

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIFETRACK RESOURCES

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Lifetrack Resources in Saint Paul, Minnesota, on its 60th anniversary. During the past six decades, Lifetrack Resources has grown from a small charity into one of the largest community-based nonprofits serving families and individuals throughout the Twin Cities region.

Lifetrack Resources was originally founded on September 1, 1948, as the St. Paul Rehabilitation Center to meet the needs of injured veterans returning from World War II and the polio epidemic. In a true collaboration, the Amherst H. Wilder Charity, the Junior League of St. Paul, the MN Society for Crippled Children and Adults, and the board of directors of Family Nursing Service of St. Paul came together to meet the needs of the community. These partnerships have continued through the years, and young children with disabilities received preschool education and both children and adults were provided physical, occupational, and speech therapy services at Lifetrack Resources. Over the years, Lifetrack developed model rehabilitation therapies and employment programs that were expanded through mergers with the Jewish Vocation Service to establish a comprehensive rehabilitation center and the St. Paul Hearing and Speech Center to provide audiology services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. In 2000, St. Paul Rehabilitation Center was renamed Lifetrack Resources to embody the organization's extensive service to the greater Twin Cities area.

Today, Lifetrack Resources provides effective employment services and therapies to a wide-range of adults and children who encounter multiple obstacles to achievement—including those facing some of the most difficult challenges—immigrants and refugees, people with mental illness, individuals with criminal records, and our homeless population. Partnering with community organizations, Lifetrack Resources helps over 11,000 people each year to make positive changes in their lives by providing the skills and support they need, resulting in increased employment and economic opportunities and empowered healthy families. I have seen first hand how the success stories that Lifetrack Resources fosters continue to not only save government funds and improve our economy, but also strengthen our community's health and well-being.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Lifetrack Resources' committed donors, staff, volunteers, community partners, and clients, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing the 60th anniversary of Lifetrack Resources.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION ACT OF 2008

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Department of Defense and Civilian Law Enforcement Coordination Act of 2008. My bill would amend Federal law to permit Department of Defense law enforcement officers to better coordinate and cooperate with civilian law enforcement agencies. I drafted this legislation in cooperation with the Fraternal Order of Police, FOP, because many DOD law enforcement officers in my district have informed me that they are prohibited from basic coordination and cooperation with civilian agencies near DOD facilities. We need to ensure that Federal, State, and local law enforcement are able to work together to apprehend criminals and to prevent and solve crimes. I hope that my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 616, rollcall No. 617, and rollcall No. 618, I was not present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 616, "yes" on rollcall No. 617, and "yes" on rollcall No. 618.

CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA FOR THE EXPROPRIATION OF HALF MOON BAY RESORT

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to discuss a regrettable situation which we have been monitoring for some time now.

I am talking about the expropriation of the Half Moon Bay Resort in Antigua, which belonged to a group of American citizens, who developed the property into an internationally recognized vacation destination and have owned it for over 35 years.

The Hurricanes that hit the Caribbean in 1995 severely damaged the resort, making it necessary to negotiate a financial package to rebuild the property. Instead of assisting the owners in that regard, the Government of Antigua saw this as an opportunity to force the owners to sell it—at what would be its lowest value—to certain "friends of the Government". When the owners refused to sell and expressed a determination to rebuild instead, the Government of Antigua responded by repeatedly blocking their efforts to do so.

The Government of Antigua made its first overt attempt to expropriate the property in December 2000. At that time, some twenty

Congressmen and Senators intervened by writing directly to the Prime Minister of Antigua and the Antigua Ambassador in Washington, expressing their concern at such a move. That caused the Government of Antigua to back off for a few months.

However, after a short time, the Government of Antigua returned to its original plan and proceeded to a parliamentary declaration allowing the Government to exercise eminent domain over the property. The owners defended their rights and spent the next six years in litigation—with our State Department doing little more than placing an occasional inquiry with the Government of Antigua as to how they were getting along.

In June of 2007—a year ago—the Privy Council in London reviewed the case brought by the U.S. owners and, taking the lines of our own Kelo Supreme Court Decision one step further, decided that the Government of Antigua had the right of eminent domain to forcibly acquire the property, even when "public purpose" is applied to competing commercial interests. However, the Privy Council also confirmed the owner's right to fair and adequate compensation to be paid within a reasonable time. Now, a year later, the owners have once again had to return to the Courts, for an order compelling the Government to provide that compensation.

By expropriating property belonging to American Citizens and by ignoring the rights of the owners to prompt and fair compensation, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has breached the WTO International Trade and Investment Rules, as well as the Caribbean Basin Initiative and can no longer claim any rights accorded to preferred trading partners.

I hope the government of Antigua and Barbuda understands the impact this may have on their treatment under the Caribbean Basin Initiative, and how this totalitarian seizure of private property will affect the future of foreign investment there.

RECOGNIZING SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT WALT GARCIA

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay special tribute to a dedicated American and true patriot for whose service to this country, first as an Officer in the United States Army and followed by a distinguished career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, we owe our sincere gratitude, Mr. Walter Garcia.

Walt Garcia was born in California to proud and loving parents; mother Tsuyako and father Alfred. He and his three brothers, Joseph, Frank, and Fred, grew up in a happy home, each serving the other, alternately as friend, protector, and part-time antagonist. After graduating high school and earning his degree in Business Administration from San Francisco State University, Walt joined the United States Army where he served for five years and rose to the rank of Captain.

Walt joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1986. His first assignment, as part of the Phoenix Field Division, was as a Special

Agent in Foreign Counterintelligence, and member of the FBI Reactive Squad and FBI SWAT.

Walt's further service to the Bureau was primarily in the area of International Terrorism and support to the Special Operations Group. In 1995, he was selected to the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team Tactical Helicopter Unit. The members of this elite team considered Walt to be one of the most able and talented pilots to have ever served Hostage Rescue.

As a Supervisory Special Agent for Hostage Rescue, Walt was greatly respected and widely admired for his quiet but powerful presence. All who worked with him remember this friend and leader who avoided the spotlight and always put others first.

His FBI family, agents and pilots alike, can share dozens of stories about Walt's bravery and determination in the field. They can also recount exhaustive examples of this man's extraordinary gift as a strong and focused, yet quiet and selfless leader. Whether sharing the events surrendering Walt's quick thinking, his courage under pressure and his talent as a pilot on the occasion in which he single-handedly pursued fleeing drug suspects and, using only his helicopter, blocked their escape and retained them for capture, or when remembering how he calmed a younger agents baby, providing much needed leadership to the new father in the art of cooing while changing a diaper, those around him always knew of the standard he set for himself and for others in all things pursued.

He was a loving husband for 27 years to wife Yvonne and was a proud father to sons, Sean, Nicholas and Alex. Friends and neighbors from his community in Stafford County, Virginia, will always remember the active support he provided to his family in all their varied activities. While it may be difficult for Brook Point High School football fans to recall the game scores over the last eight seasons, few would forget Walt as the most active cheerleader consistently in attendance.

The same can be said for all events in which Alex, Nicholas and Sean participated, whether as a soccer coach for Alex, football enthusiast for Nicholas, or proud father and passionate fan of Sean's many musical performances; Walt was their number one supporter.

Walt Garcia's best friend, beloved wife Yvonne, and their remarkable three sons, Sean, Nicholas and Alex, will always cherish their memories of time spent together with this devoted husband and father. The community of friends and neighbors in Stafford County, Virginia, along with extended friends and close family across this great county, cherish the gift that was his friendship and love.

And finally, while the Federal Bureau of Investigation was fortunate to have counted this talented and dedicated agent as one of their own, we Americans will forever be grateful for his brave and faithful service to this Nation.

THE DAILY 45: ATHENS, CALIFORNIA SETS MURDER MILESTONE

### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 35

people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. At a time when millions of homeowners are facing daunting challenges associated with the economic meltdown of the housing market, last Sunday, homeowners and residents of Athens, California were facing a crisis of a different sort. On Sept. 21, when a still unidentified man was shot to death, his loss of life marked the 14th gun-related incident, and the eighth gun-related death, in this community alone!

This latest victim, an African American man, had a life, a family and, I'm sure, someone who loved him. I grieve for him and the veil of violence that neither Athens nor any other American city should have to endure.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say, 'Enough is enough, stop the killing!'

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge October 10, 2008 as the 97th anniversary of the Republic of China, more commonly known as Taiwan.

It is important for Congress to recognize the accomplishments of Taiwan and its democratic government. Taiwan is a loyal friend of the United States and a staunch ally in Asia. Taiwan is a shining example of a solid democracy, recently exemplified by the free and orderly Presidential elections in April and the peaceful transfer of power to President Ma. This transfer of power is a hallmark of a true democracy.

On the eve of Taiwan's anniversary I congratulate President Ma, Washington Representative Ambassador Jason C. Yuan, and all of the Taiwanese people for their unwavering pursuit of freedom.

### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following (dollar figure for which is to be adjusted to reflect totals actually provided in the bill):

Requesting Member: Congressman DAVID L. HOBSON

Bill Number: FY 09 Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill

Account: Title I, Department of Defense, Military Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ohio National Guard

Address of Requesting Entity: 2825 West Dublin—Granville Road

Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$12,800,000 to fund acceleration of construction of a facility to relocate the Ohio Air

National Guard's 269th Combat Communications Squadron and 251st Combat Communications Group to another part of the Springfield, Ohio Air National Guard Base. The current 25 year old facility is obsolete and places severe restrictions on the ability to perform equipment maintenance and conduct training operations. It does not comply with existing codes and has excessive operations and maintenance costs. The current building can be reused for other functions but cannot be made functionally adequate for the communications mission.

### SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the pleasure to meet with Joyce Jones, who is a Spina Bifida Association board chair, and past board member of the Spina Bifida Association's Central Indiana Chapter. Ms. Jones's daughter, Lisa, is afflicted with spina bifida, and also is active within the chapter and is a past Chapter president. Ms. Jones visited my office to discuss the daily challenges that her daughter faces as an adult suffering from spina bifida. As the House of Representatives prepares to adjourn, possibly for the year but certainly through the November elections, I rise tonight to ask my colleagues to join me in the best spirit of bipartisanship to help raise awareness of the struggles of people like Lisa Joyce by recognizing October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month.

For my colleagues who may not know, spina bifida—which literally means split spine—is our Nation's most common, permanently disabling, birth defect. This defect often presents itself within the first month of a pregnancy and leaves a permanent opening in the spinal column of the unborn child. Due to this opening, a person with spina bifida faces complications with almost every organ system, including physical, developmental, educational, and vocational challenges throughout life. The estimated total medical and surgical costs for persons affected by spina bifida in the United States exceed \$200 million. Currently an estimated 70,000 to 130,000 Americans are afflicted with this condition and that number is growing by about 3,000 annually.

Compounding this tragedy is the fact that spina bifida, and many other so-called neural tube defects, are largely preventable. In fact, research has shown that adequate consumption of folic acid or vitamin-B by women of child-bearing age before and during their pregnancies could lower the possibility of a pregnancy affected by a neural tube defect by almost 70 percent. The important point, however, is that folic acid is water soluble and it does not stay in the body for very long; so women need to take it every day to help reduce the risk of neural tube defects. Throughout October, the Spina Bifida Association and others will work to raise awareness of the fact that all women of child-bearing age are at risk for having a pregnancy affected by spina bifida; and the fact that they can significantly lower that risk by taking a daily dose of folic acid.

National Spina Bifida Awareness Month is perhaps the most valuable tool we have to