

[HRIFA] and the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act [NACARA]

My bill would extend the time for eligible persons to apply to adjust their status under HRIFA and NACARA to October 1, 2001 or until 12 months after the date that the INS adopts final regulations implementing HRIFA and NACARA, whichever date is later.

Presently, under HRIFA and NACARA, eligible Haitians, Nicaraguans and Central Americans must apply to adjust their status to permanent residency by April 1, 2000 or they will lose their right to do so. The INS estimates that at least 50,000 Haitians are eligible to adjust their status under HRIFA. The Haitian community estimates the number as closer to 100,000 people. To date, only about 18,000 eligible Haitians have applied. Similarly, there are thousands of qualified Nicaraguans and Central Americans who have yet to adjust their status under NACARA.

Qualified applicants must pay very substantial filing fees to adjust their status under HRIFA and NACARA. For large families, these fees can amount to thousands of dollars. I have been told of a case where a person working full-time, earning a \$20,000 income, had to pay over \$2,000 in filing fees for his family. Many eligible applicants who are working are finding it very difficult to come up with the filing fees. These fees are extremely burdensome. We should be reducing them. At a minimum, we should give people more time to earn them.

Moreover, because of language and cultural barriers, many eligible applicants are not even aware of their rights to adjust their status under HRIFA and NACARA. Finally, there have been very substantial bureaucratic delays in the issuance of regulations implementing HRIFA and NACARA. The INS received many public comments on its proposed HRIFA and NACARA regulations and these comments are still being reviewed and considered.

To date, final regulations have not been issued under either HRIFA and NACARA. As a result, the INS has not even definitively stated the standards that will govern its interpretation and implementation of HRIFA and NACARA. Simply put, the regulatory climate remains unsettled.

Mr. Speaker, HRIFA and NACARA were designed to allow eligible Haitians, Nicaraguans and Central Americans to become permanent residents. We must not allow high filing fees, language or cultural barriers, or delays in the issuance of implementing regulations to frustrate the intention behind these bills. We need to extend the filing deadline to assure that all eligible Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Central Americans receive a full and fair opportunity to adjust their status.

We must assure that all eligible persons are fully informed of their rights to adjust their status, that they know definitively the final regulations under which their rights will be determined, and that they receive an adequate period of time to earn the substantial filing fees that presently must accompany applications under HRIFA and NACARA.

Mr. Speaker, Representatives LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, ALCEE HASTINGS and PETER DEUTSCH are original co-sponsors of my bill. I urge all my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.

SAN LUIS VALLEY PEACE OFFICER OF 1999, GEORGE DINGFELDER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the San Luis Valley Peace Officer of 1999.

Officer George Dingfelder, based in Alamosa, Colorado, has won this distinguished award due to his high standard of professionalism and outstanding commitment to his field. George has made it a personal pledge to fight drunk driving and drug use in the San Luis Valley. George has made several contacts with drunk drivers and drug traffickers. He has recorded more than 500 drunk driving arrests and confiscated several hundred pounds of marijuana in his five year career. George was honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving in 1998 for his efforts stopping drivers from being on the road while intoxicated.

George is also a local hero. He and his wife, Stephanie, saved a young boy when his life was threaten by a leopard at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. The leopard attacked the boy through a fence, but George and Stephanie were successful at fending off the rather large cat. As a result of their bravery, George and Stephanie were awarded Colorado's Life Saving Award by Colorado Governor Bill Owens.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute to Officer George Dingfelder for his outstanding bravery and commitment to uphold the law. He has truly made a difference in the San Luis Valley.

HONORING ROBERT H. MILLER, A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and recognize the life of a true American Hero. Robert Miller, who was a World War II veteran, passed away on January 12, 2000. He was 75 years old.

Bob served in the United States Armed Forces during one of the most infamous days in history. On June 6, 1944, Bob made it up only 15 feet on Omaha Beach before a sniper's bullet severed his spine. He was only 20 years old, and he would never walk again.

Bob received the Purple Heart and his unit, B Company of the 149th Combat Engineers, was awarded a presidential unit citation and the French Croix De Guerre.

After returning to the United States to recover from his injuries, Bob met his future bride, Pat Korber. They were married in 1950.

Bob attended the Kansas City Art Institute and earned a degree in commercial design. He worked for Goldblatt Tool Company until his retirement in 1978.

Bob and Pat moved to Pueblo, Colorado in 1980.

A very patriotic man, Bob never missed an opportunity to fly the flag or to visit with old military friends. In 1999, Bob drove to Des Moines, Iowa for a reunion. He knew no limits when it came to serving his country or staying in contact with those who had served with him. Bob was also in charge of a project to make a memorial to their military unit more conspicuous. The Air Force even flew a piece of granite for them to France.

Bob also liked to play wheelchair basketball. In 1973, he was one of the first people inducted into the National Wheelchair Basketball Hall of Fame. He served as the National Wheelchair Basketball Association's first president.

Bob was very involved in his community and his parish, Our Lady of the Meadows.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer tribute to Bob Miller. He was a man that will be missed by his community and everyone who knew him. He was a great American who deserves our highest praise and regard.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 3, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 8

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Defense, and the future years defense program.

SD-106

Aging

To hold hearings on certain provisions of S. 1895, to amend the Social Security Act to preserve and improve the medicare program, focusing on its overall restructuring plan, and prescription drug coverage.

SD-562

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

To hold hearings on suicide, focusing on prevention and awareness.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.
 Budget
 To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001.
 SD-608
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 To hold hearings on S. 1879, to promote international monetary stability and to share seigniorage with officially dollarized countries.
 SD-628

10:30 a.m.
 Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001 for foreign aid, and to review U.S. foreign policy.
 SD-419

FEBRUARY 9

9:30 a.m.
 Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the rising cost of college tuition and the effectiveness of the Federal financial aid.
 SD-342

10 a.m.
 Budget
 To continue hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001.
 SD-608
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine loan guarantees and rural television service.
 SD-628

10:30 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Consumer Affairs, Foreign Commerce, and Tourism Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for the Federal Trade Commission.
 SR-253

Environment and Public Works
 Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
 SD-406

Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine U.S. foreign policy priorities.
 SD-419

FEBRUARY 10

10 a.m.
 Governmental Affairs
 To continue hearings to examine the rising cost of college tuition and the effectiveness of the Federal financial aid.
 SD-342

Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine e-commerce, federal policies, and consumer protection.
 SD-192

10:30 a.m.
 Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001 for foreign aid, and to review U.S. foreign policy.
 SD-419
 2 p.m.
 Judiciary
 Immigration Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine enhancing border security.
 SD-226

FEBRUARY 11

10 a.m.
 Budget
 To resume hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001.
 SD-608

FEBRUARY 22

3 p.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on S. 1722, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any 1 State; H.R. 3063, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any one State; and S. 1950, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to ensure the orderly development of coal, coalbed methane, natural gas, and oil in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming and Montana.
 SD-366

FEBRUARY 23

10:30 a.m.
 Environment and Public Works
 To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2001 for the Environmental Protection Agency.
 SD-406

FEBRUARY 24

10 a.m.
 Environment and Public Works
 Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2001 for the Army Corps of Engineers.
 SD-406

Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the the Department of Commerce.
 SD-138

FEBRUARY 29

10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Justice.
 SD-192

MARCH 2

10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of State.
 S-146, Capitol

MARCH 7

10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immigration and Naturalization Service, all of the Department of Justice.
 SD-192

MARCH 21

10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Federal Communications Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 S-146, Capitol

MARCH 23

10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 S-146, Capitol

POSTPONEMENTS

FEBRUARY 8

10 a.m.
 Judiciary
 Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine issues relating to identity theft.
 SD-226