted fiercer challenges than the average soldier. Fighting for the preservation of the Union and against the enslavement of human beings, the 54th Infantry also succeeded in paving the way for African Americans to serve in the military and be commissioned as officers—an almost insurmountable feat!

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud today to honor the memory of these soldiers, and recognize their accomplishments during the Civil War and to the future direction of our Nation. These men gave selflessly of themselves in our Nation's most brutal war for the right to be recognized as civilized men. They defended our Nation's freedoms without prejudice or apprehension, and I salute them.

IN MEMORY OF M.L. ANSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Marion Leslie (M.L.) Anson, 77, of Higginsville, Missouri.

Mr. Anson was born December 23, 1921, in Higginsville and lived most of his lifetime in the Higginsville area. He was a 1940 graduate

of Higginsville High School and also a graduate of Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. He was a member and past president of Phi Delta Theta, a social fraternity. Mr. Anson served with the United States Navy in the Pacific Theatre during world War II with the rank of Lieutenant, Junior Grade.

Mr. Anson was active in the community. He was a former member of the Higginsville Board of Aldermen, the Higginsville Board of Education, and a founding member of the Higginsville Country Club, where he served as a member of the Board of Directors. He was a past member of the Lion's Club and was active in the Boy Scouts, serving in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. He was a member of the Higginsville American Legion Post #223 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6270. Mr. Anson was a sponsor of the Save our Strays program in Lafayette County. He was also a member of Central Christian Church in Higginsville, where he served as a deacon and was a longtime member of the church choir.

Mr. Anson was the secretary-treasurer and co-owner with his son, Joseph, of Anson Implement, Inc., a John Deere Dealership in Higginsville. He was a former co-owner of the Smith-Anson Implement Company in Odessa, until the early 1950s, when he joined the Higginsville business with his father, Leslie Anson, and his brother-in-law, James O. Smith.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Anson was a fine American and a true friend. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his wife, Mary Lou; his son, Joseph; his three daughters, Maris, Jennifer, and Marion; his sister, Jean; seven grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren.

ON MILITARY OPERATIONS IN
VIEQUES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of thousands of residents in my district, who as Americans of Puerto Rican descent care deeply about what is happening to their many friends and relatives on the island of Vieques.

One week ago, while on a visit to Puerto Rico, I visited Vieques, at which time I met with Vieques's Mayor Manuela Santiago at a town meeting she hosted, and attended a briefing by Rear Admiral Kevin Moran, Commander, Navy Region Southeast.

On my flight to Vieques I observed an island that is naturally gifted and beautiful, with some of the most marvelous beaches in the Western Hemisphere. Its people love their island, are hardworking and industrious, as is evidenced by the fishermen I met. But Vieques' natural beauty is scarred and its tremendous economic potential is blocked by the presence and activities of the U.S. Navy.

Let me say from the outset that I do not doubt the Navy's claim that the type of training the Navy conducts as Vieques is vital to its defense mission. It certainly is. What I strongly