

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF FROM THE HEART CHURCH
MINISTRIES

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of From the Heart Church Ministries. Since its beginnings in 1981 with only twenty four members, From the Heart Ministries has provided spiritual guidance Prince George's County community through worship services and radio broadcasts.

Founder and Pastor Reverend John A. Cherry is a nationally acclaimed minister whose message of hope and committed spiritual teaching has changed the lives of many. Under his steady leadership, From the Heart Ministries has grown from its modest beginnings as a storefront church to becoming one of the largest churches in Prince George's County, providing services to over 26,000 members. Reverend Cherry's spiritual message is also broadcast Sundays and during the week, providing religious guidance and teaching to thousands more.

Reverend Cherry's twenty five years of service have established a foundation of strong biblical teaching rooted in faith and love—a foundation that his son, John A. Cherry II, will build upon. Reverend John A. Cherry II will officially be installed as pastor during the anniversary celebration.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing From the Heart Ministries' 25th Anniversary and applauding the, accomplishments of Reverend John A. Cherry. His legacy of spiritual leadership will allow his son to continue to his work and influence the hearts and minds of a faithful community for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed four votes on May 19th, 2006. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on defeating the Previous Question on H.Res. 821 (the Rule providing consideration for H.R. 5385—Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act); "no" on H.Res. 821 (the Rule providing consideration for H.R. 5385—Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act); "yes" on the Blumenauer Amendment (increasing appropriations for the clean up on closed military bases) and "yes" on H.R. 5385 (Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENTAL, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration bill (H.R. 5386) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environmental, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to explain my opposition to the Interior Appropriations bill. This important bill should reflect our national commitment to protecting our air, our water, and some of our most treasured public lands, including our national forests, parks, and open spaces. Unfortunately, this bill fails to live up to our responsibility to be good stewards of our natural heritage. This bill cuts the Clean Water State Revolving Funds by \$200 million and cuts State Conservation Grants to below last year's levels. Most egregiously, this bill cuts funding for essential projects to repair and upgrade facilities in our National Parks by \$216 million below last year's levels and more than \$400 billion below the level of six years ago. This bill does not meet the federally mandated increase in federal pay and other fixed costs of the National Park Service. As a result, we will see cutbacks in staff and visitor services at our parks. This bill also does not include any funding for schools at Indian reservations.

I am disappointed to have to vote against this bill because it did contain some worthwhile provisions. In it, the Congress finally recognized the reality of global warming. Though the bill does not include any concrete steps to address the problem, I was pleased that Congress finally acknowledged the issue. I also supported an amendment included in this bill that would require energy companies to pay royalties for the oil and natural gas they obtain from publicly-owned lands. This common sense amendment ends an unnecessary and illogical subsidy to the oil and gas industry and allows the American people to benefit from the use of our public resources.

There was a Democratic amendment that would have addressed this bill's most critical failings. We proposed a plan to add essential funds to this bill by making a small reduction to the average tax cut for the wealthiest Americans. My Republican colleagues reject this proposal, upholding tax cuts for a few at the expense of important initiatives that benefit all Americans. As a result, we have a bill that fails to adequately protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and our shared natural heritage that we hold dear.

HONORING HAKKI GURKAN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hakki G. Gurkan of Chicago, Illinois, on the occasion of his 30th birthday. Currently serving our Nation in Iraq, Hakki is continuing an impressive career in many areas of public service.

Petty Officer, 2nd class Gurkan joined the United States Navy Reserve in 2002 and is now serving overseas in Iraq as an Intelligence Specialist. He is fiercely proud to serve his country and I am certainly proud of him.

Before being mobilized, Hakki served as a Chicago Police Officer for 6 years. As a patrol officer in the 11th District, he worked tirelessly every day to respond to emergencies and keep our community safe and secure.

Last year Hakki added to his already considerable background in public service by using his vacation time to serve as an intern in my Washington, DC office. He was a strong addition to the office and assisted my staff in many important ways.

Hakki received his bachelor of arts degree from Columbia College in Chicago and earned a master's degree in law enforcement administration from Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I thank Hakki for his devoted service to our country, both at home and overseas.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending best wishes to Petty Officer, 2nd Class Gurkan and all American men and women in uniform serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world.

IN HONOR OF POLISH
CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they celebrate Polish Constitution Day—sharing their cultural gifts along a parade route lined with food, song and joyous celebration.

The first written European constitution, the Governmental Statute of Poland, was instated on May 8, 1791. Poland's Constitution was the result of nearly five centuries of struggle and perseverance by the people of Poland to diminish the power of the King and also to create facets and an institution of government vital to the foundation of a constitutional government. The Polish American Congress was formed in 1949, and continues to serve as a

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