

due to an illness in my family. I received an official leave of absence from the Majority Leader in this regard.

However, had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner on the following legislation:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1998

H.R. 3494—Child Protection and Sexual Predator Punishment Act: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendments (Roll Call No. 521) Aye.

H. Con. Res. 350—Calling Upon the President to Respond to the Significant Increase in Steel Imports: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree (Roll Call No. 522) Aye.

S. 2095—National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended (Roll Call No. 523) Aye.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1998

H. Res. 494—Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives that the U.S. has enjoyed the loyalty of the U.S. citizens of Guam: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree (Roll Call No. 524) Aye.

S. 1364—Federal Reports Elimination Act of 1998: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended (Roll Call No. 525) Aye.

H.R. 4756—The Year 2000 Preparedness Act of 1998: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended (Roll Call No. 526) Aye.

S. 1754—The Health Professions Education Partnership Act: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended (Roll Call No. 527) Aye.

S. 1260—The Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Conference Report (Roll Call No. 528) Aye.

S. 1722—The Women's Health Research and Prevention Amendments: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (Roll Call No. 529) Aye.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1998

H.R. 3963—Sell Canyon Ferry Reservoir Cabins: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended (Roll Call No. 530) Aye.

H.R. 559—Add Bronchiolo-Alveolar Carcinoma to Service-connected Diseases: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (Roll Call No. 531) Aye.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1998

H. Res. 598—Steel Imports: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (Roll Call No. 532) Aye.

S. 1733—To require the Commissioner of Social Security and Food Stamp Agencies to take certain actions to ensure that food stamp coupons are not issued for deceased individuals: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (Roll Call No. 533) Aye.

S. 2133—To preserve the cultural resources of Route 66 Corridor: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (Roll Call No. 534) Aye.

S. 1132—Bandelier National Monument Administrative Improvement and Watershed Protection Act: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass (Roll Call No. 535) Aye.

HONORING REV. DR. RICHARD H. DIXON, JR.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to tender my congratulations to a man of the cloth who has served his congregation at the Macedonia Baptist Church for forty years.

The Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr. has accomplished much for his church in those

decades. He was one of four children born to the late Rev. Richard and Beulah Dixon. He received his Doctor of Divinity degree from the University of Detroit and is a candidate for a doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary.

During his years at Macedonia Baptist, the church built a 75-unit Senior Citizen Complex, purchased the Macedonia Community Center, established the Collin Allen Day Care Center, and formed the church credit union which has helped congregants to buy homes and send their children to school.

He and his wife, Earnestine Wright Dixon, have three children and four grandchildren. Mrs. Dixon has also served her community faithfully and well. She has served as an officer of four separate PTAs, is currently president of the Church Women United, and is a member of the Board for Mount Vernon Council of Churches.

The Rev. Dixon is also someone I have had a close and growing relationship with over the past years. I consider him a friend and advisor. He has graciously invited me to his home and I was delighted to have attended family events.

The depth of the contribution these two wonderful people have made to their community can hardly be measured. I join the church and the city in congratulating Rev. Dr. Dixon for his forty years of giving.

HONORING HMONG AND LAO COMBAT VETERANS

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, during this 105th Congress, I was honored to join many of my colleagues, as well as other distinguished U.S. officials, in participating in the first national recognition ceremony to honor the valor and sacrifice of Hmong and Lao combat veterans in the Vietnam War.

Many people from my home state of Minnesota, and from around the nation, organized and participated in the important events, which were held at the Vietnam War Memorial and the Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank a number of people from Minnesota and across the United States who made the national events honoring the Hmong veterans possible, including Major General Vang Pao, Colonel Wangyee Vang, Chertzong Vang, Chong Bee Vang, Ying Vang and Philip Smith.

Over a thousand Hmong veterans and their families traveled from Minnesota to Washington, DC, to participate in this historic ceremony.

I am proud that two of the largest Hmong non-profit organizations serving their communities in Minnesota, the Lao Family Community of Minnesota, Inc. and the Lao Veterans of America organization, played a leadership role in organizing and participating in this unprecedented event. They have helped bring long-overdue honor and recognition to the Hmong and Lao veterans and their families, as well as to educate policy makers and the American people about the critical wartime sacrifices of the Hmong and Lao combat veterans.

William Branigin from the Washington Post wrote an important article about the event that I would like to insert into the RECORD. (insert: Washington Post article Thursday, May 15, 1997).

Mr. Speaker, once again, I heartily applaud these distinguished Hmong and Lao combat veterans for their sacrifices.

RECOGNIZING U.S. ALLIES IN 'SECRET WAR'— 'LONG OVERDUE' HONORS GO TO HMONG, LAO VETS

Twenty-two years ago this month, the predominantly Hmong recruits of America's "secret war" in Laos began a protracted and painful exodus from their homeland as communist forces seized power.

Yesterday, some 3,000 Hmong and Lao veterans and their families gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to receive congressional recognition for the first time, and then marched across the Potomac to commemorate their fateful crossing of the Mekong River into permanent exile.

Clad in jungle camouflage fatigues, flight suits and other uniforms, the veterans stood in formation on the Mall as speakers ranging from serving members of Congress to retired CIA station chiefs paid tribute to their courage and sacrifice in unsung service of the United States. Among those in attendance were former Special Forces officers, pilots of the top-secret Ravens unit and civilian officials from the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations.

It was a day of what a congressional commendation described as "long overdue recognition" of the CIA-funded army's role in protecting sensitive U.S. installations, rescuing downed American pilots and holding off tens of thousands of North Vietnamese troops who might otherwise have been thrown into combat against U.S. forces.

But it was also a day of atonement for the United States. For in honoring the ethnic Hmong tribal people and Laotians who made up the bulk of the 40,000-member clandestine force, participants in the ceremony acknowledged that America had betrayed them, breaking long-standing promises and abandoning them to bloody reprisals by Lao and Vietnamese communist forces in which untold thousands died.

"There is a real feeling among many people who served there that the Hmong were betrayed," said Philip Smith, the Washington director of Lao Veterans of America, which represents about 40,000 Hmong and Lao veterans and family members. "Many commitments were made to them in the field that were then forgotten in Washington."

Among those who received the Vietnam Veterans National Medal and a congressional citation yesterday was Nor Pao Lor, a disabled 61-year-old Hmong who served in the secret army for 13 years and then spent four more years fighting in the jungles of Laos until forced to flee across the Mekong River to Thailand on a bamboo raft. He then spent eight years in a Thai refugee camp before being accepted for resettlement in the United States. He now lives in Wisconsin.

"We felt very sorry that maybe America forgot us," he said as he stood with a crutch near dozens of his disabled comrades. "It was very painful for us."

As a lieutenant in the army led by Gen. Vang Pao, who was also present yesterday, Nor Pao Lor was wounded three times while defending Lima Site 85, a top-secret U.S. base that was used to direct airstrikes against targets in North Vietnam. Described by historians as perhaps the most critical intelligence-gathering site in South-east Asia during the Vietnam War, Lima Site 85 was linked directly to the White House under President Lyndon B. Johnson until the base fell to North Vietnamese troops in 1968.

As Nor Pao Lor told his story, one of the event's speakers, Jane Hamilton-Merritt, who wrote a book called "Tragic Mountains: The Hmong, the Americans, and the Secret Wars for Laos," asked the assembled veterans how many of them had helped rescue a downed American pilot. Hundreds, including Nor Pao Lor, raised their hands.

After the ceremony on the Mall, the veterans marched across Memorial Bridge to Arlington National Cemetery, where they placed flowers on the grave of President John F. Kennedy. Nearby is a memorial that is to be dedicated today to "the U.S. Secret Army, Laos 1961-1973." In the Lao and Hmong languages, the plaque on the granite monument concludes, "You will never be forgotten."

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA, TO AMERICA'S SPACE PROGRAM

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a bittersweet moment in the history of the City of Downey in the 38th Congressional District of California. In ceremonies the National Aeronautics and Space Administration turned over to the City a 68-acre parcel of land that has been home to vital parts of our space programs for decades.

For Downey Mayor Gary McCaughan, other members of the City Council and all of us who know the long history of Downey with the American space program, this ceremony marks the end of one era and the opening of another. The buildings and shops at Downey produced the marvelous machines that took America to the moon and that still carry our astronauts into space to this day.

Over the span of the past 70 years, Downey has been the heart of our long national commitment to aviation, the exploration of space, and the advancement of our understanding of both the universe around us and the earth beneath us. Downey's contributions in excellent design, careful engineering, and extraordinary production skills were critical ingredients in the success of the Apollo, Skylab and Space Shuttle programs.

Now, NASA and The Boeing Company (which has operated the facility since buying it as part of the Rockwell Space Systems Division) will phase out of operations in Downey by the end of next year. The city has begun to move forward to meet the new challenges that lie ahead. Today's ceremony is an important part of this transition as NASA and the General Services Administration turn over 68 acres of federal land to the city for redevelopment so that Downey can create new jobs and new industries for the future.

Mr. Speaker, many people worked very hard to make today's ceremony possible. I want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN, in particular who provided unbelievable help in getting the Senate to agree to this land transfer. My friend and colleague, Congressman JERRY LEWIS, provided invaluable help in the House Appropriations Committee.

Many people at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the General Services Administration worked with us to make this land transfer a reality, and many

more at the Boeing Company are making this a smooth transition.

To Mayor McCaughan and other members of the City Council and City Manager Jerry Caton, I want to offer both my appreciation and my salute for the vision, leadership, and commitment they have demonstrated throughout this difficult process. There is no question that the phaseout of these high-skill jobs is a loss for Downey and our entire region, but I am confident that we can and will create new jobs, new products, and new services.

Our shared goal is not only to recover fully, but to prosper and grow with new economic development that will provide opportunities for generations to come. I remain committed to doing all I can do to help Downey succeed in the years ahead as the city redevelops this property. I also will do all I can to expedite transfer of the remaining land.

The key to Downey's future—as with the successes we honor from its past—is rooted in the vision and vigor of this wonderful community. On that score, we have much to celebrate and every reason to look forward with confidence.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, you always know when JOE KENNEDY has entered the room. There's a kind of hush, followed by a wave of heartfelt applause, and then you see it—the biggest, broadest smile in the United States Congress. A smile that lights up the room with inspiration.

For such a young man, the legislative track record JOE has accumulated is almost literally unbelievable. There is barely a consumer, human rights or housing reform that does not bear his name. From veterans health to industrial research-and-development, from Haitian democracy to MWRA water rates, it is difficult—even for me—to exaggerate the lasting significance of JOE'S work in this chamber. In combination with his private-sector contributions to low-income energy assistance, JOE KENNEDY virtually defines the phrase "public service".

As a newer member of this body, I know a good role model when I see it. And I know that this delegation, which is comprised of some of the most diligent members of the House, will do its very best to follow the roadmap that JOE KENNEDY has drawn for us.

JOE had big shoes to fill, when he arrived here 12 years ago. But like Yaz following Williams, people in and near Boston know something about stepping up to the plate. In their boxseats somewhere upstairs, Speaker O'Neill and President Kennedy are very proud that their successor has worked so hard to help craft public policy as sophisticated enough for investors on Wall Street—and as level-headed and compassionate as owners of three-deckers in Central Square.

When I learned of JOE'S intention to retire, my second reaction was how much we—his colleagues, in this delegation and in this House—will miss him. My first reaction was

how deeply JOE has earned the right to be closer to Beth and his sons. Nothing could conceivably be more important, and no one on the face of the earth could relish more the hours JOE can now spend away from Washington and with his family—with the possible exception of Alan Greenspan.

The best thing I can tell you, JOE, is—I'll see you at home.

A CRIMINAL STATE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, thanks to White House scandals and an impeachment inquiry preoccupying the attention of Americans, the poor performance of this administration on the affairs of state has been overshadowed. This incompetence has proven costly—in terms of human life in Bosnia and in terms of financial capital in places like Russia.

While the Clinton Administration and their allies at the International Monetary Fund, the IMF, would have you believe that Russia is merely experiencing the growing pains of a new market economy, nothing could be further from the truth. Instead, Russia has become a country run by thieves who respect none of the fundamental principles necessary for the establishment of a market economy. So money being poured into Russia by the IMF, courtesy of American taxpayers, is being heisted by criminals who buy, for example, chic real estate in France and a gambling casino in American Samoa.

To get the real story on Russia, I commend to the attention of my colleagues an article by Arnaud de Borchgrave from the September 28, 1998 edition of the Washington Times, entitled "Subsidizing the Kleptocracy." Mr. de Borchgrave points out that, contrary to the Clinton Administration and the IMF, Russia is not an emerging market economy and we deserve to know where all that foreign aid and IMF money is going.

SUBSIDIZING THE KLEPTOCRACY

The handwriting has been on the Kremlin's walls for the past seven years. The late great reporter Claire Sterling's best seller "Thieves World," published in 1994, documented the emergency of a criminally controlled Russian state—from top to bottom. But the U.S. national security establishment's Russian experts—Pied Pipped by Vice President Al Gore and Deputy Defense Secretary Strobe Talbott—not only walked by the wall looking the other way, but derided as "loose cannons" those who read the handwriting and took it seriously.

Four years ago, President Boris Yeltsin, in what sounded like a cry of despair, said Russia had become the world's "biggest mafia state ... the superpower of crime." He felt overwhelmed by the lethal mix of oligarchs, former intelligence and security officers, organized crime gangs, and corrupt Soviet-era bureaucrats who had hijacked Russia's transition from a communist command economy. Mr. Yeltsin has launched seven major crackdowns against organized crime in seven years—all to no avail. And a year ago, he told the upper house of parliament that "criminals have entered the political arena and are dictating our laws with the help of corrupt officials."