

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE HOMELESS VETERANS RE-INTEGRATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce H.R. 3279, the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act of 2005. I am especially pleased that the Ranking Member of the Veterans Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, Ms. HERSETH, as well as Ms. BROWN-WAITE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BRADLEY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BAKER, and Ms. BERKLEY join me as original cosponsors.

H.R. 3279 would reauthorize the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, or HVRP, through 2009, currently the authority for this program expires at the end of fiscal year 2006. The legislation would also retain the authority to appropriate \$50,000,000 to HVRP for each fiscal year.

HVRP, administered by the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service, is designed to take the men and women who are probably the most difficult population of veterans to serve off the streets and return them as productive contributors to society. It is a tall order and one that presents unique challenges to both the government and those who deliver services to homeless veterans. It is a well known fact that a very high percentage of this Nation's homeless have mental health and substance abuse issues. Unfortunately, homeless veterans are not immune to those concerns. In fact, some are so debilitated that they will never fully return to society outside a very structured environment.

HVRP funds are awarded on a competitive basis to eligible applicants such as: State and local Workforce Investment Boards, public agencies, for-profit/commercial entities, and non-profit organizations, including faith based and community based organizations. Grantees provide an array of services utilizing a case management approach that directly assist homeless veterans as well as provide critical linkages for a variety of supportive services available in their local communities. The program focuses on employment and veterans receive the employment and training services they need in order to re-enter the labor force. Job placement, training, and development, career counseling, and resume preparation, are among the services that are provided. Supportive services such as clothing, provision of or referral to temporary, transitional, or permanent housing, referral to medical or substance abuse treatment, and transportation assistance are also provided to meet the needs of this target group.

The emphasis on helping homeless veterans get and retain jobs is enhanced through coordination with various veterans' services programs and organizations such as the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives, veteran service organizations, and the

Departments of Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services.

Today, VA estimates the number of homeless veterans to be about 185,000. This is a far too large of a number, in my mind, one homeless veteran is one too many. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FISHING QUOTA STANDARDS ACT OF 2005

**HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues, Representatives SIMMONS and DELAHUNT, to introduce the Fishing Quota Standards Act of 2005. This bipartisan bill would amend the fishing quota programs section of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to ensure that national standards are in place during the development and implementation of individual fishing quota systems.

Poorly designed and regulated quota systems often degrade fishing communities, create monopolies, and lead to overexploitation of fishery resources. If individual fishing quotas are to be an effective management tool, strong national standards must be in place to ensure a healthy future for small businesses in the fishing industry.

The intent of this legislation is to guarantee that any fishery quota established by a regional management council fairly allocates the resource among fishermen of all gear types, prevents excessive industry consolidation and protects the sustainability of the fishery.

The bill retains current law stating that individual fishing quotas are not compensable property rights and are revocable. This principle is strengthened by limiting fishing quota systems and shares to a period not to exceed 7 years, after which time they will be renewed if they are meeting defined criteria.

Well designed Individual Fishing Quota systems can increase seafood quality and value, foster resource conservation, and promote safety-at-sea, but Individual Fishing Quota systems, in and of themselves, do not guarantee that a fishery will be sustainably managed or result in appropriate socio-economic benefits. It is my hope that this bill will give the entire fishing industry a voice in the debate over the future of their industry.

HONORING MAC HARRIS OF BEVERLY HILLS, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mac Harris of Beverly Hills, Florida.

Mac Harris, a diligent, respected man in our community and at the power plant, has relinquished his post as spokesperson for the Crystal River nuclear power plant.

Mr. Harris life-long journey has taken many paths including a writer, a professor, and a re-

porter. Along that journey, he has touched the lives of many readers, students, and co-workers. Despite his varying role, his honesty and sincerity remained constant.

Mr. Harris and his wife have chosen to retire in Citrus County, Florida, where they remain active members of the civic and cultural community. In his retirement, Mr. Harris will continue to impact the community through various engagements including writing and directing plays for the art league.

In his capacity as an employee at the power plant, Mr. Harris's commitment to communication with the community is outstanding. Mr. Harris was readily accessible, day and night, throughout the terrible 2004 hurricane season when thousands lost power. He goes out of the way to answer questions and concerns from residents and will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, honorable men like Mac Harris should be congratulated for their service. It is truly a privilege to honor Mac Harris for his lifetime of achievement and contribution.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MARGARET VOLZ THOMPSON

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional federal civil servant with the Department of the Army, Mrs. Margaret Volz Thompson, upon her retirement after more than 26 years of distinguished civilian service. Throughout her career, she has been a dedicated worker, portraying Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions which the Army provides in defense of our Nation. As Deputy Chief of the Programs Division, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Margaret on a wide variety of Army issues and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize her many accomplishments. I commend her superb service to the United States Army and this great Nation.

Mrs. Thompson is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. August Volz, Sr. She graduated from Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana, with a degree in Business Administration. Her first civilian assignment was the Finance and Accounting Office, 7th Infantry Division in Fort Ord, California in 1979. The Thompsons, as a military family, were then transferred to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, where Mrs. Thompson held various positions on the Garrison Staff and served as Children's Advocate for the Fort Sheridan Military Community. In 1983, Mrs. Thompson was selected to be a Department Army Comptroller Intern. She completed her training with the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command and then joined the professional staff as an analyst. In 1989, she began work on the staff of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. She remained there until 2000 when she became the Deputy Executive to the Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Her capstone assignment was as Deputy Chief of the Programs Division, Legislative Liaison, where she established and maintained an excellent rapport with professional staff members of the

Senate and House Armed Services Committees on issues relating to areas of importance to the Army.

Throughout these assignments, Mrs. Thompson marshaled information sources and resources on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to both the Army and Congress. The timely and professional support delivered by Mrs. Thompson was invaluable to Army leaders and Members of Congress as they considered the impact of these important issues.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the United States of America, I thank Margaret, her husband, George (LTC, USA, Ret.) and her entire family for the commitment, sacrifices, and contribution that they have made throughout her honorable federal civil service tenure. Congratulations on completing an exceptional and extremely successful career.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL JOHN R. ANGEVINE, GARRISON COMMANDER, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON FORT LEE, VIRGINIA, FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colonel John R. Angevine, Garrison Commander United States Army Garrison Fort Lee, Virginia for his loyal service to the United States and Virginia's Fourth District.

Colonel Angevine's dedication and loyalty to the advancement of our district and the Nation as a whole is to be highly commended.

Colonel Angevine's devotion to duty has reflected the highest standards of the military profession through a number of command and staff positions. His assignments have included Red River Army Depot, Texarkana, Texas; the 1st Infantry Division (Forward), Coppingen, Germany; the 10th Mountain Division, Ft. Drum, New York; the Total Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, Virginia; Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Washington, DC; the United Nations Operations Somalia, Mogadishu, Somalia; the Strategic Logistics Agency, Washington, DC; 25th Infantry Division (light) at Ft. Lewis, Washington; Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Washington, DC; and the Center for Strategic Leadership, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Among his many duties, he has served as Battalion Commander, 25th Forward Support Battalion, Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion S-3, 710th Maintenance Battalion, 10th Mountain Division (Light); Company Commander, 1st Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division (F); Quartermaster Assignments Officer; Logistics Staff Officer, Chief Logistics Officer UN Mission, Somalia; and as a Force Development Systems Integrator. His previous assignment was Chief, Total Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, Virginia. His military education is extensive and includes the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Army War College, and the Quartermaster Officer Basic and Advanced Courses. Colonel Angevine holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts at Am-

herst and a Masters of Science degree in Business Administration from Boston University.

Colonel Angevine's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (7th Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal (3rd Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (2nd Oak Leaf Cluster), United Nations Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Colonel Angevine has shown tremendous commitment and devotion to his country and the United States Army. Today we recognize him for his unwavering patriotism and dedication to both his profession and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Colonel John R. Angevine.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL WEEK-END OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. GIL GUTKNECHT**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2005*

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan and in support of H. Res. 333.

Last July, Congress passed legislation recognizing the Darfur genocide. In September 2004, Secretary of State Colin Powell testified to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that genocide had been committed in Darfur. And shortly following, President George W. Bush told the United Nations General Assembly that "the world is witnessing terrible suffering and horrible crimes in the Darfur region of Sudan, crimes my government has concluded are genocide."

It has been estimated that perhaps as many as 400,000 people have died from violence, hunger and disease since conflict began in Darfur in 2003, and that more than 2 million people have lost their homes and are now living in refugee camps in Darfur and Chad.

Congress has approved hundreds of millions of dollars in humanitarian aid and other assistance for Darfur. The United States remains the largest contributor of relief aid to Sudan, providing logistical support for African Union troops in Darfur and taking the lead in efforts to resolve Sudan's long-running north-south civil war.

I recently attended a Sudanese celebration in Rochester, Minnesota, celebrating the signing of the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Accord, signed on January 9, 2005 in Nairobi. The Sudanese recognize the cost of freedom and will continue to strive for peace in the Darfur region.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this important legislation and cause.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "GROWING REAL OWNERSHIP FOR WORKERS ACT OF 2005"

**HON. JIM MCCRERY**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Representatives SHAW, JOHNSON, RYAN, SHADEGG, a number of my Ways and Means and other colleagues to introduce the Growing Real Ownership for Workers (GROW) Act of 2005.

The creation of GROW accounts is a simple, common-sense, first step in protecting Social Security for the next generation of retirees and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, we have been listening to the American people, and this bill is a result of what we have heard: that spending Social Security funds on other programs is wrong and must be stopped. Right now, Social Security is taking in more money than it needs to pay benefits. We should ensure those surplus funds are spent on Social Security.

With individual GROW accounts, working Americans younger than age 55 at the start of this year will be able to put their names on their share of the overpayments to the Social Security Trust Funds.

The accounts will be invested in a fund of guaranteed, safe, marketable Treasury securities. They will be real assets that Americans will own. They will be inheritable, too.

GROW accounts would be voluntary; people can opt out if they want to.

Our GROW plan is forward-looking—after a prudent transition, GROW account owners would have the opportunity to invest in other types of securities, if they want to. The board that administers the accounts will submit a plan to Congress allowing for diversification into other assets. The plan would go into effect unless Congress enacts a joint resolution of disapproval.

Upon retirement, account balances will be used to help pay workers' Social Security benefits, and account balances are inheritable.

The bill does not impose investment risk on workers and does not harm the Social Security Trust Funds. It does protect the integrity of the Social Security program by ensuring that Social Security taxes are only used for Social Security.

I urge my colleagues on both sides to join me in supporting this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MISSOURI LEGISLATOR

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Missouri congressional delegation, I would like to join with my colleagues, Representatives TODD AKIN, ROY BLUNT, RUSS CARNAHAN, EMANUEL CLEAVER, JO ANN EMERSON, SAM GRAVES, KENNY HULSHOF and IKE SKELTON in paying tribute to the late Honorable Larry Gene Taylor who passed away at the age of 51 on Wednesday, July 6, 2005, after a hard fought battle with cancer.