

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING 21 MEMBERS OF NATIONAL GUARD KILLED IN CRASH ON MARCH 3, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Madam Speaker, today we honor the three Florida Army National Guard members from Detachment 1, 1st Battalion 171st Aviation, of Lakeland, Florida, and 18 Virginia Air National Guardsmen from 203rd Red Horse Flight who died on March 3, 2001, when the C-23 aircraft returning them home crashed in south-central Georgia.

It is not enough to thank these men for their service. And it is not enough to honor their commitment. We must also thank and honor the family these men have left behind. It is never easy to console families who have lost a service member. I ask that we keep the families of the Florida Guard soldiers and the Virginia airmen in our thoughts and prayers. We are grateful for their service and are humbled by the dedication a family member gives when a spouse, parent or child is in the military. Again, our thoughts and prayers are with them.

OSHA ERGONOMICS RULE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 12, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on March 6, the U.S. Senate voted 56-44 to repeal an OSHA ergonomics rule initiated by the Clinton administration that would affect over 102 million workers at over 6 million work sites. While Congress passed the Congressional Review Act in 1996, granting the authority to review and disapprove of many regulatory rules made by a federal agency, Congress has never passed a joint resolution of disapproval.

I have strong reservations about the rule because it puts a significant burden on already struggling small businesses not only in my community in Central New York but across the United States. Currently, Congress is trying to maintain and strengthen the overall economy by encouraging small business entrepreneurship with a variety of economic stimulus programs. We must continue this effort in a positive manner as it is the small business person who creates jobs in each of our districts. The implementation of this rule would devastate employers with extra costs that would try to fix ergonomically related problems.

Despite my opposition to this rule, our work on this issue cannot stop here. According to OSHA, improper ergonomic design of jobs is

one of the leading causes cited for work-related illness. Congress must protect the thousands of employees that have had work-related injuries while at the same time protect small businesses that must deal with the complexity and cost of the standard. Through federal funding, studies by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) have provided a thorough review of studies that showed significant statistical information between workplace injuries and musculoskeletal disorders. However, the scientific understanding of the problem has not been completed.

With this in mind, I urge Secretary Chao to immediately review and revise the standard that meets the needs of all parties. I do believe in a comprehensive approach to ergonomics that addresses the concerns imposed against the current standard. By finding corrective actions that can redesign the workplace, we will ensure the health and stability of our nation's workforce.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 12, 2001

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, my family experienced a tragedy last week that forced me to miss a series of important votes from March 6 through March 8 last week. Due to the death of my mother-in-law on March 6 in Mississippi, I was with my family and was unable to cast recorded votes on rollcalls 26 through 45.

On rollcall 26, I would have voted "yea" on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 724, a bill to Authorize Appropriations to Carry Out Part B of Title I of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, relating to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

On rollcall 27, I would have voted "yea" on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 727, a bill to Amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to Provide that Low-Speed Electric Bicycles are Consumer Products Subject to Such Act.

On rollcall 28, I would have voted "yea" on Approving the Journal.

On rollcall 29, I would have voted "nay" on Agreeing to H. Res. 79, a bill providing for consideration of S.J. Res. 6, Providing for Congressional Disapproval of the Rule Relating to Ergonomics.

On rollcall 30, I would have voted "yea" on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 31, a bill expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation and supporting National Donor Day.

On rollcall 31, I would have voted "yea" on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 624, the Organ Donation Improvement Act.

On rollcall 32, I would have voted "yea" on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 47, a bill Honoring the 21 members of the National Guard who were killed in the crash of a National Guard aircraft on March 3, 2001, in south-central Georgia.

On rollcall 33, I would have voted "yea" on Passage of S.J. Res. 6, a bill Providing for Congressional Disapproval of the Rule Submitted by the Department of Labor Under Chapter 8 of Title 5, United States Code, Relating to Ergonomics.

On rollcall 34, I would have voted "nay" on Approving the Journal.

On rollcall 35, I would have voted "aye" on the Motion to Adjourn.

On rollcall 36, I would have voted "yea" on the Motion to Adjourn.

On rollcall 37, I would have voted "no" on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 83, a bill Providing for consideration of H.R. 3, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001.

On rollcall 38, I would have voted "no" to Table the Motion to Reconsider H. Res. 83.

On rollcall 39, I would have voted "no" on Agreeing to H. Res. 83.

On rollcall 40, I would have voted "no" to Table the Motion to Reconsider H. Res. 83.

On rollcall 41, I would have voted "aye" on the Motion to Adjourn.

On rollcall 42, I would have voted "yea" on the Rangel Substitute to H.R. 3.

On rollcall 43, I would have voted "yea" to Table the Motion to Reconsider H.R. 3.

On rollcall 44, I would have voted "aye" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 3 with instructions.

On rollcall 45, I would have voted "yea" on Passage of H.R. 3, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001.

Mr. Speaker, for me a "yea" vote on rollcall 33, to pass S.J. Res. 6, was a difficult decision. I supported S.J. Res. 6 because, although I firmly believe an ergonomics regulation is necessary, I am troubled by overly broad scope of the regulation that was promulgated late last year, and by the potential costs incurred by businesses required to implement this unfunded mandate against the private sector.

In recent years, my district has experienced the exodus of thousands of jobs, Mr. Speaker, largely because our trade policies have encouraged businesses to take advantage of lower wages and weaker worker protection and environmental laws across our borders. I fear that imposing this particular ergonomics regulation would have encouraged the loss of even more jobs at home.

At the same time, the process used to bring S.J. Res. 6 to the House floor disappointed me. It was rushed with no House hearings and little opportunity for debate. This process gave me little time to solicit the opinions of my constituents in Mississippi. That is why I would have voted against the rule governing consideration of the Joint Resolution.

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