

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN STEVEN C. MILLER, USN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Steven C. Miller, United States Navy, for his twenty-six years of active duty service to our country. He is the Commanding Officer of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Corona, California and will retire on June 17, 2005.

Captain Miller graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1979. After being commissioned as an officer he embarked on an extraordinary active duty career as a Surface Warfare Officer. He has deployed throughout the world in support of America's global naval presence and power projection. Captain Miller has served as a Surface Warfare Officer on destroyers, frigates and cruisers. He was the Executive Officer of the USS *Ticonderoga* (CG 47) when she went to war in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991. Captain Miller was hand picked to be the first Commanding Officer of the USS *Stethem* (DDG 63) when she entered service in 1995. Under his leadership, the crew of the *Stethem* earned the coveted Battle "E" award for combat readiness in the first year of the ship's service.

Besides being a true warrior at sea, Captain Miller has had a distinguished career ashore. He has served in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations as the Executive Secretary for Joint Chiefs of Staff Affairs and as the Flag Secretary for the Commander Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Following his command tour on the USS *Stethem*, Captain Miller shaped the future of the Navy's surface combat force while working on the program start of the DD(X). This new destroyer program will lead the Navy into the twenty-first century. Captain Miller has earned a Master's Degree in National Security Strategy at the Naval War College and qualified as a U.S. Navy Acquisition Professional.

I first met Captain Miller when he assumed command of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in my district. NSWC, Corona provides independent assessment and testing and evaluation to the fleet on weapons systems and operations and provides quality control for the tools our Navy uses to fight the Global War on Terrorism. I have come to know him as a strong leader who accomplishes the mission and takes care of his people.

Captain Steve Miller has done much to preserve our way of life. Our country, our Navy and my community have benefited from his selfless service. He is a fantastic example for today's young people who want to serve their country and for those who dream of attending one of our service academies. He has earned my many thanks. I wish him well in his retirement from the Navy and all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOORE HIGH SCHOOL AND TOTTENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the stellar baseball seasons of Moore High School and Tottenville High School. Both of these schools recently completed their seasons with respective City Championships.

Andrew Costello, a Tottenville senior, couldn't have scripted a better ending to his already impressive high school career. The right-hander fired a complete-game three hitter to give the Pirates their third Public School Athletic League city championship in six years. The Pirates finished their season with a 23-1 record, including a 6-0 record in the playoffs.

Costello put his three-pitch arsenal of fastballs, curve balls, and sliders to work against what some considered the city's most talented hitting order and could have hardly been much better. He allowed one earned run, walked one, and struck out seven. He retired the first nine batters that he faced took a no-hitter into the fifth.

Moore Catholic High School, just as Tottenville had, rode the strong arm of their starting pitcher, Nick Doscher. He pitched five of scoreless baseball and even helped his own cause from behind the plate by homering off the left field foul pole.

Moore High School, winners of their second Catholic High School Athletic Association championship, battled adversity through the early stages of the game by failing to score twice with the bases loaded.

Doscher, selected by the Kansas City Royals in the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft overmatched his opponents over the final five innings of play; only allowing one hit and recording seven strikeouts, at one point, retiring twelve in a row.

On behalf of family, friends, fans, and the entire 13th Congressional District of Staten Island and Brooklyn New York, I would like to again congratulate both Tottenville and Moore Catholic High Schools for their outstanding seasons. Each player, coach, and fan should be very proud of their efforts. I commend them for their drive, desire, and sportsmanship that they revealed throughout the season.

REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2939, THE OCEANS CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, AND NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday represented a giant step forward towards the protection and sustainable management of this nation's largest public trust: our oceans. I introduced OCEANS 21, a comprehensive oceans policy bill that answers the calls of the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, along with other bi-

partisan co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus, Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania, Tom Allen of Maine, and Jim Saxton of New Jersey.

Our bill offers a comprehensive legislative solution to crises documented in both of the Oceans Commissions reports by establishing a strong National Oceans Policy that protects, maintains, and restores the health of marine ecosystems. This National Oceans Policy will secure, for present and future generations, the full range of benefits of healthy marine ecosystems—a responsibility that I take quite seriously in my job of representing California's central coast, home to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The importance of this policy cannot be overstated, as we all depend on our oceans and coasts, from the person who lives off the water to the person who visits the ocean once in a lifetime. The oceans provide food, jobs, vacation spots, as well as opportunities for scientific inquiry, including medical discovery, and personal reflection. Despite our inability to measure the many non-market values associated with our oceans and coasts, we are able to quantify some of the benefits they provide. For example, the ocean economy—the portion of the economy that relies directly on ocean attributes—contributes well over \$100 billion to American prosperity. About one tenth of the nation's annual gross domestic product (GDP) is generated in nearshore areas, the relatively narrow strip of land immediately adjacent to the coast. If that area is expanded to include coastal watershed counties, representing about one quarter of the nation's land area, the contribution increases to about half of the nation's GDP. This is a huge economic contribution to our gross domestic product; a contribution that must be protected so the returns keep coming.

Oceans-21 was introduced in the 108th Congress to begin a national dialogue on our coasts and oceans. Since that time, the co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus have revised the bill based on input from the oceans and fishing communities. This effort reflects continued forward momentum toward the goal of healthy marine ecosystems for present and future generations of Americans. The most substantive changes to the bill from the 108th Congress are to the regional governance and trust fund provisions. The bill would establish Regional Ocean Partnerships that facilitate communication among federal, state, and local management entities. The Oceans and Great Lakes Conservation Trust Fund no longer relies on monies from outer continental shelf activities and instead draws from general revenues.

One of the most common concerns about the 108th Congress bill was that the structure of Regional Governance added an ineffective layer of bureaucracy without helping ecosystem-based management efforts. The integration of ecosystem-based management into current ocean and coastal management regimes must occur incrementally. Regional Ocean Partnerships are a first step toward deliberate and strategic planning for the long term health of our marine ecosystems. The revised language removes regulatory mandates from the Partnership's purview and concentrates instead on planning, removing the extra layer of bureaucracy. Currently, there is no organized forum for communication between federal and state entities responsible for management of coastal and ocean resources.