

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RHONDA LEE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker it a great honor to pay tribute to Rhonda Lee, a woman who embodies the spirit of the mountains of Colorado. Rhonda Lee worked for years in the Eagle County Hospital as a hospice nurse helping people and their families to cope with illnesses. Rhonda Lee is now coping with her own disease, thyroid cancer, and her whole community has come out to help her as she has help some many of them. In the face of enormous odds, Rhonda has shown courage and strength with the help of her community.

Rhonda made many sacrifices for her patients as a hospice nurse, often traveling over 2,000 miles in a month. Rhonda gladly gave her time and energy for many years but eleven years ago, someone came into Rhonda's life that needed more of her attention—her daughter. After the birth of her daughter, Matyson, Rhonda became a teacher in Special Education. Rhonda has given countless hours to the Special Education Program and students of Gypsum Creek Elementary School but she says that the rewards of her job are endless. When Rhonda learned of her disease she told her students immediately. The way that she has bravely faced her disease is an example to her student of how to handle their own disabilities.

When her community heard of Rhonda's disease, they rallied together to help this valued member of their area. Almost \$4,000.00 has been raised in Rhonda's name through dances and spaghetti dinners. The Vail Valley Charitable Fund has also helped Rhonda to get through this difficult time. Despite Rhonda's dire challenge, she faces each day with optimism. Rhonda has good reason to look forward to each day in the support of her children Scott, Chad, Tanner, and Matyson— who she calls her best friend.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize the courage and service of Rhonda Lee. Her hard work and dedication to her community are an example to us all. The people of Eagle and Gypsum and the surrounding communities have certainly recognized this and have responded when Rhonda needed their support. Rhonda, you have my admiration and support in your courageous battle against cancer.

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
ANTITERRORISM ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3983, Maritime Trans-

portation Antiterrorism Act. Commercial vessels continue to experience an increased threat of criminal attack. Vessels seem to bear the brunt of these attacks which manifest themselves in the form of sea robbery, hijacking, terrorism, and piracy.

A complex set of security issues threaten the maritime industry and the movement of cargo in international trade. Those threats include terrorism, piracy, smuggling of stowaways and drugs, cargo theft and fraud, bribery and extortion. Enacting requisite port security measures and coordination, cooperation, and communication with government and maritime industry components are necessary.

In my home District, the Port of Houston Authority is a dynamic port that has helped to fuel the Houston area's development as a center of international business and trade. Companies that do business internationally also find Houston attractive because of its well-developed industrial and financial infrastructure; skilled work force; and diverse population. Ample space and favorable conditions for industrial development, as well as for cargo handling, makes the Port of Houston an excellent choice location for industry.

Port security is an essential part for a safe, secure, and competitive operation of the maritime transportation system. It promotes the development of commerce and is an essential element in maritime trade competitiveness, which cannot be achieved merely by modernizing port infrastructure and increasing operating productivity.

Consequently, port security can surface as a significant issue in trade negotiations and government and industry courses of action should be coordinated to facilitate effective solutions. Port authorities should develop the means for exchanging current information on port security issues and for the dissemination of intelligence to the commercial industry. We must protect our ports from criminal attacks and allow them to maintain their trade and commerce.

H.R. 3983, Maritime Transportation Antiterrorism Act of 2002 helps to protect our ports, such as the Port of Houston. This bill directs the Secretary of Transportation to (1) assess port vulnerability; (2) prepare a National Maritime Transportation Antiterrorism Plan [the Plan] for deterring catastrophic emergencies; and (3) review and approve Area, vessel, and facility antiterrorism plans.

Further, H.R. 3983 requires that the Plan to (1) coordinate Federal, State, and local efforts, including Coast Guard maritime antiterrorism teams and Federal Maritime Antiterrorism Coordinators; (2) identify security resources; and (3) include a system of surveillance and notice to ensure earliest possible identification of emergencies. The bill requires the Secretary to establish a system of antiterrorism response plans for vessels in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The bill requires that there be transportation security cards for entry to any antiterrorism secure area of a vessel or facility. The bill requires the Under Secretary of Transportation for Se-

curity to develop and maintain an antiterrorism cargo identification and screening system, including performance standards for seals and locks of shipping containers.

Moreover, H.R. 3983 requires that Federal Maritime Antiterrorism Coordinators develop, update, and integrate Area Maritime Transportation Antiterrorism Plans, as needed. The bill also requires owners or operators of vessels or facilities to prepare an antiterrorism plan for deterring a catastrophic emergency, including the identification of the plan implementor, the availability of antiterrorism measures, training and drills.

H.R. 3983 directs the Secretary to establish maritime antiterrorism teams to protect vessels, ports, facilities, and cargo in U.S. waters. Also, H.R. 3983 directs the Secretary to assess the effectiveness of antiterrorism measures maintained at specified foreign ports and make recommendations for improvements, if necessary.

The bill authorizes the Secretary to prescribe conditions of entry for or to deny entry into the United States to vessels arriving from foreign ports with ineffective antiterrorism measures. In addition, H.R. 3983 requires the advance electronic transmission of passenger and crew manifests from commercial vessels arriving in the United States from a foreign port.

The increasing nature and international scope of the maritime security issues, which threatens our port, requires participation and response from all levels of government. The lack of a secure trade corridor can hamper the economic growth of a port and possibly the country itself. A viable maritime security program is good business. A much bigger economic interdependency exists within the entire transportation network. Ports are committed to developing effective maritime security programs based on the recognition of ports as interchange hubs of commerce, critical to international trade. Therefore, I strongly support H.R. 3983. This bill is good for the Port of Houston and good for American ports. Therefore, I strongly urge my fellow members to support this bill.

IN HONOR OF THE HAMTRAMCK
ALLIED VETERANS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, every year on Memorial Day, we recognize those who fought for our nation and gave their lives in the name of democracy and freedom. It is a time for us to remember the patriotism they showed as they went into battle, the courage with which they fought, and the ultimate sacrifice they made for our country.

My home state of Michigan has lost many good men and women to war. We lost 18,906 people in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Gulf War. We lost over

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