

IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL'S
SECURITY FENCE

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Israel's security fence.

In yet another example of political manipulation of a U.N. body, Palestinians and their supporters have convinced the International Court of Justice to take up the issue of Israel's security fence.

On December 8, 2003, the General Assembly of the United Nations, sitting as an Emergency Special Session, adopted resolution ES/10/14 requesting the ICJ to render an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's security fence. This recent action by the Arab nations is an indignation both in relation to the jurisdiction of the Court to address such an issue, and the propriety of such a proceeding.

The International Court of Justice was set up in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations to be the principal judicial organ of the Organization. The blatant use of the ICJ to further a political agenda is not only an outrage but an obvious conflict with the original purpose of the Court.

Article 36 of the Court's Statute states that contentious issues may only be brought before the Court with the consent of all parties. In this case, not only is the issue at hand clearly contentious, but the parties have already agreed on appropriate mechanisms for resolving such issues between themselves. Israel has voiced their deep reservations about the Arab initiative to involve the ICJ in complex political issues that should be resolved through negotiation and the abuse of the U.N. and the ICJ as part of a narrow political campaign.

A significant group of states, including the United States, Switzerland, Uganda and Italy stated in the General Assembly that they oppose the request for an advisory opinion because it goes directly against the Road Map and the wishes of the Security Council, which unanimously endorsed the Road Map in Resolution 1515 of November 19, 2003 and which has repeatedly called for resolution of the conflict via direct negotiations in accordance with Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

The Government of Israel has recently reiterated its commitment to the Road Map. It believes that those who support the efforts of the Quartet and the international community in bringing the sides together should stress to the ICJ the importance of not prejudicing that process and emphasize that the Court should refuse to respond to the question at hand.

The U.N. General Assembly has been a hotbed of anti-Israel activity, passing more resolutions against Israel than on any other subject—more than 400 since 1964. In contrast, the body has never investigated the Palestinian terror campaign against Israel, nor has it investigated abuse, torture and other human rights violations by non-democratic states in the Arab world.

On a host of issues, the U.N. and its agents, in this case the ICJ, have become not only irrelevant to the cause of furthering classically liberal democracies and peace, but actually hostile to our efforts to promote basic freedoms.

I urge the International Court of Justice to uphold the integrity of its Statute and recog-

nize Israel's security fence as a necessary measure to protect their people from those who believe that the path to salvation is paved by killing Jewish women and children. Otherwise, once again a U.N. entity will end up on the wrong side of peace, security, freedom and democracy.

COMMEMORATING LOYD E.
WILLIAMS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. ESHOO rise today to commemorate the life and many accomplishments of Mr. Loyd Williams, who passed away on Sunday, December 28, 2003. Mr. Williams will long be remembered for his integrity and dedication to the welfare of all people in his community, and for his advocacy and hard work on behalf of the members of the United Association (UA) of Plumbers, Steamfitters, and Refrigeration Fitters Local 393 and the entire labor movement.

Loyd Williams was born in El Morro, NM on April 15, 1941. At the age of 2, he and his family moved to San Jose, CA, where he attended Cambrian Elementary School and then Camden High School. Mr. Williams had his first experiences with the labor movement and its concerns while in his early school years, working as a prune harvester and later becoming a harvest contractor. During which, Loyd fired his own brother for poor job performance. Consequently, he learned a valuable lifelong lesson when Loyd's father later advised him that his brother was not properly trained. Instilled with his father's wisdom and insight, Loyd became one of the most respected labor leaders by modeling and teaching what he expected of others. After graduating from high school in 1959, Mr. Williams became an apprentice plumber and was elected president of his apprenticeship class. In 1964, he became a journeyman plumber and was active for 8 years in UA Local 393. Loyd Williams was elected business agent in 1973 and served continuously until he became business manager in 1992.

Loyd's 43-year dedication to UA Local 393 was not merely confined to his role as a business manager. He gladly took on many other responsibilities within the union and the community. Recently, Loyd Williams chaired the UA Local 393's Centennial Committee, organizing the Union's 100th Anniversary Celebration on January 24, 2004. He also chaired the Board of Trustees for the UA Local 393 Pension Fund, served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Western States Pipe Council, and acted as delegate to the Santa Clara/San Benito Trades Council, the South Bay Labor Council, the California State Pipe Trade Council, and the UA National Convention. Mr. Williams' co-workers fondly remember his outspokenness and willingness to fight for labor rights. Members of the community recall his many other contributions that included helping to establish the South Bay Children's Urgent Care Center and participating in the Christmas in April program.

Loyd Williams was characterized by his fervent advocacy on behalf of laborers and his continuous belief in the inherent goodness of

people. His own life not only had taught him the values of hard work and perseverance, but also the need for cooperation in order to achieve common goals. Mr. Williams will always be remembered as one of the most dedicated and successful business managers of the UA Local 393. His life constitutes a wonderful example for many young people today who wish to engage in the labor rights movement and who want to actively support their communities.

Mr. Williams is survived by his wife, Carolyn, of 37 years and his son, Jonathan. Also, he is fondly remembered by his siblings Oren, Bill, and Linda Fanelli. The entire community of Santa Clara County gives thanks and commemorates the life and many accomplishments of Mr. Loyd Williams.

Mr. Speaker, we extend our deepest condolences to Mr. Williams' family and friends. Please join us in honoring Mr. Loyd Williams, a truly exceptional individual who dedicated his life to the service of others.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF VAN MILLER, THE VOICE OF
THE BUFFALO BILLS

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, all good things must come to an end, and it is with both sadness and great respect that we acknowledge the end of Van Miller's remarkable career as the announcer for the Buffalo Bills. At 76 years of age, Mr. Miller has been the most devoted and longest-tenured broadcaster in the history of the National Football League. He began his distinguished career with the Bills on July 30, 1960, commenting for an exhibition game against the Boston Patriots. For the following 37 years, Mr. Miller lent his voice to the Buffalo Bills and their loyal fans, creating a steadfast following with the phenomenon known as Vandemonium.

As the play-by-play announcer for the Bills, Mr. Miller articulated their decades of both triumphs and defeats, displaying his love for the game and the team through good times and bad. He is renowned not only for his professionalism in the booth, but also for his enthusiastic announcing. The excitement of the fans matched his own exhilaration at watching his favorite team play.

The lead commentator for Super Bowl XXV between the Bills and the New York Giants, Mr. Miller was the voice of professionalism in announcing the Giants' victory over his beloved Bills. Though a devastating moment for the team, Mr. Miller made the call with poise and calm, ably performing his announcing duties while displaying the utmost respect for both teams. It is this dedication to his job and team that explains why Buffalo may be the only city in the world where football fans turn down the volume on their televisions and turn up their radios when a Bills game is on.

Van Miller is more than a voice, however. As beloved as he is for his football commentary, his friendly presence and genuine care for the team and fans touches the entire Buffalo community. When Bills fans tuned in to Mr. Miller, they felt as though they were listening to a good friend. As John Murphy says of

his colleague, "It's like Van's a member of every fan's family." His name and voice have become intertwined with the world of Buffalo Bills football, and it is no surprise that Mr. Miller was inducted into the Buffalo Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 1999. In fact, after his 752nd and final Bills broadcast, Mr. Miller's equipment was sent to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Ohio, commemorating both the field of play-by-play broadcasting and the man who left an invaluable and indelible mark upon it. We will surely miss his presence on the field and on the air this coming season, but we know his contributions to Buffalo will continue for years to come.

TAIWAN

HON. CHRIS BELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support of efforts by the Taiwanese President and people to facilitate a peaceful, stable, and democratic environment in East Asia. Despite continued aggression by the People's Republic of China, Taiwan has maintained grace and sensibility. For this, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of President Chen Shui-bian and the Taiwanese people.

On March 20, 2004, the Taiwanese people will vote on a referendum for peace, which will consist of two questions. One is:

Would you agree that our Government should engage in negotiations with Mainland China on the establishment of a "peace and stability" framework for cross-strait interactions in order to build consensus and for the welfare of the people on both sides?

This would be the first official communication between Taiwan and China since 1949, a historic attempt at conciliation between two sparring nations. I would remind my colleagues of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, in which we put forth the expectation that "the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means" and state that "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means . . . is of grave concern to the United States." As Taiwan makes a sincere effort to improve relations with Mainland China and support a peaceful continuation of the status quo, we must applaud and support them.

The other referendum question is:

The people of Taiwan demand that the Taiwan Strait issue be resolved through peaceful means. Should Mainland China refuse to withdraw the missiles it has targeted at Taiwan and to openly renounce the use of force against us, would you agree that the Government should acquire more advanced anti-missile weapons to strengthen Taiwan's self-defense capabilities?

This referendum is neither provocative nor a move toward Taiwanese independence. It constitutes an effort to prevent Mainland China from using force and unilaterally changing the status quo. China has never renounced the use of force in the Taiwan Straits and has 496 missiles targeting Taiwan. I urge China to withdraw those missiles, which upset the military balance in the Taiwan Straits and whose continued presence demonstrates China's hostile approach to cross-strait relations.

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right

to life, liberty and security of person." Taiwan has the right to voice its concerns and to protect itself from harm. A nonviolent resolution of the Taiwan Straits issue is Taiwan's ultimate goal. This peace referendum is the first step in that process and the right of the Taiwanese people.

In the Taiwan Relations Act, we reaffirmed our nation's commitment to "the preservation of human rights of the Taiwanese people." Now is the time to stand behind that statement. For President Chen Shui-bian's work to create a stable, peaceful, and democratic environment in the region, he deserves our recognition and support.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY BELL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Shirley Bell, a dear friend of Minnesota veterans and a great mentor, leader and activist in my community.

Shirley Bell was an active member of the United Veterans Legislative Council since its inception and volunteered as its Secretary for many years. She was also a member of the Gold Star Wives, an association of survivors of brave men and women who gave their lives in battle or as a result of their service. Everyone who knew her loved and admired her.

Along with Shirley Bell's service to our veterans, she was also deeply involved in the well-being and education of others as the co-program director of The School of Anesthesia at Northwestern Hospital of Minneapolis. She went on to develop the Baccalaureate Completion program for CRNA's as an Associate Professor of Nursing Anesthesia in the School of Medicine at the University of Minnesota—a position created especially for Shirley to enable her to use her creativity and exceptional mentoring skill to promote and encourage students. As recognition for her accomplishments in Anesthesia Education, Shirley received the Helen Lamb Outstanding Education Award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists in 1994.

Shirley Bell's work and selfless dedication to helping others in our community was tremendous. Her leadership, commitment and tireless efforts will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRIAN L. POTTS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I know that you and my distinguished colleagues are aware that we usually appear before the House of Representatives to voice the concerns of our constituents on matters related to the legislative process and about particular issues associated with bills that warrant our attention. Yet, while debating the issues of the day, we often take for granted the hard work and dedication required to transform an idea into a bill, and a bill into a law. It is with these thoughts in mind that I am here today to pay

tribute to Mr. Brian L. Potts, a dedicated staff member of the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction.

Brian is departing the House Appropriations Committee at the end of this week to begin a new position with the Senate Appropriations Committee. His departure is a loss that will be felt for quite some time, yet it is good to know that we have another friend working in the Senate.

Brian came to the Committee from the Naval Audit Service as a Detailee in 1997 and joined the Committee staff in January 1999, and his contributions to the Committee are many. He has always been a focused and hard working individual who conducts himself with the utmost professionalism, and his strengths and accomplishments are many. As a Certified Public Accountant Brian has a keen ability to cut to the heart of a Department of Defense audit report and find savings that have offset the costs of the Military Construction bill. Simply put, Mr. Speaker, Brian is a wizard with spreadsheets and tables, and an invaluable support to the Subcommittee clerk.

During my tenure as the Chairman of the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee, I have found Brian to be a quietly powerful and effective staff member, possessing the unique ability to impart a sense of calmness to emotionally charged situations. One of his finest characteristics is his ability to treat others with kindness and respect. Brian views his job as a privilege and feels fortunate to contribute. These are rare qualities that enable him to effectively carry out his duties and have opened the door to new opportunities for him in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Mr. Brian Potts on his career, his time spent doing invaluable work for the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction, and to thank him for his outstanding service to this great legislative body. Finally, I ask for God's Blessings as Brian embarks on this phase of his career with the Senate Appropriations Committee, which is very lucky to have him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TIMUCUAN
ECOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVE
BOUNDARY REVISION
ACT OF 2004

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that provides needed protection to an historic area of Florida with great national significance known as American Beach. This bill will expand the current boundaries of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve to include approximately 12.5 acres of land in American Beach, Amelia Island.

The Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve currently provides protection to an important ecological treasure and the addition of American Beach will serve to enhance its national significance.

This beautiful stretch of shoreline provides a great history and a great story. Founded in the 1930s by A.L. Lewis, American Beach provided a sunny paradise for those Americans