

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

agency founder, political consultant, White House Special Assistant, and movie industry leader. He earned a B.A. from the University of Houston and a M.B.A. from Harvard.

In his current role as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Motion Picture Association, Jack has presided over and led the American film and television industry as it has confronted a sea change in the landscape of the industry, both in the United States and abroad.

Born in Houston, Texas, Jack was the youngest (age 15) high school graduate in the city. As a young pilot in the Army Air Corps in World War II, Lieutenant Valenti flew 51 combat missions as the pilot-commander of a B-25 attack bomber with the 12th Air Force in Italy. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with four clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation with one cluster and the European Theater Ribbon with four battle stars.

In 1952, he co-founded the advertising/political consulting agency of Weekley & Valenti. In 1955 he met the man who would have the largest impact on his life, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson. Jack's agency was in charge of the press during the visit of President Kennedy and Vice President Johnson to Texas. Jack was in the motorcade (six cars back of the President) in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Within an hour of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Jack was aboard Air Force One flying back to Washington with the new President as the first newly hired Special Assistant to the President. On June 1, 1966, Jack resigned his White House post to become the third man in MPAA's history (founded in 1922) to become its leader.

Jack has written four books (three non-fiction): *The Bitter Taste of Glory* (World Publishing); *A Very Human President* (W.W. Norton Co.); *Speak Up With Confidence* (Wm. Morrow Co.), and the political novel, *Protect and Defend* (Doubleday). His most recent book is an updated revision of *Speak Up With Confidence* (2002, Hyperion). Jack has written extensively for America's preeminent newspapers and magazines. He is one of the few public figures who actually writes his own speeches.

France has conferred upon him its highly prized Legion d'Honneur, the French Legion of Honor. Jack has been awarded his own star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. He has also been named a Life Member of the Directors Guild of America.

Mr. Speaker, America and the rest of the world will greatly miss Jack Valenti. His watchful and caring eye has helped bring joy to countless children and adults alike, and I wish him a very happy and healthy retirement.

WELCOMING REMARKS FOR
REVEREND JEAN BURCH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I join you this morning in welcoming today's distinguished guest chaplain: Reverend Jean Burch of Pasadena, a resident of my Congressional district in California.

Reverend Burch represents the best of what we hope all citizens should be—always striv-

ing to improve the lives of others and always enthusiastic about our prospects for tomorrow.

After a long career in the legal profession, she followed her heart into the faith community, becoming Senior Pastor at Community Baptist Church. In addition to her pastoral duties, she works tirelessly with other religious leaders to lift the scourge of violence in our schools.

Each day she inspires those among her to better themselves and help people in need. I am pleased that all in the House of Representatives today have been able to benefit from her inspirational wisdom. I hope that many here today will get a chance to meet this remarkable woman.

IN MEMORY OF HELEN
GULBRANSON

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Helen Gulbranson, a longtime close friend and patriot, who died Tuesday at 96 years young.

I met Helen and her late husband, Dick, in 1986 when I first ran for Congress. At the time they were supporting my primary opponent, the late Tony Hope, who was the son of their neighbors in Toluca Lake, Bob and Dolores Hope. After I won the primary, Helen and Dick supported my candidacy, as they have ever since.

While I valued their support, I treasured the personal relationship we developed over the past 18 years even more.

Helen Gulbranson was born in 1908 in Hammond, Wisconsin, and moved to California in 1936. It was there that she met Dick. They married in 1940 and opened up the North Hollywood Glass and Paint Company. The two were married for 54 years when Dick died in 1994.

Helen's daughter-in-law, Colleen, remembers weekly parties at Helen's and Dick's Toluca Lake home. If they weren't throwing a political bash for such candidates as Ronald Reagan, there was always a wedding or other social event to celebrate.

Later, they moved to Camarillo, in my congressional district, where they continued to enjoy life to its fullest.

Helen was an avid golfer and golfed up until a few months ago. Just last Saturday, she took her great-grandson to the golf course so he could play. She also loved to play table games: Scrabble, bridge and the like.

If it weren't for the calendar, you would never guess Helen's age. She remained independent in her own home and was alert and fit right up to the end.

Helen is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Colleen, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in sending condolences to the Gulbranson family and by remembering a life well-lived.

TRIBUTE TO MOE BYRNES

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise a decorated veteran who has bravely served his country and community. I am fortunate that the community he supports is Citrus County in my 5th Congressional District.

Moe Byrnes served his country in the Navy and the Coast Guard for 24 years and retired as Chief Petty Officer. While doing his duty on the prestigious USS *Shuffleley*, Mr. Byrnes' brave actions earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor, a Philippine Liberation Medal, a Bronze Star and many others.

Moe is retiring from his post as Commander of VFW Post 6146 in Citrus County, where he served for 13 years. He has been a member of the American Legion for a remarkable 52 years. Moe continues to lend his strength by helping veterans throughout Citrus County. For this, we honor him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent Moe Byrnes, and I am proud to praise him on the floor of this House.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for debate on rollcall vote 375, United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (H.R. 4759); and rollcall vote 376, Project BioShield Act (S. 15).

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall vote 376, and "nay" for rollcall vote 375.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on July 13, 2004, I mistakenly voted "aye" on rollcall 368, the Chabot Amendment to H.R. 4766. I intended to vote "no."

REMEMBERING THE COLUMBIA-
WRIGHTSVILLE BRIDGE BURNING

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, over a century ago, on a hot summer day, an event occurred of national significance that by some eyewitness accounts, altered history, as we know it today. This act of war produced an obligation on the part of the Federal Government that to this day remains unpaid and largely forgotten.