

3. With the help of Vietnamese military forces, the Lao government has waged a systematic military campaign against the Hmong ethnic minority in the Laotian highlands. This campaign has caused inestimable civilian casualties and demonstrates that the regime in Vientiane is willing to wage outright war against its own people to maintain its increasingly unsteady grip on power.

As these distressing events have taken place, the State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane have utterly failed to recognize, document and address them. These actions by the Lao government continue to take place for the same reason: actions by any dictatorship continue occurring; because no one in power has the courage and determination to stop them.

It is our hope that your brave action in the Senate will force a change in U.S. policy toward Laos, will help advance the case of our two missing constituents, and will assist in moving the people of Laos closer to a day when they will live without fear in a free and open society.

Sincerely,

MARK GREEN,
GEORGE RADANOVICH,
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BARRETT OF
NEBRASKA

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague from Nebraska, Congressman BILL BARRETT. BILL and I had the distinction of coming to Congress in the same year, and I have always appreciated his enthusiasm toward issues we have worked on together.

BILL is a fellow Member of Congress who knows the value of visiting constituents at home and where they work. Like me, he spends almost every weekend traveling in his home State so he can spend time with his constituents in their hometowns.

In his first term, BILL was tapped by leadership for two key committees—the Agriculture Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee. He has worked hard at these assignments and his increasing seniority has allowed him to take a leadership role on a host of pivotal issues including: small business, child care, senior citizens, education, health care, rural development, agriculture, and other important issues.

As chairman of the General Farm Commodities Subcommittee, which he has chaired for three terms, and his assignment as vice-chairman of the Risk Management, Research, and Specialty Crops Subcommittee, BILL BARRETT has been on the forefront of agriculture policy. Through the subcommittees and as vice-chairman of the full House Agriculture Committee, he played a vital role in overseeing the 1996 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act, which unleashed U.S. agriculture from antiquated programs and overbearing Federal intrusion.

BILL has been a leader in balancing the Federal budget and reducing taxes. In the

106th Congress, he has worked to maintain fiscal discipline while paying down the national debt and ensuring the long-term viability of Social Security. His priorities for agriculture have included export market development, further regulatory relief, and improved risk management options.

In another parallel to my own experiences, BILL BARRETT's public service didn't begin in the Nation's capital. He started at the grassroots level and has been active in local, State, and national politics for many years. He was a member of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature from 1979–90 and served as Speaker the last four of those years.

As Ohio's Seventh District Representative to the Congress of the United States, I take this opportunity to join with members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation and the rest of his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the efforts and the many outstanding achievements of Representative BILL BARRETT. His many contributions as a Member of the House of Representatives will be long remembered in Congress and by the people of Nebraska.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN
TILLIE FOWLER

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to congratulate my colleague and good friend Congresswoman TILLIE FOWLER on her exemplary service to her district and the nation as she retires from the U.S. Congress.

Congresswoman FOWLER is well known as a determined advocate for a strong national defense and has worked with great success on behalf of the military personnel and facilities in her district and around the country. Congresswoman FOWLER supported me immensely as I secured \$5 million in the Fiscal Year 2000 Defense Appropriations bill for the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. These funds were used for much needed maintenance to the memorial. Over the past 3 years Congresswoman FOWLER has joined me in organizing a wreath laying ceremony at the Women's Memorial to pay homage to the thousands of women who have served in our armed services. Congresswoman FOWLER has served graciously and energetically as co-host of this very touching ceremony. The Women's Memorial was dedicated on October 18, 1997 and stands as the nation's only major national memorial honoring women who have served in our Nation's Armed Forces during all eras and in all services.

I have been fortunate to serve with Congresswoman FOWLER on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Together, we have worked for needed improvements to road, mass transit, water, and public works infrastructure. She is one of the hardest working Members I have had the pleasure of working with on this committee. I applaud Congresswoman FOWLER for her dedication to serving

the interests of her constituents and the nation. She has been an outstanding colleague and a good friend. I feel privileged to have worked with the Congresswoman and wish her God speed as she embarks upon another endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 592. I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House when the following votes were taken. Had I been present on the following items my vote would have been the same as indicated following the resolution.

Oct. 30, 583, H. Res. 663, on agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of S. 2485; and Corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 2614, "yes"; Oct. 30, 582, H. Res. 663, on ordering the Previous Question Providing for consideration of S. 2485; and Corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 2614, "yes"; Oct. 30, 581, H. Res. 662, on agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of certain joint resolutions making further continuing appropriations for 2001, "yes"; Oct. 30, 580, H. Res. 662, on Ordering the Previous Question Providing for consideration of certain joint resolutions making further continuing appropriations for FY 2001, "yes"; Oct. 30, 579, motion, on hour of meeting, "yes"; Oct. 30, 578 H.J. Res. 120, on Passage Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001, "yes"; Oct. 30, 577, Journal, on Approving the Journal, "yes"; Oct. 29, 576, H.R. 4577, on Motion to Instruct Conferees Making Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2001, "yes"; Oct. 29, 575, H.J. Res. 119, on Passage Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001, "yes"; Oct. 29, 574, Journal, on Approving the Journal, "yes"; Oct. 28, 573, H.R. 4577, on Motion to Instruct Conferees Making Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2001, "yes"; Oct. 28, 572, H.R. 4577, on Motion to Instruct Conferees Making Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2001, "yes"; Oct. 28, 571, H.J. Res. 118, on Passage Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001, "yes"; Oct. 28, 570, Journal, on Approving the Journal, "yes"; Oct. 19, H.R. 4541, to Authorize and Amend the Commodity Exchange Act to Promote Legal Certainty, Enhance Competition, and reduce Systematic Risk in Markets for Futures and Over the Counter Derivatives, and for other Purposes, "yes."