

MILITARY PERSONNEL, FINANCIAL
SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my strong support for H.R. 458, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act. This legislation protects the men and women of our armed forces from predatory lenders that target service members.

There are a number of companies known as "military lenders" that offer our troops ill-advised and costly products, such as loans with exorbitant rates and hidden fees. They often cluster around military installations and aggressively target service members and their families, who are uniquely vulnerable to these abusive marketing and collection practices. As an example, the zip code 76903 of San Angelo in my Congressional District borders Goodfellow Air Force Base and has 11 banks and eight payday lenders.

Unfortunately, a large number of our young troops have limited experience dealing with financial matters and many fall victim to abusive lending practices. Additionally, they often have relatively low incomes which may lead them to borrow in order to pay current expenses and debts. This is especially troubling in a time when we are experiencing extended troop deployments and families at home are struggling to make ends meet while the service member is deployed. The problem has become so pervasive that the Pentagon has launched a new effort aimed at educating our troops and warning them about the dangers of abusive military lenders.

Not only do these predatory lending practices affect the financial well-being of the men and women of our armed services, but it also threatens the operational readiness of our military. The last thing we need is for service members who are putting their lives on the line for our nation to be overwhelmed with financial stresses back home.

H.R. 458 addresses this problem by imposing certain restrictions on various types of specialty lenders that target service members. Additionally, it protects the interests of service members by requiring additional disclosures with regard to these types of loans. H.R. 458 is responsible legislation that protects the rights of the men and women of our military while still affording them options with regard to their finances.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the House of Representatives for passing this legislation and addressing an issue that is vitally important to our nation's dedicated troops.

RECOGNIZING AN ENVIRONMENTAL
MILESTONE AT SMITHFIELD FOODS**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend publicly Smithfield Foods and its many employees, an important corporate citizen from my district in Southeastern Virginia.

Smithfield has long been known throughout the United States as the leading producer of pork and other outstanding meat products. This spring, Smithfield Foods earned another important distinction. It was certified by the International Standards Organization (ISO) in Geneva, Switzerland as having met or exceeded the ISO's high standards for environmental management. It has achieved its aggressive goal of ISO 14001 certification for all Environmental Management Systems, EMSs, in its U.S.-based hog production, and all its U.S. pork and beef processing facilities, except recent acquisitions.

Smithfield is the first domestic processor of meat to earn certification under the ISO 14001 Standard—that is the gold standard for environmental stewardship not just in the United States but across the globe. To obtain ISO certification for its environmental practices, a company must meet a rigorous and comprehensive set of standards developed by more than 2,000 experts worldwide. It is a distinction that is a credit to Smithfield's leadership, and to its entire workforce.

This was not the first milestone that Smithfield has achieved for its stewardship of our natural resources. Last month, our Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Quality, DEQ, awarded eight Smithfield Foods facilities with its Virginia Environmental Excellence Program designations. Six Smithfield facilities received Exemplary Environmental Enterprise, E3, status, and two others achieved Environmental Enterprise, E2, Status.

As our State's Secretary of Natural Resources said in making these awards: "Smithfield Foods has made superior environmental performance a management priority. This E3 designation shows that the company has made significant improvements in the management of its facilities in order to protect Virginia's environment." Smithfield has received other awards from states and communities all across our great country.

Mr. Speaker, what is particularly significant about these milestones is that they have been achieved less than 10 years after Smithfield Foods received a large civil fine under the Clean Water Act for discharges into the Pagan River in Virginia.

So what did Smithfield do? In response to those events and others, Smithfield embraced what one executive recently described as a "culture shift" in its approach to environmental issues. Smithfield has embraced the simple idea that protecting the environment is not just the right thing to do, but smart business as well. And because Smithfield Foods has embraced environmental stewardship throughout the company, in many cases going beyond what is required by our laws, my district and many other parts of the United States are better places to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Smithfield Foods on its environmental turnaround and the recent recognition it has received for that progress in my district and across the country. I am confident that Smithfield will stay on this course in the years ahead.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3057) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of international wildlife conservation efforts and the Global Environmental Facility, GEF.

Protecting and preserving our environment is one of the most important duties I have as a Member of Congress. We simply won't have a world to live in if we continue our neglectful ways.

I support maximizing the GEF's resources, leveraging the highest possible contributions from the other donor countries, and demonstrating U.S. leadership on international environmental issues.

The GEF is the primary financing mechanism for important environmental work around the world, helping developing countries address the many environmental challenges associated with ending poverty and enhancing economic development. Since its establishment in 1991, the GEF has provided \$5 billion in grants, leveraged \$16 billion in co-financing for projects in 140 countries around the world, and has provided more than 4,000 grants directly to community groups and non-governmental organizations. The U.S. has provided close to \$1 billion to the GEF over this same time frame.

Because other countries' contributions are indexed to the United States' level of support, we have the ability to either gather great resources for the global environment or greatly limit the international response to issues such as tropical forest loss and the decline in coral reefs worldwide.

Funding the GEF is a good investment. Choosing to make the highest commitment to the GEF will truly help define American leadership on environmental issues to the rest of the world.

REMEMBERING BOUNCER SENA

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay homage to John "Bouncer" Sena who passed away on June 26, 2005 at the age of 77. A mentor, friend and family man, he leaves behind relatives who loved him, friends who admired him, students who respected him and a city that mourns him.

At age eleven, John was told that he looked like a "bouncer" and the nickname stuck with him the rest of his life. As a sophomore, Bouncer Sena was a tackle on the Santa Fe

High School football team that won the state championship in 1943. He graduated from the College of Santa Fe in 1951 with a degree in business administration but devoted his life to education.

Married to Bernadette Ortiz in 1958, Bouncer Sena was the father of one son and three daughters who gave him six grandchildren. Bouncer was a family man, proud of his Spanish heritage. He loved the annual traditions of Fiesta de Santa Fe and the Procession.

Bouncer Sena was the vice principal for 25 of the 33 years he was employed by Santa Fe High School. During his years at the school he coached the sophomore basketball team and is also credited with creating the Career Day program. He was well-liked and respected by the students, their parents and his co-workers at the school.

Political aspirations led Bouncer Sena to seek and win two terms on the Santa Fe County Commission. While serving on the Commission, he was instrumental in the creation of the Santa Fe Water Board. He was named Chairman of the Santa Fe County Commission in 1978.

Mr. Speaker, in 1990, Bouncer Sena was named a "Living Treasure of Santa Fe," undoubtedly for his dedication and good works in the community. Many people were touched by his kindness over the years. Bouncer Sena was truly a unique individual who will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

HONORING FRANK T. MAZIARSKI,
CRNA, MS, CLNC PRESIDENT OF
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding representative from the 1st District of the great State of Washington, Frank Maziariski, CRNA, MS, CLNC. Mr. Maziariski will soon complete his year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am very pleased that this son of Washington was tapped as the 2004–2005 president of this prestigious national organization, and I am honored to count him as one of my constituents.

The AANA is the professional organization that represents more than 33,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Founded in 1931, the AANA is the professional association representing CRNAs nationwide. As you may know, CRNAs are anesthesia professionals who administer approximately 65 percent of all anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered including hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and plastic surgeons.

CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and, in some states, are the sole anesthesia providers in approximately 70 percent of all rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities obstetrical, surgical and trauma stabilization services.

Mr. Maziariski earned his Master of Science (MS) degree and his Bachelors of Science degree in nursing (BSN) from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He was educated in the art and science of Nurse Anesthesia at the Albany Medical Center, School of Nurse Anesthesia, Albany, NY. He spent 21 years as an officer in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, first as an anesthesia provider and then as an educator in the Academy of Health Sciences Schools of Nurse Anesthesia and was a Director of the Phase I (clinical) and also a Director of Phase II (academic) portions of the Nurse Anesthesia programs. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel at Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, Texas. He also spent one year as Chief Nurse Anesthetist of the 93rd Evac. Hospital, in Long Binh, Viet Nam during July, 1968–July, 1969. He is currently a practicing nurse anesthetist and owner of Allied Anesthesia Associates, which provides anesthesia services in and around the Shoreline, Washington area, in my congressional district.

Mr. Maziariski has held various leadership positions in the AANA as President-Elect, Vice-President, and Regional Director before becoming the National President of the AANA in 2004. In addition, Frank has served terms as President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Treasurer, and as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Washington Association of Nurse Anesthetists (WANNA). He was also appointed by Governor Gary Locke to the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission from 1997–2004 and was elected as its chair twice during his tenure.

Adding to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Maziariski has been recognized for both publishing and speaking on anesthesia-related topics over the years. He has taken his experience and knowledge from the workplace and AANA leadership roles to lecture on political and academic anesthesia related topics before different professional groups. During his AANA Presidency, Mr. Maziariski has played important roles in advocating for the practice of nurse anesthesia and its patients before Medicare and other Federal agencies, promoted anesthesia patient safety through vigorous participation in the interdisciplinary National Quality Forum (NQF), and advanced principles of wellness among practitioners in this high-stress profession. In addition, Mr. Maziariski directed that the AANA be represented before three key subcommittees of this Congress, in which members of this organization testified about the importance of nurse anesthesia education, the roles and contributions of CRNAs in the Veterans' Affairs health system, and the dedication with which CRNAs have provided safe anesthesia care to members of the U.S. Armed Forces at home and abroad.

It is my understanding that under Mr. Maziariski's leadership, the AANA continued to foster an important line of communication with the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). While these organizations of anesthesia professionals have not always seen eye-to-eye, both the AANA and ASA are working to ensure the safe administration of powerful anesthesia drugs, and have shared interest in patients' safe access to anesthesia care with respect to Medicare regulations governing locked anesthesia carts. These two societies' professional working relationship may not have been possible without the continued ini-

tiative of AANA President Maziariski and his ASA counterpart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Frank Maziariski, CRNA, MS, CLNC, for his notable career and outstanding achievements.

TRIBUTE TO ELISSA
GIAMBASTIANI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elissa Giambastiani who is retiring after 18 years as President and CEO of the San Rafael, California, Chamber of Commerce. Under Elissa's dynamic leadership, the Chamber has successfully promoted not only the immediate needs of local businesses but also the long-term economic interests of the community.

As an advocate for workforce housing and transportation infrastructure improvements, Elissa has been in the forefront of efforts to establish a housing trust and to pass a transportation sales tax. Her expertise is widely recognized, and she was recently invited to speak at a National Workforce Housing summit in Arlington, Virginia, on "Fostering Community Acceptance of Affordable and Workforce Housing."

Born and raised in Minnesota, Elissa worked there as a teacher before taking a job with the Army teaching in Europe. After her return, she moved to San Francisco where she worked in an architect's office and met her husband Ron Giambastiani who worked in the same office and lived in San Rafael. She also worked as public relations consultant before joining the Chamber in 1987.

As President, Elissa developed and implemented the overall program for an organization with over 950 members. She also took the lead in tracking and advocating the business viewpoint on legislation, including an instrumental role in the formation of the Alliance of North Bay Chambers to increase clout. This function led to the San Rafael Chamber earning an Advocacy Chamber of the Year Award, one of the first winners in this category which was created by the California Chamber of Commerce in 2003.

Elissa has also won an award from Western Association of Chamber Executives for management excellence and an Accredited Chamber Executive designation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Locally, she is a member of the League of Women Voters, the Ecumenical Association for Housing, and the San Rafael Rotary.

Mr. Speaker, "tenacious" and "tireless" are appropriate words frequently used to describe Elissa Giambastiani. I would add "clear-sighted, passionate, and caring," all adjectives which do justice to her effectiveness as a leader in of the San Rafael community. I wish her luck in her new pursuits of piano playing, Japanese flower arranging, Italian study, public relations consulting as well as grandmothering.