

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SOUTHWEST DEFENSE COMPLEX: AMERICA'S FUTURE DEFENSE

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Southwest Defense Complex, a proposal to consolidate defense research, development, testing, evaluation, and training in the Southwest United States. This proposal links 12 bases in 5 states (California, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, and Arizona) and will focus on addressing two of the challenges facing defense in the future: the use of communication technology to transfer information across great distances in order to attack efficiently and with higher success rates and the ability to use resources to their maximum in a time of decreasing defense budgets. This consolidation is vital to the future of U.S. national security and for the Department of Defense to achieve optimum use of its facilities. The Southwest is ideal for defense research and training because of the large amount of land, air, and sea space in the region.

Future warfare promises to be very different from war in the past. Dependence on technology is steadily increasing; as such, the ability to manage information will be the key to battle. A futuristic attack may play out like this: knowledge about the enemy and targets to be hit are obtained from large distances. Then the armed services evaluate targets based on priority and decide what resources to use against them. Decisions about each step may be made by individuals who are thousands of miles away from each other: the soldier on the ground who obtains the information about possible targets, the commander who decides which targets to hit, and the pilot who fires the weapons. The effect of the attack can be assessed within moments and the pilot can be updated as he travels. The coming dependence on technology that provides fast, accurate transmission of information will cause the coming years to be unlike any other era in history.

The Department of Defense is reevaluating how it researches, develops, and tests new technologies and trains personnel. We are developing tactics to use our superior information systems to maximize use of equipment and fighting personnel, thus decreasing costs and human risk. As technology becomes cheaper and more accessible, we must be ready to confront others with sophisticated technologies. Lastly, our need to adapt our defense strategy and structures comes at a time when our military budget is decreasing. This change makes it even more critical for the Department of Defense to find a more streamlined way to squeeze the maximum out of its resources.

These challenges require our military to respond with increased integration and consolidation of research, development, testing, and training, and the Southwest provides the per-

fect opportunity to perform these activities. Multiple use of resources between branches of the service is necessary in order to make sure that precious resources are used to their fullest. For example, it makes much more sense to develop missiles in one place instead of in five different locations. Bases in the Southwest have already begun to share resources and cooperate in testing. Navy and Air Force facilities in California share the use of optical sensors for visual tracking of aircraft, so that each service does not have to duplicate investment. The western range bases have a common data display format so that they may easily share information. F-15 aircraft stationed at Edwards Air Force Base are flown against unmanned drones at the Naval Air Warfare Center at Pt. Mugu, both in California, so that they do not have to fly cross-country. We need to encourage the services to continue taking such efficient and cost-effective steps. This resource use is the foundation of the proposed Southwest Defense Complex and is the reason that the Complex is critically important.

The Southwest provides a great deal of space to test new technology and train soldiers to use it, both of which are vital to the successful defense of our nation in the future. In order to develop technology in the most cost-effective manner, lab and field-testing need to be in close proximity to each other. Technology can then be developed, tested in the field, and sent back to the lab in order to be adapted further to the battle environment. Commercial technology can be quickly adapted to military uses in order to decrease costs. The most cost-effective way to test and train commercial technology is to have the lab that is adapting it in the vicinity of the field where it is being tested. On the human side of the operation, in order for operations to run smoothly, military personnel need to train as they expect to fight. Soldiers should practice and train maneuvers using technologies in a real-world environment. In this way, both the technology and the people that use it will be as prepared as possible for future threats to national security while utilizing military resources to their maximum.

Physical space is vital to the type of testing and training just described. A single open-air test range requires nearly two million acres of open land. The Southwest is the only region of the country that offers land of this size, as well as air and sea space needed for other kinds of testing. The Southwest offers over 335 million acres of federally owned land. Over 490 thousand square miles of air space is available in the Southwest, and 484 thousand square miles of sea are open for training activities. This land can be used without the interference from civilians or substantial electromagnetic interference—both of which are a problem in the rest of the country.

Climate and weather considerations are also critical to testing and training under the most efficient conditions. The Southwest's weather and climate are ideal for these purposes. For example, China Lake Naval Air Warfare Center in California has 260 clear days per year

and has very low levels of atmospheric distortion. Visibility at China Lake is frequently over 100 miles and seismic activity is very low. However, there are a variety of climates in the Southwest Complex: arid deserts, cold and icy climates, and mildly humid and moist seashores. These conditions provide optimum circumstances for training and testing since the region combines a variety of climates for real-world testing with optimum weather for maximum efficiency in use of time.

Thus, the Southwest offers advantages that no other area of the country can. We have large amounts of open air, land, and sea space for testing and training, particularly of new and commercially-adapted technology. We offer existing facilities with personnel with experience in sharing of equipment in order to have maximum benefits from scarce resources. These assets make the Southwest Defense Complex critical to the future of defense and national security and they allow the Department of Defense to thoroughly prepare for future threats using state-of-the-art technology while decreasing costs. This is an opportunity that the United States cannot afford to pass up. I thank my colleague, Rep. MCKEON for his support of the Southwest Defense Complex. I especially want to thank those in my district who have put forth great efforts to advocate this proposal such as Steve Perez, Ken Peterson, and John McQuiston of the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Southwest Defense Complex in order to enhance our national security for the future.

THE DEDICATION OF UNION SQUARE PARK AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Union Square Park in New York City. I am very pleased to report that Union Square was dedicated as a National Historic Landmark on September 11, 1998, in a ceremony that paid honor to the tremendous history of this important site and to the hundreds of thousands of people who have supported labor in this country.

The very first Labor Day Parade took place on September 5, 1882, at Union Square. At that time, nearly 30,000 trade unionists from 30 unions marched before a reviewing stand to demonstrate the strength of labor. The laborists were there to support the eight-hour work day and other measures to improve the lives of working people and their families. Also on that day, speeches were given by labor leaders and activists appeared carrying signs with pro-labor slogans.

Union Square has played a significant role in the development of the labor movement in

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

the United States. The very first parade on September 5, 1882, created the momentum that followed that event to the enactment of federal legislation establishing a national holiday for the recognition of labor.

Union Square has also played an important role in the historic development of New York City. It was initially settled as a square surrounded by beautiful residences, and later, in the 1850's, the area around the Square became New York City's first theatrical district.

Also during the 19th century, Union Square became a major nexus for transportation, ultimately to become a hub in New York City's subway system. The easy access to Union Square helped to bring people in the 1920's and 1930's to Union Square Park for political rallies and labor demonstrations.

In recent years, Union Square Park has been rehabilitated and has become known for its open spaces and green-grocer markets. It retains its importance in New York City through this, its transportation crossroads, and its proximity to the historic and refurbished Ladies' Mile. Its historic importance will only be augmented by its designation as a National Historic Landmark.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to bring to your attention this important dedication. Of the 2,250 sites granted this status, fewer than 25 are related to labor. The inclusion of Union Square as a National Historic Landmark will guarantee that it will continue to be a magnet for working people and free political expression.

COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION MAKES POSITIVE REFORMS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to hear from the Colorado Child Care Association regarding the challenges they are facing during this time of significant change to the industry. Increased demand, new research about the importance of childhood learning, changing expectations toward the industry, and contradictions in government policy are impacting child care businesses and the families they serve.

Recent scientific findings suggest what many of us who are involved in education policy have known for some time—early childhood learning is critical to intellectual and emotional development. There are learning "windows" of time for cognitive development and if these "windows" are missed, learning will occur more slowly and with difficulty. This research is changing consumers expectations of early child care. People are demanding greater quality and the industry is responding by providing just that. The industry is moving from custodial care to an active, educational approach to child care.

Unfortunately, several obstacles remain which prevent the industry from competitively raising their standards to the level which is deemed necessary. Educational care is more expensive than custodial care because qualified teachers are needed and they must be compensated for their skills. There is a direct correlation between cost and quality which consumers must bear in mind when they shop for this service.

While the public is responding to these changes, public policy is slow to keep up. The government's approach to child care is undermining efforts to increase quality and availability. Public programs are highly fragmented, imposing different standards and different funding streams. Bias against taxable entities results in the exclusion of quality businesses from providing education to disadvantaged and at-risk children. The segregation of disadvantaged children from their community peers prevents positive interaction.

Moreover, competition from public entities undermines the viability of the private sector. Most child care providers operate with profit margins of under four percent. Heavy labor costs for small children are offset by the smaller cost of caring for older children. When public programs take older children from the private sector, they force private businesses to increase the cost of infant and toddler care or to go out of business. While private child care is more than adequate to provide for the needs of welfare-to-work consumers, liberal policymakers continue to push for more public facilities. Low reimbursement rates are the only disincentive to providers. Space is available.

Lastly, cognitive gains from public and private early childhood learning programs are not maintained in the public schools. By the third grade, preschool and Headstart learners have lost their advantage. Parents who were once encouraged to be active in their child's education through Headstart and other programs, are discouraged from participation. High academic standards are reduced.

Mr. Speaker, the Colorado Child Care Association is dedicated to making the positive reforms during this time of changing needs and expectations. Congress needs to take up its share by eliminating obstacles which are holding back these institutions.

Additionally, I would like to thank Andre Ransom, Sharon Archer, Marilyn Rhodes, Carrier Rivera, Lee and Joan Fetters, Sandy Bright, and Larry and Ruth Neal for the time they have spent with me and my staff and for their commitment to improving child care in the Fourth District of Colorado.

78 YEARS OF SERVICE: THE DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the contributions, hard work and dedication of a fine, outstanding and caring group of individuals in my home State of Delaware: The Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (DVFA). On the behalf of the citizens of the First State, I would like to thank them for their vital and dynamic service to our community.

This weekend, in Dover, volunteer firefighters from Delaware will gather to recognize and celebrate their seventy-eight years unselfish service and notable leadership to our state. This type of dedication and commitment to serving the public is very rare among individuals. For many years, dedicated and caring men and women have been trained to help

prevent or battle fires and perform countless hours of emergency medical services for our citizens. For these reasons and many more, I believe Delaware's volunteer fire and emergency medical personnel are the best in the country.

Mr. Speaker, during the last year, Donald W. Knight has served as president of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association. Like those who have preceded him in this capacity he has provided leadership and vision to the Delaware volunteer fire and emergency medical service community. Under his tenure, President Knight successfully led the DVFA efforts to establish improved training standards for Emergency Medical Service Volunteers. Additionally, he advocated statewide training for emergency responders on potential incidents of terrorism and improved services to the sixty member companies of the DVFA. Upon completion of his term this weekend, President Knight assumes his new role as Delaware State Fire Prevention Commissioner. I have every confidence that he will provide the Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission with the same diligent and hands on leadership that benefitted the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association so well over the past year.

As the gavel falls to open the 78th annual DVFA Conference celebration, I extend my sincere congratulations and appreciation not only as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, but as a former Governor who values the leadership, teamwork and dedication the DVFA has given to the people of the First State. I hope you all realize how deeply your efforts are appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRANTS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, with honor and appreciation, I commend the seven special women who have dedicated loving service to the people of Guam and the Northern Marianas for the past fifty years. This year, Sisters Mary David Richard, RSM; Mary Celeste Fejarang, RSM; Mary Angelica Perez, RSM; Evelyn Muña, RSM; Joseph Marie Perez, RSM; Mary Callista Camacho, RSM; and Marie Pierre Martinez, RSM, celebrate Golden Jubilees as a Sister of Mercy. In honor of the occasion, I would like to share with my colleagues significant events and the achievements of these remarkable women.

Sister Mary David Richard was born Josephine Marie Richard in Buffalo, New York, on March 29, 1929. She never thought of leaving Buffalo until she entered the community in Belmont, North Carolina on September 15, 1947. At her reception on August 14, 1948, she took on her new identity as "Sister Mary David." She first came to Guam in 1953 and returned to the States in 1960. In 1975, she returned to Guam to teach math at the junior high level. She currently assists the administrators of Saint Anthony School as the computer operator for basic student data. Sister Mary David treasures her return to the island, meeting up with former students, the love and generosity of the Sisters on Guam, and the