

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2016

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, as the lead sponsor of the House companion to this legislation, I would also like to address two technical items in the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act that deserve clarification.

The first issue deals with Section 4 of JASTA. Section 4 amends the Anti-Terrorism Act to create a cause of action for aiding and abetting terrorism. It is a narrowly crafted provision aimed at any "person," as defined in section 1 of title 1 of the U.S. Code. After the Senate passed JASTA, one commentator speculated that the definition of "person" in this section was too limited and would not permit such a cause of action against a foreign government. This would be an inaccurate interpretation of the text. Section 3 of JASTA expressly authorized jurisdiction for claims made under section 2333 of title 18 and made clear that such claims would be permitted against foreign states in any case in which the new jurisdictional exception of JASTA, proposed section 1605B, might apply. This language should be interpreted as controlling. This point should be obvious given the underlying purpose and structure of JASTA, but I wanted to make it emphatically clear here.

The second item addresses Section 5 of JASTA, the provision authorizing a stay of actions in appropriate circumstances. When the Senate passed JASTA on May 17, Senator CHARLES SCHUMER emphasized that, should the government pursue a stay pursuant to this provision, it should be prepared to provide substantial evidence of good faith negotiations to the court such as details about those involved in the discussions and their authority to reach a resolution, where and when the discussions occurred, and a timeline for resolving the matter.

I agree with Senator SCHUMER that these factors are important, but I also understand the concept of "good faith" to include additional requirements that the court should consider. First, we expect that good faith settlement discussions will include appropriate representatives of the plaintiffs in any litigation, such as the lead counsel designated by the court or otherwise. Second, as the court evaluates whether good faith discussions are ongoing, it should also remember that those discussions are designed to achieve a fair and equitable resolution of the disputes, taking fully into account the gravity of the harm and scope of the claims in issue, the length of the pendency of the claims, and other relevant factors. In other words, the purpose of negotiations is not simply to come to a settlement, but to come to a fair and equitable one.

Third and finally, given the realities of international terrorism and the sometimes murky relationship between private and state parties, any discussions occurring pursuant to a stay may properly encompass the resolution of claims against private parties, so as to enable a comprehensive resolution of disputes arising under JASTA that implicate foreign relations.

VA ACCOUNTABILITY FIRST AND APPEALS MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5620) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, it is with great reluctance that I rise in opposition to H.R. 5620. I am disappointed that my Republican colleagues have missed the opportunity to pass legislation that immediately reforms the Department of Veterans Affairs' disability claim appeals backlog. Instead they are determined to push through a bill that they know deprives VA employees, many of whom are veterans, of due process and abridges their constitutional rights.

Our veterans deserve better than the current disability appeals claim backlog system which currently has almost half a million claims. It is a system that has not been updated since the 1930s. My colleague, Representative DINA TITUS, has introduced legislation that would decrease wait times and save the VA over \$2.6 billion. Without this legislation our veterans may soon have to wait over a decade for their appeal to process. That is unacceptable. I fully support Representative TITUS's comprehensive solution to provide our veterans with expeditious and accurate service and I am pleased that it is included in this bill.

However, I cannot support Sections 2 through 8 and 10 of H.R. 5620 which are partisan and unconstitutional attempts by Republicans to punish VA employees. Republicans claim that their goal is to help veterans but they seemingly ignore that one-third of VA employees are veterans themselves. They have tried to pass this so-called 'administrative reform' before and faced the same constitutional challenges. It is incomprehensible that Republicans are wasting taxpayer time and resources pushing through this legislation.

While accountability and reform at the VA are necessary, constitutional rights cannot be abrogated or dismissed simply because Re-

publicans do not think that particular right is important. I am fully supportive of Ranking Member TAKANO's amendment which adds accountability at the VA but still protects the rights of VA employees. Republicans cannot claim that Democrats are against accountability because numerous amendments to H.R. 5620 adding accountability measures were introduced by Democrats, were unopposed by Republicans and passed with bipartisan support on the House floor.

I sincerely hope my Republican colleagues will introduce bipartisan legislation that they know can pass to give our veterans the service they deserve.

RECOGNITION OF THE SACRAMENTO STAND DOWN ASSOCIATION

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sacramento chapter of Stand Down on celebrating their 25th anniversary. This organization and its volunteers have served the veterans of the Sacramento region selflessly for many years and it is my pleasure to recognize them today.

In military history, a "stand down" was a refuge for soldiers fighting on the front lines. It was a place for them to rest, recover, and receive medical care. These times gave the exhausted troops safe space to recuperate. Today, the Stand Down programs do the same for our homeless veterans.

The Sacramento chapter of Stand Down has hosted a gathering for many years. There, homeless veterans can receive medical and dental care, showers, haircuts, and a hot meal. Several federal agencies, like the Social Security Administration and the Veterans Administration, are onsite to provide critical services. Veterans can renew their identification and adjudicate minor legal disputes through an onsite court.

The Stand Down program has proven to be incredibly effective, with many veterans who have gone through the program returning as volunteers. These volunteers know what it's like to be a homeless veteran, and are happy to help their fellow veterans get the leg up they need.

The Sacramento Stand Down Association has, over the past twenty-five years, spent countless hours providing meals, services, and a safe place for the homeless veterans of our region. As a doctor who has helped care for veterans, I've witnessed how much these men and women have sacrificed. I am proud to recognize the service of the Sacramento Stand Down Association, and wish them many more years of continued success.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN HONOR OF JYM GANAHL

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the storied meteorological career of Jym Ganahl. For five decades, Jym has served his friends and neighbors as their meteorologist. His accurate and educational forecasts helped to warn us of impending inclement weather as well as plan our day's activities.

Beginning his career in 1966 with KWWL-TV in Waterloo, Iowa, Jym quickly became a valuable asset in the news room. In 1978, Jym joined WCMH-TV in Columbus, Ohio, and has since become a staple in our community. For nearly four decades we have tuned in to hear Jym's report, and generations have grown up hoping Jym would give them the good news that a snow storm was imminent and school would be canceled.

In addition to his talent as a meteorologist, Jym is also a valuable mentor to aspiring young men and women. His guidance and tutelage helped many achieve their goals. Unfortunately, the hands of time do not stop and central Ohio witnessed Jym's last forecast on September 4, 2016. Although we will still be seeing him on television during his WCMH tailgate-party broadcasts during football season, the weather forecast will not be the same without his humor and knowledge. I have enjoyed working with Jym Ganahl over the years and I congratulate him on his 50-year career as meteorologist. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MILLER COUNTY,
MISSOURI UPON ITS DESIGNATION
AS A PURPLE HEART
COUNTY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the designation of Miller County, Missouri as a Purple Heart County and its inclusion as a part of the Purple Heart Trail.

The Purple Heart Trail is a system of roads and monuments throughout the United States that pay tribute to veterans that have been awarded the Purple Heart. The system was established in 1992 by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. As a Purple Heart County, signs along Miller County roadways will now provide a visual reminder of those who have paid the price for others to live and travel freely throughout our country.

The Purple Heart was established by George Washington to honor members of the military that have been wounded or killed in service to their country. As a lifelong resident of Miller County, I am proud to live in a place that prioritizes honoring those who have paid the price to secure our liberty. Our nation owes so much to the brave men and women that have placed their lives on the line for our nation's future. The Purple Heart Trail is an important reminder of that debt of gratitude shared by all Americans.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Miller County on this important designation, and in thanking all Purple Heart recipients and veterans for their service to our country.

IN MEMORY OF RAY THORN

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, Ray Karl Thorn was born March 20, 1946 and passed away August 27, 2016. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, he was a ray of sunshine to all who knew him.

As a community leader, Ray was one of the founding members of the Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL). He was instrumental in the successful litigation that saved the lagoon from a flawed storm drain project, which would have precluded any restoration.

He then led the group's pivot towards collaboration and relationship building, creating the strong partnerships that FOCL still enjoys with the city, port, and regional groups. He was FOCL president for five critical years during the time when the group was fighting to convince the city and regional leaders that restoring the lagoon's historic open waterway was essential to the community and environment.

His relationships with the City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine directors gave FOCL credibility and helped the group move forward when there were many projects competing for funding. In later years Ray continued to serve as a board member and leader for FOCL as the group successfully restored vital wetland habitat, helped transform the lagoon from having the worst water quality in Long Beach to the best, and educated the public about the importance of wetlands. The final vision of the lagoon as a clean jewel of Long Beach would not have been possible without Ray's efforts.

Born in Tooele, Utah to Roe and Lydia Thorn, he was the fourth of five children. Ray grew up in Springville, Utah and graduated from Springville High School. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Brigham Young University (BYU) in Sociology and a Master's Degree from BYU in Organizational Behavior.

It was also at BYU that Ray met his future wife Becky Asher. Their marriage of 44 years was a positive example for many that knew them because of their devotion to each other and their commitment to creating and maintaining a strong marriage. Their only daughter, Nicole Thorn, was born in 1979 and their grandson, Leif, was born to Nicole Thorn and Steve Stern in 2010. Ray spent much of his time with them, for they were a source of joy in his life.

Ray loved the outdoors and was a beautiful downhill and avid cross country skier. He loved spending time in the mountains, on the beaches, hiking, bike riding, and rollerblading. Ray loved animals and enjoyed evenings throwing the Frisbee or ball for his dogs and teaching them new tricks. He was devoted to his wife and family and cherished the vacations, road trips, and camping trips they took together. He loved adventures: walking on thin ice to see under-ice whirlpools, rafting in a lake during a lightning storm, driving through

rivers, sneaking into places to find the best sledding hill, and off-roading for the fun of it.

He was an excellent communicator both in his work and personal life, bringing people together and making them feel valued and understood. As an Organizational Behavior Consultant, Ray worked for over 40 years with business, governmental, and educational institutions. He assisted leaders, teams, and organizations to improve their culture, norms, and working relationships.

Ray had a gift for helping people communicate. He coached them to better understand each other, to enhance their levels of trust and openness, and to engage in productive problem solving. As a coach, trainer, and team builder, he assisted thousands of leaders from multiple organizations across the country and abroad. He led them to respect and utilize their differences in order to complement rather than compete with one another, freeing them to create and maintain supportive teamwork.

Ray is survived by his wife Becky Thorn, his daughter Nicole Thorn, his grandson Leif Thorn-Stern, his son-in-law Steve Stern, and his sister Maris Grotegut.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SARAH E.
D'ERRICO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sarah E. D'Errico, 42, who passed away on July 6, 2016. Sarah was born on February 25, 1974 in Columbus, Ohio, the daughter of Walter and Karen Lee Kingry Matheny.

Sarah graduated from Westland High School in 1992 and went on to attend The Ohio State University, then eventually graduate Summa Cum Laude from Youngstown State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education. She went on to work for Delphi Packard Electric, and then for the Trumbull County Educational Service Center, where she taught for their Trumbull Virtual Learning Academy.

Sarah enjoyed being involved with the community and contributed her time in many ways. She belonged to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Niles, and was a parish school instructor and festival volunteer, and a Girl Scout Troop Leader. She also loved to fish, scuba dive, kayak, go on family vacations, entertain, and craft. Above all else, she loved spending time with her husband and children.

Sarah will be deeply missed by her family. She leaves behind her parents, her husband James D'Errico, whom she married June 25, 2004, her daughter Alysse Marie D'Errico, her son Gavin Joseph D'Errico, her two brothers Andrew Matheny and Adam Matheny, her maternal grandmother Evelyn Kingry and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Sam and Joyce D'Errico.