

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FAST-TRACK AUTHORITY

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America states: "Congress has the power to lay and collect . . . Duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations." Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States of America states: "Treaties with foreign governments shall be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Senate." However, over time, Congress has given away its Constitutional authority and responsibilities to the Executive Branch.

Take fast-track authority, for example. Fast-track proponents claim that this legislative authority is needed to expedite the negotiating process as well as consideration of the implementing legislation through the establishment of deadlines for various legislative stages, a prohibition on amendments, a limit on debate, and a requirement for an up-or-down vote. There are several myths and untruths associated with this argument, however.

The big myth is that the President needs fast track to negotiate trade agreements. The President already has the Constitutional power to conduct foreign affairs and negotiate international trade agreements. However, because Congress must approve any changes to U.S. law that result from trade agreements, fast track proponents purport that fast track is needed to strengthen the President's stance during trade negotiations and expedite consideration of the implementing legislation. The truth is, the President needs fast track so he can ignore the opinions of the vast majority of Members of Congress.

Fast-track authority, in theory, protects Congress from the delegation of Constitutional authority through the notifications and consultations the President must provide to Congress prior to, and during, trade negotiations. In practice, however, Congress has handed over its Constitutional powers on a silver platter. The President has ignored the directives of large minorities in Congress regarding environmental protection, labor standards and American jobs, then bought the votes of a few with personal promises to gain the simple majority needed for passage.

The fact is, the archetype fast-track legislative authority was designed to give the President additional authority to negotiate customs classifications only. Experience has shown item-by-item consideration of the tariff schedule by Congress to be an arduous process, so the President was granted the ability to negotiate the small points. The bottom line is, the original fast-track was never intended to grant the President the broad authority over a vast array of non-tariff issues he enjoys today.

Another myth claims that fast-track process is needed not only to negotiate, but to simply get the trade agreement through the legislative

process. Converse to popular thought, however, the fast-track procedure has rarely been implemented. Over 200 trade agreements have been enacted without fast track authority while only five trade agreements have been enacted under this procedure.

Clearly, fast-track authority has digressed from the original intentions of Congress. The President now has broad authority, while Members' hands are tied. Consultations are with a privileged few and merely a formality for the body as a whole. I have introduced legislation to authenticate fast-track legislative authority.

The Trade Act of 1974 recognizes the fast track mechanism as an "exercise of the rule-making power of the House . . ." and maintains the "constitutional right of either House to change its rules at any time, in the same manner and to the same extent as any other rule of the House." In other words, the House may change its rules as it sees fit. The erosion of fast-track legislative intent is more than enough reason for the House to change its rules.

The legislation, H. Res. 497, amends the rules of the House to require a two-thirds majority vote on any legislation that either authorizes the President to enter into a trade agreement that is implemented pursuant to fast-track procedures, or that implements a trade agreement pursuant to such procedures. By requiring a two-thirds vote rather than a simple majority, the President will no longer be able to ignore the concerns of the vast majority of Members during negotiations and sweeten the agreement later. Trade agreements will take a consensus of both the legislative and executive branches to negotiate—a constitutionally sound solution of which the Founding Fathers would be proud.

TRIBUTE TO BILL WILLIAMS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. FARR. of California Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Bill Williams, soldier, civil servant and civic leader. Bill was born in Newburgh, New York. Mr. Williams passed away this past May. He began his military career in 1943 at the age of twenty and retired from the military, after serving for twenty years and in many capacities, as a highly decorated Major in 1963. Bill's decorations included two Bronze Stars with the "V" Device, two Purple Hearts, a Combat Infantry Badge, service ribbons for the Normandy Invasion, and five Battle Stars for his service in Europe and Korea.

Upon his retirement from the military, Bill began his second career which lasted another twenty years. He applied the knowledge he had gained as a Training Company Commander while in the Army to his peacetime job in the field of Personnel Management.

During those years, Bill also applied his leadership skills as an officer in service clubs

and veterans organizations. Bill was a life member of the Monterey Peninsula Kiwanis Club, including duties as Lieutenant Governor. He also held leadership posts in many of the other organizations of which he was a member: the Monterey Chapter of the Retired Officers Association, The Northern Military Order of the Purple Heart, The Northern California Region of TROA, The Masonic Liberty Lodge No. 70 of Paris France, and, The Pacific Grove Masonic Lodge No. 331.

I knew Bill as an active advocate for veterans. He kept me advised of matters of concern to the retired military community in the Fort Ord area. Bill vigorously pursued a site for a Veterans Cemetery on the grounds of the decommissioned Fort Ord. I greatly appreciated the work he did as a veteran's liaison in my Monterey office.

Bill leaves a loving wife of 49 years, Maria; his four daughters: Ginger, Debi, Kate and Elaine; and four grandchildren. We will all remember Bill as a fine example of leadership for his nation.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREATER COOPER AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH IN WEST OAKLAND

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate the Greater Cooper African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church on its 100th anniversary of missionary and community involvement in West Oakland held July 11, 1998. The church, which in 1897 had its humble beginnings on Campbell Street, moved to Union Street in 1929 and is presently located since 1940 at 1429 Myrtle Street, one block west of Market Street amongst the beautiful Victorians of Old Oakland.

Many Bay Area residents will recall the years during and after World War II when Greater Cooper's membership grew to more than 500 as many servicemen passing through the area made Cooper Zion their church home. In the 1950's and 1960's, under the leadership of Rev. G. Lynwood Fauntleroy, Greater Cooper shared a music and radio ministry. Fond memories come with thoughts of their renowned Cathedral Choir, which graced the airwaves with their melodious renditions of anthems and spirituals.

Through the years this fine church has reached out to all segments of the community through summer youth programs, childcare centers, senior citizens' programs, food ministries for the less fortunate, and a mentoring program for young boys.

The current pastor, the Reverend John A. Harrison, Jr., has the honor of heading this centennial celebration. Since November of 1997, the Greater Cooper has sponsored

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

workshops, praise and worship services, and other ongoing activities to pronounce their joy in being blessed with such a long and rich history.

Together with the Greater Cooper A.M.E. Zion Church, I salute the great multitude of lay persons, those great men and women of Zion whose faith, prayers, and courage have sustained the church through economic struggles, and have helped to secure a permanent place of worship for its posterity.

It is significant that our community recognizes an important stable partner in our society that provides for the betterment and improvement in the quality of life, not only for its members, but the community and neighborhood they are situated. The Greater Cooper A.M.E. Zion Church has been that stable pillar and encouraged by its leadership and members, and it will continue to be a relevant contributor in the 21st century.

MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO
AMEND TITLE TEN, UNITED
STATES CODE RELATIVE TO THE
COMPENSATION OF RETIRED
MILITARY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for printing in the RECORD:

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND SENATE RESOLUTION
98-2995

Whereas, American servicemen and women have dedicated their careers to protect the rights we all enjoy; and

Whereas, Career military personnel endured hardships, privation, the threat of death, disability and long separations from their families in service to our country; and

Whereas, Integral to the success of our military forces are those soldiers and sailors who have made a career of defending our great nation in peace and war from the revolutionary war to present day; and

Whereas, There exists a gross inequity in the federal statutes that denies disabled career military equal rights to receive Veterans Administration disability compensation concurrent with receipt of earned military retired pay; and

Whereas, Legislation has been introduced in the United States Congress to remedy this inequity applicable to career military dating back to the nineteenth century; and

Whereas, The injustice concerns those veterans who are both retired with a minimum of 20 years, are denied concurrent receipt of hard earned military longevity retirement pay and Veterans Administration awards for service connected with disability; and

Whereas, Career military earn retirement benefits based on longevity of twenty years for honorable and faithful service and rank at time of retirement; and

Whereas, Veterans administered compensations serve a different purpose from longevity retired pay and are intended to compensate for pain, suffering, disfigurement, chemicals, wound injuries and a loss of earning ability and have a minimum requirement of 90 days of active duty; and

Whereas, The prevailing idea that military retirement pay is "free" is false. There is a contribution to retirement pay, which is calculated to reduce military base pay and re-

tirement pay by approximately seven percent when pay and allowances are computed and approved by Congress; and

Whereas, Traditionally, a career military person receives a lower pay and retirement than his or her civilian counterpart and has invested a life of hardships and long hours without the benefit of overtime pay and lack of freedom of expression through the unions; and

Whereas, The Veterans Administration awards dependents allowances to disabled veterans with a thirty percent (30%) disability or more for each dependent, which allowances are increased with the amount of disability; and

Whereas, The Department of Defense deducts the entire amounts of dependents allowance, essentially leaving the disabled military retiree with no dependents allowance and that extends the discrimination to the families of military longevity retirees; and

Whereas, It is unfair to require disabled military retirees to fund their own Veterans Administration compensation by deductions on a dollar for dollar basis in the Department of Defense; and

Whereas, No such deduction applies to similarly situated federal civil service or Congressional retirement benefits to receive Veterans Administration compensation; and

Whereas, A statutory change is necessary to correct this injustice and discrimination in order to insure that America's commitment to national and international goals be matched by the same allegiance to those who sacrificed on behalf of those goals; now therefore be it

Resolved, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby urges the United States Congress to amend title ten, United States Code relating to the compensation of retired military, permitting concurrent receipt of military retired pay and Veterans Administration compensation, including dependents allowances; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, Secretary of Defense, Senate Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Congress, Speaker of the House, Committee Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee and Veterans Affairs Committee, House Committee Chairman, National Security and Veterans Affairs Committee, and each member of the Rhode Island Delegation to Congress.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LOU AND
MORT ZIEVE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 22, the Institute of Human Relations of the American Jewish Committee will present its Distinguished Community Service Award to two indeed distinguished citizens of Michigan, Mary Lou Simons Zieve and Mort Zieve.

Each has followed their own very busy and highly successful careers in the world of communication. No matter how intensive those challenges, they always have found time to participate in a diverse range of community activities. In quite a few of these, I have been privileged to participate with one or both of them or to see them in action. The result of

their efforts have always been impressive and have benefitted thousands of fellow or sister citizens.

Mary Lou Zieve's broad community activities have included: President of the Detroit Historical Society (since 1994); honorary Life Member of the Karmanos Cancer Institute Board of Trustees; Chair of the Advisory Board of Wayne State University Press; a member of the Boards of the Greater Detroit Interfaith Round Table, the Michigan Historical Center Foundation in Lansing, Eton Academy and many others. She was producer of the Detroit area Jerry Lewis Telethon for five years, president of the Detroit chapter of American Federation of Television and Radio Artists; and founder and president of the Jewish Ensemble Theatre.

Mort Zieve's public endeavors have included: key publicity undertakings for the Michigan Opera Theatre and board member for 25 years; director of two productions at the Jewish Ensemble Theatre; Co-Chair of Detroit's Official Annual Birthday Party; and on the Mayor's Committee to structure the 300th birthday of the City in 2001. Mort Zieve has also received the Humanity in Arts Award for Musical at Wayne State University.

Mary Lou and Mort Zieve have been honored by the Karmanos Cancer Institute. In addition, Mary Lou has received the Leonard N. Simons History award from the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan and the Distinguished Alumna Award from Kingswood School Cranbrook.

It is my privilege to salute my distinguished fellow Michiganders and good friends on the receipt of a recognition so well deserved.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MARINI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a confectioner, Joseph Marini, Senior, who delighted our towns-people and provided fond memories to generations of beach goers. Mr. Marini passed away this past spring.

The mouth-watering treats in his sweet shops included traditional salt water taffy, spun on a vintage machine that has mesmerized young visitors since 1922. Mr. Marini devised candy dipped fruit, with cinnamon or cherry coatings, as well as chocolate flavors. Cotton candy was another popular item especially with the trick or treaters who visited Mr. Marini at his home on Halloween. Eventually, when the throngs of children numbered over 1200, the giveaway was discontinued. Many a vacation will be remembered by the aroma of caramel corn that wafted along the Beach Boardwalk.

As central as his business was to the life of the Santa Cruz community, Joseph Marini made another contribution. He imbued countless young high school students with life-long values, by employing them, instructing them with clear guidance, and providing a living example with his own matchless work ethic. This training came from a man who was known for mischief and pranks when a youngster himself. His conversion came when his father, who started the business, brought his 10-year old son into the shop to help. It took a special