

established new levels of cooperation and teamwork between his program office and the numerous contractors involved in his programs. He embodies the highest tenants of Acquisition Reform and the Army's innovative Rapid Fielding Initiative.

RECOGNIZING SOMERSET COUNTY
AS "AMERICA'S COUNTY"

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Somerset County which has received the honorary title of "America's County." This title, given to the county, recognizes its people whose hard work and determination made Somerset County the extraordinary place it is today.

To many Americans, Somerset County is known as the site of the United Airlines Flight 93 crash during the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Despite these sorrowful events, the people of Somerset have been looking into the future with enduring hope and pride. It is their patriotic determination to achieve American greatness that we commemorate today. It is their heroic determination that made Somerset County the "America's County," the source of inspiration and hope to millions of Americans.

The people of this great county are viewed as having traditional values and a strong vision of the future. Because of their hard work, Somerset County is taking pride in its schools and its emergency providers; it is taking pride in its agriculture, in its recreation, and in its industry. Somerset County is a great place to live, work, and visit, not only because it is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and breathtaking beauty, but most importantly because it is blessed with dedicated and courageous people.

For decades now the people of Somerset County have been working together to accomplish common goals for the future, while respecting the history and heritage of the past. Always welcoming to visitors, always loyal to their friends, these people make Somerset County a shining example of American greatness. Today their hard work and determination are deservedly recognized, and I rise to honor Somerset County, as it will always be known as a little piece of Heaven on Earth, as the "America's County."

INTRODUCING THE SEXUAL PREDATOR EFFECTIVE MONITORING ACT OF 2005

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sexual Predator Effective Monitoring Act of 2005. I am pleased to introduce this bill with Florida's senior Senator BILL NELSON, and I pledge my full commitment to helping communities throughout the country take the necessary steps to protect the vulnerable from sexual predators.

A recent report done by my hometown newspaper, The South Florida Sun-Sentinel, discovered that more registered sex offenders live in a zip code located completely in my district than any other zip code in Florida. The fact that no one living in the area knew the magnitude of the problem until the story was written is beyond troubling; it's absolutely scary.

In 2003, the Justice Department completed a report on recidivism rates of sex offenders. The report provided some very disturbing statistics. The Department of Justice tracked 9,691 male sex offenders released from 15 state prisons, including Florida. They tracked them for a 3-year period and found that 40 percent of the sex offenders who re-offended did so within the first year, and within 3 years of their release from prison, 5.3 percent of those sex offenders were rearrested for another sex crime. Even more, half of the sex offenders tracked in this study included men who molested children, and within the first 3 years of their release from prison, 3.3 percent of these convicts were rearrested for another sex crime against a child.

Even more, there are more than 30,000 registered sex offenders in the state of Florida alone. Nationwide, there are more than 300,000 registered sex offenders, of which the victims of some 70 percent of all the men in prison for sex crimes were children.

It is these statistical realities combined with The Sun-Sentinel's report that led me to co-host a community forum with the Broward County Urban League. At that meeting, our community had an opportunity to discuss how to best protect our children from those who prey on the vulnerable. The forum provided law enforcement, civic leaders, elected officials, and community residents the opportunity to voice their concerns and chart a path toward making our neighborhoods safe from sex offenders.

The legislation which I am introducing today expresses Congressional support for the tracking of sex offenders on probation through the use of Global Positioning Systems. The Sexual Predator Effective Monitoring Act also establishes a grant program that will allow states to improve their ability to track and monitor the movement and activities of sexual predators. The bill authorizes a total of \$30 million over 2 years to assist states in accomplishing this critical task.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no greater mechanism by which Congress can assist states in protecting children from sexual predators than to provide them with the financial assistance to develop and implement effective tracking tools to monitor these sick individuals. I ask for my colleagues' support for this legislation, and I urge its swift passage.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2601) to authorize

appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I take this opportunity to state my opposition to the amendment offered by Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

The language of the amendment is based upon a misinterpretation of the precedents concerning the management and control of the Great Lakes, and section 1109 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, in particular.

The Great Lakes are not possessed by the 8 states that border them. The United States maintains sovereign power over the Great Lakes under its authority to regulate commerce and to control the navigable waters within its jurisdiction. As the Supreme Court specifically recognized, the United States' ultimate interest in the Great Lakes is greater than those of any state.

It is the United States, not the states, that manages the Great Lakes. For example, the Great Lakes' role as a national transportation corridor is vital to the national economy. The Great Lakes navigation system generates more than 150,000 jobs for the U.S. economy, \$4.3 billion in personal income, and \$3.4 billion in transportation-related business revenue.

The United States has sovereign power over the Great Lakes and frequently exercises this power through control of water pollution, reducing the introduction of invasive species, protecting endangered species, and exercising water management functions generally.

Mr. ROGERS's amendment misinterprets section 1109 of the Water Resources Development Act to mean that Congress ceded authority over the Great Lakes to the Governors of the Great Lakes States. Congress did not.

The legislative history of section 1109 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 clearly indicates that Congress was acting to protect the limited quantity of water available from the Great Lakes system for use by the Great Lakes States and to prohibit any diversion unless that diversion was approved by the Governors of all the Great Lakes States. This "veto" authority granted to the Governors of the 8 Great Lakes States was the implementation mechanism for the Federal policy, not a relinquishment of authority. Therefore, it is inconsistent with law and precedent to indicate that Congress recognizes that management authority over the Great Lakes should be vested with the Governors of the 8 Great Lakes States, and the Premiers of the Canadian provinces.

For these reasons, I state my strong belief that the amendment erroneously characterizes Congressional policy and law.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. BOISEY O. BARNES

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise and ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Boisey O. Barnes who will be honored by the Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.