# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO BRUCE FARMER

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2006*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Bruce J. Farmer, Sr., a remarkable man who passed away on June 28. I also respectfully request unanimous consent to insert the printed version of a eulogy for Mr. Farmer.

Mr. Farmer, a resident of Galveston, Texas, was a husband, father of four sons, entrepreneur, and community leader. Mr. Farmer's career exemplifies the best features of American capitalism. Mr. Farmer was CEO of Farmer's Copper Ltd., which he founded in 1978 as Farmer's Copper and Industrial Supply. Under his leadership, Farmer's Copper Ltd. grew into one of the nation's largest privately owned copper and brass distributors, employing approximately 185 people in Galveston. Mr. Farmer began working in the metal fabrication business at the age of 14, when he went to work for Farmer's Marine Copper Works, an engineering and fabrication firm founded by his father and uncle. Mr. Farmer was also CEO of the Four Winds Investments and a director of Moody National Bank

Mr. Farmer first demonstrated his commitment to serving his community and country at the age of 16 when he enlisted in the U.S. Merchant Marines in order to serve his country at the height of World War II. Throughout his life, Mr. Farmer did not allow the demands of growing his business to distract him from becoming involved in various local and national organizations. For example, he served on the Methodist Foundation Board and on other boards of the Methodist Church. An avid outdoorsman who loved fishing, hunting, golfing, and skiing, Mr. Farmer also served as past President of the Galveston Propeller Club and received the Maritime Man of the Year award.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to pay tribute to this fine man, and I hope all my colleagues join me in sending my deepest condolences to his family. I hope Mr. Farmer's family is comforted by the knowledge that the whole community of Galveston joins them in mourning his passing.

''MY BELOVED SONS''

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

There's a feeling apart
In a father's heart
For his son.

A certain pride
Down deep inside
For this special one.

When there are two
Its twice come true
And life grows richer still.

A third little boy
Is a brand new joy,
And all seems perfect until;

You add one more
To make it four,
And life takes on a new zest,
To share life's joys
With four little boys
Is living at its best.

Bruce kept that poem in his desk at work. I think that says a lot about the man and his philosophy. His family was part of his work and his work was part of his family. I have had the honor and privilege of working with Bruce for the past twenty five years. Notice I said with and not for. No one worked for him.

Everyone at Farmer's Copper is part of a team, part of the family. We all knew that there was not a job Bruce could not do, would not do or had not done. He was a man that led by example.

Every morning he would make his rounds through the offices ostensibly to check on the staff and see how business was doing. The real reason was that he wanted to mooch hugs from all of the ladies.

Bruce would also make his rounds through the warehouse. He would stop in the different departments to see how the equipment was running, how the men were doing and what the day's workload looked like. He would offer his opinion or make a suggestion and then tell them to ''carry on''. Funny, I never remember him mooching hugs down there.

Bruce really valued his employees and truly treated them as family. There were dozens of times when he quietly and privately helped an employee through their personal tragedies and hardships. Me included.

He always kept his door open and would gladly listen to any employees concerns, complaints or suggestions. Bruce always had time to help.

Under his leadership, Farmer's Copper grew from a tiny almost afterthought division of Farmer's Marine into a leader of the metals industry. Farmer's Copper is known both nationally and internationally as the premier source for copper based metals.

His unique vision and courage to stay on the forefront of technological advances in both equipment and material is what makes us a leader today and for the last twenty five years.

His willingness to invest in equipment, inventory and especially people has assured our success. His boundless energy and ever present optimism inspired us all. During industry downturns when others saw troubles, Bruce found opportunity. When everyone else was in the dark, Bruce found the light. That is how in a volatile and cyclical industry we have always prospered.

On a personal note, I have lost one of my best friends, a fishing buddy and hunting partner. But most of all, I've lost my second father. I have known Bruce all of my life. The older we got, the closer we got. He meant more to me than words can say. And I know without a doubt that he felt the same towards me.

That's how it was with Bruce. When you were his friend, you felt it deep down in your heart. And if you were not his friend, that just meant that you had not met him yet.

I guess the highest honor he gave me was when I became a member of the ''Old Fart Hunting Club.'' Every year on the second weekend of deer season Bruce would round up the ''Old Farts'' and we head out to the Rock Island ranch.

This group consisted of Bruce's oldest and dearest friends. Members included Buddy Benson, Jimmy Regan, Bill Glenn, Gene Morris and of course the late Nat Pepper. There were dozens of other honorary members who attended through the years. You always knew that things would get exciting when Joe Cantini made the trip. And you always had make sure there was just a little bourbon for when Kenneth Nance would drop by.

Last year I was the only participant under retirement age that had not had a heart attack. The trips were exciting for me every year. Sitting around the fire or on the front porch with these guys have been some of the best times of my life. Listening to stories of their past: the obstacles faced, the friends lost and the achievements accomplished made me proud to be included. It also made me a better man. Of course some of the tails were pretty tall and then there was the always present practical jokes.

I think my favorite included Nat. Nat always enjoyed his Saturday night bath. As the story goes, one such night Bruce called out to Nat that he had drawn a bath for him. Nat thanked him and proceeded to the giant old cast iron, clawed foot tub. After he disrobed and prepared to enter the tub he saw it. A small bass swimming in circles trying to find its way out.

Bruce had caught the fish earlier and placed it in the tub. I don't know who was more shocked. Nat or the bass. Like the bass we must find our way now. Everyone here is a better person for having known Bruce. We as friends, family and coworkers must now ''carry on''.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2006*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes Nos. 360, 361, 362, and 363.

Rollcall vote No. 360 was on the ordering of the previous question. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

Rollcall vote No. 361 was on agreeing to the Berkley amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay.''

Rollcall vote No. 362 was on agreeing on the motion to recommit with instructions. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.''

Rollcall vote No. 363 was final passage of H.R. 4411. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

● This ''bullet'' symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

## INTERNET GAMBLING PROHIBITION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2006*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in opposition to H.R. 4411. Clearly, gambling on the internet has become an increasingly popular activity and lucrative business. It is estimated that the internet gambling market now exceeds $12 billion, and about $6 billion comes from U.S. bettors. It is estimated that there are now over 2,000 gambling websites. But is internet gambling a net plus or minus for society? That is the question that I hoped the hearings held by the Judiciary Committee on this legislation would answer. Regrettably, my questions have not been answered satisfactorily. Therefore, I cannot support the bill.

My concerns are four-fold.

First, this legislation attempts to clarify the Wire Act to prohibit not only sports betting, but traditional gambling such as online poker. The bill also attempts to updates the Wire Act to cover more Internet technologies, such as wireless infrastructures that increasingly make up the Internet. My concerns here Mr. Speaker is that factual record regarding the need for amending the Wire Act has not been demonstrated and, more important, we did not have the benefit of the views of senior prosecutors and Justice Department officials on the necessity of amending the Wire Act. I note that the DOJ representative who appeared before the subcommittee, Mr. Bruce Orr, is not a presidential appointee, was not authorized to speak for the Administration, and did not seem deeply immersed in the provisions of the bill. This lack of solid legislative-executive dialectic is sufficient in itself to hold the bill in subcommittee until a more reliable factual record is developed.

Second, I am also concerned that the carve-out for internet gambling on horseracing will place the United States at risk of being found in violation of trade laws by the World Trade Organization. The bill, as written, can be arguably characterized as disadvantaging European and Australian based internet gaming companies who would be excluded from the American market, while their American counterparts would not be excluded. Should the United States be found to have committed a trade violation, I am concerned that Europe and Australia will retaliate against American goods and services.

Third, Mr. Speaker I was very impressed with the testimony of Mr. Sam Vallandingham, Vice President, First State Bank, who testified on behalf of small independent community banks. Mr. Vallandingham testified before the Judiciary Committee, and I daresay with great knowledge and conviction, that financial institutions, especially relatively small ones like the ones he represents, to identify, monitor, and track internet gambling transactions of its account holders. Mr. Vallandingham informed the subcommittee that financial institutions simply did not possess the sophisticated detection technology that could make it conceivable to identify problematic accounts. Since the risk of violation of this bill is great (violation carries penal sanctions), it does not appear wise or prudent to impose this burden on small financial institutions.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not point an irony. Instead of providing minors with greater protections, this legislation threatens to make it much easier for minors to utilize the services of online gambling companies that operate across State lines. In addition, the legislation has the potential to generate a substantial increase in acts of money laundering and undoubtedly will expose various banks and Internet service providers to excessive liability and burdensome regulations.

According to the bill's lead sponsor, the gentleman from Virginia, one of the primary purposes behind the introduction of the bill was to stop online gambling from occurring. However, in its current form, the legislation only prohibits certain forms of online gambling while expressly permitting several other forms to proceed unfettered. Interestingly enough, these ''special interest carve-outs'' were the main focal point of a recent article in The Hill newspaper.

In that article, the key provisions in this bill were compared to a similar Internet gambling bill that had been introduced by the gentleman from Virginia and defeated in a previous Congress. The article determined that:

. . . The same Internet gambling legislation Abramoff fought so hard to defeat on behalf of a client that helped states conduct lotteries over the Internet now includes an exemption to protect those lotteries.

The article went on to point out that in addition to the exemption for lotteries, the bill also included language to protect wagering on interstate pari-mutuel betting on horse races from the scope of the bill's ban.

These blanketed exemptions are obviously the byproduct of powerful gambling interests and can be directly traced back to three particular provisions of the bill—sections 3, 5, and 6. Section 3, for example, includes language which expressly exempts gambling on intrastate sanctioned activities, such as lotteries.

All in all, Mr. Speaker, we can do better than what is reflected in this legislation. A bad bill is worse than no bill at all. We should retain the bill and continue working to improve it, if we can.

## TRIBUTE TO NASA ON SPACE SHUTTLE ''DISCOVERY'' MISSION

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2006*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a resolution commending the people of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for the latest mission of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. Successfully launched on July 4 this mission, known as STS–121, marks the second mission on the Return to Flight sequence. STS–121 originally was scheduled to perform just two space walks. However, due to the overall success of the launch, the mission was extended from 12 to 13 days, allowing for an additional space walk.

Among the other tasks that will be preformed on this mission are tests of shuttle safety improvements to build on findings from *Discovery*'s flight last year, including a redesign of the shuttle's external fuel tank's foam insulation, in-flight inspection of the shuttle's heat shield, improved imagery during launch and the ability to launch a shuttle rescue mission. The External Tank, which underwent work prior to the mission to reduce foam loss, performed well this time especially early in the flight when a light weight piece of foam could severely damage the tile or wing leading edge, but nothing like that happened this time. The five instances of foam loss that were experienced all occurred after the critical release time. The largest foam loss on the mission, which occurred in front of one of the ice/frost ramps on the external tank, was calculated to be .055 pounds. The mass limit in that area is .25 pounds, meaning that the loss was not even a quarter of the way to the limit. NASA is very pleased with the performance of the tank, as it is a great improvement from last year's STS–114 mission.

The STS–121 mission will also bolster the International Space Station by making a key repair and delivering more than 28,000 pounds of equipment and supplies, as well as adding a third crew member to the Space Station.

STS–121 is NASA's most photographed mission in shuttle history as more than 100 high definition, digital, video, and film cameras are helping to assess whether any debris comes off the external tank during the shuttle's launch, while four new video added to the solid rocket boosters.

Mr. Speaker, the success of STS–121 is a tribute to the skills and dedication of all NASA employees, especially the Space Shuttle *Discovery*'s crew of Colonel Steve Lindsey; Commander Mark Kelly; Piers Sellers, PhD; Lt. Colonel Mike Fossum; Commander Lisa Nowak; Stephanie Wilson; and Thomas Reiter.

What philosopher Ayn Rand wrote of the moon landing in 1969 applies to the STS–121 and all of NASA's missions: ''Think of what was required to achieve that mission: think of the unpitying effort; the merciless discipline; the courage; the responsibility of relying on one's judgment; the days, nights and years of unswerving dedication to a goal; the tension of the unbroken maintenance of a full, clear mental focus; and the honesty. It took the highest, sustained acts of virtue to create in reality what had only been dreamt of for millennia.'' I encourage all of my colleagues and all Americans to join me in commending NASA for completing STS–121 mission, and all of NASA's work.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2006*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Numbers 358 and 359.

Rollcall vote Number 358 was on agreeing to H.R. 2563, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''