IMPORTANCE OF THE AMERICAN CRUISE INDUSTRY

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to make our members aware of the American cruise industry's importance to the nation and its maritime industry.

Recently, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) completed an economic study that provides considerable detail regarding the enormous positive economic contribution which the cruise industry provides throughout the United States. This study concluded the cruise industry is responsible for creating jobs in every state in the country. It is important to our national economy that billions of dollars in U.S. products are purchased by the cruise industry each year. As this industry continues to grow and prosper, more U.S. companies will benefit from expanded business.

In my district in Alabama, millions of dollars are spent every year on maintenance and repair of cruise ships at Atlantic Marine and Bender shipyards in Mobile. Hundreds of people are employed in this work and it is an important contributor to our local economy.

The PwC study showed that the total economic impact of the cruise industry in 1997 was $11.6 billion. Of this, $6.6 billion was direct spending of the cruise lines and their passengers on U.S. goods and services. An additional $5 billion was expended by cruise industry U.S.-based goods and services providers. Therefore, in 1997 the total impact of the U.S. cruise industry was $11.6 billion, and these purchases occur in every state in the country. This PwC study also revealed that the cruise industry, through its direct employment and the jobs attributable to its U.S. supplier base, totaled 176,433 jobs for Americans in 1997. The cruise industry has been growing by 6–10% every year. For Americans, that can mean thousands of new jobs each year.

The PwC study also revealed that the cruise industry in 1997 paid over $1 billion in various federal taxes and user fees and local state fees and taxes.

Many have considered the cruise industry to benefit a select few in highly localized areas, but this study reveals the industry touches virtually every segment of the American economy. It is an essential component of the American maritime infrastructure. Those industries most heavily impacted are summarized below:

Airline transportation—$1.8 billion; Transportation services—$1.2 billion; Business services—$1.0 billion Energy—$998 million; Financial services—$698 million; Food & beverage—$607 million.

Mr. Speaker, the cruise industry is a growth industry that is not only purchasing goods and services from around the country but is helping to grow the U.S. national economy and its maritime infrastructure.

TRIBUTE TO GILBERT COLLIER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Arkansan, a man who served our country in the Korean War, and is a Medal of Honor recipient, Mr. Gilbert Collier.

Mr. Collier served as a Sergeant in U.S. Army's Company F, 223d Infantry Regiment, 40th Infantry Division near Tutayon, Korea in 1953. Sergeant Collier was pointman and assistant leader of a combat patrol. While serving his country in Korea, he was injured after he and his commanding officer slipped and fell from a steep, 60-foot cliff and were injured. Although he suffered a badly sprained ankle and painful back injury, Sergeant Collier stayed with his leader and ordered the patrol to return to the safety of friendly lines. Before daylight, Sergeant Collier and his commanding officer managed to crawl back up and over the mountainous terrain to the opposite valley where they concealed themselves in the brush until nightfall, then edged toward their company positions. Shortly after they were ambushed, Sergeant Collier received painful wounds after killing two hostile soldiers. He was also separated from his leader. Sergeant Collier ran out of ammunition and was forced to attack four hostile infantrymen with his bayonet. He was mortally wounded but made a valiant attempt to reach and assist his leader in a desperate effort to save his comrade's life without regard for his own personal safety.

This Memorial Day, all Americans will honor the men and women who fought for our country. I would like to pay a special tribute today to Sergeant Collier, who's life has been committed to the principles of duty, honor, and country. He is a courageous and outstanding Arkansan, who exemplifies the meaning of bravery and is truly a great American hero.

ARIZONA NATIONAL FOREST IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, the United States Forest Service is planning on exchanging or selling six unmanageable and/or excess parcels of land in the Prescott, Tonto, Kaibab, and Coconino National Forests. The Forest Service has also agreed to sell land to the city of Sedona for use as an effluent disposal system. If the Forest Service sells the parcels, they want to use the proceeds from five of these sales to either fund new construction or upgrade current administrative facilities at these national forests. The funds generated from the sale of the other parcels could be used to fund acquisition of sites, or construction of administrative facilities at any national forest in Arizona. Transfers of land completed under the Arizona National Forest Improvement Act will be completed in accordance with all other applicable laws, including environmental laws.

Mr. Speaker, in essence, this bill will improve customer and administrative services by allowing the Forest Service to consolidate and update facilities and/or relocate facilities to more convenient locations. This bill will not only enhance services for national forest users in Arizona, but it will also facilitate the disposal of unmanageable, undesirable and/or excess parcels of national forest lands. This bill will also facilitate the construction of a much needed wastewater treatment plant for the city of Sedona.

MISSING, EXPLOITED, AND RUNAWAY CHILDREN PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and a member of the National Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, I rise to strongly support the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act.

In 1990, the Department of Justice reported that annually there are approximately: 114,600 attempted abductions of children by non-family members; 4,600 abductions by non-family members reported to police; 300 abductions by non-family members where the children are gone for long periods of time or were murdered; 354,000 children abducted by family members; 450,700 children who ran away; and 127,100 children who were thrown away. These are children who are either told to leave their households, or abandoned or deserted.

We must do something to protect these children. The average age of a homeless runaway was 15 years old. Of all runaways, 66% of the males and 33% of the females have been assaulted since being on the streets. At the same time, 47% of the females have been sexually assaulted while they were without shelter. To make matters worse, female runaways between 13 and 16 years old, have a 50% likelihood of being raped in the first 90 days on the street.

And these children come from all sorts of neighborhoods. They are the children next door. Fifty-two percent of the youth come from families with at least some post high school education.

Based upon a study by Project Youth between 1989 and 1994, most homeless youth come from backgrounds marked by instability, dysfunction, and most homeless adolescents have a diagnosable psychiatric disorder. Forty-three percent of the youth had attempted suicide at least once. Homeless adolescents, when they receive appropriate treatment, significantly improve, lead healthier and happier lives, and are likelier to get off the streets.

This bill reauthorizes the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and the Missing Children's Assistance Act through FY 2003, authorizing such sums as necessary for activities under those acts each year, and it amends the Missing Children's Assistance Act to authorize $10 million a year through FY 2003 for grants