

COAST GUARD REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 1995**HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, when the House debated and passed the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 1995 on Tuesday of last week, the issue of Coast Guard inspection fees was raised by some of my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Although the amendment failed on a point of order, I wish to associate myself with the logical arguments made on the floor that day.

The Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 requires that the Coast Guard impose user fees for some of its services. While I am in support of the concept, and recognize the importance of such an approach to assist in balancing the budget, the Coast Guard has gone off course with its fee schedule in terms of fairness and balance among different classes of boats.

The Coast Guard estimates it is charging \$87 per hour for the inspection service. However, my colleague from Louisiana, Mr. TAUZIN, cited an example of a 1 hour inspection costing \$545 under the current fee schedule. This is unacceptable. I believe in fee-for-service, but the fees must reflect the value of the services rendered. I fear that the burden of the current policy will fall disproportionately on small vessel owners and small businesses; those who can afford it the least. I am supportive of capping the inspection fees based on boat length to ensure fairness within the current system.

I also believe it is appropriate for the Coast Guard to consider a fee schedule that takes into account the seasonal nature of some commercial boating operations. For example, Rutherford's Cruise Line, which operates in my district from the Grand River on Lake Erie, only operates during summer months. Under the current system, Rutherford's would pay almost \$2,400 to the Coast Guard to inspect three vessels. Small cruise line businesses on the Great Lakes have a limited season and short time in which to make their operation run in the black. The current annual fee requirement, which treats a vessel in Florida the same as one on the Great Lakes, is burdensome and economically unfair to boaters in the Great Lakes region.

I understand Mr. TAUZIN's amendment will be the subject of hearings before the Ways and Means Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the near future. I am supportive of finding a rational and fair approach to the inspection fee schedule that more closely approximates the true cost of the inspection process.

Recreational boating, including charter boat fishing, is an important part of the economy in my district. The 60 miles of Lake Erie shoreline I represent has seen a tremendous resurgence over the past 10 years due to a revitalized Great Lakes fishery. I am encouraged by the small businesses entrepreneurs, who are taking advantage of the opportunity to start new businesses and do not believe they should be punished with unreasonable inspection fees.

YVONNE AND ARVIS RICHARDSON
CELEBRATE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as far as I'm concerned, there are two things which have made our Nation the greatest on Earth, our commitment to family and pride in country. It is my privilege today to pay tribute to a couple who together, have embodied these exceptional characteristics for 50 years now.

Upon the outbreak of World War II, these two young patriots lived far from one another. Yvonne grew up in Cohoes, NY, while Arvis was born in Salem, MO, and moved to St. Louis prior to the outbreak of war. Both of them responded to this impending national crisis like any great American would, they voluntarily enlisted in the military, Yvonne in the Navy Waves and Arvis in the U.S. Marine Corps. It was this love of Nation and service to country that brought the two of them together when their country needed them most.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we are all reminded of the fortunate ending of World War II, especially as we commemorate the 50th anniversaries of V-E and V-J days this year. However, there was another fortunate occurrence as a result of the end of this war. As he promised, Arvis returned when the fighting ceased to seek Yvonne's hand in marriage. On May 26, 1945, Arvis and Yvonne began their life together at Alameda Naval Base in California. Now 50 years later, as we commemorate the historic victory of democracy and freedom over tyranny and oppression, we can also rejoice in the happiness of the Richardson's whose marriage has stood the same test of time.

Yvonne and Arvis should be commended not only for their commitment to their Nation, but for their commitment to their family and one another. It is this commitment and understanding which laid the foundation for a solid family structure, pivotal to their success in raising their two children, Dennis and Peggy.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by their commitment to their family and children, and by what they return to their community. By this measure, Yvonne and Arvis are truly great Americans as evidenced by their clear devotion to family, and the American way of life. This May 28, family and friends will join them in commemorating their 50 years of happiness together. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and all Members join me now in paying tribute to two tremendous patriots and devoted family people, Yvonne Blair Richardson and Arvis Sanford Richardson of Waterford, NY.

KERNEL BLITZ AND PACMEDNET:
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY SUCCESS
STORIES**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the men and women of our

Defense Department's medical corps for the fine job they performed during the Marine Corps' annual Kernel Blitz combat exercise, held last month at Camp Pendleton, California. This exercise showed how military medical care is on the cutting edge of the latest automation technology, and Kernel Blitz demonstrated the integral role that this technology plays in supporting the troops. Our fighting forces deserve nothing less than the very best.

Last year, Congress and the Defense Department proposed a demonstration project known as the Pacific Medical Network [PACMEDNET] which utilized investments already made in the Defense Department's Composite Health Care System [CHCS] and expanded these attributes for effective wartime deployment. This technology was successfully used in Kernel Blitz and will take the Defense Department into the 21st century in both its peacetime and wartime medical missions.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share the following article from Federal Computer Week on how this investment in technology is improving emergency medical care for the Defense Department. This successful usage of CHCS technology is a simulated wartime exercise demonstrates that PACMEDNET is the future of battlefield medical care.

[From the Federal Computer Week, Apr. 10, 1995]

HOSPITAL SYSTEM SURVIVES FIRST
BATTLEFIELD TRIAL
(BY BRAD BASS)

The Defense Department's \$1.1 billion Composite Health Care System (CHCS) went into battle last week, and early reports said the system came through with the colors flying.

The Marine Corps' annual Kernel Blitz combat exercise, held at Camp Pendleton, Calif., last week, featured deployable medical information systems for the first time. The training mission linked hospital based CHCS to battlefield medical systems composed of smart cards, ruggedized handheld and laptop computers, and wireless communications. The expansion of CHCS to the battlefield stems from lessons learned in Operation Desert Storm and other hot spots, where Defense forces suffered from inadequate medical technology, said officials with both DOD and with CHCS contractor Science Applications International Corp.

"The fleet hospitals in Saudi Arabia had no automation," said Cmdr. Mel Baxter, director of development in the DOD CHCS program office.

"Things could have gone a whole lot better if they had these tools," Baxter said. The Air Force has already decided to put a version of CHCS in its base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, next month, Baxter said.

SIMULATED CASUALTIES

The Kernel Blitz system connected two ships—the USNS Mercy, a medical ship, and the USS Peleliu, both off the coast of Camp Pendleton—to forward surgical companies near the beach.

After the Marines simulated a full-scale landing operation using helicopters, tanks and armored personnel carriers, troops moving inland suffered about 200 simulated casualties, according to Steve Hudock, SAIC's director of CHCS deployment. Each soldier carried a CHCS Multitechnology Automated Reader Card, a smart card equipped with a 2K chip, a bar code and a photograph. Manufactured by 3G Inc., Williamsburg, Va., the cards contained basic medical information on the "injured" troops.

Field medics used SAIC's ruggedized SE-1415 Agilpac, a 486SX-based handheld computer purchased from the Army's Common