

TRIBUTE TO BOBBIE BYRD

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bobbie Byrd on the occasion of her 100th Birthday. The event will be celebrated on August 1, 1998.

Bobbie Byrd was born in Linden, Tennessee on August 1, 1898. She spent the first 35 years of her life performing the rugged chores of farm life with her family. After marriage to Hurshell M. Byrd, she moved to Fresno, California.

Bobbie Byrd's grandfather fought in the Civil War, and her brother J.E. Marvin served in the U.S. Navy during World War I. Her husband, H. M. Byrd, was in the Naval battle at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. After her husband was discharged from the United States Navy because of wounds he received in the battle in the South Pacific theatre, Mrs. Byrd and family moved to Richmond, California. There the entire family worked hard to support the war effort in the U.S. Navy ships yards. Bobbie Byrd played the role of babysitter for several children so that family members could work to build ships in support of the national defense.

At the end of World War II, the Byrd family returned to Fresno and Mrs. Byrd's time was completely occupied with caring for her family and installing in them a value system which formed a strong family and therefore a strong nation. She is still a vital part of her family which includes two granddaughters and four great grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Bobbie Byrd on her 100th birthday. Mrs. Byrd's dedication to her family and her country serve as a great role model for all Americans. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Byrd best wishes for the future.

IN HONOR OF PIPEFITTERS LOCAL UNION #120

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Pipefitters Local Union, #120, in Cleveland, Ohio. After one hundred years in existence, the union still successfully protects the lives, health, and honor of its members and their families.

Since its beginning, Pipefitters Local Union #120 has worked to defend its members' rights by advocating reasonable working hours, higher pay, and increased job security. After WWII, the union was one of the first locals to champion the novel idea of incorporating more apprenticeships and training programs in their field. This promising idea resulted in literally tens of thousands of new talented Americans becoming apprentice pipefitters. Having witnessed the day-to-day hard work and dedication to their craft, it is clear to me that members of the Pipefitters Local Union #120 bring skills, training and integrity to every job.

As technology has changed, pipefitters have used new methods and materials, meeting de-

mands for safer and more efficient systems. Pipefitters bring the technology to ensure safety, improve health, and protect lives to each new home or office in Cleveland. Pipefitters Local #120 is responsible for parts in the heating, air conditioning and fire safety systems in Cuyahoga County, and its four surrounding counties. Every day, every citizen of northeast Ohio is touched by the good work of this union local.

Currently, Pipefitters Local #120 is working on many new and exciting projects, such as Cleveland's new football stadium, NASA, and renovations at the Cleveland Clinic and Cleveland Hopkins Airport. Their mark is surely being left on the Greater Cleveland area, and I applaud them for the contributions they make to the local community.

After a century, Pipefitters Local still stands strong, prepared and willing to meet the challenges that await. One hundred years of hard work surely deserves recognition, and I wish the men and women of Pipefitters Local Union #120 the best in the years to come.

We owe them a debt of gratitude.

MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION FUNDING

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to oppose the proposed amendment by Rep. Roemer, eliminating the funding for an International Space Station (ISS). The funding for this project has undergone a thorough investigation and found to be justifiable. Having developed much of the hardware that is needed for the ISS, it is senseless to eliminate the funding that would have allowed NASA to utilize this hardware. As we debate this amendment, the hardware for the first three flights are awaiting a launch in Florida.

Each NASA launch brings a tremendous amount of research benefits back to our country. Medical research done in space, and technology developed for astronauts by NASA, have substantially benefited medical care here on Earth. NASA's research has led to the development of a voice activated wheelchair for paralyzed patients who cannot control a chair manually. Symptoms that arise from diseases such as multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, and spina bifida, have been improved due to a custom-made cooling suit used in astronaut space suits. Modern methods of examining breast tissue, without a surgical biopsy, can be attributed to NASA, as well as Ultrasound scanners that play a key role in diagnosing the treatment of severe burns.

We often take for granted information that is available to us on a regular basis because of NASA and space exploration. Accurate weather reports of severe storms, down to the exact time a high or low pressure system will hit a certain locale, are derived from the Barorator, a tool developed for the Space Shuttle. Alternative farming methods such as hydroponics are worked on in space because of the potential uses on and off of the orbiters.

The desire for renewable energy methods has become more prevalent around the world. Solar energy, through a photo-voltaic power system, was developed for various spacecraft

applications. This system has been used to supply power to isolated villages, communication systems, various military systems, and a variety of other services in areas where no conventional power source exists. This photo-voltaic system is constantly being improved.

Aside from these practical medical and social benefits to the ISS, there is a clear political benefit. It serves as a force to unify all of the space-faring nations of the world. The International Space Station is the largest scientific cooperative program in history, bringing together 16 nations, thus providing international commercial opportunities for the United States. It would become a serious problem for the United States to withdraw from their commitment to the Space Station. It would cost a significant amount of money, almost a billion dollars, just to terminate the program contracts.

An independent cost evaluation team went through a detailed, exact investigation of the ISS program. This Cost Assessment and Validation Task Force praised the ISS management team because of its resourceful methods of managing the challenges associated with an international partnership of this magnitude.

There is so much empirical evidence that the benefits from space exploration outweigh the costs. Cutting future funding would not just be a sheer waste of hardware already developed, but a huge waste of potential as well. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to celebrate our space work and applaud NASA's efforts by voting against the Roemer amendment.

CONGRATULATING THE JESUITS OF THE MISSOURI PROVINCE

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jesuits of the Missouri Province as they celebrate the 175th anniversary of the arrival of Jesuits to the St. Louis area. It is a true privilege for me to recognize the many important accomplishments and achievements which have marked the Jesuit presence in the St. Louis area and throughout the entire Midwest.

In May of 1823, a small group of Belgian Jesuits completed their journey from Maryland to St. Louis, to take possession of a farm given to them by the Bishop of the Territory, William Louis Valentine DuBourg. They had originally come here to assist Bishop DuBourg in the establishment of an Indian School, an effort which was endorsed by President Monroe and Indian Commissioner General William. Although the Indian School proved to be an unsuccessful venture, the school was converted into the St. Stanislaus Seminary and would train young Jesuits until 1968.

In 1840, the Jesuit brothers and priests began work on a permanent structure made of limestone. This structure, known as the "Rock Building," still stands today and is the current home of the Jesuit Museum. The Jesuit Museum houses memorabilia of numerous Jesuits who have lived there since 1823. One of the more famous residents of the site was Father Peter John DeSmet, who served as a missionary with many Indian tribes in the

plains and northwest. Among his many accomplishments, was a detailed map he provided the U.S. Department of the Interior indicating the location of various Indian tribes. Other famous Jesuits include Fr. Peter Verhaegen who became president of St. Louis University, and Fr. John Elet, who also served as president of St. Louis University and was the founder of Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Countless other Jesuits of the Missouri Province have made a lasting impact in this region by serving as missionaries and founding a number of parishes in the lower Missouri River Valley. Little did that small group of Jesuits realize that their arrival in 1823, would lead to the expansion of the Jesuit presence throughout the Midwest.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the Jesuits of the Missouri Province on their 175th anniversary in St. Louis. I also ask that you join me in thanking them for their countless contributions to this region. Their efforts are truly an inspiration and source of pride for all residents of Missouri.

MR. RONALD A. BELFIGLIO'S
RETIREMENT FROM CITIBANK

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the vital contributions to New York City made by Mr. Ronald A. Belfiglio throughout his distinguished career with Citibank. Mr. Belfiglio is today celebrating his retirement from the position of Division Executive for Citibank's Corporate Realty Services.

As the head of the Corporate Realty Services Division, Mr. Belfiglio was responsible for 2,500 office and branch locations in 33 countries, in-house architectural, engineering and construction supervision, acquisition and divestiture of space, long range space planning, oversight of 900 employees, and an operations and capital budget totaling over \$3.5 billion.

It is through Ronald Belfiglio's vision and leadership that Citibank continues to be a model corporate citizen. The budget of the Corporate Realty Services Division allowed for all the amenities and services provided to the community in the eight years since Citibank's Court Square headquarters has been in existence. These amenities include the construction of a Public Library in Citibank's Court Square building, art exhibition space, as well as providing a welcoming environment at Citibank for the Queens community.

Further, because of Mr. Belfiglio's concern for Court Square's neighbors, Citibank has provided generous grants to various community and civic organizations. In fact, since 1989, over \$500,000 in grants has been given to neighborhood organizations within my Congressional District's local Community Planning Board #2.

It is with gratitude that I rise today to recognize Mr. Belfiglio's distinguished career and indispensable contributions to the Queens' community. His leadership and awareness have ensured that Citibank's Court Square is not simply an impersonal corporate center, but a vital part of and generous contributor to the surrounding community.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Ronald Belfiglio on his outstanding achievements and wishing him well on his retirement.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE CHILD CARE
AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to allow agencies to use their salary and expense accounts to help federal employees pay for child care. Balancing work and family has become increasingly difficult for families, and federal employees are no exception.

My legislation will provide opportunities for federal agencies to help provide quality child care for their employees' children. The legislation I am introducing today will be marked up in the Civil Service subcommittee, on which I serve, on Tuesday, July 21, and in the Government Reform and Oversight Committee on Thursday, July 23.

I have worked with the Office of Personnel Management to develop this legislation. Several agencies, including the Social Security Administration, Department of Justice, Department of Defense, and the Office of Personnel Management, have requested such authority from OPM. OPM cannot grant this authority; we must legislate this simple change.

This legislation does not require any additional appropriations. It would be up to individual agencies to determine whether or not to use funds from their salary and expense appropriations to help provide child care. Agencies—not employees—would make payments to child care providers to help lower-income federal employees pay for their child care.

Such child care benefits are already being provided to military employees—with a separate line item, which is more than my legislation would provide. The Department of Defense, one of the agencies seeking such the authority to help its employees with child care costs, has pointed out that they can provide child care benefits to their military employees but not the civil servants working side by side.

Many federal employees are caught in a serious child care crunch. A recent study showed that one-quarter of all federal workers had children under the age of six needing care at some time during the work day. During a recent hearing in Congressman Steve Horn's subcommittee, testimony revealed that some federal child care facilities charge up to \$10,000 or more per child per year. Many federal employees simply cannot afford quality child care. By allowing agencies the flexibility to help their workers meet their child care needs, we will be encouraging family-friendly workplaces and higher productivity. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to help federal employees and agencies meet their child care needs.

SONNY BONO MEMORIAL SALTON
SEA RECLAMATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I fully support the restoration of the Salton Sea and have worked with my colleagues for some time in furtherance of that goal. I am a co-sponsor of this bill, the Sonny Bono Salton Sea Reclamation Act, and when it was introduced I had hoped that we could proceed quickly in a bipartisan effort to produce a bill that all Members of the House could support. The introduced bill had provisions I was not happy with, but in the spirit of compromise I went along, believing that it could be improved as it moved through the Resources Committee. Obviously, that has not happened. In fact, the bill has picked up more contention, leaving us with much work to do to resolve the differences of opinion about how we should proceed to restore this unique and valuable ecosystem.

I would like to highlight the fact that despite the differences that have been discussed, there is much we agree upon. At the start of this Congress, there were few Members who had ever heard of the Salton Sea. Now, thanks to the efforts of our departed colleague, Representative Sonny Bono, and the other Members of the Salton Sea Task Force, Congress is aware, not only of its location, but of its catastrophic problems.

I believe we have a unanimous bipartisan commitment to address the Salton Sea's problems. We all went to see the Salton Sea restored and maintained as a viable ecosystem which enhances the quality of life for the residents of southern California and which supports a diversity of economic activity in this region. Our challenge is to work together to achieve that goal.

The Salton Sea is a valuable national and international resource. It is an important resting and feeding area for birds migrating along the Pacific flyway. It once supported a vibrant recreational economy. It is, can be, and should be much more than a receptacle for agricultural runoff and for polluted New and Alamo River water.

While there are those who have been aware for some time that the Sea was in trouble, there has been a failure to act. The death of migratory birds and repeated fish-kills has brought national attention to this issue. If we continue our present policy of no action, I fear the bird and fish deaths will be but a few of the negative environmental consequences that will become apparent to all of us.

One of those negative consequences, in a slightly longer time frame, will result from the export of conserved agricultural water to urban users, and the treatment and re-use by Mexico of water now flowing across the U.S.-Mexico border which may cause the Salton Sea to shrink by as much as one quarter. This will expose a hundred square miles or more of highly polluted sea bottom to blowing winds, as has already happened in the very similar case of Owen's Lake. The cost of mitigating the environmental damage resulting from such decrease in area of the sea could easily reach 100 million dollars per year, far more than the