PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3685, EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Chairman, I rise today to ask for support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, ENDA, H.R. 3685.

People who do their jobs well, pay their taxes and contribute to their communities should not be singled out for unfair discrimination.

This notion lies at the core of American values. Yet, millions of Americans are fired from their jobs, refused work, or paid less because of their sexual orientation.

Sadly, this discrimination is legal in 39 States. This is why Federal protection is so important.

H.R. 3685 provides employment protections similar to those of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

This bill will provide judges with the tools necessary to end discrimination.

It will protect Americans, hard-working Americans who deserve the same freedoms and governmental support given to all working Americans.

Please support this important legislation.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to question the new majority's earmark reform for the 110th Congress.

On July 31, 2007, I supported and the House of Representatives passed S. 1, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, which provides for greater transparency in the legislative process. It is with great disappointment that I take this time to recognize the lack of this same transparency in the conference report for H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. This legislation authorizes Federal funding for local water and civil works projects that are extremely important to the State of Florida, and the Nation as a whole.

At the start of the 110th Congress the new Democratic majority made repeated promises to the American public about their goals for this newly led Congress, ensuring "accountability, honesty, and openness at all levels of government." It is now November and the unfortunate reality is that these promises are not being kept.

In accordance with House Rules, I submitted a written request letter for the authorization of Federal funding for several local water and civil works projects in my district to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The intent of the new earmark disclosure rules was to make all earmark requests transparent and accessible to the American public. In addition, these new rules require the committee to "identify, on a publicly accessible congressional Web site each congressionally directed spending request through lists, charts, or other similar means, including the name of each requesting Member or Senator."

In a recent review of the conference report for H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, it came to my attention that one of the projects authorized in the report, which I requested, Sec. 5158 (125) the Jacksonville Septic Tank Replacement, did not include my name with it, as required. I do not bring this to your attention today seeking recognition for doing the job I was sent here to do. However, I do bring it to your attention to express my disappointment that the new earmark disclosure rules are not being followed properly.

The American public deserves the accountability, honesty, and openness promised to them. Let's ensure that all of our bills conform to this standard.

IN TRIBUTE TO MRS. HELEN WILLIS' RETIREMENT FROM CIVIL SERVICE

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement from the Department of the Air Force, I want to take this opportunity to honor Mrs. Helen R. Willis for 32 years of dedicated service to our country.

Mrs. Willis, the daughter of an uneducated man who exuded a lot of wisdom inspired her to pursue her education and graduate from Tuskegee Institute, "the pride of the swift, growing south."

Since her arrival at Maxwell Air Force Base in 1975, Mrs. Willis has trained over 1,000 active duty military members to become Air Force Medical Laboratory Technicians. Her demonstrated technical expertise, proficiency and ceaseless dedication to her profession resulted in 16 "Superb" ratings, considered exceptional by the College of American Pathologists' standards. Mrs. Willis' determination and passion for the profession she believed in was always perfectly packaged by her charm and eloquence. She has been an inspiration to thousands and her legacy will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Willis for her outstanding service to Maxwell Air Force Base and our country. We wish her and her husband Dr. Edward Willis the best as Mrs. Willis transitions into a new life. Mrs. Willis is a true professional and a credit to herself and the United States Air Force.

TRIBUTE TO MR. HAROLD MATZNER

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mrs. BONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to a dear friend and constituent, Mr. Harold Matzner. On November 17 of this year, Mr. Matzner will be honored as the 2007 Good Samaritan of the Year by the Desert Samaritans of the Coachella Valley in our great State of California, and I am pleased to extend my sincere congratulations to Harold for this well-deserved recognition.

Mr. Matzner has been a resident of Palm Springs for over 25 years, and during this time he has established himself as one of the outstanding philanthropic and civic leaders in our community. Harold's generosity is legendary. His energy, passion, and tireless advocacy for numerous worthwhile causes benefit all those who live in and visit Palm Springs.

A close friend and neighbor, Harold was also an invaluable supporter of the Palm Springs International Film Festival. The festival was founded by my late husband, the Honorable Sonny Bono, when he served as mayor of the city of Palm Springs.

Harold is widely credited with revitalizing the festival and ensuring its continued success as a member of the festival board, board chairman, vice-chairman and, most recently, as chairman emeritus. Without his devotion to the festival and impressive business acumen, the festival would simply not have attained its current status as one of the premier celebrations of the art of cinema in the United States.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the Film Festival, Harold serves as chairman of the McCallum Theater, is an executive committee member of the Palm Springs Art Museum, and chairman of the Palm Springs Tennis Club Members Association. But his contributions to the community are not limited to these leadership roles. Harold is also a driving force in support of the Stroke Recovery Center, Temple Isaiah, Desert Aids Project, and Animal Samaritans, along with many other charitable causes.

Harold has established a long and successful business career as CEO of a major branding, advertising, and marketing company, and as the owner of a local Palm Springs landmark restaurant, Spencer's at the Mountain. He brings the same commitment to success to both his business ventures and his philanthropic activities, and our community has been greatly enhanced by his generosity of spirit and hard work.

Countless community and civic leaders have benefitted from Harold's insightful guidance and counsel. He is truly one of our community's treasures, and I am greatly honored to pay tribute to him today for his achievements and contributions to the citizens of the desert.

I want to join with the rest of our community in extending my appreciation and congratulations to Harold for this most fitting honor. And I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating this remarkable man, my dear friend, Harold Matzner.

HONORING JOHN AND JUNE ROGERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John and June Rogers upon being named the 2007 Citizens of the Year. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers will be honored on

November 11, 2007, at the 59th annual Citizen of the Year dinner in Modesto, CA.

John Rogers was born in San Francisco, CA. He graduated from Willamette University in Oregon in 1963 with a bachelors degree in psychology and received his masters degree in counseling and guidance from the University of Colorado, Greeley in 1976. In 1963, Mr. Rogers was commissioned as a rated pilot in the Air Force and attended primary pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, receiving his wings in 1964. While in the Air Force he was stationed around the United States and spent 1 year in South Vietnam. He retired from the Air Force as colonel in 1989 from Travis Air Force Base in California.

June Rogers was born and raised in Modesto, CA, and attended Modesto Junior College. She and John met in Modesto and were married, turning her into an Air Force wife as she moved around with him for 26 years. While on base, she volunteered with many organizations; including Family Service Agency, the Red Cross and the military base thrift shop. Mrs. Rogers was also active in the Squadron Wives Organization, the Officer's Wives Club and the Catholic Women of the Chapel.

Mrs. Rogers was chosen as one of the Outstanding Women in the Community and honored by Catholic Charities as their Honoree of the Year at the Bishops Celebration of Charities Banquet. Mr. Rogers is the president of the United Samaritans Foundation in Turlock, CA. He continues to fly as a charted pilot and owns an interest in Sky Trek Aviation in Modesto. He contributes and has been honored by numerous organizations; including the Boy and Girl Scouts, various art groups and the Gallo Art Center for the Arts.

Upon Mr. Rogers' retirement Mr. and Mrs. Rogers moved back to the Modesto area, and continued to serve their community. Mrs. Rogers serves her church as the communion minister's scheduler, she is active on the Liturgy Committee and has served on many Church committees. Also, she is a member of Catholic Social Services and Catholic Charities.

Also adding to their long list of contributions, they founded an organization to assist the needy in their community. The organization serves 45,000 lunches per month. The facility also has showers for the homeless, a clothes closet and a pantry for those in need. The homeless are allowed to use the address and phone number to stay in contact and receive mail. This facility also houses homeless women and children for up to 1 year. They help the family to get their lives back on track, learn employment skills, parenting skills, and budgeting skills.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate John and June Rogers upon being awarded with the 2007 Citizens of the Year Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Rogers many years of continued success.

RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE STAFF-LED TOURS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I, along with my colleagues JOHN DUNCAN Jr., DEBBIE WASSERMAN SHULTZ, MICHAEL CAPUANO, and JIM MATHESON are introducing a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that staff-led tours of the United States Capitol should be preserved.

Staff-led tours are a long standing tradition and can be documented as far back as 40 years ago. I suspect they date back even earlier, and perhaps existed when the Capitol was first constructed when Congressmen had constituents or friends visit the Capitol and their staff would take them to view the magnificence of the Capitol when the Member was not available. Senate Historian Richard Baker asserts that staff-led tours have always existed. Regardless of exactly when staff-led tours began, it has become an honored and well-worn custom.

While there is no chronicle of when staff-led tours first began, tours given by professional staff, known as the Capitol Guide Service were established in 1876. Upon establishment of the Capitol Guide Service, there was a 25 cent fee for getting a guided tour of the Capitol. Tom Nottingham, a well known member of the Capitol Preservation Society was an outspoken activist against the fee and advocated for a free and open Capitol. Finally in 1971, through the Legislative Reorganization Act, tours of the Capitol were offered free of charge.

Since that date, visitors have been able to visit their Member offices prior to going to the Capitol. Members or someone from their personal staff often accompany these visitors to the Capitol. It is important to note that the Capitol Guide Service has existed for over 100 years now and they have co-existed with staff-led tours without any controversy or incident.

As a Representative of a congressional district in close proximity to the United States Capitol, not only do my constituents come and visit the Capitol, but also friends and family of my constituents often join in these special tours conducted by my staff. As most Members will affirm, it is a joy to have all these visitors come and see for the first time the U.S. Capitol.

Recently, a constituent contacted my office requesting a Capitol tour. On our way through the Cannon Tunnel to see the artwork on display from the Congressional Art Competition, it turned out that her nephew, whom she had never met, had his drawing on display at the Cannon Tunnel. She was able to connect with her nephew and family through the ability to receive a personalized tour through my office. Had this option not been available, she would have had a hard time getting a personalized tour, and would not have been able to stop and get a good look at her nephew's award-winning artwork.

Also, observing constituent's State statue has become one of the hallmarks of staff-led tours. Perhaps one of the greatest examples is the statue of King Kamehameha the Great, one of the most impressive statues in Statuary Hall and one that brings much pride to visiting Hawaiians. Tours conducted through the Capitol Guide Service average around 40 people per tour and it is very difficult for professional staff to accommodate personal requests. We have an obligation to provide constituent services here in the House of Representatives and at our respective districts. Anecdotes of memorable tours can be recalled by all Members and by staff who have led a tour of the Capitol. The honor and privilege of providing this service to our constituents is not something that should be compromised.

I understand but disagree with the concerns of those that might want to do away with staff-led tours. Since the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, the Capitol Police increased security. Since the attacks of September 11th, the security of the Capitol was increased further. Even with all these security improvements, we have managed to preserve the right of our constituents to continue touring the Capitol with congressional staff. We cannot and should not let fear of the uncertain end this time honored tradition.

The resolution we introduce today recognizes the sentiment of many of us in Congress that staff-led tours are a long established tradition in the Capitol and an important part of constituent services. Staff-led Capitol tours must continue and the opening of the Capitol Visitor's Center should not change this policy. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution calling for the preservation of staff-led tours.

HONORING DR. FITZALBERT MICHAEL MARIUS, AS THE 2007 TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS HONOREE BY THE WEST FRESNO HEALTHCARE COALITION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Fitzalbert Michael Marius of Fresno, CA, for being named a 2007 Honoree at the Tribute to Health Champions reception, held by the West Fresno Healthcare Coalition. As an original member of the first open-heart surgery team at Valley Children's Hospital, his medical career is impressive and he is most deserving of this honor.

Born in Colón, Panama, to parents of West Indian decent, Dr. Marius moved to America as a young boy and chased the American dream of bettering himself by attending college. A true patriot, he left the university to serve in the United States Army in World War II, returning undeterred to not only finish his undergraduate education, but also complete medical school.

After receiving his M.D. from Howard University Medical School in Washington, DC, Dr. Marius spent a year in the cardiac surgery program at Stanford University's Lane Hospital in San Francisco. Throughout his career, Dr. Marius has performed general, vascular, and thoracic surgery in Fresno. In addition, Dr. Marius has been actively involved with the Sickle Cell Support Group in southwest Fresno and continues to work with the heart surgery teams of St. Agnes Hospital, the Fresno Heart Hospital and Community Hospital.

Dr. Fitzalbert Marius personifies the principles and integrity of our Valley. He is a role model for all of us, especially our Valley's upcoming generation of medical professionals. It is with great pride that I recognize him for all that he has done on behalf of our community and congratulate him for receiving this distinguished award.