

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ALASKA THROUGH A FEDERAL LAND GRANT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide for the continuance of higher education in the State of Alaska by conveying certain public lands in the State to the University of Alaska system.

This bill is not a new idea: it follows on and honors a commitment Congress first made in 1915 when the then-territory was promised a generous land grant for higher education, but due to circumstances outside Alaska's control, was never completed. As a result, the largest state has the second lowest Federal land grant of all land grant institutions nationwide even though Congress intended each state to acquire a large grant for its higher education needs.

The legislation I introduce today rectifies this gross oversight and puts Alaska's premier university on equal footing with other land grant institutions. This is only fair for a State with over 240 million acres of land owned by the Federal Government and most of that locked away from any development.

The history behind this issue begins in 1915 when Congress reserved about 268,000 acres of public domain for the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines (the former name of the University of Alaska). However, barely any land had been surveyed at that time, and only a fraction could be transferred. In 1958, the Alaska Statehood Act eliminated the original 1915 grant, with no clear, historical record explaining why. Alaska's university land grant today stands at only 112,000 acres in total. If the same formula for granting lands were used as in some other states, Alaska could have received five million acres.

A Federal land grant is vital to the future of higher education in Alaska. I believe its most important role is to make a top-tier educational opportunity available to those who otherwise must travel hundreds, even thousands of miles to the lower 48 States for college. I don't want to see this role compromised because the university is not on an equal footing with its competitors in the lower 48 States.

The legislation introduced today will provide to the university system a grant of 250,000 acres of Federal land, and up to 250,000 acres more on an acre-for-acre matching basis with the State. The University may not select lands in national parks, refuges, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, or specific areas of the national forest system. Thus, those lands open to selection are those which Congress, as ANILCA declares, are "necessary and appropriate for more intensive use and disposition . . ."

This bill also benefits the national conservation areas in Alaska. It conditions the Federal

grant on the university's relinquishment of 13,900 acres of inholdings surrounded by national parks, refuges and wildernesses. The relinquished lands will be added to the units in which they are located.

At its core, this in an education bill. By providing a land base with which to derive resources for the future, Alaskans will continue to receive the fruits of our university system without having to travel outside the State to colleges which were granted their full land entitlements.

REPORT FROM PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver my Report from Pennsylvania. Today, I would like to share with my colleagues and the American people the remarkable efforts of an individual in our community.

All across the Lehigh Valley, my wife, Kris, and I meet so many wonderful people. We learn of and hear about amazing individuals who strive day and night to make our communities better places to live.

I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes. Lehigh Valley Heroes make a difference by helping their friends and neighbors.

Today I would like to honor a man whose volunteerism makes a difference in the lives of a number of veterans in our communities. Leonard E. Shupp, a retired Army Colonel, has been giving his time and services to veterans in the Lehigh valley area for the past thirty years.

A veteran of World War II, Mr. Shupp has been decorated with a number of the nation's highest honors—the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star—along with ten other decorations.

Aside from his heroics during the war, today he is still active with a number of veterans' organizations. To name a few, he has been a volunteer chaplain of the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery Memorial Council for the last thirty years, and has been a volunteer chaplain in the retirement services office of the Tolsyhanna Army Depot for the past ten years. Also, over the past decade, he has served as a volunteer consultant to the Director of Veteran's Affairs in Lehigh County.

On top of his numerous volunteer activities in veterans' affairs, Mr. Shupp has been a licensed minister of the United Church of Christ. And has since March 1998, become a member of the Faith Lutheran Church in Whitehall as a volunteer pastor.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I would like to recognize Mr. Leonard Shupp, of Whitehall, Pennsylvania, as a Lehigh Valley Hero. Through his activism, he has truly made a difference in the lives of members of our community, and for this I commend him.

This concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. TERRY A. STRAETER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct honor for me to pay tribute to Dr. Terry A. Straeter, an individual who is universally recognized as one of the most talented and innovative men in the field of defense aerospace and intelligence. Dr. Straeter is retiring following an illustrious career spanning over 30 years. He does so with the gratitude and appreciation of a nation that is more secure as a result of his work. And while the Nation has been fortunate to reap the benefit of Dr. Straeter's work, I have been even more fortunate in being able to call Terry a true friend.

Dr. Straeter's personal and professional accomplishments reflect a selfish dedication to improving the national security of this country. He distinguished himself through his work in a wide range of national intelligence systems. Specifically, Dr. Straeter was instrumental in the development of digital avionics and spacecraft at NASA's Langley Research Center. In addition, he was recognized for the work he did in digital mapping, exploitation, targeting, and archiving systems. While working for the Defense Mapping Agency, Dr. Straeter led an exceptional team of engineers which developed digital production systems which have become the baseline for the evolution of our nation's imagery intelligence capabilities.

Dr. Straeter's leadership and technical expertise were key in the development of the current generation of low-observable aircraft auto-routing systems—a capability which contributed significantly to the development of stealth technology in this country. He later developed a technology which significantly improved both the speed and accuracy of image extraction that directly improved our Government's digital map production. He also developed a commercial version of this solution that is currently used by more than 50 countries around the world.

Dr. Straeter's enormous talent, his keen insight and penchant for creative thinking made him a highly desired advisor. He served as a member of the Senate Select Committee for Intelligence's Technical Advisory Group, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Security Affairs Support Association, an active contributor to the Defense Science Board, as well as a corporate leader of the highest standing. A recipient of the Intelligence Community Seal Medallion, Dr. Straeter is a national asset who is admired and respected by all who know him.

I know I speak for a grateful nation in wishing Dr. Terry Straeter the very best as he begins a new chapter in his long, distinguished career.

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