

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, I was unavoidably detained due to the birth of my daughter, thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 623, 624, and 625. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF FREMONT, CALIFORNIA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Fremont, California's 50th anniversary. Fremont is the largest city in the 13th Congressional District. When Fremont incorporated in 1956, it had a population of approximately 22,000 residents. Today, Fremont residents number over 210,000, nearly 10 times the population of 50 years ago.

The Ohlone people and their ancestors had occupied Fremont for thousands of years when Spanish priests arrived from Mexico and founded Mission San Jose in 1797. After Mexico won independence from Spain in the early 1800s, an appointed administrator divided the mission lands into four large tracts known as Rancho del Agua Caliente, Rancho Arroyo de la Alameda, Rancho Portero de los Cerritos and Mission San Jose.

John C. Fremont arrived in the 1840s to map a trail through Mission Pass. California's admission to the United States and the Gold Rush stimulated further migration to the area, attracting people from all parts of the world. By 1853, the communities of Mission San Jose, Centerville, Niles, Irvington and Warm Springs had formed themselves into Washington Township. The City of Fremont officially came into existence on January 23, 1956, when citizens of these communities voted to incorporate their town to form a single city.

Fremont is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse cities in the United States. Over 137 languages are spoken; its residents come from all 50 states within the United States as well as 155 countries throughout the world.

The celebration of Fremont's 50th anniversary promises to be as unique as Fremont itself. Celebrate Fremont's mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Fremont Community, now and for generations to come by serving all segments of the community by promoting the vitality of nonprofit organizations, fostering volunteerism and serving as a vital resource that promotes and enhances community activities including but not limited to those civic, cultural, and educational activities that celebrate the past, present and future of Fremont.

I join the City of Fremont's civic leaders and its residents in celebrating Fremont's 50th anniversary. The motto for the celebration is "creating a legacy for tomorrow by cherishing our past and connecting with our present."

This celebration offers the city an historic opportunity to celebrate its past, while uniting its diverse community and historic districts around a shared vision for the future. Happy Birthday Fremont and best wishes for continued success as a model city.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS HOUSING FAIRNESS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation that allows veterans to use their guaranteed VA loans to purchase co-operative housing units. FHA and other government agencies already have programs to give loans for co-operative residential units, and most banks accept co-operative shares as collateral. The Department of Veterans Affairs should do the same. For many veterans who live in communities where co-operative housing is common or where the cost of houses and condominiums can be high, a co-operative residential unit is an affordable alternative.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WATERTOWN, TENNESSEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of Watertown, Tennessee, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body.

The community in Wilson County was originally known as Three Forks, but the town's Postmaster, Wilson L. Waters, changed the name to Watertown. Eventually, the town's name changed one final time to Watertown. The town was incorporated in 1905 as a result of a devastating fire in 1903. Today, Watertown's residents enjoy a quality of life that is second to none.

Throughout history, Watertown has been home to several thriving businesses. Williams Pin Mill put the community on the map, as it was the largest manufacturer of threaded insulator rods in the world. Another notable business is the Watertown Bed and Breakfast, the only structure that survived the numerous fires, including the great fire of 1903, that ripped through Watertown during its adolescent years.

The citizens of Watertown embrace their community, and that spirit has made it the flourishing town it is today. The Watertown Jazz Festival, a popular musical event held in July, draws crowds from hundreds of miles away. Another famous attribute is Watertown's Excursion Train. These passenger trains, operated by Tennessee Central Railway Museum, take riders on a scenic tour of Middle Tennessee.

I congratulate Watertown on this anniversary, and I hope the next 100 years are as prosperous and progressive as the first 100 years.

HONORING MR. J.W. ANDREWS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS BEING HONORED WITH "J.W. ANDREWS ROAD"

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. J.W. Andrews of Preswick, Alabama, on the occasion of his being honored by his community with the naming of the "J.W. Andrews Road" in Jackson, Alabama.

Mr. Andrews was born on August 30, 1919, and he has dedicated much of his life to the service of Clarke county. He married the former Ida B. Tiggs, and they had four children. He is the owner of Andrews Funeral Home in Jackson, Alabama; a business in which he remains active to this day.

In 1978, Mr. Andrews became president of the Clarke County Voter's League. In this position, he ensured African Americans were able to serve as deputy registrars with the Clarke County Board of Registrars.

In 1981, Mr. Andrews was recognized by then Alabama Governor Fob James who praised him for his support in the successful passage of a responsible education budget.

Mr. Andrews was also the first African American to serve on the Clarke County Board of Education, a capacity in which he served for two years.

In 1985, Mr. Andrews became the first of two African Americans to ever be elected to the Jackson City Council. He served on the city council for over 14 years in district one.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating J.W. Andrews for both the great success he has enjoyed in his life and his outstanding representation of the Clarke County, Alabama. I know his wife Ida, his children, many friends, and colleagues are also proud of him, and I wish Mr. Andrews and his entire family much health and success in the years ahead.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT OF CROATIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter this letter into the RECORD. The letter focuses on the importance of the U.S. State Department's support of Croatia's membership into NATO.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
CROATIAN AMERICANS (NFCA),

Washington, DC, Nov. 3, 2005.

Re Resolution on The Republic of Croatia and NATO Membership.

The Hon. ELTON GALLEGLY,
Chairman, Europe and Emerging Threats Subcommittee, International Relations Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the National Federation of Croatian Americans (NFCA), I want to commend and thank you for the courageous leadership you have shown by introducing H. Res. 529. The NFCA was pleased to contribute to the Resolution's

development, and we stand ready with our national community to assist you in generating support for its expeditious passage in the U.S. Congress.

The U.S. State Department may object to some of the language in this Resolution, since over time the State Department has ramped up its requirements related to Croatia's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This Department's requirement for support of Croatia's entry into NATO has actually morphed from 'complete cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, in the pursuit of the remaining indictee' to 'the capture and delivery of the remaining indictee to The Hague'. The State Department holds to this position in spite of the fact that the ICTY Chief Prosecutor claims that the remaining indictee is hiding in an Italian monastery protected by the Vatican. The ICTY Chief Prosecutor has further asserted that Croatia is now completely cooperating with the ICTY. Furthermore, the new government of Prime Minister Ivo Sanader has affirmed the Government of Croatia's commitment to cooperate fully and continue to take all necessary steps to locate and transfer the remaining indictee to the ICTY. After complying with 626 demands of the ICTY, the people of the free and democratic Republic of Croatia deserve better treatment from the United States and they have certainly earned our strong support expressed so well in this Resolution.

We agree with the view that stability in South Central Europe is of a very high priority, and that Croatia has become a valuable, constructive partner in this delicate region. Given the potential for future regional conflicts, NATO should want to take advantage of the greater contribution that Croatia would make toward peace and stability as a full member of NATO. As you know, Montenegro may wish to break from Serbia in the future, and Kosovo is considering its own independence. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina has yet to be reconstituted into a nation-state that can equitably govern its three ethnic constituencies. And, unfortunately, The Serbian Radical Party—using Republika Srpska as a foothold—openly promulgates activities oriented towards the creation of a Greater Serbia, which may also include current parts of Croatia. These potentially explosive situations require the stability that a NATO presence in Croatia will provide.

I am taking the liberty of providing a copy of this letter to your Subcommittee's Ranking Member, Representative Robert Wexler, and to the Co-Chairs of the Croatian Caucus, Representatives George Radanovich and Peter Visclosky, who we believe will be helpful on this matter. If I may provide anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or our NFCA Government Relations Director, Mr. Joseph Foley. Thank you again for your important continued support for Croatia's NATO membership.

Sincerely,

EDWARD A. ANDRUS,
President.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, CORRECTION: I intended to vote against the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement and attempted to do so. Upon inquiring with the clerk why my

vote was recorded as a "yes" instead of a "no", the clerk checked the electronic record and discovered that I had pressed the "no" button several times on the preceding vote. At no time did I intend to cast a "yes" vote on the agreement. To date, I have voted against every trade agreement that has come up while I have been in Congress, including the agreement with Bahrain.

TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD— RETURNING FREEDOM FIGHTERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, a National Guard unit is coming back home to Texas. On Saturday, December 17, 2005, the 1st Battalion 133rd Field Artillery will be welcomed back home to the Beaumont Armory, in Beaumont, Texas after bravely serving the past year in Iraq. In August 2004 the Texas Army National Guard deployed the 56th Brigade Combat Team of the 36th Infantry Division, to go to Iraq. They trained for four months in Ft. Hood, and got to Iraq in December of 2004.

The 133rd Field Artillery has a long-standing history. This was the same famous Texas Army National Guard Division that landed on the beaches of Anzio, Italy during WWII, liberated Rome and freed hostages in Dachau, Germany.

They continued this long-standing tradition in Iraq where they conducted offensive operations, deny and destroy operations, combat logistic patrols and civil military affairs operations. They built schools, hospitals, and won the hearts of the Iraqis they met along the way.

In January, I had the privilege of going to Iraq to witness the first elections. I met with our military and saw firsthand their accomplishments in their fight for Iraqi freedom.

Mr. Speaker, freedom has a price. Our troops are paying that sacrificial price for the Iraqi people and world freedom. Unfortunately, the 133rd lost 6 members during their fight for freedom and I would like to extend my prayers and our condolences to their family and friends. They were making a difference in the world when they gave their life. Their bravery, dedication and patriotism will never be forgotten.

President John Kennedy once said, "The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender, or submission." We have chosen the right path, the hard path, the freedom path. We will persevere with the freedom loving people of Iraq until the journey down this path is successfully completed.

The 133rd operated in the Sunni Triangle, Tikrit, Tillal, on the Jordanian Border and in Baghdad and it is my pleasure to welcome them back to Beaumont, Texas today. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the members of the 133rd and all the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. They have honored us with their commitment to Texas and the Nation, and the citizens of America and Iraq owe them a debt of gratitude. They are America's best. They are the sons and daughters of liberty, they are freedom fighters. They make us proud.

I join the citizens of Texas's 2nd Congressional District in paying the utmost respect to the 1st Battalion 133rd Field Artillery. Through their service, Iraq is a free democracy, and America remains the land of the free and the home of the brave. That's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT TUCKER, THE SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT MANAGER OF THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, WHO IS RETIRING AFTER 13 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Scott Tucker, District Manager of the San Francisco District of the U.S. Postal Service. Mr. Tucker has served the San Francisco/Bay Area with distinction for thirteen years. On January 1, 2006, Mr. Tucker will retire from his post as District Manager.

Under Mr. Tucker's supervision, the San Francisco postal district has been recognized continually as having one of the best on-time mail services of any metropolitan area in the nation. When one considers that Mr. Tucker oversees a workforce of 10,400 employees who are responsible for delivery of nearly 10 million pieces of mail daily, to 3 million customers in San Francisco, the Peninsula and throughout Northwest California from Sunnyvale to the Oregon border—the success of his district has been no simple feat.

Mr. Speaker, Scott Tucker began his postal career in 1968 as a letter carrier in Hanford, California. During his career with the Postal Service, he has held a succession of managerial positions in postal operations, ascending to his current post in 1992. Throughout his career, Scott Tucker has been recognized by a multitude of community organizations for his outstanding service.

As lead executive for the San Francisco postal district, Mr. Tucker worked aggressively to heighten awareness of the multicultural groups within the District. Establishing diversity leadership advisory councils including a Women's Council, African American Council, Asian American/Pacific Islander Council and Hispanic Council, Scott Tucker was named the recipient of a diversity leadership achievement award presented by the Bay Area Federal Executive Board, for these efforts.

However, Mr. Speaker, Scott Tucker's accolades do not end here. Additionally, he was recognized by the Federal Asian Pacific American Council for promoting Diversity/Equal Employment Opportunity in the workforce. He also earned the Excellence in Public Service Award from the Chinese American Voters Education Committee for his community service.

Mr. Tucker's fine work reached overseas to military service personnel stationed abroad earning him honors by the Joint Military Postal Activity-Pacific. The California National Guard also recognized Mr. Tucker for his support of our troops in Iraq, some of whom are postal employees with reserve status that were called to duty.

Mr. Speaker, under Mr. Tucker's leadership, the San Francisco District received the "Order