

Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. BARR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this misguided amendment that threatens not only the delicate balance achieved in passage of the international tax bill, H.R. 4520, but also the future of every farm program administered by USDA.

Tobacco simply happens to be first. More crops will most certainly follow. To my colleagues who produce feed grains, wheat, rice, cotton, tobacco, dairy, soybeans, oilseeds, peanuts, sugar, honey, wool, and certain other crops: Your crops are next.

It is also somewhat disingenuous for proponents of this amendment to claim that they are protecting the American taxpayer. If indeed "taxpayers" are impacted by the tobacco reform provisions included in H.R. 4520, the burden falls only on those who pay excise taxes on tobacco products. Any approach other than the one proposed in H.R. 4520 will actually result in a tax increase on those who choose to use tobacco products. If that is what colleagues really are seeking, they should say so.

The facts, Mr. Chairman, are that tobacco and tobacco taxes raise more than \$30 billion every year for states and the Federal government. We are only asking for a portion of this money over five years to provide relief to our struggling farmers and their communities.

DEPLORING MISUSE OF INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE BY UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSE

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my serious reservations about House Resolution 713.

Israel's construction of a security barrier has been a source of great controversy within Israel and in the international community.

The debate has less to do with the actual construction of a barrier than with the route of the barrier.

The government of Israel regards the barrier as a form of self-defense—a legitimate means for preventing further terrorist infiltration. Israel has a right to self-defense, and if the Israeli government believes that the security barrier is the best means for protecting their citizens, then I support their right to construct a barrier.

But as it now stands, the barrier has gone deeply into territory beyond the 1967 borders. That is the fact the authors of this resolution choose to ignore: There would be no International Court of Justice decision to condemn if Israel were building the fence along the Green Line.

The Supreme Court of Israel recently ordered portions of the fence rerouted. The Court held that the barrier's current route "injures the local inhabitants in a severe and acute way while violating their rights under humanitarian and international law."

American diplomats also have worked diligently to modify the barrier's route in their dealings with the Israeli government.

This resolution threatens to damage these efforts, implying an unqualified endorsement of the barrier and warning the international community against efforts to influence the situation.

Roughly one-quarter of the 420-mile barrier has been completed—clearly there is still much at stake for both the Israelis and the Palestinians. Our efforts should be directed at negotiating borders that will advance peace. Resolutions such as the one before us today do nothing to advance the peace process.

There are legitimate questions as to the propriety and wisdom of the action taken by the International Court of Justice in this matter. But this resolution goes too far. It condemns the ICJ and "Palestinian Leadership" indiscriminately, and it undermines worthy efforts underway in Israel, the U.S., and internationally to promote Israel's security in ways that enhance the prospects for a just and lasting peace in the region.

If we were truly serious about promoting peace in the Middle East, we would focus on efforts like the Roadmap rather than pass resolutions such as H. Res. 713.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO RE-NAME THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER IN AMARILLO, TEXAS, THE "THOMAS E. CREEK DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER"

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, today, I have the privilege, along with the entire Texas delegation in the House and Mr. Moran from Kansas, to introduce a bill to rename the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Amarillo, Texas, the "Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center."

Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek, USMC, of Amarillo, Texas, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously by President Nixon. He was a true American hero, deserving of this recognition and honor.

On February 13, 1969, Lance Corporal Creek was an 18 year old Marine with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam. He was part of a resupply convoy that was ambushed by enemy forces using mortars, mines, fragmentation grenades, and small arms. According to the documents recommending him for the Medal of Honor, "[t]he fierce combat found the men firing at point blank range." Lance Corporal Creek was wounded by a bullet in the neck, but then saw a fragmentation grenade land between him and the rest of the squad. He then, though wounded, deliberately rolled on top of the grenade, taking the full impact of the explosion, and saving the lives of 5 Marines nearby. His act inspired the rest of the squad to defeat the enemy and complete its mission to resupply the forward combat base.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot help but be moved by such acts of self-sacrifice and bravery. They exemplify the highest standards of the Marine Corps, our military, and our Nation. The veterans community in the Amarillo area suggested this way of honoring Corporal

Creek. It is supported by the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and AMVETS.

I also want to acknowledge and to thank all those who have helped in this effort to recognize Lance Corporal Creek, especially Corporal Creek's family, Selden Hale, and Larry Milam, who were instrumental in this endeavor.

In some ways, 1969 seems like a long time ago, yet acts of bravery like Corporal Creek's are timeless. They provide an example for us all. Corporal Creek's name will further magnify the honor attached to those who have served our nation and receive health care at this veterans' facility. I urge my colleagues to support the measure.

WELCOMING THE OPENING OF THE ROBERT BROADBENT LAS VEGAS MONORAIL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the opening of the Robert Broadbent Las Vegas Monorail today in Las Vegas, Nevada. This momentous achievement will expand transit opportunities for residents and visitors in Southern Nevada while enhancing the environment, reducing congestion, and improving safety.

The Robert Broadbent Monorail is the most technically advanced transit system in the world. The first leg will run 4 miles along the world famous Las Vegas Strip. The Broadbent Monorail is built entirely with private money, and shows the commitment to build for our future that southern Nevada is famous for. The monorail is named after Robert Broadbent, a long-time community leader who sadly passed away last year. Robert Broadbent was the chairman of the Monorail and served as Mayor of Boulder City, County Commissioner, McCarran Airport Director and Director of the Bureau of Reclamation.

I invite all the members of the House to visit Las Vegas and see firsthand the Broadbent Monorail. I urge the House to join me in congratulating Chairman Jim Gibson, President Cam Walker, and all of the men and women who have contributed over the years to the success of this project. I look forward to extending the monorail in the near future to serve McCarran Airport, downtown Las Vegas, and other points in southern Nevada.

A TRIBUTE TO JACK VALENTI

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has touched the lives of countless Americans and helped to put smiles on the faces of kids young and old.

Jack Valenti has served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Motion Picture Association for almost 40 years. Texas born and Harvard educated, Jack has led several lives: a wartime bomber pilot, advertising