

cannot be viewed as merely an express train into the welfare state. I hope my colleagues will join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

**SUPPORT FOR AN INDEPENDENT
AND DEMOCRATIC KOSOVO**

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have just returned from official travel as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission to several locations in Europe and the Middle East. One stop was Kosovo, which is presently high on the international agenda.

As we all know, the Special Envoy for the UN Secretary-General, former Finnish President Maarti Ahtisaari, has submitted a comprehensive proposal for settling the status of Kosovo. If adopted, the proposal would end the eight years of limbo in which Kosovo has found itself since the NATO intervention ended a long period of brutality and repression by Serbian authorities under the leadership of Slobodan Milosevic. Nevertheless, some countries represented on the UN Security Council have problems with the Ahtisaari plan, and Russian opposition, based at least in part on issues having little if anything to do with Kosovo and the Balkans, would doom action at the United Nations. Last week's G-8 summit failed to break the impasse within the international community.

During my stay in Kosovo, I was thoroughly briefed by the U.S. Office in Pristina, led by Tina Kaidanow, as well as by Brigadier General Douglas Earhart of the 29th Infantry Division, who commands U.S. forces in Kosovo as well as multinational task force located in the southeast portion of Kosovo. The head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, German Ambassador Werner Wnendt, provided the perspective of one of the international missions in the field. I also had the opportunity to meet the Kosovo Prime Minister, the Minister for Communities and Returns and representatives of the Kosovo "Unity Team." I traveled to Mitrovica where I also met representatives of the Serb community, and I visited areas at different locations where housing has been built to accommodate the return of those Serbs and Roma displaced by violence.

Based on my observations, I support the Ahtisaari proposal. It provides for independence for Kosovo, which I believe can be justified on grounds of what happened in Kosovo under Serbian rule as well as the right of self-determination, a right included in the Helsinki Final Act. The overwhelming majority of the people of Kosovo want independence, and the United Nations made it a credible possibility in Security Council Resolution 1244, adopted at the end of the Kosovo conflict in 1999.

At the same time, and perhaps more important, the Ahtisaari proposal contains provisions regarding the decentralization of powers to Serb-majority municipalities, numerous human rights protections for ethnic communities, and the protection of religious and cultural heritage sites so important to the Serb community. If implemented, these provisions offer a good possibility for the Serb and other non-Albanian communities to survive in what would be a multi-ethnic Kosovo. Independence would be

supervised by the international community, to ensure both a smooth transfer of authority and full implementation of the proposal.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I remain naturally concerned about the human rights situation in Kosovo. My priority is a Kosovo where human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, and where democracy, tolerance and the rule of law are established, regardless of the course or outcome of deliberations on Kosovo's status. Such a Kosovo does not yet exist; many problems remain. I do believe, however, that in a situation where no answers are easily found the Ahtisaari plan has the best potential to achieve these goals, and I will work to ensure that the Helsinki Commission encourages their achievement even after status is determined.

I wish to conclude my remarks, Madam Speaker, by announcing my intention to cosponsor House Resolution 309, expressing the sense of the House that the United States should support independence for Kosovo. Some of the concerns expressed in an alternative piece of legislation, House Resolution 445, are ones that I share, but continued delay on this issue helps nobody on the ground. The Ahtisaari proposal, in addition to addressing status, provides a means for securing the return and sustainability of the Serb and other ethnic communities in Kosovo, and I believe the people of the region would be best served by trying to make its provisions a reality.

**HONORING MSGT RICHARD J.
BRULE UPON HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MSgt Richard J. Brule, as he retires from the United States Air Force. MSgt Brule hails from Colorado Springs, CO and enlisted in the USAF on May 14th, 1987. During his tenure, he has consistently shown leadership and motivational skills in training other personnel in various skills.

MSgt. Brule began his Air Force career as an experienced mechanic and while at Nellis A1C, helped to establish a "Self Help" bay by building, supplying and mounting a tool shadow board in the minor maintenance section. This project enabled local organizations to perform their own minor maintenance which helped to clear the work order backlog, often returning vehicles to service within the same day. Continuing his exemplary service, Brule was selected as "Airman of the Quarter" while stationed at RAF Bentwaters in the UK. During operation Desert Storm, Sergeant Brule played a key role in preparing and deploying 120 vehicles to the AOR.

Shortly after arriving at Aviano AFB in Italy in 1992, Brule was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. His mechanical knowledge and management skills led to his selection as NCOIC of the Privately Owned Vehicle Inspection Center. In 1996, SSgt Brule was assigned to F.E. Warren AFB in Wyoming and was selected as Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the 90th Security Forces Squadron Vehicle Repair Station, where he was responsible for the maintenance of 125 rapid response vehi-

cles. Within a year of arriving at Sembach Annex, Germany, SSgt Brule was again promoted, this time to Technical Sergeant, where he assumed a great deal of responsibility. Finally, in 2006, MSgt Brule arrived at the 1st Detachment, 345th Training Squadron at Naval Base Ventura County, in my Congressional District. MSgt. Brule is currently teaching the gas phase and pipeline.

It is my pleasure to submit this to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, recognizing the character and dedication of MSgt Brule, upon his retirement.

**HONORING CHIEF OF POLICE DAN
MONTGOMERY**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the retirement of Chief of Police Dan Montgomery, of Westminster, Colorado.

Chief Montgomery's retirement was news in my district, and I believe it is fitting to honor his public service in the Denver metropolitan area for nearly four decades. Chief Montgomery has served as the Chief of Police in Westminster for more than 24 years. Such a life-long commitment to public safety is deserving of special recognition.

Dan Montgomery is passionate about protecting the public and realized early in his life that his calling was to serve in the police force. From his first job as a campus police officer, to his leadership as a police chief for one of Colorado's fastest growing suburban communities, Chief Montgomery has demonstrated a strong commitment to upholding law and order in our society. As a field officer, he will be remembered for his work on the Leeora Rose Looney case in Lakewood, Colorado, in 1971. Chief Montgomery leaves a professional legacy as a law enforcement official who always "supported his troops."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Police Chief Montgomery, and others in the law enforcement community just like him, for their steadfast commitment to justice and public safety. We also recognize Chief Dan Montgomery's leadership and fortitude. I am also proud to acknowledge Police Chief Montgomery's accomplishments as noted in the following article published by the Westminster Window on May 24, 2007.

POLICE CHIEF SET TO CAP CAREER

(By Rachel Ceccarelli)

Westminster Police Chief Dan Montgomery says he is ready to finish his 45-year career in law enforcement.

Montgomery will retire as Chief of Police on June 1, and Deputy Chief Lee Birk will take the lead.

"It just dawned on me one day that I have been married to my wife Bonnie for 46 years and been a police officer for 45," Montgomery said. "It was just time."

Montgomery says he decided it was time to retire and devote more time to his wife, grown children and granddaughter.

Nonetheless, he plans to continue doing some part-time police consulting.

Montgomery has been the Westminster Police Chief for more than 24 years.

His career began in the 1960s as a police officer in Los Gatos, California. After years of working in California, he moved to Colorado to work with the Lakewood Police Department.

It was at this job that Montgomery encountered what he considers his most memorable and difficult case.

"I haven't forgotten about Leeora Rose after all these years," Montgomery said.

Leeora Rose was a 20-year-old waitress at a Lakewood doughnut shop who disappeared on Aug. 20, 1971. Police found her raped and killed three days after her disappearance.

Montgomery said after months of investigations, a single fingerprint on a coffee cup left behind by a suspect solved the case. The fingerprint matched that of a man named Carl Taylor. After his arrest, he and his partner in crime, Sherman McCray, admitted to 15 homicides across the United States. They were sentenced to life in prison.

Montgomery said as far as he knows, Taylor is still in prison, and McCray committed suicide in 1988.

"I didn't like the carnage left behind by criminals, so I decided to do something about it," said Montgomery on why he chose a career in law enforcement. "That was my calling."

Montgomery said as he continued his police work in Westminster, he knew that he wanted to be a chief that supported officers.

"My motto is support me and I'll support you," said Montgomery, adding that he doesn't mean blindly agreeing with everything his officers do but supporting them when it's needed.

Birk said Montgomery was an excellent chief to work with at the department.

"Dan has been a great role model and mentor," said Birk, adding that Montgomery's leadership has set him in the right direction to take over as police chief.

Public support for police officers is one thing Montgomery said was his career highlight along with the passage of the public safety tax in 2003. Montgomery said the fact that City Council and residents voted to pass the ballot issue was integral to the operation of the police department.

"It's my crowning moment of glory," Montgomery said. "It really was a team effort, and I don't know where we would be if it hadn't passed."

Montgomery said he knows the police department will be left in good hands with Birk replacing him and the public safety tax in place.

In his spare time, Montgomery plans to golf and spend time with his family.

What Montgomery said he would miss the most is the relationships he has created with city staff and members of the police department.

He will also miss fighting crime.

"I'm going to miss putting punks, perverts and predators in jail," Montgomery said.

RECOGNIZING INDEPENDENCE,
MISSOURI SCHOOL DISTRICT
"COMMUNITY SCHOOLS' NA-
TIONAL AWARD FOR EXCEL-
LENCE"

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achieve-

ment of the Independence, Missouri school district on winning the Coalition for Community Schools' Award for Excellence.

Every year the Coalition for Community Schools honors communities and schools that are dedicated to the goal of the Coalition of bringing together the expertise of schools and their communities to help students succeed. Independence, Missouri is being recognized this year for their outstanding core principles. They are result-oriented, address real student and family needs, and engage students and school and community leaders.

The Coalition for Community Schools will honor Independence along with 2 other communities and 3 schools with a breakfast on Capitol Hill on June 14th.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in thanking the members of Independence, Missouri. Their dedication to the education of our youth is a credit to our Nation, and I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO STERLING INTERNATIONAL, INC.

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sterling International Incorporated for celebrating 25 years in business. Since inception, the core focus of Sterling's business has been to build and sell highly effective and environmentally responsible pest control products that are safe for the consumer, easy to use, and reasonably priced. In the past 25 years, Sterling has steadily grown its business and is the leader in its market niche.

Company founder and President Rod Schneidmiller developed Sterling's first product, a reusable fly trap, by experimenting in his kitchen and later began selling it throughout eastern Washington in 1982. Ace Hardware was the first retailer to buy Sterling's product on a national level in the mid-1980s, which resulted in a huge breakthrough in awareness and acceptance of the insect trap category. Today, Mr. Schneidmiller's innovations include a disposable trap for flies and a reusable trap for yellow jackets.

Twenty-five years after the company's humble start, Sterling International sells its line of fly traps, along with yellow jacket and Japanese Beetle traps, throughout the U.S. in retailers such as Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowe's, Ace Hardware and True Value Hardware. The company also distributes its product internationally, to customers in Europe, Asia, South America, Australia, Africa and the Middle East.

With a world-class insect research laboratory as part of its headquarters in Spokane, Washington, Sterling will soon release even more ground-breaking consumer products that will make pest control smarter.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Rod Schneidmiller and Sterling International Incorporated for their outstanding accomplishments. I invite my colleagues to join

me in celebrating 25 years of service from Mr. Schneidmiller and Sterling International Incorporated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall vote No. 453 on June 12, 2007.

If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 453, Crowley Amendment on Homeland Security Appropriations to increase terrorism prevention funding in urban areas by \$50 million and decrease funding for the Office of the Secretary and Executive Management by \$15 million and the Office of the Under Secretary of Management by \$35 million, "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, from 6:00 p.m. until the end of the legislative day, I traveled home due to an unexpected medical condition of a family member. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

"No" on the Crowley Amendment No. 21 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 453).

"Aye" on the Campbell (CA) Amendment No. 43 to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 454).

"Aye" on the Reichert Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 455).

"Aye" on the King (IA) Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 456).

"Aye" on the Lamborn Amendment to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Rollcall 457).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 458).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 459).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 460).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 461).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 462).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 463).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 464).

"Aye" on the motion that the committee rise (Rollcall 465).