

While its first 4-page issue, dated back on December 15, 1978, was printed in Mr. Do's garage, today he has more than 60 employees and a daily circulation of 18,000, and Nguoi-Viet online edition is among the most widely read services with 1.5 million hits a month.

Nguoi-Viet News has provided the Vietnamese community with appealing editorials and local and international news stories that highlight community service and activism while bringing the community together. I applaud Nguoi-Viet News for those important achievements for 31 years, and I look forward to its contribution in the next 31 years.

IN DEFENSE OF OUR WARFIGHTERS

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, soon courts-martial of the three Navy SEALs accused of beating a suspected terrorist will begin. These trials and the outcomes are being followed closely by our servicemembers. There is broad concern that political correctness may be impacting the decision to accuse servicemembers of crimes stemming from the treatment of terrorists and accused terrorists. This is not acceptable. Our soldiers must be able to carry out their missions without considering the sensitivities of the ACLU.

There is another group that is also following these courts-martial, the terrorists. In fact, the al Qaeda handbook specifically directs any operative who is detained to immediately claim he is tortured and mistreated. We cannot stand by and allow our warfighters to be manipulated by the enemy.

When these charges are brought, many of our servicemembers elect to have civilian defense counsel, based on their level of experience and expertise, at their own expense. Even when acquitted or the charges are dropped, these servicemembers are left with significant debt. This is also unacceptable.

The people who so willingly defend this country deserve the very best defense and should be acquitted or the charges dropped. It is the responsibility of our government to pay these costs. Today I am introducing a resolution to address this inequity. I will continue to fight for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, and I urge all Members of Congress to do the same.

AMERICA IS TOO BIG TO FAIL

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, Americans' thirst for real change did not end with the election in 2008. Across this country, people are mad, mad that the

rampant speculation in our financial markets which led to the current economic meltdown and the double-digit unemployment have not yet been addressed.

I want to thank President Obama for his announcement this morning acknowledging what former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker has been saying for months: It's time to reinstate the institutional protections that safeguarded our country for more than half a century, the Glass-Steagall Act, ironically repealed in 1999 at the behest of the financial services industry.

The only thing in America that can ever be deemed too big to fail is America itself. It is time for those of us in Congress to grow a backbone, to have the courage of our convictions and stand up to the big banks. No longer can we allow the greed of a few to put the entire Nation at risk.

Just as we are united in our effort to combat threats from abroad, we must be vigilant to those very real threats from within. We were sent here by the voters to take care of them, the taxpayers and the consumers. The banks can take care of themselves.

MR. OBAMA, PULL DOWN THAT HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. HALL of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we approach President Ronald Reagan's birthday, I remember very well 22 years ago when he thought our country was threatened by Russia and the future of our children and their children was in danger of being imperiled. He stood at the Brandenburg Gate in Germany, shook his fist at Russia and said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

We honor in a few days in my Fourth Congressional District and all across the land the man who said, Tear down this wall. Today I say to the leader of another country, our country, Mr. Obama, your health bill and your 34 czars: Tear down that wall that separates you from the American people. Pull down your health bill and start over. The people have spoken. We need jobs, not bribes and broken promises. Pull down that bill. Pull down that bill. Pull down that bill. Pull down that broken health bill.

HONORING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Catholic schools in my district and across the country for their contributions to their students and communities.

January 31 through February 6, 2010, has been designated as Catholic

Schools Week by the National Catholic Education Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

I have a number of Catholic schools in my district, including St. Therese, Our Lady of Fatima—where a number of our neighborhood kids go—Saint Anne's, Saint Bernadette, Saint Joan of Arc, Saint Pius X, and Saints Peter and Paul. Each of these schools is advancing strong academic goals in the classroom, and each is developing well-rounded young adults in our communities.

I congratulate these Catholic schools in the Seventh Congressional District, as well as the students, parents, and teachers for their ongoing dedication to a quality education. Receiving a quality education is key to our children's success, and as a parent of three, I am well aware of this.

In closing, I extend my best wishes to the students who attend the Catholic schools in the Seventh Congressional District and wish every student in Colorado the best of luck in this school year.

□ 1030

PRESIDENT'S DEFICIT-CUTTING COMMISSION

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. If you are concerned about runaway Federal spending and a rising national debt, you won't find a lot of comfort in today's headlines.

After passing a government takeover of health care costing over \$1 trillion and a budget that will triple the national debt in the next 10 years, Democrat leaders are now talking about actually bringing legislation that will raise our debt limit by \$1.9 trillion. But we are told by the same Democratic leadership that they are going to get serious in 2010 about fiscal discipline.

I guess, along those lines, President Obama is expected to announce a bipartisan commission that will look for ways to reduce deficits in the future. Sounds like an appealing idea, but the devil is always in the details in Washington, D.C.

The President's commission on close examination actually looks like a guard dog with no bite. It looks like fiscal discipline, but it could be easily ignored by Congress.

Remarkably, the President's proposal, as I have heard about it, is prohibited from recommending cuts in any discretionary spending. That will be about \$1.4 trillion. And the bridge to nowhere, that is completely off-limits. And, as many of us know, with the partisan bias and the structure of it, as reported, it is likely this commission will just be an excuse to raise taxes.

The American people don't want more government, more taxes, and

more political posturing about spending. They want this Congress to show the character and the strength to make the hard choices to put our fiscal house in order.

SUPPORT H.R. 2829 and H.R. 3053

(Mr. CARSON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, each year tens of thousands of ex-offenders are released from prison back into our communities. Many of them return to our neighborhoods with few prospects and no way to provide for themselves and their families.

Unfortunately, months of waiting for benefits often push these ex-offenders back into criminal activity. Without an income to purchase health care and food, many see it as the only way to survive.

Today, I believe this Congress has the responsibility to address this clear danger to the public. That is why I introduced two bills last year, H.R. 2829 and H.R. 3053, which will ensure that former inmates have access to TANF, Medicaid, Social Security disability, and other benefits upon their release from prison.

By removing months of waiting, we can help these individuals successfully reenter society and avoid returning to a life of crime. I hope that all of my colleagues will consider cosponsoring these important bills, both for the future of ex-offenders and for the safety of our communities.

NATURAL GAS DRILLING

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to talk about an issue that has taken root in my district and across Upstate New York, and that is the concern over natural gas drilling prospects in a procedure called "hydraulic fracturing."

Natural gas is a great natural resource for this country to cultivate to use for heat and energy. However, in Upstate New York we have another natural resource that is critical to our survival and prosperity, and that is our water.

Our water supply is precious, and we are so fortunate in Upstate New York to have an abundance of water resources that I never want to take for granted and will always fight to protect.

Now, I don't want to oppose natural gas drilling in Upstate New York because there is a definite opportunity for gas drilling that has a positive impact, and I think that that's an important thing if we are going to address energy costs and local jobs in the re-

gion. But I don't want to sacrifice the purity of our water resources by rushing to drill before the infrastructure is in place in New York to regulate it in the way that it needs to be regulated.

I will stand with the people in my district who could be affected by natural gas drilling to ensure that their water is protected.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, some people just don't get it.

I was reading the Wall Street Journal this morning. And when the Democrat Senators met, one of the aides was asked by a reporter what was going on; and the aide to one of the Democrat Senators said this: "People are hysterical right now."

Hysterical? Because the American people realize that this health care bill is an absolute disgrace and a tragedy, and they didn't want it and they overwhelmingly voted against it in Massachusetts, they are hysterical?

I would just like to say to that young man and any of my colleagues who really haven't gotten the message from Massachusetts and Virginia and New Jersey: the American people don't like the direction this country is heading in. They don't like the big spending. They don't like all these new socialistic programs. And they don't want the government coming between them and their doctor. And I hope my colleagues will get that message so we can work together to solve these problems facing the Nation regarding health care.

TAOS PUEBLO INDIAN WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1017, I call up the bill (H.R. 3254) to approve the Taos Pueblo Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to House Resolution 1017, the bill is considered read.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill is adopted.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3254

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Taos Pueblo Indian Water Rights Settlement Act".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Purpose.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

Sec. 4. Pueblo rights.

Sec. 5. Pueblo water infrastructure and watershed enhancement.

Sec. 6. Taos Pueblo Water Development Fund.

Sec. 7. Marketing.

Sec. 8. Mutual-Benefit Projects.

Sec. 9. San Juan-Chama Project contracts.

Sec. 10. Authorizations, ratifications, confirmations, and conditions precedent.

Sec. 11. Waivers and releases.

Sec. 12. Interpretation and enforcement.

Sec. 13. Disclaimer.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to approve, ratify, and confirm the Taos Pueblo Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement;

(2) to authorize and direct the Secretary to execute the Settlement Agreement and to perform all obligations of the Secretary under the Settlement Agreement and this Act; and

(3) to authorize all actions and appropriations necessary for the United States to meet its obligations under the Settlement Agreement and this Act.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ELIGIBLE NON-PUEBLO ENTITIES.**—The term "Eligible Non-Pueblo Entities" means the Town of Taos, El Prado Water and Sanitation District ("EPWSD"), and the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division on behalf of the Acequia Madre del Rio Lucero y del Arroyo Seco, the Acequia Madre del Prado, the Acequia del Monte, the Acequia Madre del Rio Chiquito, the Upper Ranchitos Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association, the Upper Arroyo Hondo Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association, and the Llano Quemado Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association.

(2) **ENFORCEMENT DATE.**—The term "Enforcement Date" means the date upon which the Secretary publishes the notice required by section 10(f)(1).

(3) **MUTUAL-BENEFIT PROJECTS.**—The term "Mutual-Benefit Projects" means the projects described and identified in articles 6 and 10.1 of the Settlement Agreement.

(4) **PARTIAL FINAL DECREE.**—The term "Partial Final Decree" means the Decree entered in *New Mexico v. Abeyta and New Mexico v. Arellano*, Civil Nos. 7896-BB (U.S.6 D.N.M.) and 7939-BB (U.S. D.N.M) (consolidated), for the resolution of the Pueblo's water right claims and which is substantially in the form agreed to by the Parties and attached to the Settlement Agreement as Attachment 5.

(5) **PARTIES.**—The term "Parties" means the Parties to the Settlement Agreement, as identified in article 1 of the Settlement Agreement.

(6) **PUEBLO.**—The term "Pueblo" means the Taos Pueblo, a sovereign Indian tribe duly recognized by the United States of America.

(7) **PUEBLO LANDS.**—The term "Pueblo lands" means those lands located within the Taos Valley to which the Pueblo, or the United States in its capacity as trustee for the Pueblo, holds title subject to Federal law limitations on alienation. Such lands include Tracts A, B, and C, the Pueblo's land grant, the Blue Lake Wilderness Area, and the Tenorio and Karavas Tracts and are generally depicted in Attachment 2 to the Settlement Agreement.

(8) **SAN JUAN-CHAMA PROJECT.**—The term "San Juan-Chama Project" means the Project authorized by section 8 of the Act of June 13, 1962 (76 Stat. 96, 97), and the Act of April 11, 1956 (70 Stat. 105).

(9) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.