

Had he signed this conference report, the current shutdown of Interior Department offices would have been avoided. Unfortunately, despite our concessions, the President chose to reject the bill and close national pParks and recreation areas.

We have done our job. It's time to put people back to work. It's up to the President.

I support the conference report and urge my colleagues to vote "aye".

A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN PATRIOT: BENJAMIN DONALD ROBINSON, JR.

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay special tribute to Mr. Benjamin D. Robinson, Jr., who was one of the greatest Americans I have known. He was a constitutionalist and an Americanist and he believed that we only have a short time to save this country—this Republic—and turn things around before it is too late.

I would not be in Congress today if it were not for Ben Robinson. He helped me get elected in many ways—financial contributions, FFC caps and signs, information, and most importantly, his visits, encouragement, advice, and counsel.

Ben Robinson loved children and young people and understood that the future of this country rested with them. He set up educational scholarships and provided literature for them.

Ben hoped that my election and that of others like me could help turn the tide toward constitutional government. He hoped and dreamed and acted tirelessly to do his part with no compromise on his principles. No one did more than Ben.

Betty and I and our daughter Deana loved Ben Robinson. His kindness, his consideration, his optimism, his love for his wife and his family was truly special.

We are grateful that we got to know Ben Robinson for as long as we did and consider ourselves blessed because we did. I thank God for Ben Robinson and only hope that I can live up to his expectations while I am in Congress. I don't represent St. Augustine's district in Florida, but I will always be Ben Robinson's Congressman.

Ben Robinson, a potato farmer in Florida, was a great American success story. He lived out the American dream, showing that one can accomplish with hard work, discipline, sacrifice, and faith in God. He was conservative and a patriot who knew the importance of history.

Ben Robinson was a gentle man with an unmatched vitality for life and for the truth. The world is a much better place because of this great American. Ben Robinson was my good friend and his spirit will walk with in the halls of Congress. I was honored that he participated in the swearing-in events for me in Washington last January. Today, on this first anniversary of Ben Robinson's death, we thank God for his fine example. I send my love, respect, and gratitude to his wife and lifetime partner, Mrs. Dorothy Robinson, and to his wonderful family. Thank you, Ben. We miss you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK PRINDLE

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 1996

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a great American, a great Army officer, a great Hoosier, and a great soldier. Last month Frank Prindle completed over 21 years of dedicated service to our country. As a soldier, leader, and finally as a trusted member of the Army's Officer of Congressional Liaison, House Division, he has provided dedicated and distinguished service.

Today as we honor his retirement, we reflect on the outstanding career which Frank started in 1970 when he entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in Signal Branch in 1974. Over the course of the past two decades he served in a variety of exceptionally challenging troop and staff assignments in the United States, Canada, Germany, and Korea. His positions of leadership include signal platoon leader, aviation service platoon leader, aviation company commander, and battalion operations officer during an exchange tour with the Canadian Armed Forces.

As a staff officer he saw duty in many tough and challenging positions, validating the confidence the Army placed in his demonstrated abilities. After serving in the field with many aviation units, Frank Prindle demonstrated his superb organizational skills while serving as the senior service college education officer, the aviation branch assignments officer for majors and as the executive officer to the Director of Officer Personnel Management Division, U.S. Army Military Personnel Command. His selection as a Congressional Fellow in 1991 further demonstrated the high regard which Prindle is held by the leadership of the Army. This 1-year tour led to his final assignment as a Congressional Liaison Officer for the Secretary of the Army, House Liaison Division.

During Frank Prindle's tour in Army Legislative Liaison, he guided the Army's relationship with a wide variety of committees and individual Members of Congress. His ability to remain calm and focused during a period of tremendous change was demonstrated continually in his dealings with both Members of Congress, professional staff, and personal staff. Through Frank Prindle's involvement with the Veteran Affairs Committees, he ensured that the programs put in place during the downsizing of the Armed Forces continued to benefit the soldiers.

Frank Prindle's career reflects a commitment to our Nation, characterized by dedicated selfless service, love for the Army and a commitment to excellence. Lt. Col. Frank L. Prindle's performance, over two decades of service, personifies the traits of courage, competency, and integrity that our Nation has come to expect from its Army officers. On behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of this great Nation, I offer our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for a soldier who served his country so admirably.

SUPPORT PRESIDENTIAL VETO OF INTERIOR BILL

SPEECH OF

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to override the President's veto of the Interior Appropriations bill, H.R. 1977.

I appreciate the efforts of the Chairman, Congressman REGULA, to find common ground on some very difficult issues and pass this bill. As much as I appreciate his work and that of the Ranking Member, my colleague from Illinois Congressman YATES, I must still oppose this motion and support the veto of the President.

The cuts in this bill in energy conservation programs and in clean coal research are too much for people in my district to accept. Our coal mines have been all but shut down by the Clean Air Act of 1990, and without continued support for clean coal research, it will be very difficult to find new markets for that coal.

I support the President's veto and urge opposition to the override.

LAND EXCHANGE

HON. RANDY TATE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 1996

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a piece of legislation that would facilitate a land exchange between Fort Lewis Military Reservation and the Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company [WRECO], located in Pierce County, WA, and in my congressional district. The land exchange allows the Army and WRECO to exchange parcels of land to the benefit of each party. The Army wishes to obtain ownership of a small parcel that provides access to a sewer treatment plant, and WRECO wishes to obtain ownership of an abandoned road right-of-way. Although total acreage of the lands under consideration is less than 2 acres, legislation to facilitate the exchange became necessary because the value of the property now exceeds the requirements of minor land acquisition rules that allow for administrative exchanges.

This provision I am introducing today has passed the Senate, and a similar provision passed the House as an amendment to H.R. 1530, the Defense authorization bill. However, as you know the authorization bill has been vetoed. The land exchange amendment is supported by the Army, and is noncontroversial. I am including a copy of a letter I received from Paul W. Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army in support of the exchange. Swift passage of this legislation would be a fine example of Congress' ability to move unnecessary regulatory barriers—allowing responsible, noncontroversial projects to proceed.

I hope my colleagues will agree, and support this legislation.