

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 99-003

(By Senators Musgrave, Hernandez, Nichol, and Powers; also Representatives May, Hoppe, Kaufman, Kester, Larson, Lee, McElhany, Nunez, Scott, Sinclair, Swenson, Taylor, T. Williams, and Young)

MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH A BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY MONEYS, TO USE A UNIFORM MEASURE WHEN CONSIDERING THE DONOR AND DONEE ISSUE, TO ELIMINATE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, AND TO EXPAND ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT THE EVASION OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY TAXES AND FEES

Whereas, Due to the dynamics of state size, population, and other factors such as federal land ownership and international borders, there is a need for donor states that pay more in federal highway taxes and fees than they receive from the federal government and for donee states that receive more moneys from the federal government than they pay in federal highway taxes and fees; and

Whereas, The existence of such donor and donee states supports the maintenance of a successful nationwide transportation system; and

Whereas, There should be a uniform measure when considering the donor and donee issue, and a ratio derived from the total amount of moneys a state receives divided by the total amount of moneys that the state collects in federal highway taxes and fees is a clear and understandable measure; and

Whereas, Demonstration projects are an ineffective use of federal highway taxes and fees; and

Whereas, All moneys residing in the federal highway trust fund should be returned to the states either for use on the national highway system or nationally uniform highway safety improvement programs or as block grants; and

Whereas, The state block grant program should allow states to make the final decisions that affect the funding of their local highway projects based on the statewide planning process; and

Whereas, Only a reasonable amount of the moneys collected from the federal highway taxes and fees should be retained by the United States Department of Transportation for safety and research purposes; and

Whereas, States with public land holdings should not be penalized for receiving transportation funding through federal land or national park transportation programs, and such funding should not be included in the states' allocation of moneys; and

Whereas, The evasion of federal highway taxes and fees further erodes the ability of the state and the federal government to maintain an efficient nationwide transportation system; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That, when considering issues related to donor and donee states, the federal government should adopt a ratio derived from the total amount of moneys a state receives in federal highway moneys divided by the total amount of moneys the state collects in federal highway taxes and fees; and

(2) That all demonstration projects should be eliminated; and

(3) That after federal moneys have been expended for the national highway system and safety improvements, a state block grant program should be established for the distribution of the remaining federal moneys; and

(4) That it is necessary to expand federal and state activities to combat the evasion of federal highway taxes and fees. Be it

Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of Colorado's delegation of the United States Congress.

RAY POWERS,
President of the Senate.

PATRICIA K. DICKS,
Secretary of the Senate.

RUSSELL GEORGE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JUDITH M. RODRIGUE,
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

HONORING SHERIFF JIM THOMAS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Sheriff Jim Thomas of Santa Barbara County who was the recipient of the "Guardian of Youth Award" by the Goleta Valley Youth Sports Center. Sheriff Thomas has recently been chosen for this prestigious award because he represents the finest of a community of citizens that has dedicated itself to the future of our youth.

Sheriff Thomas' commitment and service to youth is vast. He has given much of his own time and energy to the Drug Abuse Resistance Program—DARE—by speaking to students about the negative aspects of drug and alcohol abuse. In addition, his administration has devoted five full time deputy sheriffs who spend time on-campus and in school classrooms educating young people about substance abuse, violence, and self-worth. Under his leadership, DARE has reached more than 20,000 elementary and junior high students.

Sheriff Thomas has also committed hundreds of thousands of dollars of confiscated illegal drug money to fund school resource officers, and to support girls' and boys' sports programs, kids camp, and youth scholarship programs. Clearly, Sheriff Thomas' legacy reaches to countless youth and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the George "Ben" Page Memorial Youth Center and the Youth Sports Association for their commitment to the fitness and wellness of our children. I believe that the value of the Youth Center is far greater than an extraordinary building—it contains the generosity of spirit of the Association and Santa Barbara County. Most importantly, the Association and its volunteers will positively impact children today and for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to join my community this past weekend to pay tribute to Sheriff Jim Thomas. He is a man who has served with unparalleled dedication and compassion. I commend him for years of service to the County of Santa Barbara and to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall No. 265 for the Y2K Readiness and Responsibility Act; 191 for the motion to go to conference on the fiscal year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act; and rollcall No. 276 for the Financial Services Act. I was visiting the U.S. troops in Macedonia and could not vote for this legislation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" for both bills and the motion to go to conference.

AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Chairman, in 1998, when a terrorist bomb exploded in front of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, one of the first humanitarian organizations to arrive at the scene was the Magen David Adom.

Magen David Adom, or MDA, entered the collapsed embassy building at great personal risk and saved dozens of lives. They demonstrated why they are considered to be one of the world's finest humanitarian organizations.

Despite the bravery and competence which the MDA rescuers exhibited that day and every day since its founding in 1930, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has refused to recognize the MDA as a fully participating member. The sole reason for this refusal is because the MDA's symbol is a Red Star, not the Red Cross or Red Crescent, the only symbols recognized by the International Federation.

In 1864, when the nations of the world signed a treaty to provide protection for hospitals, medical personnel and patients in time of war, it was decided that the universal symbol for humanitarian services would be the Swiss flag with its colors reversed.

In Turkey, a predominantly Muslim country, the Red Cross was considered a symbol of Christianity, and inappropriate for use as their humanitarian symbol. Instead, they declared that they would use a Red Crescent, a symbol derived from Islam. This was a reasonable request and the Red Crescent was recognized by the International Federation in 1868.

Yet, in 1949, when Israel asked for recognition of its humanitarian symbol, a red star on a white field, based on the ancient symbol of the Jewish faith, the International Federation refused, insisting that Israel either adopt the