

refugees and generous disaster relief builds good will with our neighbors.

If we end this Institute once and for all, we will show that the priorities of the United States are with democratic and civil institutions. A more cooperative, less unilateral foreign policy that clearly demonstrates respect for international human rights standards would help the United States regain influence around the world.

It is time to sow the seeds of peace; we must stop sowing the seeds of war. As a great Nation and blessed people, we must heed the words of the spiritual—"I am going to lay my burden down, down by the riverside. I ain't gonna study war no more." We do not need this school. My colleagues, I urge you to vote in favor of this amendment.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
JAMES "JIM" H. SHIMBERG

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to herald the life and philanthropic contributions of James "Jim" H. Shimberg, and to acknowledge our pride in the communities he founded in the Tampa Bay area.

A native of Syracuse, New York, Jim Shimberg served as a First Lieutenant in World War II. After he received his degree from the University of Chicago Law School, he practiced law in New York for nearly 10 years. Jim then relocated to the Tampa, Florida area in 1958 to launch a community business. By 1983, his development of over 6,000 homes, several recreation centers, schools, and shopping centers in northwest Hillsborough County laid the foundation of the Town 'N Country community.

Jim's success in community development led him to become President of the Tampa Home Builders Association and the Florida Home Builders Association, as well as Vice President of the National Association of Home Builders. He was co-founder of the National Housing Endowment and was inducted into the National Housing Hall of Fame in 1985. After developing the Town 'N Country community, Jim served as chairman for the Hillsborough County Charter Review Board and was largely responsible for the expansion and development of eastern Hillsborough County.

The philanthropic contributions of Jim Shimberg have unquestionably improved the lives of thousands of Floridians. His dedication to the well-being of Floridians led him to found the University Community Hospital in 1968. He served as the first Chairman of the Board for 9 years, and as chair of the investment committee for the duration of his life. His commitment to providing quality health care services led him to serve as Vice-President of the Judeo Christian Health Clinic for 25 years. In addition, Jim endowed the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing at the University of Florida in 1991, and funded the philanthropic National Endowment in Washington, DC.

As a result of his immense lifetime philanthropic contributions, Jim Shimberg was honored as Tampa's Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 2007. He and his wife, Amy Shimberg,

were also honored as the 2003 Philanthropists of the Year by the Tampa Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

The Tampa community honors the life of Jim Shimberg, his wife Amy, daughters Janet and Nancy, sons Jim, Richard, and Robert, and the entire Shimberg family for their outstanding contributions to the Florida community. Jim Shimberg's life serves as an inspiration to all who knew him, and will continue to benevolently impact the lives of Floridians in the future.

THE EXTENSIVELY DRUG RESISTANT-TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENT: A POORLY COORDINATED FEDERAL RESPONSE TO AN INCIDENT WITH HOMELAND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for holding this very important hearing to discuss and investigate a possible breakdown in security procedures or the lack of adequate safety measures sufficient to safeguard against and minimize a potentially very serious public health security threat, namely the contraction of the extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB). I would also like to take this time to welcome our witnesses, Dr. Martin S. Cetron, Dr. Jeffrey W. Runge, and Mr. W. Ralph Basham, (accompanied by Jayson P. Ahern).

Mr. Chairman, 2 weeks ago, Mr. Andrew Speaker, an individual known to be infected with multi-drug resistant-tuberculosis (MDR-TB) was subsequently confirmed to be infected with extensively drug resistant-tuberculosis (XDR-TB). He disregarded a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to seek medical treatment in Italy, and returned to the United States by altering his flight itinerary, flying to Canada, and then driving through the U.S.-Canada border. A number of homeland security and public health processes were utilized to manage the situation and failed at a variety of points.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide Members with the opportunity to (1) determine where weaknesses exist with homeland security processes designed to prevent entry into the U.S., (2) explore the inefficient interactions between the Department of Homeland Security (the Department) and the CDC when addressing public health security issues, and (3) identify areas for immediate and longer term improvement.

According to current U.S. public health policy, the CDC must be apprised when MDR-TB appears also to be extensively drug resistant so that the CDC can provide laboratory confirmation of XDR-TB. A very important question immediately comes to mind in Mr. Speaker's case: given the increasing incidence and prevalence of all types of TB, including MDR- and XDR-TB, should the CDC have been apprised sooner?

Mr. Chairman, in urgent matters such as preventing the spread of potentially serious and very harmful public health risks such as XDR-TB, time is most certainly of the es-

sence. In January, Andrew Speaker, a 31-year-old Atlanta lawyer, fell and hurt his ribs. He received an X-ray, revealing an abnormality in the upper lobe of his right lung. This suggested tuberculosis. Speaker began meeting regularly with Fulton County health officials for treatment. In early March, Speaker underwent a procedure to get a sample of sputum from his lungs. By the end of the month, lab cultures revealed he had tuberculosis (TB).

Though it is still unclear, it appears that the CDC was not notified of these events until May 17 when it was called in to test for XDR-TB. Health officials determined Speaker had a multiple-drug resistant (MDR) form of TB. According to press accounts, Fulton County health officials called the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) on May 10, but gave the impression that the problem was "largely hypothetical." The GDPH then made a call to the CDC. Some questions still persist and will hopefully be answered in this hearing. It is extremely important to know when the CDC was notified about Speaker's case of MDR-TB. It is also helpful for this Committee to know what the formal procedure by which the CDC was asked to perform its analysis. It is reported that the CDC was called in to test for XDR-TB on Thursday May 17. Was this the proper protocol to follow? If not, why wasn't the CDC asked to perform the analysis earlier?

Notifying the CDC of potential public health threats in a timely manner is also important because the sooner the CDC is notified the sooner public safety authorities can put measures in place to protect the public. Had the CDC been notified, the CDC may have been able to prevent Mr. Speaker from traveling and subjecting the public to potential risks of contracting XDR-TB.

As the Chairwoman of the Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, what I find even more alarming is the fact that the Transportation Security Administration was not notified until after the incident took place; after he had already posed a threat to the lives of hundreds of Americans and non-Americans. Had the TSA received forewarning, the identity of Mr. Andrew Speaker could have been disclosed in such a manner and he would have been placed on the "no-fly" list.

Mr. Speaker was simply given too many opportunities to create a public health crisis in this country and abroad. On May 12, Speaker departed Atlanta on Air France flight 385. Speaker arrived in Paris on May 13. On May 14, Speaker flew from Paris to Athens on Air France flight 1232. Speaker flew from Athens to Thira Island on Olympic Air flight 560 the following day. The CDC called in to test for XDR-TB. On May 17, the GDPH was notified that Speaker had flown overseas. Four days later, tests came back positive for XDR-TB. Meanwhile on that same day, Speaker flew from Mykonos to Athens on Olympic Air 655 and then he flew from Athens to Rome on Olympic Air 239.

Mr. Chairman, questions still persist about the ability of the Federal Government to quarantine an individual. DHS officials told Committee staff that Federal officials do not have the authority to quarantine. This is inaccurate. The President may issue an executive order for federal isolation and quarantine for the following communicable diseases: cholera, diphtheria, infectious tuberculosis, plague, smallpox, yellow fever, viral hemorrhagic fevers,

and SARS. What are the policies and procedures to implement a quarantine/isolation, and what is the role of DHS?

We must ensure that we provide public health security policies and guidelines that result in the highest level of precautions against public health threats. There is an old saying that it is better safe than sorry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 539. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the Musgrave of Colorado amendment.

TRIBUTE TO RICK SPARROW

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today, I come before you to honor Rick Sparrow for his decades of service to the 15th District of Illinois. Next fall will be the first time in over 30 years that Rick will not grace the basketball courts of East-Central Illinois. While the residents of Fisher, Illinois will always remember him as "Coach Sparrow," Rick actually began his basketball career as a youth referee. Due to his love of the game of basketball and his commitment to the children of Fisher, Rick spent nearly 12 years as an official, refereeing hundreds of games. Even with the demands of his job as a manager with FritoLay and responsibilities as a loving husband, father and grandfather, Rick then decided to make the move to the sidelines as a youth coach where he remained for the past 18 years.

Coach Sparrow will be remembered for his dedication, loyalty, passion and friendship. While he always pushed his players to the limit on the basketball court, he did so with respect, warmth and kindness. Rick treated every player as if he was his own child, and kept strong ties with his former players long after their playing careers were over. In fact, four of his twelve current warehouse employees at FritoLay are former Fisher Bunnies.

Rick's unheralded success as both an assistant and head coach is undoubtedly a product of the relationships he formed with each player he coached. In 1996, Coach Sparrow was named the IHSA Junior High District Coach of the year. In the 90's, he coached his junior high teams to six consecutive IESA state tournaments. And just this last year, Rick was a member of the coaching staff that led St. Joseph-Ogden High School to the super-sectional finals of the Illinois High School Association basketball tournament.

Now that the Coach has graced the sidelines for the last time, there will be more time to enjoy time and activities with his beloved wife, children and grandchildren. While he may not be in the gym next fall, the impact he has made on the Fisher community will continue for years to come.

Coach, the 15th District thanks you for your 30 years of service and your commitment to our community's student-athletes. You have enriched the lives of your players and their families.

IN HONOR OF RUBEN RAMOS, JR.

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker. I rise to honor Hoboken City Councilman-at-Large Ruben Ramos, Jr. during Hoboken Cultural Week 2007. Ramos, Jr., who was born and raised in Hoboken, is the first Puerto Rican from, Hoboken to be nominated to the New Jersey State Assembly.

At age 25, Ramos, Jr. became the youngest councilman to be elected in the City of Hoboken in 1999, representing the 4th Ward. That same year, Ramos, Jr. was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease. A proven fighter, Ramos, Jr. underwent rigorous chemotherapy treatment and was declared cancer free a year later, going on to become one of the most outstanding Hoboken citizens of Puerto Rican heritage.

Two years later, in 2001, Ramos, Jr. ran successfully for Councilman-at-Large, and became the youngest City Council President in the history of Hoboken. He was re-elected to the City Council in 2005.

During his 8 years serving on the Hoboken City Council, Ruben Ramos, Jr. has been able to work effectively with its members to bring effective development to the city and the waterfront. Ramos, Jr. took action to create more open space while expanding much needed residential parking spaces. Councilman Ramos, Jr. also helped clean up the Housing Authority and created the town's summer employment for teenagers program in city departments.

In the national arena, Ramos, Jr. was selected by Al Gore's 2000 election committee to serve on the Platform Committee of the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, where he delivered a stirring keynote speech. Ramos, Jr. was also chosen by the Democratic National Committee to serve on their credentials committee during the presidential campaign.

Councilman Ruben Ramos, Jr. is a graduate of Farleigh Dickinson University and has taught Social Studies to sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students for the last 10 years. Aware of their needs and hoping to shape the lives of young residents in the area, Ramos, Jr. has volunteered with the Hoboken Boy's and Girl's Club.

Please join me in honoring Ruben Ramos, Jr. during Hoboken Cultural Week and congratulating his wife Norma, his two beautiful daughters, and the Puerto Rican family members who helped shape the outstanding life of this young elected official that has become a role model for his fellow citizens.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Hinchey-Wolf amendment, which would prohibit funds in this bill from being used to designate any area as a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC).

By providing a 1-year time out in the designation of NIETCs, the amendment will force the Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Congress, States and the public to reexamine the process for designating these areas to ensure that States' rights are upheld and people's personal property rights are protected.

Specifically, this amendment will postpone a flawed plan by the Department of Energy to designate two vast swaths of the country as NIETCs. Far from narrow "corridors," these massive areas encompass 214 counties and 9 cities in 11 states, including large areas in my home State of New York.

The way these areas have been designated has come under intense scrutiny, and for good reason. In a hearing in the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Domestic Policy earlier this year, it was made clear that the DOE did not adequately consult with the States on this issue and that the designations would actually hinder the States' efforts to address climate change. In addition, the congestion study which the proposed corridor designations are based on was fundamentally flawed. Last, the DOE simply failed to consider the appropriate alternatives to corridor designation.

At that hearing Paul D. Tonko, Chairman, Committee on Energy, New York State Assembly said, "There is little confidence, at this moment, that federal government officials—who are far removed from the physical and socio-economic location of local proposals—will be able to fully appreciate the environmental, economic and social impacts of long-range, high-voltage transmission lines in local communities."

I also want to note that Governor Eliot Spitzer of New York strongly supports the Hinchey amendment. He has made clear that the NIETC designation in New York is not only unnecessary, it would actually be counter-productive because if it is finalized, the FERC would be able to preempt parts of New York's long-established and efficient process for siting transmission lines.

Most appallingly, if we do not pass the Hinchey amendment, the FERC could eventually have the ability to give energy companies the power of Federal eminent domain to force private landowners to sell parts of their property. We just cannot allow States' rights to be trampled and private property rights to be taken away.