

The House has referred H. Res. 1193, H. Res. 1220, H. Res. 1255, and H. Res. 1287 to the Committee for its consideration. We acknowledge the referral of those resolutions. If adopted, the resolutions would have required the Committee to report to the House regarding aspects of its investigation "In the Matter of Allegations Relating to the Lobbying Activities of Paul Magliocchetti and Associates Group, Inc. (PMA)." Although the resolutions were not adopted, we are responding to expand further upon the Committee's previous public statements regarding its investigation in this matter.

The outside Office of Congressional Ethics, OCE, after investigation, concluded that matters for five Members regarding the PMA matter should be dismissed. After review, the Committee concurred with the outside ethics office. The Committee concluded that the matters of two other Members should also be dismissed because the facts regarding those Members' actions were not different from those of the five Members for whom both the Committee and OCE concluded dismissal was appropriate. The Committee's action to date does not preclude future Committee action related to these matters should new information warranting action become available.

The Committee publicly released a 305-page report that discusses the scope of the Committee's work in the PMA matter, as well as the basis for the Committee's bipartisan and unanimous conclusions. This report is available to the House and the public on the Committee's Web site, at <http://ethics.house.gov/>. As noted in that report, the Committee's investigation during a nine-month period included extensive document reviews and interviews with numerous witnesses. As a result of its own investigation and OCE's seven separate reports and findings, the Committee—whose Members include equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans—unanimously determined that the evidence presently before the Committee merited dismissal of all seven matters.

The information reviewed by the Committee included statements from all seven Members. Summaries of interviews with five Members were included in OCE's findings, which the Committee chose to publish. Since the Committee agreed with OCE's recommendation that those five matters should be dismissed, the Committee was not required to publish any statement or OCE's reports and findings in those matters, but did so because of the unique circumstances of this matter and in the interests of public disclosure and transparency.

In addition, the Committee sought statements from Representatives TIAHRT and VIS-CLOSKY to respond specifically to allegations about their conduct. Both Members provided the Committee with statements through counsel, and the Members certified under penalty of perjury to the truth of those statements. Both statements are available, in their entirety, in the Committee's public report. Based in part on those statements, the Committee found no evidence to conclude that the facts regarding Representatives TIAHRT and VIS-CLOSKY differed substantially from the facts regarding the other five Members—for whom both the Committee and OCE recommended dismissal. Ac-

cordingly, the Committee concluded that the matters of the two other Members should also be dismissed.

In reaching its unanimous conclusion, the Committee relied not only on the findings provided by OCE, but its own investigation. During the course of its investigation in this matter, the Committee's staff reviewed close to one-quarter of a million pages of documents. The Committee investigation covered more than 40 companies with ties to PMA. OCE's findings included summaries of interviews with five Members' offices. The Committee investigation included interviews with 33 Members' offices. The Committee investigation involved interviews with chiefs of staff, military legislative aides, other Members' staff, and Appropriations Committee staff. In reaching its conclusions, the Committee relied on the totality of this large magnitude of information.

As in other investigations, although the Committee has discussed in general terms the scope of its investigation, it did not address more specific details of various investigative steps taken by the Committee. To do so would compromise the investigative capabilities of the Committee in this and future matters by chilling voluntary cooperation. Requiring the disclosure of the details of any investigative body's activities would damage its ability to conduct its activities. Ethics investigations, in particular, rely not only upon subpoenas, but upon voluntary cooperation. Success in such an investigation usually comes because people connected to the matter choose to cooperate with the investigators and volunteer information. In many cases, their decision to cooperate is based, in part, on their belief that their identity or the details of their cooperation will not be publicly disclosed.

Moreover, disclosing specific investigative steps taken in the PMA matter could compromise any ongoing criminal investigations; harm the ability of the Committee to investigate any additional allegations of wrongdoing in this or related matters; discourage those who might bring credible allegations to the Committee in the future from doing so; and chill the voluntary cooperation of those called before the Committee in various investigations.

Prior to the House referral of the resolutions to the Committee, on February 26, 2010, the Committee unanimously voted to release a public report in the PMA matter. By a unanimous and bipartisan vote, the Committee concluded that, based upon the totality of current information gathered during a nine-month investigation, no House Member or employee violated provisions of the Code of Official Conduct or laws, rules, regulations, or other standards of conduct applicable to his or her conduct in the performance of his or her duties or the discharge of his or her responsibilities relating to proposed appropriations requests and activities of PMA.

In addition, we note that policy decisions—whether about the current appropriations process, including earmarks, or about the campaign finance system—are not within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Whether these policies should be changed is a subject that should be taken up in the appropriate venue.

The task before the Committee in the PMA matter was to determine whether House Mem-

bers and staff complied with the current law and House rules. In a unanimous and bipartisan manner, the Committee concluded the evidence presently before the Committee merited dismissal of all seven matters. The Committee's action to date does not preclude future Committee action related to these matters should new information warranting action become available.

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HONORING JAMES E. LYNCH AND  
CARLION J. ELDRIDGE

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 26, 2010*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to illustrious Potentate Noble James E. Lynch and illustrious Commandress Daughter Carlion J. Eldridge as they are honored at the 2nd Annual Oman Temple/Oman Court Unity Ball on Saturday, May 1st in Saginaw Michigan.

James E. Lynch Graduated from Sophia High School in Sophia, West Virginia in 1966. He worked for General Motors Buick Motor Division for 39 years as a production worker. Married to the late Crystal Mae Johnson for 34 years, they had four children: Dawn, Felicia, Cassandra and James; and seven grandchildren. James has served as Junior Warden of the John W. Stevenson Lodge Number 56, as a member of the Saginaw Valley Consistory Number 71, and Illustrious Potentate of Oman Temple Number 72 for the year 2010.

Carlion J. Eldridge completed Charles Stewart Mott College Nursing Program and currently works at Maplewood Manor in Clio, Michigan serving the elderly. She is married to James F. Eldridge and their children are: Portia, David, Jamille, Isaac, Laetrile, Lakshea, Lovell, and Victor. The Oman Temple Number 72 has bestowed the title of Illustrious Commandress Daughter on her for this year.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the charity, enthusiasm and dedication of these two individuals. I pray their year of service to Oman Temple is a tremendous success.

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IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN ROBERT R. O'BRIEN JR., COMMANDER OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD SECTOR NEW YORK

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 26, 2010*

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Captain Robert R. O'Brien Jr., Commander of the United States Coast Guard Sector New York, on his 40 years of distinguished service.

After leaving a Roman Catholic seminary in 1970, Captain O'Brien chose to enlist in the United States Coast Guard. While enlisted, he served on the USCGC *Laurel* before joining Group Fort Macon as a small boat coxswain.

In 1976, he was assigned as Officer-in-Charge of the USCGC *Blackberry* at Oak Island, North Carolina. Upon his promotion to Chief Boatswain's Mate in 1979, he was transferred to the largest Aid-to-Navigation Team in the Atlantic Area as the Officer-in-Charge. In 1980, he was again promoted to Chief Warrant Officer as the Commanding Officer of the Aid-to-Navigation Team for the Long Island Sound where he worked to ensure the safety of all nautical vessels by maintaining the integrity of the Long Island Sound's navigation systems.

Captain O'Brien received his commission as Lieutenant in 1983. In 1999, he was assigned to the Marine Safety Office in Memphis, Tennessee as the Commanding Officer. He left for Washington, DC in 2002 to serve as the Coast Guard Liaison to the Navy's Military Sealift Command where he performed a dual role as direct representative of the NMSC and staff member of G-MOC. In 2003, he was promoted to Captain and assumed command of the Marine Safety Office in Hampton Roads before becoming commander of the Sector Hampton Roads in 2005. On June 15, 2006, Captain O'Brien became Commander of Sector New York making him responsible for missions such as search and rescue, law enforcement, maintenance of Aids-to-Navigation, and ship inspections. Most importantly, he worked each and every day to ensure the safety and security of the port and citizens of New York.

Throughout his career, Captain O'Brien has diligently upheld his commitment to the Coast Guardsman's Creed. He is the recipient of multiple Meritorious Service Medals, Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbons. He also holds the Coast Guard Cutterman, Surfman, and Coxswain pins as well as the Officer-in-Charge Afloat, Officer-in-Charge Ashore, and Command Ashore insignias.

For 40 years, his leadership and commitment to the Coast Guard have helped to preserve the safety of our Nation's shores.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating Captain O'Brien on his long and venerable service in the United States Coast Guard.

ON THE OCCASION OF SERGEANT JENNIFER EVITTS' TRANSFER FROM THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS LIAISON OFFICE

**HON. GENE TAYLOR**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 26, 2010*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to Sergeant Jennifer Evitts, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of her transfer from the liaison office. I, and many other members of this chamber, have had the pleasure of working with her over the past three years that she has served as part of Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs and as the Congressional Liaison Non-Commissioned Officer of the U.S.M.C. Liaison Office in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sergeant Evitts distinguished herself through exceptional meritorious service while

serving as the Non-Commissioned Officer of Legislative Affairs. Every day she served in direct support of not only the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs but in direct support of every member of Congress, every Marine and every American. Her keen abilities in organization, interpersonal relationships, and communication were extremely critical to the successful accomplishment of the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs' mission. Her achievements and ability to get the job done have been understated but always effective and noteworthy. While serving in the Liaison office, Sergeant Evitts was able to develop and execute legislative strategy for the United States Marine Corps that was instrumental in creating a fiscal and policy landscape conducive to training and equipping the Nation's most elite fighting force, ensuring their success on the battlefield. She routinely turned broad guidance into action which energized the Office of Legislative Affairs and members of Congress alike. Her actions allowed the Marine Corps to engage members of Congress and their staffs, directly facilitating the increased emphasis on improving Congressional relationships—a cornerstone of CMC's strategic vision.

The Marine Corps House of Representatives Liaison Office that Sergeant Evitts leaves behind is functional and responsive, highly integrated, and favors a proactive legislative strategy. While leading the House Liaison Office through the extraordinary challenges associated with Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and the ongoing Global War on Terror, she concurrently ensured that a myriad of daily Congressional communications, taskings and events were executed flawlessly. During Sgt. Evitts' four years as the Non-Commissioned Officer, she accomplished the full spectrum of the Marine Corps' legislative mission. She exemplified the candor and knowledge that we have come to expect from the Marine Corps and she played a key role in maintaining superb relationships between the Marine Corps and the House of Representatives.

Throughout her tour, Sgt. Evitts effectively responded to several thousand congressional inquiries, many of which gained national level attention. During her time on Capitol Hill, Sgt. Evitts successfully planned, coordinated and escorted over 50 international and domestic Congressional and Staff Delegations. Her detailed coordination with foreign government officials, U.S. State Department, and senior military officials ensured that each delegation was conducted professionally. Her attention to detail and anticipation of requirements allowed Representatives to focus on fact-finding and glean new insights that informed critical decisions to support the people of the United States. Due to her professionalism, dedication and keen knowledge, Sgt. Evitts became the most sought after military escort for delegations conducting Congressional travel. The time she has spent supporting Members of the House has been truly noteworthy. She has made lasting contributions to the House of Representatives.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4,

1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 28

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine a national assessment of energy policies, focusing on significant achievements since the 1970s and an examination of U.S. energy policies and goals in the coming decades.

SD-124

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Joshua Gotbaum, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and Eduardo M. Ochoa, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Postsecondary Education.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2010", S. 2782, to provide personal jurisdiction in causes of action against contractors of the United States performing contracts abroad with respect to members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees of the United States, and United States citizen employees of companies performing work for the United States in connection with contractor activities, S. 3167, to amend title 13 of the United States Code to provide for a 5-year term of office for the Director of the Census and to provide for authority and duties of the Director and Deputy Director of the Census, S. 3249, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the predisaster hazard mitigation program and for other purposes, S. 3196, to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to provide that certain transition services shall be available to eligible candidates before the general election, H.R. 1454, to provide for the issuance of a Multi-national Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp, H.R. 1345, to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate the discriminatory treatment of