

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING LOCAL 2015 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FIFTH ANNUAL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 25 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishments and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Air Force. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized 9 students; this year we will be honoring 133 local students for choosing to serve our country in uniform.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Air Force:

John Ainslie, Philip Baitinger, Merrilee Carder, Valeria Catacora, Brian Daley, Nikhil Deo, Gary Dixon, John Forsythe, Maximino Gabino, Patrick Hailey, Jazlyn Keating, Jun Pyo Kim, Edward Kowalski, Kellen Lovan, Lane Renner, Tran Robinson, Alexa Rolph, Kelsea Ross, Demay Thong, Robinson Tran, Henry Tran, Justin Von Feldt, Shawn Von Feldt, James Wayne, and Logan Wood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense of our nation's freedom.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes:

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express opposition to H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act.

As a doctor, I strongly support medical innovation and research. Over the course of my 30 years practicing medicine, I saw tremendous leaps and bounds in treatment that saved lives. I appreciate the hard work put into creatively attempting to modernize the health-care innovation infrastructure, specifically efforts to incorporate a patient perspective into the drug and device approval process, support advances in personalized medicine, and streamline clinical trials. However, I cannot support the sale of 64 million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve being used to pay for these changes.

Over the past year, the price of oil has dropped from above \$100 per barrel to below \$50. Although the price of oil is currently at \$54 a barrel on the global markets, this is far from stable. I do not understand why Congress would agree to sell 64 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve when the price is low, flooding the global oil marketplace, and likely causing the price to drop even further. This has the potential to cause havoc for our own domestic oil and gas industry.

The decline in oil prices is hurting the states that had benefited from the domestic oil-production boom in recent years. My home state of Louisiana ranked second in the U.S. in oil production and second in natural gas production in 2013, with more than 64,000 Louisianans employed in extraction, pipeline and refining industries. This industry matters to everyone in Louisiana.

According to the American Petroleum Institute the U.S. oil and natural gas industry supports more than 9 million jobs nationwide, supports over 7% of GDP, and contributes more than \$86 million to the Federal Treasury every day. Since oil prices began to drop, it has been widely reported that the oil and gas industry have been struggling to keep their employees on payroll. In April, the U.S. Bureau of

Labor Statistics announced that Louisiana suffered a 3,300 job loss in the mining and logging sector. In June we saw two consecutive week losses in mining employment—that's the category that includes many oil and gas exploration and extraction jobs—have slipped below 100 in Louisiana.

I will not accept the false choice between supporting medical innovation and Louisiana oil and gas jobs. I believe it's irresponsible to flood the global market for petroleum with more product while Louisiana families are experiencing layoffs because of low global prices.

Many of my colleagues have stated that given the remarkable expansion of North American oil production, a reduction in the size of the reserve could be seen as responsible cost-effective public policy. I would disagree. Research shows that price spikes in transportation fuels is highly regressive, with most of the cost disproportionately hitting middle class and low-income groups. This vulnerability remains even though our work shows that the U.S. and much of the Western hemisphere will largely separate from physical trade flows with Middle East producers in the next few years.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA), the U.S. economy will continue to rely upon petroleum for many years, and work by EPRINC and many other research groups demonstrates that we will remain vulnerable to severe economic damage from disruptions in petroleum supplies in the world oil market. The SPR remains an important strategic asset for protecting the U.S. economy and security interests from this vulnerability.

Selling barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve should be done in a thoughtful and strategic manner when global prices are high, not as another coffer for Congress to raid at its convenience and at the expense of Louisiana's oil & gas industry.

HONORING JAMES FORNI

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of James Forni of Petaluma, who passed away on June 28, 2015 at the age of 36. A beloved husband, basketball coach, and friend to all, Mr. Forni has left us at too young an age. If there's any comfort to be found in the pain his family, students, and colleagues are feeling, perhaps it's the knowledge that James' legacy of kindness and compassion will remain with us indefinitely.

Some people are respected. Some people are loved. James Forni was both. A Petaluma native and local icon, Mr. Forni every day lived the values he instilled in his students, his friends, and his family: resilience, integrity, and strength. He was the soul at the very center of Casa Grande High School. Not only did

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