

Two sections of the conference bill clearly are aimed at these objectives. Section 932(d) establishes a new program of research, development, demonstration and commercial application for integrated clean power and energy research. Section 935 establishes a similar program for research on innovative coal-burning technologies and advanced combustion systems.

I have been told that a new oxygen fuel technology shows great promise with respect to these critical research goals. This new technology, as I understand it, uses oxygen instead of air to produce combustion of coal and other fossil fuels in electric utility and industrial boilers. This prevents entry of nitrogen from the air in the normal combustion process, which provides both fuel efficiency and emission reduction benefits. The reliance on oxygen, combined with more efficient use of fossil fuels, also takes a step in the direction of renewable energy sources. I understand that the new oxygen-fuel technology has already been employed successfully in large industrial furnaces and has proved effective in small scale boiler testing conducted under a CRADA agreement with the Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory. If these results can be confirmed in boilers on a commercial production scale, the new technology offers substantial benefits for U.S. domestic and international energy and environmental policy.

Regarding the research provisions of the conference legislation, these provisions are intended to fund additional research for emerging, innovative fossil fuel technologies, such as the new oxygen-fuel technology. These provisions, with respect to technologies such as the oxygen fuel technology, will fund projects involving both new and existing (retrofitted) boilers on a commercial scale, where appropriate.

It is important to continue research in clean coal technologies. The continued use of coal, in an environmentally friendly way, will lead to a balanced energy policy for our Nation.

HONORING THE 106TH AIR RESCUE WING

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the courageous efforts of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Air Rescue Wing during the recent CH-47 Chinook helicopter rescue operation in Iraq. These American heroes saved the lives of two soldiers whose helicopter was downed in a terrorist attack that took the lives of 16 of their brave comrades.

Located at Gabreski Airport in Westhampton, Long Island, the 106th Air Rescue Wing's mission is to provide air rescue support. In December of 1994, they established the record for the longest over-water helicopter rescue mission, while saving a Ukrainian sailor in the North Atlantic. Their efforts in an attempted rescue in 1991 were memorialized in Sebastian Junger's book "The Perfect Storm," which was later made into a major motion picture.

I would like to offer my sincerest thanks and appreciation to Colonel Mike Canders and his

entire Unit for their dedicated service to our country.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG, IMPROVEMENT, AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the conference agreement of H.R. 1, the Medicare and Prescription Drug bill.

This conference agreement provides limited benefit to vulnerable low income senior citizens and people with disabilities. In fact, the plan prohibits Medicaid from filling in the gaps in the new Medicare drug benefit, as Medicaid does now for other benefits. Given the ongoing state budget crises, up to 6.4 million low-income seniors and people with disabilities could receive less help with their prescription drug costs than they do now.

The proposed plan bows to drug industry pressure and prevents Medicare from negotiating better prices. It also adopts a policy that will prevent access to lower-cost drugs available in other countries, allowing drug companies profits to skyrocket at the expense of patients. Millions of Medicare beneficiaries will be forced to pay more for Medicare if they don't give up their doctor and join an HMO. Although the bill's proponents claim it will be limited, as many as 7 million seniors could be forced to participate.

Finally, the conference agreement proposes the creation of Health Security Accounts, which are tax shelters for the wealthy. This creates an unprecedented tax loophole that would undermine existing employer coverage and add to the ever-growing number of uninsured. These funds should be used to prevent employers from dropping coverage or to improve the drug benefit.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

CONGRATULATING THE LANCASTER FIREBIRD'S PEE WEE AA HOCKEY TEAM ON WINNING THE EASTERN REGIONAL SILVER STICK CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to offer my most sincere congratulations to the Lancaster Firebird's Pee Wee AA hockey team in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, the Firebirds won the Eastern Regional Silver Stick Championship tournament in Columbia, Maryland. More than 63,000 young hockey players play in these regional tournaments all across North America—from Huntsville, Alabama to Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Champions of these regional tournaments, represent their region at the North American

Finals Tournament in Port Huron, Michigan in January. The Lancaster Pee Wee AA hockey team will now represent the entire East Coast Region. If the Pee Wee AA's win there, they will be crowned North American champions.

The Silver Stick tournament was formed to promote citizenship and international goodwill through hockey. In that sense, it continues the time-honored tradition of using sport to build understanding and friendship across national lines.

I am honored to congratulate the Lancaster Firebird's Pee Wee AA coaches Dave Bauer, Larry Collins and Jim Popp. And the Team Manager, Andy Lee.

But most of all, I'd like to offer my congratulations to the players themselves: #3 Bob Lee, #4 Jacob Friedman, #5 Kyle Boyd, #7 John McCracken, #10 Travis Gold, #11 Jeffrey Branson, #12 Nico Delgiorno, #13 Danny Keich, #16 Kyle Troup, #22 Logan Gleason, #24 Ben Bauer, #25 Josh Lewis, #29 Talon Lewis, #31 Ryan Popp, #44 Alec Collins, and #97 Christian Grim.

They have made us all very proud. I know that they will represent us well in Michigan. I look forward to continued success from their team and, hopefully, welcoming them home as North American Silver Stick champions.

H.R. 3659, RESERVISTS BURIAL EQUITY ACT OF 2003

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 8659, the Reservists Burial Equity Act of 2003. I am pleased to have join me as sponsors of the bill Mr. LANE EVANS, the Ranking Democrat of the Veterans' Affairs Committee; Mr. HENRY BROWN and Mr. MICHAEL MICHAUD, the Chairman and Ranking Member, respectively, of the Subcommittee on Benefits; as well as Mr. JEFF MILLER; Ms. JULIA CARSON; Ms. BERKLEY; Mr. SHERRON BROWN; and Mr. JOHN SHIMKUS. This legislation would update the eligibility rules for burial of reservists at Arlington National Cemetery. Similar legislation passed the House in the 107th Congress.

Current Army rules provide in-ground burial at Arlington National Cemetery to veterans who died on active duty, received one of the military services' highest awards for gallantry, were held as a prisoner of war, or retired from active duty military service. In addition, veterans who do not meet the current eligibility criteria but who served in a high Federal office are also eligible, as are the immediate family members of all veterans buried there.

It is wholly inequitable that a reservist who serves our Nation for a minimum of 20 years is ineligible for in-ground burial at Arlington National Cemetery because he or she had the misfortune to die prior to age 60. The most glaring example of this policy was brought to light following the death of Captain Charles Burlingame III, the pilot of the American Airlines jet that crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Although he had retired from the Naval Reserves, he was only 51 years old at the time of his death. As such, he was not automatically eligible for burial at Arlington. Subsequently, the Secretary of the