

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the legislative week of Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

For Tuesday, May 4, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 243 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1307), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 244 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1213), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 245 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1132).

For Wednesday, May 5, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 246 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1320), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 247 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1272), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 248 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1301).

For Thursday, May 6, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote No. 249 (on agreeing to H. Res. 1329, providing for consideration of H.R. 5019), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 250 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1295), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 251 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to HR. 1722), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 252 (on agreeing to the Barton amendment to H.R. 5019), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 253 (on agreeing to the Burgess amendment to H.R. 5019), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 254 (on motion to recommit H.R. 5019 with instructions), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 255 (on passage of H.R. 5019).

RECOGNIZING THE VISION OF JOHN W. WEEKS AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I am on the floor today acknowledging the upcoming 100th year anniversary of the passage of the Weeks Act, a significant conservation achievement in the history of the United States. John W. Weeks, a Republican Congressman from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was relentless in his efforts to pass this legislation, which authorized the federal purchase of cutover and denuded forestlands in the headwaters of navigable streams for the purpose of conserving the flow of streams and rivers and to restore lands for future timber production. Despite a fierce two year battle, Rep. Weeks was successful and the Weeks Act cleared Congress on March 1, 1911.

At the turn of the 19th century, vast amounts of private forested land in the eastern United States had been ravaged by clear cut logging. In the absence of trees, vast areas of the East were prone to flooding and soil ero-

sion, as well as destructive forest fires. No longer productive, these lands were often abandoned and came into state and local ownership for nonpayment of taxes. To bring these lands back from the ecological brink, Rep. John Weeks introduced legislation directing the federal government to relieve state and local governments from managing these lands and restore them to their former condition.

Today 26 eastern states are home to 52 National Forests encompassing almost 25 million acres. These forests provide significant economic benefits. Not only are the forests recreational sanctuaries, they are also a major contributor in keeping America's drinking water clean. Many eastern municipal water supplies depend on National Forest watersheds and currently \$450 billion in food and fiber, manufactured goods, and tourism depends on clean water and healthy watersheds. In addition, the timber supply managed by the Forest Service provides a significant monetary benefit. The timber resource was almost nonexistent when the federal government purchased the land, but today these lands host an estimated 42 billion cubic feet of growing stock and about 210 billion board feet of saw timber.

With this resolution we recognize and commemorate the vision of John W. Weeks and his contribution to the conservation effort. Both Republicans and Democrats recognized the importance of federal government in conserving the forests and the water supply for long term environmental goals. Today I encourage both Congress and the Forest Service to begin preparing a centennial celebration commemorating this major bipartisan accomplishment. Our 52 National Forests in 26 eastern states may never have existed if the Weeks Act of 1911 had not been passed.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KATYN MASSACRE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre, when Soviet forces executed nearly 25,000 Polish military personnel and civilians including 4,443 military officers in the spring of 1940.

In September, 1939, the Soviet Union invaded eastern Poland and imprisoned nearly 5,000 Polish military personnel. Polish officers were separated by the Soviet NKVD, the precursor to the KGB. The officers were systematically lined up, shot in the back, and buried in the Katyn forest near Smolensk. Thousands more Polish soldiers and civilians were taken to other sites to be killed.

In 1990, Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev publicly admitted that the Soviet NKVD had ordered the execution of up to 25,000 Polish military members and citizens. Gorbachev's admission was a first step toward reconciliation between Poland and Russia; a process that continues to progress today.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join in remembrance of the 70th anniversary of the tragedy that became known as the Katyn Massacre. As the people of Poland and Russia continue the work of reconciliation, we must support their efforts and continue to work toward diplomacy and peace. Together, we can create a world where nations rely on the principles of diplomacy and peace to resolve conflicts.

AL BASHIR EXECUTES MARTIAL LAW TO SILENCE EL-FASHER UNITY: US AND UN UNSPOKEN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues an article which ran last week reporting that Sudan's leader, the internationally indicted war criminal, Bashir, declared martial law inside El-Fasher, Darfur.

What's remarkable is the headline: Al-Bashir Executes Martial Law to Silence El Fasher Unity: US and UN Unspoken.

Silence in the face of martial law?

Once again, I urge this administration to find its voice on Sudan.

[From Salem-News.com, May 4, 2010]

AL-BASHIR EXECUTES MARTIAL LAW TO SILENCE EL FASHER UNITY: US AND UN UNSPOKEN

(By Alysha Atma)

"I know there are many good, compassionate people in this world, who will listen to us and help us"—Mohammed Yahya

(EL FASHER/PORTLAND)—"Martial Law has been declared inside El Fasher, Darfur. We have to stay in our homes; the Police and Government Army are searching house to house looking for people, cell phones, cameras and pictures," a source on the ground there tells Salem-News.com.

All communications have been severed, "They are going to cut the network, no email or cell phones. We will not be able to communicate with anyone. We don't know how long this will last."

The International Superpowers—US Government and China, have all given their silent approval in support of the Genocidal President of Sudan. Omar Al-Bashir is a wanted war criminal who ran, and won the recent, rigged and fraudulent elections. By standing silent the US Government has allowed a continued reign of terror to besiege the people of Sudan. The US government has chosen its path, to stand with the Sudanese President while he targets the people and strips them from their land, families and often their lives.

The last several days have seen the tensions and terror increase inside the state of Darfur; bombings, clashes and protests have left many dead, injured or displaced.

According to sources on the ground, this was to be expected, with information beginning to leak its way out of Darfur and their voices coming together in unity. The government (GoS) is trouncing hard on the people of El Fasher. Those inside report that the government is not only stopping all communication they are confiscating cell phones, cameras and computers in an effort to ebb the flow of information leaving the state.

Sources say to brace for more to happen, there have been too many to count, arrested and beaten. Many of those being taken are the same that stood in strength and protested against the government's horror and deception.

2 May 2010 in El Fasher, also known as Al Fashir

The GoS Ponzi scam that was earlier reported not only stole money from the hard working Darfuri's but also allowed the GoS to compile a list of names and addresses. This list is not being used not to repay those that the government owes money, but to target with violence and harassment. Many on this list have already been taken away or arrested; reports indicate they are being sent to Shalla prison.

"Shalla is a very bad, terrible place".

We previously reported over 300 people were arrested in the two days following the protest.

Our source says, "Over 100 arrested today and still arresting more based on the governor's order this evening."

Sources indicate this may be a very long lockdown; they cannot leave their homes and the market has been shut down. A majority of people inside El Fasher do not have running water and rely on every day trips to the market to feed their families.

"How are we going to survive if we can't get food and water, we can't last a week? If we leave our homes we are arrested or killed."

Omar Al-Bashir has been known in the past to use starvation as a weapon of war. The goal and ideology has been consistent within this government; to clear Darfur of its people.

"They can do anything that they want and get away with it, anything beyond your imagination, that is what they can do," Reporter Mohammed Yahya said.

Oil, gold, copper and uranium are all found in ground of Darfur. Omar Al-Bashir's actions suggest that the Sudanese people are dispensable; wipe out the people and the land is his, this equals money. He has successfully managed to wipe out over 80% of the villages. El Fasher is one of the largest towns in Darfur with a population of over 250,000, how many will survive?

The citizens of El Fasher no longer having anything to lose; with no other direction and with many facing death or imprisonment, the U.S. and UN still stand silent. Their hope is for world to hear them and not allow another hundred people to disappear into Shalla prison today and thousands to starve while Al-Bashir smiles for the camera during his re-election photos.

Mohammed Yahya said, "I know there are many good, compassionate people in this world, who will listen to us and help us."

HONORING KEVIN DOWLING

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kevin Dowling, who is retiring from the Hayward, California City Council after 26 years of public service. Over the course of his career, he has served on many Council commissions and intergovernmental agencies, including the Hayward Economic Development Committee, City Council Commercial Center,

Hayward Youth Commission, Hayward Economic Development Committee, and the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Agency.

Mr. Dowling has been a Hayward resident since 1962. He received his high school diploma from Moreau Catholic High School in 1980 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Santa Clara University in 1984.

Before becoming a council member for the city of Hayward, Mr. Dowling served as an aide to Alameda County Supervisors Gail Steele and Alice Lai-Bitker. He was Alumni Director for Moreau Catholic High School and Development Director for Eden Information and Referral. He serves as Development Director for the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Leandro.

Mr. Dowling has been a vital part of many projects in the city of Hayward, including downtown redevelopment and neighborhood improvements. His leadership and exemplary public service have made an impact in Hayward and beyond.

He is retiring from the City Council at the end of his term on July 13, 2010. I join the city of Hayward in expressing appreciation for his many years of public service.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,926,785,477,772.98.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,288,359,731,479.18 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING MR. JOSEPH RIHEL

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the tireless service of Joseph Rihel as a dedicated volunteer for the Glen Burnie VA Outpatient Clinic. To salute his service, Mr. Rihel was awarded the 2009 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the Veterans Advisory Council for Maryland's 2nd District.

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have dedicated themselves to protecting the lives of every American. Their service to our Nation deserves the highest level of gratitude. It is important that we take the time to recognize the individuals who give of their time and talents to support veterans and ensure their comfort, care, and well-being.

A retired Baltimore City firefighter and reservist in the U.S. Navy, Mr. Rihel continues to serve his county and community as a volunteer at the Glen Burnie VA Outpatient Clinic. Mr. Rihel has driven more than 20,000 miles transporting veterans to their clinic appointments and back home. To date, he has given more than 1,700 hours of volunteer time to the Disabled American Veterans Transportation.

Time and again, Mr. Rihel has gone above and beyond expectations. When an illness disrupted the regular driving schedule, he worked overtime to keep the office moving. After a major snow fall, he cleared the snow off the vans, then moved them to a snow-free area so that Veteran patients and other drivers could access them safely. Mr. Rihel's colleagues describe him as "phenomenal."

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. Joseph Rihel. His compassion and dedication to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces are an inspiration to us all, and are deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. Joseph Rihel on his exemplary service as an advocate and a volunteer.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF RICHARD SMALLWOOD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Richard Smallwood, a beloved husband, father and friend who lived life with a sense of joy.

Mr. Smallwood served in the Seabees division of the U.S. Navy. After his service he met and married the love of his life, Donna Reese. Together, he and Donna raised their six children with an abundance of love and devotion. He instilled within them a positive attitude, a strong work ethic, and an unwavering commitment to family and service. He worked for many years at Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, the City of Parma Recreation Department, and he also ran a family business; a gift store called the Treasure Isle.

A modest man, Mr. Smallwood never sought the spotlight, but his volunteer work did not go unnoticed. He was honored numerous times by the City of Parma and other organizations for his efforts. Mr. Smallwood was an active member and leader within many community organizations and initiatives, including Proud of Parma, the Parma Chamber of Commerce, the Parma Amateur Athletic Association, and the Parma Rib and Rock. He was also an avid softball and volleyball player and enjoyed traveling.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Richard Smallwood, a man who will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. I offer my condolences to his wife of 41 years, Donna; to his children, Dave, Terri, Scott, Bruce, Vicki and Sherri; to his daughters-in-law, Barb, Karen and Mary; to his sons-in-law, Ken, John and Bob; to his 21 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren; and to his extended family members and numerous friends.