

TRIBUTE TO CARL SMITH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Henry David Thoreau once said, "[T]he death of friends will inspire us as much as their lives. . . . Their memories will be encrusted over with the sublime and pleasing thoughts, as monuments of other men are overgrown with moss; for our friends have no place in the graveyard." Carl Smith was such a friend to the citizens of Harris County, and we should memorialize him in our thoughts today for his tireless work and remarkable dedication.

As the Tax Assessor-Collector of Harris County, Texas, Mr. Smith advocated tax exemptions for deserving members of society such as Senior Citizens and the Disabled. He also strove to pass the four-year term bill.

An astute member of the government, Mr. Smith drafted necessary legislation that provided a pension system for elected County and District Officials. In addition, he obtained the requisite support for the Constitutional Amendment that also provided a pension for County and District Officials.

Carl Smith's value to the Harris County community was not limited to his post as Tax Assessor-Collector. He somehow found the time and resolve to hold other public roles of equal worth. Such endeavors included his positions as the Past President of the Tax Assessor-Collector's Association of Texas, the Past President of the International Association of Assessing Officers, a member of the Texas Association of Assessing Officers, and a former member of the Tax Assessor Examiners Board of Texas.

Carl Smith's exemplary service has not gone unrecognized. He has received a citation for Meritorious Service by the President's Committee on the Employment of Physically Handicapped and an award for Meritorious Achievement by the Houston Committee for Employment of the Physically Handicapped. In 1990, Mr. Smith was named "Governmental Employer of the Year" by the Harris County Commission for the Employment of Disabled Persons. He also was the recipient of "The Book of Golden Deeds" Award by the Exchange Club of Houston.

We should not overlook the fact that Carl Smith was not only a sagacious Tax Assessor-Collector, but he was also a knowledgeable academic and legal authority. Mr. Smith studied night school at the University of Houston Law School and South Texas, and he passed the bar in 1934 upon his graduation. Eventually, he would serve a great many years as Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee of the statewide County Assessor's Association. He also was a member of the Texas State Bar Association and the Houston Bar Association.

As I stand here before you to eulogize Carl Smith, I am reminded of his ingenuity and creativity, as well as his dedication to the taxpayers. In an effort to provide greater convenience for the taxpayers, as a newly-appointed Tax Collector-Assessor, Mr. Smith established sub-stations and branch offices throughout Harris County. He was the first Tax Collector-Assessor to have substations issue license plates and voter registrations. Moreover, he al-

lowed taxpayers to handle homestead exemptions by mail.

In Matthew 5, it is written, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Carl Smith's light still shines, even now. And we should bask in the memory of his accomplishments.

Carl Smith revolutionized the operations of the Harris County Tax Office. The office now works as an efficient, yet cordial entity, and it will serve as Mr. Smith's continuing legacy.

I offer my sincerest condolences to Mr. Smith's family and friends. We will miss his wisdom and his honorable achievements. But we will never forget him.

**APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 4060, ENERGY AND WATER
DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1999**

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, this motion is an attempt to obstruct an effort to redress some of the most abject poverty and living conditions of people living in rural Alaska. The motion makes no sense whatsoever, unless proponents are contending the federal government has no role to play in fostering public works projects and initiatives to improve the life of our rural areas.

Many communities in Alaska, most of which are Native villages, do not have public works projects such as those taken for granted by most communities in other states. The proposed commission will complement Alaska's ongoing work to alleviate the nearly Third World conditions brought on by the absence of basic infrastructure, such as modern water and sewage treatment or safe and environmentally sound bulk fuel storage.

Because of the magnitude of the problem—unsafe water, lack of modern sewage treatment, infant mortality, alcoholism, suicide, lack of job opportunity—a commission chartered by Congress will advance efforts to grant a shimmer of hope to those who know only hopelessness in these rural areas.

Let me offer just one example of why the Denali Commission is necessary. Forty percent of rural Alaska lacks flush toilets. Residents of these areas literally haul raw human waste in honeybuckets and dump them in a community lagoon sometimes leading to outbreaks of viral meningitis. Americans should not be living in these conditions in this day and age.

These problems have not been ignored by any stretch of the imagination: Congress and the State of Alaska have been cooperating for several years to devote resources to correcting these problems. However, these efforts have the effect of a "scattershot" approach to solving a \$1 billion problem. The Denali Commission is a single entity that can bring a unified direction and approach needed for some of the poorest areas of the country.

There has been a lot of talk on the Floor about how generous the government has been to Alaska. In fact, it has not been very generous. Many of the funds Alaska receives are in

defense programs, which serve a national as opposed to parochial purpose. It must also be recalled that when Alaska was made a statehood, it had to forego the benefit of reclamation projects such as those found in the lower 48. In addition, the federal government owns and controls two-thirds of Alaska's lands, but has awfully slow to show rural Alaskans any benefit this had brought them.

For these reasons, the Denali Commission is justified, necessary, and vital to the well-being of Alaska's rural people.

CONTINUING OUTRAGES IN BURMA

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage about the treatment of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi by the corrupt and repressive Burmese military junta. For six days this week Daw Suu sat inside her car in the middle of a highway in a defiant stand-off with the ruling junta because they refused to let her meet with members of her political party. Yesterday, the military ended the stand-off by forcibly taking her to her home in Rangoon.

This is the third time in recent weeks that the military has attempted to stop Daw Suu from meeting with supporters. Once again, the Burmese military has shown that there is no length to which it will not go to suppress the forces of democracy and freedom inside Burma. This ongoing campaign of harassment of Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy has again focused attention on the plight of the Burmese people. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me today in standing with our fellow duly-elected representatives in Burma and join their call to take their rightful places in parliament. The Burmese people have been denied their rights for too long. The time is now for freedom, democracy and human rights to come to Burma.

I submit the attached editorial from the Washington Post, July 29, 1998, to be included in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, July 29, 1998]

BURMA'S DESPERATE GENERALS

Since last Friday a seemingly frail but spiritually indomitable woman has been blockaded inside her car on a rural highway in Burma. Aung San Suu Kyi, 53, rightful leader of her Southeast Asian nation, had set out from her home in the capital to meet with a political supporter in the provinces. But the general-thugs who have hijacked the leadership of Burma, fearing her popularity and the serene certainty with which she battles for democracy, have blocked the road. They refuse to let her move forward, and Aung San Suu Kyi—insisting on her right to travel and meet with colleagues—refuses to go back.

She would no doubt be surprised to learn, then, if the message could reach her isolated vehicle, that she "is not a captive." This is one of the contentions of the junta's representative to Washington in a letter to the editor published on this page today. It is no surprise that the letter is full of half-truths about the extent of her freedom, the ability of foreign diplomats and journalists to visit her and so forth (yes, she could leave the country, but the thugs would undoubtedly

prevent her return). Nor is it new that the generals vilify her in personal terms; back home, in the domestic press they totally control, they have called this devout Buddhist mother "deranged," a "modern-day ogress" and a sexual predator.

What is interesting is the desperation reflected in their decision to bring their slanderous campaign overseas. Interesting, but again not surprising, for the generals have driven their country (which they call Myanmar) virtually into the ground. What was once one of Asia's most promising nations, rich in natural resources and blessed with an educated and hard-working population, is a disaster, with an average annual income of maybe \$200 to \$300 per person. Universities are shuttered because the rulers fear their own students. The junta can buy the services of public relations firms in Washington and the loyalty of U.S. oil and timber companies eager for contracts, but it knows that it has no legitimacy at home.

This is true above all because Burma conducted an election in 1990, and Aung San Suu Kyi won. Although she was already under house arrest at the time, her National League for Democracy won four out of every five parliamentary seats. Most people in Burma, in other words, apparently did not deem her a "disgruntled housewife," nor was her marriage to an Englishman considered a stain on her character. It is the generals, refusing to honor the election results, who can be accused of "coveting power at all costs."

Remarkably, though, despite nearly a decade of confinement and harassment, of seeing her colleagues imprisoned and tortured, sometimes to death, Aung San Suu Kyi has never returned the insults. Consistently, she calls for dialogue and compromise; contrary to the ambassador's letter, she insists only on the rule of law. Now, in keeping with that principle, she is calling for the true parliament to be convened by Aug. 21. Alone in her sun-baked vehicle on that country road, she is in the right, and she deserves support for her campaign.

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE RESTRUCTURING ACT OF 1998

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Immigration and Naturalization Service Restructuring Act of 1998, which contains provisions to implement dramatic and fundamental reforms within the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Significant management weaknesses, poor services, overlapping organizational relationships, and inadequate border control are problems that have plagued the INS for many years. Many Members and their office staffs receive calls daily from constituents unable to get assistance with immigration related problems from their local INS' office. We need to change the way the INS does business.

After careful consideration of all pending restructuring proposals, I believe the proposal offered by INS is the best alternative. This bill will untangle the INS' overlapping and confusing organizational structure and replace it with two clear organizational chains of command—one to accomplish its enforcement mission and the other to provide immigration related services. Key provisions of the bill would: ef-

fect an operational split between enforcement and services which would result in distinct, clear lines of authority from the field and headquarters, with the INS Commissioner continuing to be responsible for overall agency operations; eliminate the current field structure in which district offices serve both enforcement and service functions and replace it with separate enforcement and service offices that bring an appropriate mix of staff and skills to local service caseloads and enforcement needs; improve the quality of the workforce by creating separate enforcement and service career paths for INS employees to allow the best employees to move up the ladder and be rewarded for high performance; restructure management operations to ensure effective "shared services" operations for records and data management, technological support, training and administrative support, that will serve both the enforcement and service sides of the agency; and establish a Chief Financial Officer to improve financial, accounting and budget systems.

The overall mission of immigration is best served by coordinating benefits and enforcement in a single entity like the INS. Both benefits and enforcement are critical components to enforcing effectively our immigration laws. This bill sets forth a structure for the INS to improve the Nation's immigration system.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die . . ."

For Officer Jacob Joseph (J.J.) Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson, the time to die came too soon. These two brave men sacrificed their lives so that others might live. Our Nation will never forget their acts of bravery and courage.

On behalf of all the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District of New Jersey, I express our sadness and grief to the families of these two heroes. While words cannot mend their broken hearts, our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Officer Chestnut, Detective Gibson, you showed us what courage really is. God Bless You and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations—OSI. On Saturday, August 1 of this year, OSI will celebrate its golden anniversary as the investigative arm of the United

States Air Force. OSI was established at the suggestion of Congress in 1948 by Secretary of the Air Force Stuart Symington, who consolidated and centralized the investigative services of the new Air Force to ensure a capability for independent and objective criminal investigations. The OSI of today is charged with a varied and complex mission that includes conducting criminal and fraud investigations, protecting our air forces from terrorism and espionage, hunting down military fugitives and tracking people who hack into Air Force computer systems.

Although OSI has adapted to meet the changing needs of the Air Force, there has never been a change in the fundamental nature of the organization—an independent, high performance investigative agency, key and indispensable to the Air Force. The modern OSI is made up of more than 2,000 people operating from over 150 offices throughout the U.S. and in over a dozen countries overseas—basically, wherever you find Air Force interests or resources.

Over the past half century, OSI has played a central role in the history of the Air Force. It was the OSI commander in Korea who first alerted General MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo of the North Korean invasion in June, 1950. During the 1960's and early 1970's, OSI gathered early warning threat information on sabotage and surprise attack in support of air base defense in Vietnam. As terrorism became a household word in the 1970's, OSI responded with investigative tools and programs that enhanced the protection of Air Force people and resources. In 1978, OSI became the first organization in the federal government to establish a computer crime program. OSI's counterintelligence efforts contributed to the victory in the Cold War by identifying and neutralizing foreign intelligence operations targeting the American Air Force.

There will be many new challenges in the next 50 years. For instance, the U.S. military is beginning to feel the impact of the cyber-threat and earlier this year the Pentagon tapped OSI to run the Defense Department's computer forensic training and laboratory programs. Also, the terrorists of the 21st century will be more deadly and OSI will be faced with the need to help protect an air and space force that will be committed to going anywhere in the world, anytime.

A legacy of service, integrity and excellence marches on today in the footsteps of the 11,000 men and women who have served in the OSI, including two members of the 105th Congress, myself and my honorable colleague, Senator ARLEN SPECTER. Mr. Chairman, it is with a great deal of pride that the Air Force OSI celebrates its fiftieth anniversary and remembers its motto: "Preserving our legacy, protecting the future."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STUDENTS OF THE BEECHWOOD SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a group of pre-kindergartners who are on their way to educational achievement in the