

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

POLAR BEARS PLIGHT

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the plight of seven polar bears languishing in a traveling animal show called the Suarez Brothers Circus. The circus is based in Mexico and travels around Central and South America, throughout the year, with its menagerie.

In May 2001, the USFWS, in consultation with USDA, decided to issue a permit to allow the circus into Puerto Rico. This permit was issued over the objection of the Marine Mammal Commission. The Commission warned that the provenance of the bears was questionable and that there were serious deficiencies in the required paperwork for the bears. In June, Dr. Terry Maple, Director of Zoo Atlanta, contacted USDA and asserted that at least one of the bears had been imported under a false identity. The use of doctored or fabricated records is grounds for denying the circus a permit to exhibit.

In August, during the hottest days of summer, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources filed animal cruelty charges against the circus for keeping the bears in 113 degree heat without access to water or air conditioning. Additional charges have been added for maintaining the bears in "dirty or parasitic conditions". Their trial date is scheduled for January 22, 2002.

In October, the Marine Mammal Commission again wrote to USFWS and APHIS and outlined the numerous violations of federal law and expressed a fundamental concern about the appropriateness of using polar bears outdoors in a tropical climate. In their letter, the Commission noted violations of the Animal Welfare Act reported by APHIS on eight separate inspections. These violations included serious charges including inaccessibility to water and fans, a lack of structural integrity in the holding pens, and a lack of veterinary care.

Just two weeks ago, APHIS testified before the Resources Committee that it has inspected the circus at least eleven times since June—as compared to the average number of inspections being one per year. The USDA has documented a clear pattern of non-compliance with the bare minimum standards of the Animal Welfare Act.

Mr. Speaker, these polar bears are clearly suffering and need relief. These animals should be confiscated and placed in facilities that are capable of caring for their unique needs. Members of the House and Senate, including the Delegate from Puerto Rico, are circulating letters to colleagues and to the federal agencies requesting urgent action in this case, including an investigation and confiscation of the polar bears.

Puerto Rico is no place for polar bears.

RECOGNIZING EAST SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S HEROES

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize some real heroes from my district. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, America has witnessed the best that our Nation has to offer. Men and women from every walk of life and every background have come together to help those in need and to comfort those who have experienced loss.

A group of individuals from my district have contributed to this effort. These men and women, from firefighting agencies all over East San Diego County, recently traveled crosscountry to New York assisting in efforts to rescue victims in the World Trade Center attacks. For four and a half days, these brave firefighters gave help wherever it was needed.

My fellow colleagues, join me in recognizing Jeff Beeler, Daryn Drum, Ted Kakuris, Marco Maldonado, Scott Springett, Paul Mascoso, Don Anderson, Steve Swaney, Mike Scott, Gerry Brewster, Mike Blood, Beverly Harrell-Bruder, Paul Hyde, Rich Leap, Brian Kidwell, Buz Miller, Jon Handley, Pery Peake, Steve Peters, Jerry Sadler, David Tegardine, Eric Swanson, and David Williams for all their efforts and sacrifices.

Firefighters across this country serve their communities every day with the unofficial motto of, "Leave Nobody Behind." Regardless of who you are, these individuals risk their lives to protect those in danger. Today, more than ever, the children of our Nation are saying with pride that they would like to be firemen and women when they grow up. On behalf of San Diego County, I want to thank these firefighters from our community whose actions serve as a strong reminder that America has a good heart and that we will continue to take care of those in need.

HONORING THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER'S ROCKY FLATS COORDINATOR MARY HARLOW

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important work of Mary Harlow, the Rocky Flats Coordinator for the City of Westminster, Colorado.

Mary, known to her friends and colleagues as "Mickey", is leaving this post after nearly

seven years of service to her community on the vast array of issues regarding Rocky Flats—the Department of Energy's former nuclear weapons production facility located just west of Westminster. I join with her friends and co-workers in wishing her well in her future endeavors, which I understand may involve retiring to North Carolina.

The site was originally used for processing plutonium and other materials to fashion triggers for nuclear weapons in a nearly 400 acre industrial complex surrounded by a 6,000 acre open buffer zone. That mission now is done, and DOE is working to clean up Rocky Flats so it can be closed. This is a complex, highly technical, and politically charged project—one of the more extensive cleanup efforts in Colorado and the nation, and one that poses unique and serious challenges. Mickey has met these challenges and developed a mastery of the issues and effective strategies to influence the decisions affecting the cleanup to ensure protection for the citizens of Westminster and people throughout the Front Range region.

She also has been very effective in building coalitions with other surrounding communities and citizen groups to address pressing issues. Many have relied on her to sift through the thick, technical documents and provide input. Her work has resulted in better plans and approaches to the cleanup and closure and enhanced citizen involvement at the site—not to mention the valuable advice she has provided to Westminster officials.

Mickey began her work on Rocky Flats for the city in 1994. Since then she has recorded many accomplishments. Among other things, she served as an official with the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, represented Westminster on a task force to determine potential future uses of the industrial area of the site, and helped create a focus group to evaluate the cleanup agreement governing the site. In addition, she co-chaired the oversight panel that evaluated the proper and safe level for the cleanup of radioactive contamination of the soil at the site. On the national level, she participated with representatives from other nuclear weapons sites to develop long-term stewardship of DOE nuclear weapons sites, examine the effects of low-level radiation, and promote development and use of innovative cleanup technologies.

For all of this and more, especially her positive outlook and personable demeanor, Mickey has been a valuable asset in our efforts to ensure a thorough, effective and safe cleanup of Rocky Flats. Her legacy of service will help Colorado and the nation to transform Rocky Flats from a problem into an open space and wildlife asset for generations to come.

● 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.