

the line to ensure the safety of their community and Connecticut is very fortunate to have Chief Varney as a member of its fire service.

After graduating from high school, Michael followed in his father's footsteps and began his career at the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department where he has now served for 23 years. He quickly moved up the ranks and became chief seven years ago. During that time, Michael has superbly led the 50-person department and has been instrumental in securing almost \$500,000 in federal grants to provide the critical life-saving equipment necessary to protect his community. He has led with dedication and poise under extreme circumstances and developed the respect of the region's premier firefighting personnel.

Michael has also contributed to the state and regional preparedness through his involvement with the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association and the state's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council. He is also a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs committee that has put together a national emergency response network of firefighters, hospital staff, and other emergency personnel. His full-time position with the Department of Information Technology has provided invaluable communication systems expertise not only to his department but also to regional and national organizations.

Chief Varney represents the changing role of our nation's first responders and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life of service and dedication to the protection of our communities.

COMMENDING JOHN GRAY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE MARINE CORPS DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Mr. John Gray of Mobile, Alabama, for his service to his country as a Marine during World War II. As a member of the 51st Defense Battalion, Mr. Gray served in one of only two black Marine units trained for combat.

After changing his age in an effort to get a job at a Mobile construction company, Mr. Gray was drafted into the military when he was just sixteen. Though he and his unit were trained for combat and sent to the South Pacific with training and experience in handling 90- and 150-millimeter machine guns, his white commanding officers relegated them to menial tasks such as unloading cargo and carrying ammunition.

Carrying his experiences from segregated Alabama into the Marines, Mr. Gray served patriotically despite discrimination. When Japanese propaganda encouraged him and other black soldiers to defect, Mr. Gray chose to fight for his country.

Returning from the war to a state still more rigidly segregated than the armed forces, Mr. Gray devoted his life to education. He is now retired after serving for 50 years in Mobile city schools as a teacher and assistant principal.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of John Gray in Ken Burns' documentary series "The

War" is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. John Gray and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

GLOBAL POVERTY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Global Poverty Act and want to take a moment to explain the profound need for this important piece of legislation.

Nearly 2.7 billion people in the world live on less than \$2 a day. Close to a billion people live on less than \$1 a day. Vast numbers of people wake up every morning wondering whether they or their children will live to see the end of the day. Poverty leads to widespread disease and instability, and in a world with such vast resources, its existence is absolutely immoral. And yet, the United States has not stated that reducing global poverty and eliminating extreme global poverty are among the foremost goals of our foreign policy, nor have we implemented a comprehensive plan to reach these goals.

H.R. 1302 declares it official U.S. policy to promote the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the U.N. Millennium Development Goal of cutting extreme global poverty in half by 2015. This bill requires the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to carry out this policy. It includes guidelines for what the strategy should include from aid, trade, and debt relief to working with the international community, businesses, and NGOs to insuring environmental sustainability. The bill also requires the President's strategy include specific and measurable goals, efforts to be undertaken, benchmarks, and timetables. Lastly it requires that the President report back to Congress biannually on the progress made in the implementation of the strategy.

To be clear, Americans are working to address global poverty. The President implemented the Millennium Challenge Account to make sure countries don't just get foreign aid but use it wisely. Other significant steps forward include funding the PEPFAR effort and AIDS treatment and prevention in Africa. The United Nations set out the Millennium Development Goals and the G-8 set global poverty as its priority a couple years ago. Groups like the Gates Foundation, RESULTS and Bread for the World and a large number of other organizations combat global poverty from every conceivable angle. The world is coming together as it never has before to combat this menace, but in the U.S. no overarching strategy guides the allocation of resources.

The United States of America should be not just a leader, but the leader in this effort. We are in a position, I believe, to consolidate those resources, to get the maximum return on our effort to relieve global poverty. This bill would bring much-needed strategic vision and accountability to our efforts to address what is

arguably the greatest challenge facing the world community today.

I want to thank a large number of people for bringing the Global Poverty Act to the floor. House Foreign Affairs Chairman TOM LANTOS (D-Calif.) has been a tremendous leader on these issues and has been very helpful in this particular piece of legislation, as has Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (R-Fla.) and the Republicans on the committee. This is a bipartisan effort. I especially want to thank Congressman SPENCER BACHUS (R-Ala.) who joined me as an original co-sponsor.

It is very important that we adopt this legislation and help the U.S. take this leadership role. I believe if we do so we'll be better able to combat global poverty and be better able to build alliances throughout the world. This new policy will let the world know that the United States wants to use its power for the betterment of the entire world and that we want to work with the international community to solve the greatest crisis facing our world today.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF EUDORA, KANSAS, ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the city of Eudora, Kansas, located in the Third Congressional District, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary on October 5th and 6th of this year.

In 1856, three members of a German Immigrant Settlement Company [called Deutsche-Neusiedlungsverein] from Chicago sent out a location committee to choose a town site in the new Indian Territory, which had been opened up to settlement by the Kansas-Nebraska Act, enacted in 1854. Both pro- and anti-slavery groups flocked to this territory.

The three Germans sent to the present site were H. Heimann, F. Barteldes and C. Scheifer. Favoring the Eudora area, they drew up contracts with Shawnee Chief Paschal Fish for 774½ acres, from the Kansas River to the south for about a mile [over 200 blocks total], with two public squares and a park. In February 1857, Chief Fish entered into contracts with the Trustees of the Chicago Verein for purchase of land "to secure a more perfect title" for a price of \$10,000. Chief Fish bought back on the same day the old numbered lots of at least three blocks between the Kansas and Wakarusa Rivers. The Shawnee Reservation had been opened up for settlement; Chief Fish was a cousin of Chief Tecumseh, a businessman and a Methodist minister who had been educated at a Mission School.

A map of Douglas County drawn up in early 1857, before Eudora was a town, shows only four townships in the county with Eudora included in the Wakarusa Township. A group of 16 men, four women and some children had come in the spring of 1857 to begin settling at the site. Peter Hartig, age 34, was the leader of this Chicago group, and was accompanied by his wife. The Society paid expenses for the settlers. Eight more men, who paid their own way, came later. The formal title, signed by an Indian Agent named Newsom, was drawn up on February 4, 1860.