

A TRIBUTE TO THE STONY BROOK ROTARY CLUB ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Stony Brook Rotary Club, an invaluable community service organization that is celebrating its 50th anniversary. For the past half century the Stony Brook Rotary Club has lived up to the spirit of Rotary International by serving the needs of the children and elderly, and the disadvantaged of this Eastern Long Island community.

The charities and community programs that the members of the Stony Brook Rotary Club support have a profound effect on the quality of life of so many of my neighbors here on Long Island. In the interest of time, I can name but a few, they include the Rotary International Student Exchange Program, scholarships for local high school students, Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the Comsewogue Youth Bureau, Special Olympics to Crime Stoppers and regular food drives.

In its first fifty years of existence, the members of the Stony Brook Rotary Club's singular significant service to the community is its outstanding work in the Gift of Life Program and the Polio-Plus Drive. The Gift of Life Program is a humanitarian effort providing life-saving open heart surgery to children from infancy to 21 years of age, with many of the children coming from underdeveloped countries where such surgery is nonexistent. The Stony Brook Rotary Club contributes its time and resources to the care and welfare of these children, and works with the World Health Organization to reduce the threat of polio to children in Third World countries through the Polio-Plus Drive.

The Stony Brook Rotary Club was founded in May 1949 when the Port Jefferson Rotary Club sponsored the formation of a new club in the growing Three Village community. Here on the East End of Long Island, just as they do across America, we treasure the close-knit, community spirit of our towns and villages, where neighbors help each other through times of need. Mr. Speaker, Stony Brook is a community where residents are committed to helping those in need, whether it's feeding a hungry child, helping a talented student afford a college education or caring for an elderly neighbor.

That is why I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting the Stony Brook Rotary Club on its 50th anniversary. For half a century, the Rotary Club has done more than just help neighbors who need it, or provide opportunities for their children. The Rotary Club has also provided the citizens of Stony Brook the opportunity to express their strong love for their community by getting involved and by helping their neighbors. Congratulations to the Stony Brook Rotary Club, and may it enjoy many more happy anniversaries to come.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PROLOGUE, INC.

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the vision, tireless work, and unwavering commitment of the men and women of Prologue, Inc. For the past twenty-five years, Prologue, Inc. has provided an invaluable service to thousands of Chicago residents, especially in the Uptown, Edgewater, Lawndale, Woodlawn, Englewood, and South Shore communities.

Through its high school diploma program, Prologue, Inc. has assisted hundreds of out-of-school youths and older adults to receive their high school diplomas or their GED. In the past fifteen years, Prologue, Inc. has provided adult education and English as a Second language classes to more than 1000 adults.

Prologue, Inc. has also established an intergenerational alternative education program, and has provided community-based educational, counseling, and referral services for low-income juvenile offenders.

Furthermore, more than 200 low-income families will have an opportunity to participate in Prologue's citywide welfare-to-work initiative. Through this program, families in need will have the opportunity to receive employment training and placement assistance.

Prologue, Inc. is a champion for Chicago families. This community-based organization is improving the quality of life for thousands by helping to deliver a brighter future to those in need.

DECLARATION OF POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE DEPLOYMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4. This bill declares it to be the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense.

This bill continues this body's tradition and mission to provide for the safety and security of our democracy and its citizens. If we can develop a system that can prove itself, in rigorous testing, capable of protecting this country from a limited missile attack, then I think we should support this project. I support this bill because of the importance of America's national security.

In recent years, ballistic missile and weapons of mass destruction technologies have proliferated at an alarming rate. The threat presented by these technologies, particularly from rogue states such as North Korea, Iraq, Libya and Iran, is growing more serious by the day. During the 105th Congress a bipartisan commission of national security experts was established to examine the threat to U.S. security. The commission's conclusions released in July 1998, indicate the threat posed to the United States by nations seeking to acquire

ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction "is broader, more mature and evolving more rapidly than has been reported in estimates and reports by the intelligence community." In its conclusion the commission highlighted that the United States might have little or no warning before a ballistic missile threat is known.

While the growing threat is sobering, we should be realistic in our pursuit of a national missile defense. At present Mr. Speaker, we do not have a system ready for deployment. In five tests of the anti-missile interceptor known as THAAD, anti-missile interceptors have failed to hit a single target. We are a long way from being able to defend against a deliberate attack by a well-armed adversary let alone an accidental launch.

I support this bill not because of the near term reality of a missile defense system but because of the growing threat to our national security. I further support this bill because of its limited scope. The bill does not say what will be deployed, when it will be deployed, or where it will be deployed. It would be imprudent for Congress to rush the technological development of a system, which remains unproven. If we deploy a system just for the sake of deploying a system we would be doing a grave disservice to the American people.

In addition to deploying a system, which is cost effective and reliable, we also must consider the effect of a national missile defense on current treaties. We cannot push a national missile defense system so as to undermine the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START II) or the potential to further reduce weapons of mass destruction in future treaties.

In adopting today's bipartisan bill, this body is signaling its commitment to the future defense of our Republic. Missile defense is but one prong of a successful strategy against weapons of mass destruction that has been followed by the Clinton Administration and this Congress. The first prong of this strategy is the prevention of threats through arms control and nonproliferation treaties. Included in the first prong is disarmament assistance to the former Soviet Union and multilateral export controls. The second prong of our defense has been deterrence by maintaining the strength of the U.S. armed forces.

I would have preferred to have the opportunity to vote for the Allen amendment. This amendment would have ensured that the deployment of a national missile defense was based on technology, threat and affordability.

While I support this resolution, I will be monitoring the progress of the development of the national missile defense system to ensure that it does not become a reckless waste of the American taxpayer's money. I would prefer to see a cost-effective system, which is ground based. Mr. Speaker, all Americans are concerned about the security of our nation and the protection of its citizens.

As we proceed with the development of the national missile defense we should not lose sight of the successes which the first two prongs of our strategy have had in the defense against weapons of mass destruction. We would also be unwise not to heed the warnings of our intelligence community; this is why I will support the development of a national missile defense.