

to build a parish center to provide a gathering place for the parishioners to come together in fellowship.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me today and applaud the clergy, staff, and parishioners of Saint James Parish. For over 100 years Saint James Parish has been a center of worship and praise for the Bay City area and may it continue to bring the joy of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, to the community for many, many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEWARK ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to recognize and honor a great institution of higher learning, Rutgers University-Newark as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. A gala being held on June 19, 2008 at the Paul Robeson Campus Center in honor of this important milestone will feature a variety of distinguished alumni, supporters, faculty, staff and students. The theme of the centennial, "A Century of Reaching Higher," celebrates the transformation of two law schools, a business college and two colleges of arts and science into one of the Nation's leading urban research universities.

Rutgers University-Newark has a rich and illustrious history. Founded in 1908 as a law school by New York attorney Richard Currier, the university has a rich tradition of diversity. The law school, the Seth Boyden School of Business and the Dana College merged in 1936 and became the University of Newark. In the 1940s, the University of Newark and Rutgers University joined together to form a geographically diverse public State university with programs in a broad variety of undergraduate and graduate disciplines. In the 1960s the university acquired a large parcel of land in what is now known as the University Heights District and construction began on the modern campus. Today, Rutgers University-Newark is a modern urban research university of 38 acres where 10,500 students pursue degrees in business, law, the arts and sciences, nursing, criminal justice, public administration, and global affairs. During its 100 years of existence, Rutgers University-Newark has been inclusive in its recruitment which has in turn created a mosaic of student diversity.

The gala will celebrate the university's legacy in the State's largest city, particularly in the areas of educational opportunity, urban engagement, diversity and research. Proceeds from the gala will support scholarship funds, including scholarships for students in the State's first undergraduate major in public service, to be offered by the Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration beginning in the fall of 2008.

Madam Speaker, I am sure my colleagues agree that Rutgers University-Newark deserves to be feted at the gala in honor of its 100th anniversary. I am proud to have this fine university in my Congressional district and wish everyone associated with Rutgers Uni-

versity-Newark continued success in the future.

GRANTING A FEDERAL CHARTER TO KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1692, a bill to grant a Federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association.

Just a few short years after World War II, our government again called on hundreds of thousands of Americans to serve their country in a distant conflict. Over 1,700,000 American soldiers were sent halfway around the world to fight a Communist threat in Korea. Over 40,000 would never return—giving their lives on the battlefield or going missing to this day. Another 100,000 were wounded. Today, my state of Vermont alone is home to almost 10,000 Korean War veterans.

The Korean War Veterans Association exists to remember those lost, to honor the service of the thousands of living veterans, and to support Korean freedom. For over six years, the organization has fought for Federal recognition. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and the Vietnam Veterans of America have received a Federal charter, but up until this point veterans of the Korean War could not claim this honor. H.R. 1692 finally remedies this.

Under the charter provided in this bill, the Korean War Veterans Association will provide assistance to veterans of the Korean War and to all those who have subsequently served there, including helping those men and women receive the veterans benefits they have earned. The organization will also preserve the camaraderie forged between those who served, and honor the memory of those fallen. It is my great pleasure to support this well-deserved charter.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that my vote today against Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations Act is a vote against further unconditional funding for the war in Iraq. However, I would also like to make clear that this is not a vote against funding our troops fighting in Afghanistan. In fact, I believe that my vote today against amendment No. 1 is indeed a vote that supports our mission in Afghanistan because I believe the failed war in Iraq has greatly hurt our ability to defeat our enemies who attacked our Nation on 9/11.

I cannot vote to continue funding for the war in Iraq because it has not been fought for the purpose that was stated to the American peo-

ple back in 2002 and it has not achieved the goals that were set out by this Administration. The war in Iraq has lasted far too long and has recklessly put the lives and livelihood of too many American troops in danger. With over 4,000 of our brave sons and daughters killed and more than 30,000 diagnosed with injuries, it is time they come home. After 5 years, this war has lasted longer than America's military involvement in World War I, World War II, the Korean war and the Civil War. I remain fully committed to the withdrawal of America's troops from the war in Iraq and am greatly disappointed that a timeline for withdrawal has not been included in this emergency funding measure. To be certain, a timeline is the only way that the current Iraqi Government will understand the dire need to unify and stand together to build their nation. Our brave men and women of the Armed Forces can not and should not have to hold Iraq together indefinitely. My vote today against this amendment is strictly a vote to bring our troops home from Iraq.

While I strongly oppose continued funding for our war in Iraq I am an even stronger supporter for greater funding and resources to win the battle against Al Qaeda and Taliban extremists in Afghanistan. I have stated unequivocally on multiple occasions that Afghanistan is the central front in the war on terror. In fact, just 2 months ago I joined my colleagues Representatives CAPUANO and LOBIONDO in a congressional assignment to Afghanistan and Pakistan. I had the honor to meet our troops stationed in Afghanistan and see the battle conditions they faced high up in the mountain ranges of the Afghan-Pakistan border. Despite the extreme conditions and dangerous assignments they were engaged in, I was encouraged by the troops' morale and unwavering commitment to their mission in Afghanistan. I told them I would continue to do everything in my power in Congress to provide them with the resources they need to be successful in Afghanistan and I believe I am doing so with this vote today.

It is my regret that I do not have the ability today to vote to reject continued funding for the war in Iraq and still vote to approve greater funding for our efforts in Afghanistan. It is clear to me that the central front in the War on Terror in Afghanistan has suffered due to the singular focus the administration has had on Iraq. It should be deeply disturbing to my colleagues and all Americans that because of this focus on Iraq we are seeing a resurgence of the Taliban as witnessed in the recent suicide bombing of a prison in Kandahar that freed over 400 Taliban inmates. The facts make clear my reasoning as to why I am voting today against Amendment No. 1 in support of our brave troops fighting in Afghanistan.

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Juneteenth holiday which was on June 19th. Yesterday, the House of Representatives