

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
AIR FORCE COMMANDER MI-
CHAEL JOSEPH AKOS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Air Force Commander Michael Joseph Akos, who bravely and selflessly answered the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Commander Akos' young life was characterized by his dream of one day flying above the clouds, a dream that would be fulfilled in the form of service to his country. Michael's gregarious and mischievous spirit made him a pleasure to be around, a quality that followed him into adulthood. Devoted and diligent, Commander Akos had the strength and discipline to do anything he set his mind to, and an intense devotion to those he loved.

Commander Akos loved his family, and lived his life with passion. He served as a model husband, son, brother, and friend, always happy to be around his loved ones, and poignantly aware of the gift of family.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Commander Michael J. Akos, whose courage and commitment will forever be remembered as a testament to our great Nation. I offer my deepest condolences to the family of Commander Akos—his beloved parents, Dennis Joseph Akos and Nona Ann Akos; his devoted wife Karlyne Akos; his beloved brothers, Dennis Matthew Akos and Patrick Thomas Akos; and his extended family and many friends.

The significant sacrifice, service, and bravery that characterized the life of Commander Michael Joseph Akos will forever be honored and remembered by the Cleveland community, and the entire Nation. And within the hearts of his family and friends—the bonds of love and memories created in life by Commander Akos will never be broken, the joy he brought to this world will never be forgotten, and his sacrifice will serve as a living symbol of the human spirit.

INCLUSION OF GUAM IN PUBLIC
LAW 101-426

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place in the RECORD a resolution passed by the Guam Legislature which petitions the United States Congress to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 to include Guam in the jurisdictions covered by the Act.

The aforementioned Act, Public Law 101-426, calls for the compensation to be paid to

the people of areas where they may have been exposed to hazardous materials as a result of the detonation of nuclear weapons. While those areas that were most obviously affected by nuclear testing have been compensated, recent evidence shows that the effects of these nuclear tests were more widespread than originally thought. Most specifically, the people of my island, Guam, were affected by these events, and it is of paramount importance that this problem be addressed. As the resolution states, Guam was affected by wind borne radiation and by the scrubbing of radiated vessels in Guam's harbors.

In the coming days, I will work towards the introduction of legislation that will extend Public Law 101-426 to include the people of Guam. Such legislation is a much needed action to compensate for allowing nuclear waste to contaminate areas in the Western Pacific. I look to my colleagues for their assistance and understanding in rectifying the impact of nuclear testing in the region.

RESOLUTION NO. 30 (LS)

Whereas, the United States conducted testing of atomic nuclear weapons on Enewetak and Bikini Atolls in the Marshall Islands, from 1946 to 1958. A total of sixty-seven (67) atomic and thermonuclear bombs were detonated which resulted in fallout across a wide area of the Pacific. Continental United States residents exposed to radiation resulting from the nuclear weapons testing subsequently developed serious diseases, including various types of cancer. On October 1990, in order to establish a procedure to make partial restitution to radiation exposure victims for their suffering, President George H. Bush signed into law the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). RECA established the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program (RECP) within the Civil Division of the Department of Justice to administer its responsibilities under the Act. In April 1992, RECP began processing claims. RECA was amended several times, most recently on July 10, 2000, when President William Jefferson Clinton signed into law the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2000. The 2000 amendments further broaden the scope of eligibility for benefits coverage to include new victim categories and modify the criteria for determining eligibility for compensation; and

Whereas, RECA establishes a procedure to make partial restitution to individuals who contracted serious diseases, such as certain types of cancers, presumably resulting from their exposure to radiation from above-ground nuclear tests or as a result of their employment in uranium mines. The law established five (5) claimant categories—uranium miners, uranium millers, ore transporters, "downwinders" (those who were located downwind from aboveground nuclear weapons tests conducted at the Nevada test sites) and onsite participants (those who actually participated onsite); and

Whereas, as enacted, the law broadens the population covered by the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, which authorizes monetary compensation to individuals who were present, or nearby when nuclear weapons tests were conducted at the Nevada Test Site or who worked in uranium mines, and later developed certain diseases; adds more

qualifying occupations relating to uranium production; increases the number of states covered and extends the time period considered for radiation exposure; adds more diseases which may qualify individuals for compensation; decreases the level of radiation exposure that is necessary to qualify; makes certain that the medical criteria is less stringent for potential claimants; and

Whereas, nuclear tests that the United States Government conducted in the Marshall Islands from 1946 until 1968 have led to increased levels of radiation in some of the islands of Micronesia; and

Whereas, such increased levels of radiation may have led to serious health and other environmental problems for life in such areas; and

Whereas, Guam is approximately one thousand two-hundred (1200) miles directly west of the test sites; and

Whereas, the Atomic Energy Commission detonated sixty-seven (67) nuclear devices with a total yield of one hundred eight thousand four hundred ninety-two point two (108,492.2) kilotons in or around the Marshall Islands; and

Whereas, there were ten (10) detonations that had the yield necessary (one (1) megaton) to project material from the center of the explosion to the height of between twelve (12) to fifty-five (55) miles, and into the jet-stream; and

Whereas, the jet-stream travels generally westward from the Marshall Islands carrying the radioactive material as fine as dust particles; these particles collected ice crystals at high altitudes and descended as cloud condensation. This process is known as the scavenging effect; and

Whereas, the material drops to land surfaces and enters the food and water supply consumed by the local population; and

Whereas, reports from the United States Navy indicated that they had full knowledge and did not warn or help the local population; and

Whereas, ships present during the nuclear testing were decontaminated in Guam harbors with acidic detergents and the runoff from these operations went directly in the local fishing and reef environments; and

Whereas, the United States Navy performed radio ecological studies on the surface water in and around the island of Guam and found a major peak of radioactive contamination in 1959; and

Whereas, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, for the United States Department of Energy, performed radio ecological testing on Guam beginning in 1968 and ending in 1974, to study potential radiation effects on the local population; and

Whereas, numerous other radio ecological studies were performed by government agencies, the United States military, and various research institutions from 1946 until 1974 to study Guam's environment and actual and potential radiation effects on the local population; and

Whereas, according to requirements set forth by the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, the island of Guam should qualify as a jurisdiction and its population should be recognized as victims of radiation exposure from nuclear weapons testing and associated clean-up activities (see Appendix I listing the declassified documents pertaining to and indicating Guam's exposure to radioactive

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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