

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 261 I inadvertently voted "aye" when I meant to vote "nay".

GORDON "GORDY" WILLIAMS SAN DIEGO'S NATIVE SON LABOR HERO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gordon "Gordy" Williams, the San Diego County Building & Construction Trades Council's 1996 Retired Labor Leader of the Year.

Gordy Williams, a native of San Diego County, was raised in the great South Bay community of National City. He joined Painters' Union Local 333 at the age of 18. Four years later he was elected to the executive board of his union, where he became its business representative nearly 25-years ago.

Gordy Williams' enormously productive tenure in local 333 caught the attention of the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades, which soon made him a general representative for the International Union. Gordy also served as delegate to the Building Trades Council for many years, including a term as its president. He also served as an officer of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, as well as the California State Council of Painters.

But Gordy Williams did not stop there. He found the time and energy to serve the community at large—including the board of directors of National City Parks Apartments, a low-income housing complex owned and operated by the San Diego Building & Construction Trades Corporation; the California Regional Coastal Commission; and as a trustee of the San Diego Leukemia Society. He also found the time to be the master chef at the Building Trades Holiday Bowl tailgate parties and the Letter Carriers' Annual Food Drive. And, he has done all this despite health problems which he has faced with great courage.

Mr. Speaker, Gordy Williams is a great man, and a true friend. I join his building and construction trades brothers and sisters in San Diego and around the country in thanking him for his dedication and great spirit, and in wishing him the very best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI MICHAEL EHRLICH

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the members of the Oakland Jewish Center as they honor their Rabbi, an outstanding leader, Michael Ehrlich.

For more than a quarter of a century Rabbi Ehrlich has served the community in a variety of effective positions that included youth leader, teacher, principal, and Rabbi. Imbued at home at an early age with a strong responsibility to serve both individuals and the community, Rabbi Ehrlich received his formal preparation at the Ramaz School and went on to study in a joint program at Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He was ordained in 1968.

Before coming to the Oakland Jewish Center, Rabbi Ehrlich served at the Conservative Synagogue on Fifth Avenue and as a teacher and principal at the Jewish Center of Bayside Hills. He has been involved in religious and secular training since 1964 and recently retired from the New York City school system after more than a quarter-century of dedicated service.

Rabbi Ehrlich has these many years emerged as a distinguished spiritual leader, an educator and community servant. In all his endeavors he has demonstrated a unique ability to bring people of all beliefs together into a common bond to create that which is both beneficial, supportive and comforting to our community. The tribute from his congregation is a tribute to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me and my colleagues, and rise in honor of this man, who has meant so much to his community, Rabbi Michael Ehrlich.

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN LEGION POST 91 FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as a lifetime member of the American Legion myself, it is with great pride that I commemorate the Frederick L. Clark American Legion Post 91 of Mechanicville, NY, in my congressional district. And it is with great humility that I stand here today and try and do justice to all the tremendous service and good this post has done for veterans and their families, as well as the entire community over the past 75 years.

This past year, I had the tremendous good fortune of addressing both the New York State and the National American Legion Convention where I was awarded with the American Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award. Mr. Speaker, it occurred to me that among all the things I've done in this Congress, I literally cherish above all else the time I've spent working alongside the American Legion. Together we've achieved so much on behalf of flag and country.

But Mr. Speaker, those achievements are what makes the men and women of American Legion posts like No. 91 in Mechanicville the true heroes. Not only have they served their country in uniform, but they have served America and their fellow veterans as members of the Legion. A group that is always in the forefront of efforts to develop and maintain adequate veterans benefits and programs.

And as if that wasn't enough, there are the tremendous programs and activities the members of post 91 run on behalf of their community. I'm talking about things like scholarships

and teams they sponsor for the youth in Mechanicville as well as community wide events.

Because of efforts like these, their promotion of pride, patriotism and good citizenship goes unparalleled. And that's why I can't wait to renew the fight for a constitutional amendment to protect Old Glory alongside my fellow Legionnaires from post 91 in Mechanicville, NY.

Mr. Speaker, protecting our flag, watching out for fellow veterans and ensuring a strong national defense may seem like a large and daunting agenda to some. But that's not half of what post 91 in Mechanicville has done. It's hard to even imagine all they have accomplished over the course of 75 years of service. But I know there's no limit to what they can accomplish. That's because this post is made up of patriotic Americans who have served their country and earned the right to call themselves veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and proud members of the American Legion.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all Members join me in paying tribute to all the members of Mechanicville Legion Post 91 for their tireless and selfless devotion to America and their community.

"THE EXPORT PROGRAMS EXTENSION ACT OF 1996"

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the Export Programs Extension Act of 1996. This legislation provides for a 1-year reauthorization of three vitally important export agencies: the Overseas Private Investment Corporation [OPIC], the U.S. Trade and Development Agency [TDA], and the export programs of the International Trade Administration [ITA], principally the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service.

Each of these agencies generates increased exports by American companies, creating new jobs for American workers. During its 25 year history, OPIC's investment guarantees and insurance have supported \$43 billion in exports, translating into 200,000 American jobs. In its 10 years of operation, TDA has supported \$7 billion in U.S. exports, resulting in nearly 140,000 jobs for U.S. workers. ITA facilitates \$5 billion in U.S. exports annually, which result in 100,000 new jobs every year.

This bill provides a simple extension of authority for these three agencies for 1 year, at levels consistent with the anticipated appropriations levels and the administration's budget request for fiscal year 1997.

The bill further provides that the statutory ceilings on OPIC's investment guaranties and insurance liabilities would be combined into a single overall ceiling on both activities. By making this change in law, the ceiling on OPIC's overall contingent liability is kept at current levels for the upcoming year, while giving OPIC flexibility to meet the demand by U.S. exporters for their assistance to American companies.

In my view, the provisions of this bill represent a workable legislative compromise for the upcoming fiscal year and I recommend to my colleagues that these provisions form the