

my request, found that 81 percent of respondents thought morale in general at GAO is worse or much worse than before the reforms and a majority of the respondents felt that not having an across-the-board increase for all staff is very or somewhat unreasonable. While the subcommittee recognizes that more work needs to be done at GAO, the Act will help improve the morale at GAO and remedy the inequities that resulted from the denial of the 2006 and 2007 across-the-board adjustments.

Other provisions in the Act include creating a statutory Inspector General for GAO; permitting the Comptroller General, CG, greater flexibility to administer oaths to witnesses when auditing and settling accounts; enabling the CG to accept gifts and to make expenditures for meals and other expenses in connection with recruitment; and eliminates the statutorily imposed GS-15 pay cap to allow the CG the authority to pay employees up to the rate for Executive Level III. The Act has the support of GAO and its union, the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers.

“ALL IN A NAME,” GREECE’S CONCERNS REGARDING THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA’S ACCESSION TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, later this week the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will hold a Heads of State and Government summit in Bucharest, Romania. One of the major issues considered will be the expansion of NATO and the possible extension of membership invitations to Albania, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). In this context, I would like to bring to the House’s attention excerpts from the April 1, 2008 Op-ed in the Wall Street Journal titled “All in a Name,” written by Greece’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dora Bakoyannis.

[FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, APR. 1, 2008]

ALL IN A NAME

(By Dora Bakoyannis)

ATHENS.—The NATO summit comes to Southeastern Europe this week, and Greece is looking forward to it . . . As the region’s oldest NATO and EU member, Greece feels a profound obligation to be constructive, supportive and practical regarding our neighbors. We wholeheartedly espouse the policy of enlargement, and I am happy to say that two members of the so-called “Adriatic Three,” Croatia and Albania, are today in a position to further the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty and earn their invitation to NATO in Bucharest. However, it saddens me that we cannot so far say the same about our neighbor, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Fyrom).

For over 15 years, our two countries have been involved in United Nations-sponsored negotiations regarding Fyrom’s name. Greece has real and concrete concerns over

the issue. What’s in a name, you may ask? A great deal, I can assure you. The term “Macedonia” has always been used to delineate a wider geographical region, approximately 51% of which is part of Greece, 38% of which is in Fyrom, and 9% of which is in Bulgaria.

Not only does the government in Skopje insist on being the sole claimant to the name of an entire area—the largest part of which lies outside its borders—but authorities in Fyrom insist on portraying Greek Macedonia as “occupied” territory. While government leaders declare they have no designs on Greek territory, they refuse to remove such claims from textbooks, state maps and national documents . . .

And we are not alone in our quest. In the U.S. Congress, 115 members, both Republicans and Democrats, recently co-sponsored House Resolution 356, which expressed the “sense of the House of Representatives that Fyrom should stop hostile activities and propaganda against Greece, and should work with the United Nations and Greece to find a mutually acceptable official name.”

NATO has consistently encouraged full normalization of relations not only with aspirants themselves but with neighboring third countries not belonging to the Alliance. Greece will spare no effort in reaching a real and viable solution for the sake of peace and stability in the region. Alliances and partnerships, however, can only be fostered among countries if there is mutual trust and goodwill.

TYLER SALEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tyler Salen who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tyler Salen is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tyler Salen is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Tyler Salen for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CHINESE SPECTACULAR SHOW

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Chinese Spectacular Show, a world-class troupe that showcases Chinese Classical performance to audi-

ences worldwide and serves as a bridge between cultures.

In 2006, the Chinese Spectacular was ranked number seven on Billboard Magazine’s top shows and has played in the finest theaters around the country. This year, as men and women of Asian descent celebrate the Year of the Rat together with their friends, family and neighbors in Cleveland, the Oriental Cultural Association, OCA, is bringing this great show to the State Theatre. In keeping with its mission as an organization that promotes a cultural exchange and understanding, the OCA is proud to bring this spectacular show to Cleveland. The show is a unique opportunity to showcase and bring together Cleveland’s rich multicultural society and appreciation of the various rich cultures that constitute the greater Cleveland community.

The Chinese Spectacular show is the largest overseas Chinese cultural production and exemplifies the very best of classical Chinese music and dance through its lavish costumes and choreography. They have toured over 65 cities around the world just this year and are able to show a side of Chinese culture that is often not seen in the United States.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing this year’s Chinese Spectacular show and celebrating Cleveland’s rich multicultural community.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ASHLEY WEAVER FOR WINNING THE GIRLS’ DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Ashley Weaver showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Ashley Weaver was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Ashley Weaver always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Ashley Weaver on winning the Girls’ Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING ZACHARY JAMES BUCKNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary James Buckner, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts

of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary James Buckner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXXONMOBIL'S RECKLESSNESS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, on March 24, 1989, the worst oil spill in our Nation's history occurred as the supertanker *Exxon Valdez* ran aground on Bligh Reef and dumped 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound off the scenic Alaskan coast. Five years later, a Federal jury in Anchorage awarded the fishermen, businesses, and affected communities punitive damages. However, to date, Exxon has paid none of the \$2.5 billion punitive damages awarded to these fishermen as a result of the environmental devastation caused by ExxonMobil's recklessness.

What has ExxonMobil done? While the company has paid for the value of the lost fish, it has never compensated the families for their other continuing damages including, in the words of one trial judge, the fact that "the social fabric of Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet was torn apart." There are still thousands of fishermen, food processors, and others who are awaiting justice. Tragically, this number is dwindling as many of those affected have passed away while waiting for some form of resolution that has never come. All the while, ExxonMobil employs one primary tactic: delay. I would usually not comment on litigation that is ongoing, but these delay tactics of repeatedly appealing a just verdict all the way to the Supreme Court are irresponsible and indefensible. It has now been over 19 years since one of the worst environmental disasters in our Nation's history and 14 years since the initial jury verdict.

I believe in the free market, and I believe a corporation has the right to earn profits, but they also have a responsibility to their community and their country, especially when they make an awful mistake. ExxonMobil has done the former by earning \$36 billion in 2006, a record for a single company. Now it is time for ExxonMobil to face up to its corporate responsibility, close this dark chapter in the company's history, and end this undue burden on the victims and the courts.

March 24, 2008, marked the 19th anniversary of this tragedy—but the question has now turned to: Will our Nation's highest court uphold the judgment that these victims still sadly await?

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WHMI RADIO IN HOWELL, MICHIGAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the recent accomplishments of WHMI radio in Howell, Michigan, on the occasion of the station receiving the prestigious Associated Press "General Excellence" Award.

WHMI was recognized above all other medium market radio in the State of Michigan, including Flint, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Bay City/Saginaw, Ann Arbor, and Kalamazoo/Battle Creek. To achieve the "General Excellence" Award, WHMI earned recognition for Best Newscast, Best Continuing Coverage, Best Feature Story, Best Investigative Reporting and Best Natural Sound.

Celebrating 51 years of service to the Howell and Livingston County communities, WHMI adds to its many awards for broadcast excellence and community service this new recognition. All of this comes thanks to the hard work of owners Greg and Marcia Jablonski, General Operations Manager Reed Kitteridge, News Director Jon King, and the entire WHMI team.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring WHMI for its contributions to the community. Their new milestone is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

CONGRATULATING THE FRANKLIN ACADEMY HUSKIES UPON WINNING THE 2008 NEW YORK STATE GIRLS CLASS A CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Franklin Academy Huskies of Malone, New York, upon winning the 2008 New York State Girls Basketball Class A Championship. I am proud to represent the Huskies, who won Franklin Academy's first team state championship in their third consecutive final four appearance.

On March 15, 2008, the Franklin Academy Huskies won the New York State Class A Championship when they defeated the Honeoye Falls-Lima Cougars 43 to 41. In that game, the Huskies persevered and came from nine points behind in the second half to take the lead with 2:20 left on a three pointer by Tournament MVP and Class A Player of the Year Alyson Johnson, who led all scorers with 17 points and also had five rebounds. All Tournament and Second Team All State selection Haley Poupore added 10 points and nine rebounds for the Huskies while teammate Kelsey Johnson contributed seven points and four rebounds to the Huskies' total and received the Tournament Sportsmanship Award.

The Franklin Academy Huskies completed the 2008 season with a record of 25 and 3. They were coached by Class A Coach of the

Year Mike Wescott and assistant coaches Greg Dumas, Dave Farden, and Shelley Skelly. Other team members were Maggie Aguglia, Stephanie Edwards, Brittany Flick, Erica Johnson, Monique LaFlesh, Ashley Marshall, Brittany Marshall, Meaghan Patterson, Abby Premo, and Emily Sharlow.

Accordingly, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in extending congratulations to the Franklin Academy Huskies for winning the 2008 New York State Girls Basketball Class A Championship.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF HERMINIA DUENAS DIERKING

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and public service of Herminia Duenas Dierking, a distinguished leader from Guam who passed away on March 24, 2008. Herminia served the people of Guam in leadership positions in our community including as a Senator in the Guam Legislature, a professor at the University of Guam, and as a cabinet officer in the Government of Guam.

Herminia Duenas Dierking, daughter of the late Maria Pangelinan Guzman and Jose Cruz Duenas, was born on August 17, 1939 in the capital village of Hagåtña. She grew up aware of the hardships endured by our people during the occupation of Guam and she later used that knowledge and compassion to work for justice for our people as a member of the Guam War Reparations Commission.

Herminia is a fine example of how education can open doors to new opportunities. She received her high school diploma from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam and pursued college degrees from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and later from the University of Guam where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business. She continued to work toward an advanced degree from Emporia State University, Kansas and successfully obtained a Masters of Science in Business Administration.

Herminia began her professional career as an assistant professor at the University of Guam and rose to become the chairperson of the Accounting Department, serving thirteen years in the College of Business and Public Administration. Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo, my late husband, recognized her expertise in management and appointed her as the Director of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research in 1983. She was also appointed as the Chairperson of the Fiscal Policy Committee of the Government of Guam. Herminia's leadership helped to restore the fiscal health of the Government of Guam, leading to an economic recovery.

Herminia was urged by Governor Bordallo and other local leaders who recognized her leadership potential to run for a seat in the 18th Guam Legislature. She was successful in her first run for elected office and was subsequently reelected to the 19th, 20th, 21st, and