

you, Madam Speaker, for the House's remembrance at this mournful occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to reasons beyond my control.

On Monday, September 4, 2007, I was tending to personal matters and thus missed rollcall votes 847, 848, 849. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all votes.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MYRON K. KUNKA

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mr. Myron K. Kunka. Having served his country for 32 years, he retired from the Federal service on September 1, 2007. His record of achievement during this period reflects great credit upon himself and upon the organizations with which he has served.

Mr. Kunka began his Federal career as a budget analyst at Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, PA, on August 1975 after receiving a master's degree in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh. He has served in successive financial management positions within the Department of Defense. These assignments include: 7th Signal Command, Ft. Richie, MD; Headquarters United States Army, Telecommunications Center, The Pentagon; Headquarters Army Material Command, Alexandria, VA; On-Site Inspection Agency Dulles, VA; and Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Mr. Kunka joined the ranks of the Senior Executive Service on November 7, 1999, when he was appointed to serve as the Comptroller, Director of Resource Management, and finally the Associate Director of the Business Enterprise for DTRA.

Mr. Kunka received numerous awards and decorations for his outstanding public service. The significant awards include: the Director's Award for Achievement in Equal Employment Opportunity, 1997; On-Site Inspection Agency Exceptional Civilian Service Medal, 1998; the Department of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, 2000; and the Presidential Rank Award—Meritorious Executive, 2003.

As Mr. Kunka brings closure to this chapter of his Federal career as a public servant, he begins a new chapter serving the public as the associate dean of the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Myron K. Kunka on his retirement from Federal service. He epitomizes the dedication and professionalism that makes our Federal Government a model all over the world.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN BOETHING

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend John Boething, who died August 11 at 89 years young.

It would be easier to list what J.B. didn't accomplish in his life than to list what he did. A college student at age 16, J.B. bicycled across Europe and explored South America as part of his master's thesis; was a U.S. Army captain during World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater; wrote a sports column; and was a freelance cartoonist for the New Yorker and other publications.

But it was as one of the founding fathers of the wholesale horticulture industry that J.B. made his public mark. He founded Boething Treeland Farms as a retail operation on 35 acres in Woodland Hills, CA, in 1952, and grew it into one of the largest and most successful wholesale nurseries in California. Today, Boething Treeland Farms grows trees and shrubs on about 800 acres across the State.

Not bad, considering J.B. knew little about the tree business when he started on money he borrowed from his father.

J.B.'s success can be ascribed to him being the epitome of a people person. He had a wonderful sense of humor and, for all his successes, still lived in the house he built in Woodland Hills and added onto as his family grew. Having sought the advice of other nurserymen when starting Boething Treeland Farms, he freely gave advice later to others in the business—including those who started with him and went on to be competitors.

While personable and fair, J.B. also maintained high standards and expected the best from his employees. With his motivation and example, they rarely disappointed.

J.B. also supported the American Red Cross, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Doctors Without Borders, and Pepperdine University. He served on the Board of Directors of Sunset Magazine and for many years sponsored a lecture through the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford University.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering J.B. and his contributions to horticulture and to all who knew him, and in offering our condolences to his wife of 54 years, Susan; their daughters, Sally Painter, Haydi Danielson, Cathy Pherson, and Marji Boething; their six grandchildren; and his extended family and wealth of friends.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act.

This legislation provides a balanced, responsible and long-term approach to address-

ing the critical issue of energy security in this country. It provides long-term incentives for renewable energy that will give the solar, wind, and biomass industries the stability they need to increase production capacity. There are also significant incentives for making our Nation and economy more energy efficient.

The bill provides resources to States and localities to help their residents improve the efficiency of their homes, as well as make public investments in energy-efficiency, transportation and research.

The bill works across sectors and technologies, across governmental and private sector lines, and in both residential and commercial settings to reduce our Nation's dependence on fossil fuels. In a word, Mr. Speaker, the approach taken by this bill is comprehensive. I want to highlight two provisions in the bill that I think are particularly important.

First, this legislation will increase the tax credit for alternative refueling property from 30 percent to 50 percent, and extend the credit through 2010. Nearly everyone agrees that biofuels such as E85 are an increasingly important component of our Nation's evolving energy strategy. Real progress has been made in recent years to spur use of alternative transportation fuels, and U.S. automakers have made significant investments to bring flex-fuel vehicles to market. But we need to speed the deployment of E85 pumps. This bill does just that.

Next, this legislation provides incentives for manufacturers to produce washing machines, refrigerators and dishwashers that push the boundaries of energy and water efficiency, and to build them in the United States. Reducing the energy or water usage of a washing machine may seem like a small thing, but over time and across millions of households, these incentives will produce remarkable reductions in energy and water usage, and consumers will save money on their utility bills.

Finally, I think it is unfortunate that so many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are opposing this package because it takes back just a few of the most outrageous tax breaks for the oil and gas industry. Our work in this House is about priorities, and the difference in priorities on this bill could not be more clear. I urge all of my colleagues to support this responsible legislation.

CONGRATULATING MR. EVAN BALOGH

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents Mr. Evan Balogh of Morrison, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. His outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young man.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more