

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2488, FINANCIAL FREE- DOM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to dispute statements recently made on the House floor by Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi that mischaracterize the record of Republican support for the men and women who serve this country.

First, let me say that the Clinton Administration, not the Republicans, has severely overstretched and underfunded our military. From 1991 to 1998, our military has been deployed 33 times. Compare that with only 10 from 1946 to 1991. The funding increases and commitments needed to sustain these missions abroad has been conspicuously lacking from this Administration.

Let me provide some examples. The defense budget presented by the President fell far short of the quality of life needs that our military had requested. For instance, the Administration disregarded requests for new family housing construction in the Continental United States (CONUS) made by the Army and Navy. That was unwise, given the housing backlog that stretches for ten years, and a real property maintenance backlog of almost \$1 billion.

What's worse, the services provided the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee with an unfunded priority list of over \$11 billion for this year alone, and over \$150 billion over the next five years.

While remaining within the budget caps, the Republican's Fiscal Year 2000 Defense Appropriations bill addresses these shortfalls by providing an extra \$2.8 billion above the Administration's request. Some of the highlights of the bill include: \$300 million above the budget request for pilot bonuses; \$854 million above the budget request for Quality of Life enhancements; \$103 million above the budget request for recruiting; \$2.8 billion above the budget request for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation; and 4.8 percent pay raise (above the budget request).

Moreover, the Administration proposed in its Fiscal 2000 budget request to split-fund military construction needs, overlooking the dire situation facing many military families and personnel. Instead of providing funding up front for new housing, child care, and work facilities, as the House-passed Military Construction bill does, the Administration put budget gimmicks before the needs of the services.

To redress these wrongs, Republicans have provided funding to dramatically improve the quality of life for military families. The House approved by an overwhelming vote of 414 to

4 the Fiscal Year 2000 Military Construction Appropriations bill, which contains several provisions to improve quality of life for our troops. It includes \$800 million for new housing, \$747 million for new family housing units, and \$2.8 billion for operation and maintenance of existing family housing units.

In the wake of increased single-parent and dual income families within the military, the legislation also provides \$21 million for child development centers. These child development centers will help military families cope with their changing life circumstances.

The Republican record of support for our Armed Forces is strong. While there is more to be done to redress years of downsizing, we have provided for the well-being of our troops and the stability of our national security.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA MEDINA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in tribute to Virginia Medina of Clarksburg, California. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in remembering this remarkable wife, mother, and public servant.

Mrs. Medina passed away on June 27, 1999 following a three-year battle with ovarian cancer. She worked as a law librarian at the California State Department of Water Resources. I salute her professional as well as personal dedication to inspiring others and working hard to make a better life for her family.

State Senator Deborah Ortiz, Mrs. Medina's daughter, described her mother as "my greatest inspiration." Mrs. Medina was a working mother who put herself through secretarial school after surviving an early bout with thyroid cancer.

She had a wonderful reputation throughout her community as a warm, loving woman who never hesitated to help others in need. Mrs. Medina inspired significant legislation in the California State Legislature, authored by her daughter, which provides for annual research funding into gender-based cancers.

At the Department of Water Resources, Mrs. Medina was known as an exceptionally hard worker with a sunny personality. She served the people of California in that agency for over fifteen years.

One of her coworkers told the Sacramento Bee, "Despite all her suffering, she always had time to listen and to encourage others. She didn't complain. She wasn't cynical. She brought a lot of love and light to other peoples' lives."

A native of Lafayette, Colorado, Virginia Medina was born to a family of migrant workers. She moved to the Sacramento area at the age of seven. Although she was a high school

dropout who married at 16, she always stressed the importance of education to her own children.

Mrs. Medina not only served as a worthy role model for her daughter, but for her four sons as well. We can all respect the way in which she raised her family, promoted strong values, and contributed to her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in remembering this strong and vibrant wife, mother, and citizen. As her family and friends endure this great loss, our thoughts are with them during this most difficult of times. Yet the legacy which Mrs. Medina leaves behind will endure for years to come.

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 434) to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 434, the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. I am honored to say that today, the vast majority of American civic, religious, and business leaders strongly support this bill. More important, all 43 nations of sub-Saharan Africa have voiced unanimous support for this bold step toward stronger economic ties between the United States and Africa.

We have also recognized that Africa's fragile democracies cannot sustain themselves without economic prosperity. I am proud to say that our government supported and promoted free and fair elections in every country where leaders were willing to allow liberty to flourish.

Now, we turn our attention toward strengthening Africa economically through US-Africa trade. The globalization of the economy, marked by integration of markets throughout the world, has made Africa the new economic frontier for economic growth. Western Europe and Japan are aggressively pursuing new trade relations with African countries. This vast continent, with its enormous resources and human capacity, may become the world's economic engine well into the 21st Century.

Africa is on the brink of a major economic revival. The United States faces strong competition from the European and Asian economic communities. The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act provides the United States

● 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.