

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN J. SOLARZ

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, next week, one of our most respected former colleagues, Stephen J. Solarz, will receive the President's Award from the International Crisis Group for his role in the creation of that highly respected organization and his other vital contributions to international public policy. This award is richly deserved, and calls to attention the accomplishments of this remarkable public servant.

His career in public office—which included 6 years of service in the New York State Assembly and 18 years representing Brooklyn's 13th district in this chamber—was characterized by tireless advocacy, unyielding resolve, historic vision, and a deep sense of civic duty.

His career was marked by exceptionally strong service in the international arena. Mr. Solarz served for 18 years on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, including service as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Africa. His record of achievement mirrors the historic and positive changes that occurred in the world during that period. A champion of human rights and democracy, his name figures prominently in the history of South Africa for his efforts to help end apartheid and build a non-racial democracy; in the Philippines for his tireless work in supporting democratic transformation and good governance; and in Cambodia for his public and private initiatives to help build a sustainable peace and national reconciliation in the wake of tragic mass killings. His vision in promoting democratization and European integration of the nations of Central and Eastern Europe following the fall of the Berlin Wall was essential in promoting peace and stability throughout the European continent.

His deep-seated resolve to contribute to international peace and justice did not cease after he retired from Congress in 1993. Mr. Solarz then served President Clinton as special envoy to Cambodia and as Chair to the Board of the Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund. He has stayed active since then, contributing frequently to the public discourse on international events through his writings and teachings.

Mr. Solarz also played a vital role in the creation and early leadership of the International Crisis Group, which has emerged as a respected conflict prevention and resolution organization. As part of a group of prominent international citizens and foreign policy specialists who were appalled by the international community's failure to respond to crises of the mid-1990s in Somalia, Bosnia, and Rwanda, Mr. Solarz recognized the need for an organization, wholly independent of any government that would help governments, international organizations, and the world community to prevent, contain, and resolve deadly conflict. In

the early stages of its formation, Mr. Solarz traveled to two dozen countries to discuss the proposed organization, garner support, and raise funds. The vision of that group was realized, and Mr. Solarz went on to serve first as the organization's first vice chairman and now serves on its board of trustees.

It is with great pride and admiration that I join the International Crisis Group in celebrating this great American and distinguished veteran of the House of Representatives. I thank his wife of 38 years, Nina Koldin, and his two children for sharing their husband and father with us. I am proud to pay tribute to Stephen Solarz for his contributions to the people of New York, the United States, and the entire world.

SUPPORT FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the upcoming 2007 fiscal year supplemental appropriations bill.

Much of the debate on this bill has focused, quite rightly, on the provisions that codify President Bush's benchmarks for Iraq into law. That is an important subject that I plan to discuss in depth later this week.

But today I wish to focus on another element of this bill, one that is of vital importance to the farmers and ranchers of the Second District of Kansas.

America's agricultural industry is in the midst of a calamity. Fully 70 percent of U.S. counties were declared disaster areas by the Department of Agriculture in 2006. Believe it or not, this was an improvement from 2005, when 80 percent of all counties were declared disasters. In my home state of Kansas, every single county is suffering from disaster conditions.

It is hard to express the frustration of the farmers I speak to in my district. Many have worked the same acreage for decades, and they feel a profound connection to their land. They trust that, if they treat their land right, if they plow its soil and plant it carefully and tend it for the many months before harvest, it will reward them with enough crops to earn a living.

But lately, as disaster conditions have stretched out into every corner of Kansas, the land has betrayed our farmers and ranchers. William Norman, Jr., a farmer from Leavenworth County, is fighting to make ends meet now that his corn production has plummeted by two-thirds. Frances Ford, a rancher in Coffey County, is struggling to feed her cattle off of only half of her ordinary hay yield.

These are good, hardworking people who put food on America's plates every single day. But their land has betrayed them—and sadly, Congress has betrayed them, too.

Despite the magnitude of the current agricultural catastrophe, Congress has failed to provide sufficient agricultural assistance. We have abandoned our farmers and ranchers to a massive and ongoing natural disaster.

The 2007 supplemental bill rights this wrong. It provides \$3.7 billion in agriculture disaster relief, which will help Kansans continue to farm and ranch in spite of the ever-present threats of drought, fire, and other catastrophes.

Our farming and ranching communities needs a government that supports them during their most difficult hours. Now Congress has an opportunity to meet their needs, to serve as a steward of the agricultural industry.

A vote for the supplemental bill is a vote for our farmers and ranchers.

IN PRAISE OF "PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARD" WINNER, MELISSA MORGAN

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a special young lady, a constituent of mine, Ms. Melissa Morgan of Hillsdale, Michigan. Ms. Morgan is a recipient of the highest level of the "Presidential Service Award," the Gold Level, honoring her dedication to Hillsdale community through her volunteer efforts.

Ms. Morgan is a student at Hillsdale High School where she has been involved with several extracurricular activities which include: soccer, basketball and volleyball, as well as cross country. Melissa was the Vice President of the Hillsdale High School National Honor Society, senior class representative for student council and also a participant in the Student Statesmanship Institute. This is just a short list of the activities Melissa has participated in at Hillsdale High School.

Madam Speaker, those activities which I have just named are impressive, however, Ms. Morgan's volunteer efforts are the heart of the "Presidential Service Award." In his 2002 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush called on all Americans to increase volunteerism within their communities. From this call to action came the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation in 2003 which sought out ways to recognize outstanding volunteers, such as Melissa Morgan. The Council created President's Service Award Program and the Presidential Service Award.

The Gold Level of the "Presidential Service Award," requires young adults, such as Ms. Morgan, to volunteer two hundred fifty hours or more of their time. Ms. Morgan has eclipsed this threshold almost five times, netting just below 1200 volunteer hours. I will highlight just a few of Melissa's volunteer activities; Spanish assistant and tutor—180

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.