

HONORING THE PEACE CORPS DURING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the important contributions of the Peace Corps during National Peace Corps Week.

President Kennedy's inspiring inaugural quote, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," sparked the establishment of the Peace Corps in 1961, and since then, almost 200,000 Americans have answered to this call to service.

For five decades, participants in the Peace Corps have made significant strides to advance the cause of peace and human progress in countries around the world. Just as important, these dedicated volunteers often continue making a difference in their local communities in the United States once they return home.

At the present time, almost 7,700 volunteers serve in 76 countries across the globe. They continue to work tirelessly to provide meaningful assistance to people in need, helping to improve the lives of our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.

The Peace Corps remains a strong symbol of our nation's commitment to service and progress. This program epitomizes the human desire to make a difference and the American spirit, rooted in a willingness to help improve the lives of others. I encourage my colleagues to take this opportunity to recognize the important and meaningful work of the Peace Corps, and I hope they will join me in commending the Peace Corps' achievements and commitment to service.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Tuesday, March 2, 2010, marked Texas Independence Day: 174 years ago, the Texas Declaration of Independence was ratified by the Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

This is an important day for Texas identity and patriotic Texans observe this occasion with great pride. If it were not for the Texas Primaries, I would have been on the floor, paying tribute to Texas Independence Day Tuesday.

In 1824, a military dictatorship took over in Mexico abolishing the Mexican constitution. The new military dictatorship refused to provide trial by jury, freedom of religion, public education for their citizens, and allowed the confiscation of firearms, this last one being the most intolerable, particularly among Texans.

The Texas Declaration of Independence states that Texas' government had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

It stated that because of the injustice of Santa Anna's tyrannical government, Texans were severing their connection with the Mexican nation and declaring themselves "a free, sovereign, and independent republic . . . fully invested with all the rights and attributes" that belong to independent nations; and a declaration that they "fearlessly and confidently" committed their decision to "the Supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations."

The Texas Declaration of Independence was fully justified because this military dictatorship had ceased to protect the lives, liberty, and property of the people of Texas.

Failure to provide these basic rights violated the sacred contract between a government and the people, and Texans did what we still do today—stand up for our rights by declaring our independence to the world.

In response, the Mexican army marched to Texas waging war on the land and the people, enforcing the decrees of a military dictatorship through brute force and without any democratic legitimacy.

As delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence at Washington-on-the-Brazos, General Santa Anna's army besieged independence forces at the Alamo in San Antonio.

Four days after the signing, the Alamo fell with her commander Lt. Colonel William Barrett Travis, Tennessee Congressman David Crockett, and approximately 200 other Texan defenders.

All these men were killed in action, a heroic sacrifice for Texan freedom. If this tragedy were not enough, later Santa Anna's army massacred over 300 unarmed Texans at Goliad on March 27.

In a dramatic turnaround, Texans achieved their independence several weeks later on April 21, 1836. Roughly 900 members of the Texan army overpowered a much larger Mexican army in a surprise attack at the Battle of San Jacinto.

That battle is memorialized along the San Jacinto River with the San Jacinto Monument in Texas in our district. The monument is larger than the Washington Monument here in DC.

Today we give thanks to the many Texans that sacrificed for the freedom we now enjoy. God bless Texas and God bless America.

PREVENTING HARMFUL RE- STRAINT AND SECLUSION IN SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Keeping All Students Safe Act, a commonsense measure to provide guidance for teachers and schools on the use of seclusion and restraints.

Last year, the Government Accountability Office found hundreds of cases of alleged abuse of seclusion and restraints, including cases that resulted in death. And while federal law provides minimum safety standards for the use of these interventions in hospitals and other facilities supported by federal dollars, there are no federal rules for public or private schools.

Today's bill sets basic standards and gives states 2 years to implement their own policies, procedures, monitoring, and enforcement systems to meet them. It provides grants to help train school staff and implement positive behavior support programs. And it increases transparency and oversight by requiring states, for the first time, to collect and report data annually to the Secretary of Education.

With these measures, we can ensure the safe learning environment that all our students deserve. I encourage my colleagues to join me and support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on March 3, 2010, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 78. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING LAS VEGAS CHAPTER 74 OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the National Association of Women in Construction, NAWIC, Las Vegas Chapter 74 for their representation of women in the construction industry.

Las Vegas Chapter 74 has been representing women in construction for 48 years.

The NAWIC Las Vegas Chapter 74 has benefited Southern Nevada through numerous educational and development programs.

The Las Vegas Chapter 74 has unceasingly promoted the employment and advancement of women in the construction industry.

The construction community, represented by the Las Vegas Chapter 74, has been a driving force in fostering community development through renovation and beautification projects, promotion of skilled trade careers, and a positive vision of the future.

They have sought to achieve successful results for Las Vegas and surrounding areas in a cooperative spirit with other organizations.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the Las Vegas Chapter 74 and their many dedicated volunteers for their steadfast work to support women in construction. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding organization.

HONORING JACK WALKER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack

Walker, a veteran of the Normandy campaign in northern France during World War II and beloved family man.

Mr. Walker was born on July 1, 1913 and grew up in Longview, Texas. He enlisted in the army in 1942 and reenlisted again in 1945. He served in northern France on the Normandy Campaign and received several citations and decorations including the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, a Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Ribbon, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Mr. Walker returned to Dallas, Texas after he left the military and gained employment at Southern Methodist University. He was widely regarded in the community for his cheerful nature and love for the United States and the United States Army. On June 4, 2004 he passed away, and he continues to be remembered with great affection by his family and friends.

Madam Speaker, America is stronger today because of the sacrifices of individuals like Jack Walker. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in recognizing the bravery of this man and honoring his service to our country.

HONORING MR. ROSS SZABO

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Mr. Ross Szabo, director of youth outreach for the National Mental Health Awareness Campaign. After 8 years with National Mental Health Awareness Campaign—as one of the leading young advocates for mental health education in the Nation—Ross will be leaving soon for Botswana to begin work with the Peace Corps.

The National Mental Health Awareness Campaign, launched following the 1999 White House Conference on Mental Health, is a nationwide public education initiative which seeks to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness. Ross joined the Campaign 8 years ago as a speaker for the youth campaign. Using his own story of bipolar illness, Ross' success as a motivational speaker has highlighted the importance of talking about mental illness, the effectiveness of treatment, and one's ability to live successfully managing the illness.

After taking over as director of youth outreach, Ross expanded the speakers' bureau, "The Heard," into the only peer-to-peer youth mental health speaker's bureau in the country. His leadership has encouraged more young people to share their stories through the Campaign, and has reached millions of students and adults in schools and military settings in 45 states. Although Ross has already trained the next generation of speakers so that this crucial outreach program is continued, his efforts will be sorely missed in the mental health community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ross Szabo for his leadership, dedication, and advocacy. I thank him for his service to our great Nation as he embarks on this next challenge.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDWARD BELL HIGH SCHOOL'S 1A BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the outstanding young athletes of Edward Bell High School in Camp Hill, Alabama, for winning the 1A Basketball State Championship. This is the first State Championship in school history for the Edward Bell Bears, and it was well deserved.

On February 25, the Bears held on to their lead over J.F. Shields for a thrilling 66–65 win. Coach Mitch Joiner and Assistant Coach Brownie Caldwell taught their fourth ranked Bears how to work together and strive under pressure. Both skills were put to the test throughout this season—and were proven successful in this final win.

All of us across Tallapoosa County and East Alabama are deeply proud of these young people for Edward Bell High School's first championship win. We congratulate them on this achievement.

OBAMACARE 2.0

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, from the townhalls of August to the voting booths in Massachusetts, the American people have spoken. The American people want health care reform, but they don't want a government takeover of health care.

And despite the president's latest polished pitch, ObamaCare 2.0 is still a government takeover of 1/6th of our economy—and the American people know it.

The latest version of ObamaCare is a government takeover because:

1. It will mandate private citizens purchase health care, whether they need it or want it.
2. It will cause millions of employers to cancel the health insurance they currently offer employees and force tens of millions of Americans into a government-run Exchange.
3. It will create a health care czar to impose price controls on private health insurance that will lead to shortages and force even more people into government-run care.

Mr. President, government mandates, government-run insurance and more government control is a government takeover of health care.

COMMENDING CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

SPEECH OF

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to express my support for H. Res.

1117, a resolution congratulating the California State University system on its 50th anniversary. Its Chico campus is located in the Northern California Congressional District I represent and provides residents of the North State with exceptional academic opportunities. In fact, 69 percent of students currently attending CSU Chico are from Northern California.

CSU Chico is a vital part of the community. It was established in 1887 and offers its 15,797 full-time students over 300 academic programs and 66 undergraduate majors. To better enrich the lives of its students, the university is home to almost 240 student organizations. Its commitment to academic excellence, coupled with the many opportunities it offers students, enable CSU Chico to produce informed and well-rounded individuals that contribute greatly to our local communities and the Nation.

I offer my congratulations to the entire CSU system on this noteworthy occasion, and wish it many more years of providing a high quality education to students from California and across our Nation.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate March 1–7, 2010, as National Peace Corps Week. On March 1, the Peace Corps celebrated its 49th anniversary, an impressive accomplishment.

Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, the Peace Corps has inspired nearly 200,000 Americans to volunteer their time to improve the lives of individuals in 76 countries across the globe. The Peace Corps has volunteers in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific Islands. There are 7,000 people currently serving in the Peace Corps, 18 of whom are from Virginia's 10th District.

The Peace Corps has a strong legacy of promoting peace through the efforts of these selfless volunteers. In particular, the agency has tasked its volunteers with working on initiatives dealing with education, business development, agriculture, information technology, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and the environment. These volunteer efforts have significantly improved the lives of countless people around the world.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating National Peace Corps Week and recognizing the nearly 200,000 people who have served their country and other communities overseas as Peace Corps volunteers.

HONORING G. RUSS TRIMBLE AND SOUTHWEST INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS, INC.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate