

sitting on his lap. I thought I observed the same mix of awe, fear and delight as in years past, but Jewish eyes can deceive, I guess.

I could be wrong, but I think it would be pretty hard not to guess that it is the "Christmas season" or that "Christmas" is coming if you turned on just about any channel, cable or broadcast, at just about any time of the day or night. Sometimes those reminders also include a request for you to call in and give your credit card number, and do it now, because there are only a few more days until "Christmas."

I'm pretty cheerful about responding to "Merry Christmas" with a "Same to you." I can't recall ever scolding anyone in public or in private for missing the fact that I don't celebrate Christmas. I do try not to say it myself at my synagogue, unless I know for sure the person is Christian, and then I try especially hard to say it.

I'm fond of candy canes. They seem to be available for free in many places at this time of year—"Christmas" time. I try never to pass one up. I even try to like fruit cake, understanding it is one of the typical "Christmas" treats, but I think it may be like gefilte fish—an acquired taste.

If there are some Christians who think that Christmas has become too commercial—the symbol of Christmas being more the Visa or Mastercard than the nativity scene—then I think they deserve to have a serious discussion about that. That discussion, in my Jewish view, would be best held in church, or at home, or just about any place other than the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

PASSPORT SERVICES
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Passport Services Enhancement Act of 2005, H.R. 4501. This bill would amend the Passport Act of June 4, 1920, to authorize the Secretary of State to establish and collect a surcharge to cover the costs of meeting the increased demand for passports as a result of actions taken to comply with section 7209(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. I am pleased that we will be funding this security measure required by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act. I look forward to a time when all of the security measures in that Act have been funded.

The failure to fully fund the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act is an indication that Congress has not allotted enough resources to deal with the requirements for security in the fight against terrorism. Another example is the failure to enact my Rapid Response Border Protection Act of 2005, H.R. 4044, which would provide critical resources and support for the men and women who secure our borders, which is essential to our defense against terrorism.

The resources and support in my bill would include the addition of 15,000 Border Patrol agents over the next five years, which would increase the number of agents from 11,000 to 26,000. With more than 8,000 miles of land

and coastal borders to patrol continuously, it is evident that this increase is desperately needed if any semblance of control is to be achieved. The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would be required to respond rapidly to border crises by deploying up to 1,000 additional Border Patrol agents to a State in which a border security emergency has been declared by the Governor. It also would include 100,000 more detention beds to ensure that those who are apprehended entering the United States unlawfully are sent home instead of being released into our communities. It would assist in cracking down on the problem of fraudulent documents used to enter unlawfully and remain in the United States by adding specialized enforcement agents and establishing cooperative mechanisms with State and local law enforcement agencies. And it includes provisions for critical equipment and infrastructure improvements, such as additional helicopters, power boats, police-type vehicles, portable computers, reliable radio communications, handheld GPS devices, body armor, and night-vision equipment.

Those who object to the cost of such security measures need to recall the enormous costs, not just in monetary terms, of the last terrorist attacks. As Benjamin Franklin wisely noted nearly 270 years ago, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." The total cost of my border security bill would only be a very small fraction of the amount being spent fighting terrorism overseas. If we want to prevent another terrorist attack on American soil, we must be prepared to devote whatever resources are necessary to keeping terrorists out of our country. This legislation is designed to help provide more resources for the now required greater utilization of the U.S. passport because of the 9/11 tragedy. Americans will need more passports and the State Department will need more staff. The same can be said for our border security taking short cuts and scrimping on homeland security as this only serves as an open invitation to future disastrous attacks.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House and to acknowledge the innovative work of the National Center for Sustainable Development (NCSd) a national 501 c 3 nonprofit corporation headquartered here in Washington, DC and doing good work in my home state of Texas through its Dallas and Austin offices to restore urban and suburban contaminated real estate to new productive use. The Center is now undertaking potentially significant initiatives involving both energy production and air quality in local communities in the recycling of waste products to biodiesel. As Texas is the historic home of innovation and creativity in the use of natural and man made resources, my purpose is to encourage the pilot initiative being undertaken by the Center in the city of Texarkana focusing on the recycling of commercial and industrial food

waste products currently a significant threat to the proper maintenance and efficiency of municipal waste water treatment facilities.

The initiative which I seek recognition for will produce biodiesel from a waste stream currently which is a constraint on the development of services and small business serving the community of Texarkana and placing a burden on the infrastructure that assures proper and environmentally appropriate disposal of grease and waste oils. The undertaking of such a pilot program in Texarkana, Texas is not by chance. The operations of the pilot will be located in an industrial park next to the Red River Army Depot, the main focus of which is the refurbishment and maintenance of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the Humvees currently supporting our mission in Iraq. A portion of the biodiesel rendered from this initiative will be made available to RRAD for their use in testing its properties for both quality as a fuel and its properties as a cleaner burning replacement for conventional petroleum based diesel fuel.

As Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality I recognize that many are pursuing the goals of increased efficiency and air quality that biodiesel holds for helping to satisfy the domestic need for diesel fuel, now in short supply, and that many methods are being evaluated, but my hope is that NCSd can help create and encourage energy production from existing resources now perceived as obstacles to sustainable growth in my district and elsewhere.

By the House and Committee's acknowledgement of the initiative of the National Center for Sustainable Development I am asking for their report on the progress of the Texarkana facility at the milestone of their first six full months of operations. The subcommittee will be interested in the results of this initiative for both its applications for energy production and for improved air quality. I will close by reiterating my support for this worthy initiative and to follow their progress as an example for use by the subcommittee in its critical work.

EXPLANATION OF MISSED VOTES

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 15, 2005, I was admitted to the hospital upon suffering a heart attack. As a result, I missed three days of votes. I ask that my statement be placed in the appropriate part of the record to reflect how I would have voted on the following rollcall votes, had I been present.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2005:

Nay: On agreeing to the Jackson-Lee (TX) amendment Failed by recorded vote: 162–252 (roll No. 639). An amendment numbered 8 printed in Part B of House Report 109–347 to provide guidelines for implementing the secured alternatives to detention provision in section 402(a).

Aye: On agreeing to the Hunter amendment Agreed to by recorded vote: 260–159 (roll No. 640). An amendment numbered 11 printed in Part B of House Report 109–347 to mandate

the construction of specific security fencing, including lights and cameras, along the Southwest border for the purposes of gaining operational control of the border. Fencing has been designated in sectors that have the highest number of immigrant deaths, instances of drug smuggling and illegal border crossings. The amendment includes a requirement for the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a study on the use of physical barriers along the Northern border.

Aye: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 405—15 (roll No. 641).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2005:

Aye: On motion to close portions of the conference. Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 409—12 (roll No. 642). National Defense Authorization Act, FY 06.

Nay: On motion that the House instruct conferees Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 228—187 (roll No. 643). National Defense Authorization Act, FY 06.

Aye: On ordering the previous question Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 221—200 (roll No. 644). Providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 612) expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to achieving victory in Iraq.

Aye: On agreeing to the resolution Agreed to by recorded vote: 217—202 (roll No. 645). Providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 612) expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to achieving victory in Iraq (roll No. 645).

Aye: On agreeing to the resolution Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 216—203 (roll No. 646). Providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes.

Aye: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 413—1 (roll No. 647). Calling on the international community to condemn the Laogai, the system of forced labor prison camps in the People's Republic of China, as a tool for suppression maintained by the Chinese Government.

Aye: On agreeing to the resolution Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 279—109, 34 Present (roll No. 648). Expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to achieving victory in Iraq.

Aye: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 421—1 (roll No. 649). Condemning the Government of Zimbabwe's "Operation Murambatsvina" under which homes, businesses, religious structures, and other buildings and facilities were demolished in an effort characterized by the Government of Zimbabwe as an operation to "restore order" to the country.

Aye: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 397—17, 7 Present (roll No. 650). Providing that Hamas and other terrorist organizations should not participate in elections held by the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

Aye: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 408—1 (roll No. 651). Recognizing the importance and credibility of an independent Iraqi judiciary in the formation of a new and democratic Iraq.

Nay: On motion that the House instruct conferees Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 246—175 (roll No. 652). Budget Reconciliation, 2006. The instructions contained in the motion seek to require the managers on the part of the House to recede to the Senate by eliminating House provisions reducing eligibility for food stamps; reducing funding for child support enforcement; repealing the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset; modifying the Mining Law of 1972; eliminating the sections of the House amendment that reduce Medicaid benefits and allow increases in beneficiary costs; reducing to the maximum extent possible increases in interest rates and fees paid by student and parent borrowers on student loans; adopting the Senate provision eliminating the stabilization fund that makes payments to Medicare Advantage Regional Plans; adopting the Senate provision on Medicare Advantage risk adjustment; and adopting the Senate provision on Medicare physician payments.

Aye: On agreeing to the Goodlatte amendment Agreed to by recorded vote: 273—148 (roll No. 653). An amendment numbered 1 printed in House Report 109—350 to eliminate the visa lottery program.

Aye: On agreeing to the Stearns amendment Agreed to by recorded vote: 420—0 (roll No. 654). An amendment numbered 6 printed in House Report 109—350 to prohibit Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Attorney General, and all courts from granting any kind of legal immigration status (i.e. "benefits") to an alien until the relevant databases of criminal records and terrorist watch lists are checked.

Aye: On agreeing to the Sensenbrenner amendment Failed by recorded vote: 164—257 (roll No. 655). An amendment numbered 7 printed in House Report 109—350 to reduce the maximum sentence for illegal entry and illegal presence to six months.

Aye: On agreeing to the Norwood amendment Agreed to by recorded vote: 237—180 (roll No. 656). Clarifies federal law by explicitly stating that states and their political subdivisions have the inherent authority of a sovereign entity to investigate, identify, apprehend, arrest, detain, or transfer to federal custody aliens in the U.S. while enforcing immigration laws in the course of carrying out the routine duties;

Aye: On agreeing to the Westmoreland amendment Agreed to by recorded vote: 247—170, 1 Present (roll No. 657). An amendment numbered 15 printed in House Report 109—350 to set caps on the monetary penalties set forth in Title VII of the bill for hiring or employing unauthorized aliens of \$7,500 for first time offenses, \$15,000 for second offenses, and \$40,000 for all subsequent offenses; Provides an exemption from penalty for initial good faith violations; and provides a safe harbor for contractors if their subcontractor employees an unauthorized alien (provided the contractor did not know the employee was an unauthorized alien).

Nay: On agreeing to the Gonzalez amendment Failed by recorded vote: 87—332 (roll No. 658). An amendment numbered 16 printed in House Report 109—350 to increase the fines on businesses for knowingly hiring unauthorized aliens to \$50,000. Proceeds would be shared with state and local government and are restricted for use to help cover the costs associated with providing services to undocumented immigrants.

Aye: On agreeing to the Sullivan amendment Failed by recorded vote: 163—251, 1 Present (roll No. 659). An amendment numbered 18 printed in House Report 109—350 to require all non-citizens who enter or exit the country to be processed through the automated entry-exit control system Congress mandated in 1996.

Nay: On motion to recommit with instructions Failed by recorded vote: 198—221 (roll No. 660). The instructions contained in the motion seek to require the bill to be reported back with an amendment which inserts a complete new text entitled "Border Security and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2005".

Aye: On passage Passed by recorded vote: 239—182 (roll No. 661). Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act.

Aye: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 404—5, 1 Present (roll No. 662). Condemning actions by the Government of Syria that have hindered the investigation of the assassination of former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri conducted by the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC), expressing support for extending the UNIIC's investigative mandate, etc.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2005:

Aye: On agreeing to the resolution Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 213—190 (roll No. 663). Providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules.

Aye: On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 413—0 (roll No. 664). Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 487, which would establish January 13 of each year as Korean American Day to celebrate the anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean-American immigrants to the United States (January 13, 1903). The Korean American community has added so much to the vibrant culture of Chicago and our country. Illinois has the 4th largest Korean population in the United States, and Chicago alone has close to 12,000 Korean residents.

Korean-Americans have taken root and thrived in the United States through strong family ties and community support. Through hard work, Koreans have invigorated businesses, churches, and academic communities in the United States.

My constituents like Mr. Jin Lee, have made tremendous contributions to my city of Chicago. At the age of fourteen, Mr. Lee arrived in this country and has since been actively serving the Korean-American community. He