THANKS TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say thanks to the people of South Carolina, most especially those in the midlands area, for the tremendous outpouring of love and respect shown to victims of Katrina. And, I want to pay particular thanks to the Mayor of Columbia, Bob Coble; Columbia businessman, Sam Tenenbaum; Columbia Chamber of Commerce President, Ike McLeese; and the President of the University of South Carolina, Andrew Sorensen. This dynamic quartet decided that they would be guided from the beginning by the Golden Rule: ''Do unto others as we would have them do unto us.'' Consequently, they decided that nobody coming to Columbia would be placed in a shelter. Everybody would be put in motel rooms or in individual homes. We have just received word that we will be receiving additional evacuees tomorrow morning and I now call upon the people who will be manning our one-stop reception center to continue putting the Golden Rule into practice.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL DANIEL G. MONGEON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifetime commitment of service to the United States of America. On October 14th, 2005, Major General Daniel G. Mongeon of Alexandria, Virginia will retire after 34 years of dedicated service in the United States Army.

General Mongeon was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps through the Reserve Officers Training Corps program at the University of Arizona, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration and was designated a Distinguished Military Graduate. Thereafter he received his Master's degree in Logistics Management from the University of Arkansas. His military education includes the Quartermaster Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

After commissioning and initial training, his initial assignments included a posting as Logistics Officer for the United States Army Security Agency's Communication Unit at Camp Drake, Japan. From there he transferred in December 1972 to Camp Zama, Japan where he was Executive Officer for the U.S. Army Garrison and subsequently as Welfare/Sundry Funds Division Chief and Installation Club Manager.

From 1978 to 1984 he served as the Division Services Officer, Property Book Officer and finally Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, of the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Carson, Colorado. After completing graduate school he was transferred to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, United States Army. There he served initially as a Logistics Staff Officer and then as Assistant Executive Officer. He ended his tour on the Army Staff with an appointment as Military Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics.

In 1985 he was transferred to United States Army Europe and 7th Army where he was the S–3 (Operations) and later Executive Officer of the 203rd Forward Support Battalion. In July 1987 he was transferred to Headquarters 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) to be the Deputy G–4 (Logistics). In January 1988 he was selected for the position as Aide-de-Camp to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

In February of 1990 he assumed command of the Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Bliss, Texas. From there he deployed with his unit to Operation Desert Shield and the first Gulf War—Operation Desert Storm.

Following a year of study at the Army War College, he again transferred overseas to United States Army South and assumed command of the 41st Area Support Group in Panama. In July 1995 he returned to Washington and joined the Joint Staff, initially as Deputy Director for Logistics, Readiness, and Requirements and then as Executive Officer to the Director of Logistics J–4. In September of 1997 he was designated Special Assistant to the Director for Logistics, J–4.

He was promoted to rank of Brigadier General and assumed command of the Defense Logistics Agency's Defense Supply Center Philadelphia in 1998. From there he again returned to the Army Staff to be the Director of Sustainment in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. He was then transferred to Headquarters United States Army Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia to become the Deputy Chief of Staff, G–4. Major General Mongeon entered into his current assignment Director of Logistics Operation J–3, Defense Logistics Agency in October of 2003 where he has been able to bring his wealth of experience and singular talents to bear on solving some of the most intricate sustainment challenges faced by our nation's military establishment.

His tireless and selfless dedication to serving his country is represented by the many decorations he has earned including the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, two awards of the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

In closing I wish to commend General Mongeon for his many years of distinguished service to our nation, protecting our freedoms of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I wish him and his wife, Schele, Godspeed in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CLARA BARTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN GLEN ECHO

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Clara Barton National Historic Site in my Congressional District for being awarded accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

This honor is a national recognition of the museum's dedication to excellence in education and its high standards for public service and accountability. Out of the nearly 16,000 museums in the United States, only about 750, or 5 percent, are accredited.

Clara Barton is a responsible steward of public and private resources—cultural, physical, and financial—and is fulfilling its public trust responsibilities. It also plays a critical civic role as a center of learning and an educational resource for school children, teachers, and individuals of all ages.

Accredited status will increase Clara Barton's visibility—at the local and national levels—adding to the vibrancy of our community and improving our quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the Clara Barton National Historic Site's noteworthy achievement.

YANKEE FRUGALITY: ALTERNATIVE ENERGY WORKS—AND SAVES MONEY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to your attention, to the attention of the House, and to the attention of the Nation, the remarkable step forward made by the Washington Electric Co-operative in Vermont. This week they opened a new facility which produces electricity from methane, a gas formerly burned as a useless byproduct of the landfill in Coventry, VT. It is a wonderful example of Yankee inventiveness—and Yankee frugality.

The new facility, which costs a relatively modest $8.5 million, will produce enough electricity for one-third of the Washington co-op's customers, a percentage expected to rise to half when the plant is fully operational and tuned to take advantage of all the methane produced by decomposition in the landfill.

In a time of soaring energy and electricity prices, the co-op has not raised electricity prices for 5 years. Rates are not expected to rise in the next 5 years either, because the new powerplant operates economically and the electric utility makes good use of renewable energy certificates.

This is a wonderful lesson for the Nation, which is increasingly pressed by both shortages of fossil fuel and by soaring prices for energy of all sorts.

We need to find sources of alternative energy which can meet our needs for power. Contrary to what the large oil companies tell us, not only are such alternatives available

now, those alternatives are often far more economical than using fossil fuels.

Whether it is methane power, wind power, solar power, geothermal power, or the use of hydrogen fuel cells as an alternative to gasoline in cars, we must cut out dependence on foreign oil now. We will be better off environmentally, our national security will be enhanced, and—as the Washington co-op has so boldly demonstrated—we may well be better off economically as well.

In short, we need an energy revolution by breaking our dependence on fossil fuels. I am very, very confident our small State of Vermont will lead this. We will be noticed by not only the country but the world.

My congratulations to the Washington Electric Co-Op for showing America, with its new facility in Coventry, what can and should be done to make our energy sources secure and sustainable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, due to meetings during the series of votes on Thursday, September 15, I did not make it back to the House floor in time for the last vote (rollcall vote No. 475).

H. Res. 473 was to establish the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have votes ''yes'' to establish the hurricane commission.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 889, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2005

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, as a Member on the Coast Guard Subcommittee, I want to thank you and Ranking Member FILNER for your continued leadership in bringing this bill to the House floor today.

Year after year a select group of Members come to the Floor and sing the praises of the Coast Guard on how this agency continues to do more with less.

Recently, our Nation has witnessed what we have been addressing each year.

This month we witnessed just how vital the Coast Guard is to the safety and security of our country.

The Coast Guard was the only Federal agency that responded in the Gulf Coast States in a timely and efficient manner.

Here are the Search and Rescue numbers for the Coast Guard in response to Katrina: 24,132 lives saved to date; 33,537 lives saved or evacuated to date; 12,534 Cumulative lives saved by air resources; 11,598 Cumulative lives saved by surface resources; 9,405 Cumulated hospital evacuations.

Where would we be without the Coast Guard during the devastation of Hurricane Katrina?

As we speak here today—the Coast Guard continues to save lives. We must support them! We need more agencies like the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005 authorizes $8.7 billion for the Coast Guard and authorizes $1.6 billion for the Coast Guard's Deepwater program to replace aging ships and aircraft, and requires a new implementation plan.

This bill before us today is important—now more than ever. It is our obligation to provide the Coast Guard with the tools to heighten their service.

I will argue that we need to go further as a Congress and increase the appropriated funding for the Deepwater program. I hope that with the Coast Guard's strong showing in the gulf States during Katrina validates why the appropriations committee and the Administration should make a greater commitment to the Coast Guard and the Deepwater program this year by increasing funding for the program.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to reiterate a request for a joint port security hearing with the Coast Guard subcommittee and the Full Homeland Security Committee.

In the aftermath of Katrina, we are reminded just how much work needs to be done in coordinating with Federal and local agencies and emergency responders.

Our approach to port security is no different. The Coast Guard is responsible for securing the 95,000 coast lines that includes Great Lakes and inland waterways. This is our longest border. Given the miscommunication surrounding FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security and local and State emergency responders, a joint port security hearing is an excellent opportunity to make sure we are all on the same page—if there were to be a catastrophe at one of our ports—terrorist or natural—we will be able to respond and save lives.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to vote for this important bill that provides for the Coast Guard to continue to do its extraordinary job.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to continuing to work with you on these and other vital issues that face our country.

RECOGNIZING RITA BALIAN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional contributions of Rita Balian, a humanitarian activist and community leader who has worked tirelessly on behalf of women and children in the United States and Armenia.

Ever since the earthquake in Armenia in 1988, Ms. Balian has dedicated her time, talent and expertise to help the people of Armenia. She has realized many projects in support of women, schools, and universities. Since 1996, she has concentrated her efforts on women's health, taking American technology, management skills and medical expertise to Armenia.

She is the founder, president and chief executive officer of the Armenian American Cultural Association (AACA), a non-profit charitable organization incorporated in 1995 in Arlington, Virginia. Through AACA, Ms. Balian established the Armenian American Wellness Center in Yerevan, a humanitarian project dedicated to saving, prolonging, and improving the lives of women through the early and accurate detection of breast and cervical cancer and to providing primary health care services to ensure the good health and well-being of families in Armenia. To facilitate the Wellness Center's work, Ms. Balian partnered the Center with seven major U.S. medical institutions. Since the Wellness Center's establishment in 1997, it has screened over 60,000 women and saved the lives of over 1,500 through the early detection of life-threatening illnesses.

Ms. Balian has dedicated herself to expanding the services offered at the Wellness Center and providing increased access to those services. The Center has added protocols in gynecology, family medicine, and pathology and reaches out to Armenians living in rural areas through monthly outreach missions and the establishment of two satellite clinics.

Along with her work on behalf of the Wellness Center, Ms. Balian's accomplishments also include the establishment of a sister-city program between the cities of Gyumri, Armenia and Alexandria, Virginia. She cochaired the Alexandria/Gyumri Sister City Committee for six years, organized several municipal, cultural and educational exchanges and established the Alexandria Armenian Day Festival, which is now an annual celebration.

Through her work with the Armenian General Benevolence Union (AGBU), the largest and oldest Armenian philanthropic organization in the world, Mrs. Balian and her husband cofounded the AGBU New York Summer Intern Program for Armenian college students from around the world. She continues to manage the intern program, which is now in its nineteenth year.

She has received many awards in recognition of her work with the Wellness Center; most notably the ''Spirit of Life Cancer Advocacy Award'' in September 2003 from the International Spirit of Life Foundation and the Washington Cancer Institute, the ''Outstanding Citizen Achievement A ward'' from the United States Agency for International Development in January 2003, and the Armenian Church's highest medal of honor, the St. Nersess Shnorhali Medal, bestowed upon her through a Pontifical Encyclical by His Holiness, the Catholicos Karekin II, in October 2001.

The Armenian people have acknowledged Ms. Balian's humanitarian work as well. She has received honorary doctoral degrees from three different universities in Armenia, and in April 1996, Rita and her husband, Vartkess Balian, became honorary citizens of the Republic of Armenia through a special presidential decree presented to them at the Armenian Embassy in Washington, DC.

She has also been honored by the United Nations for her advocacy on behalf of women's and children's rights and by the American Red Cross for her leadership in obtaining humanitarian assistance for the victims of the 1988 earthquake in Armenia.

Since March of 2004, Ms. Balian has served as a member of Governor Warner's Virginia/Armenia Advisory Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the numerous accomplishments of Rita Balian. Her dedication to the people of Armenia and her efforts to increase international understanding reflect a deep sense of purpose and