

CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, as the lead Republican sponsor I am pleased to rise in support of the Captive Primate Safety Act. This legislation, supported by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the Humane Society of the United States, and the Jane Goodall Institute, among others, would protect public health and safety and enhance animal welfare by preventing people from keeping nonhuman primates as pets.

On February 16, 2009, Travis, a 200-pound chimpanzee, attacked a 55-year-old woman in Connecticut. Travis, a popular figure in his home town who appeared in television commercials and posed for photographs, inflicted such massive injuries on the victim that she now awaits a face transplant.

This gruesome incident highlights the fact that keeping a primate for a pet is both dangerous to the owner and inhumane to the animal. Over the past decade, roughly 100 people have been injured by primates, many of whom are children. Acts of neglect have also occurred in my home state of Illinois. In October 2008, Chicago police seized a ring-tailed lemur that was reportedly found with no food, little water, and standing in his own waste.

Although nonhuman primates are our closest living relatives, because they have unique needs and can be dangerous, they should not be kept as pets. With an estimated 15,000 primates in private hands, federal legislation is needed to reinforce this fact.

This legislation would amend the Lacey Act by adding nonhuman primates to the list of "prohibited wildlife species," declaring it illegal for any individual person to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase any prohibited wildlife species. The bill exempts zoos, universities, and wildlife sanctuaries. Having passed in the 110th Congress overwhelmingly, I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me again in passing this needed and timely legislation.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO
FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF CRASH
OF CONTINENTAL CONNECTION
FLIGHT 3407

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 183, a resolution expressing condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407.

I want to thank my colleagues, Mr. LEE and the members of the New York delegation, for introducing this resolution.

On February 12, 2009, Continental Connection Flight 3407 crashed just a few miles from the Buffalo Niagara International Airport. It was a tragic accident and our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims.

Fifty people died as a result of this crash, and an investigation is underway to determine the cause of that crash.

While we have the safest air transportation system in the world, we must not become complacent.

Again, we, as a nation, mourn the loss of Continental Connection Flight 3407 and urge my colleagues to strongly support H. Res. 183.

THE GIDEONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Abraham Lincoln believed that "the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to a man." For 100 years The Gideon's, a non-denominational evangelical group of professional businessmen, have labored to extend this heavenly gift by distributing Bibles throughout the world. I commend the Gideon's as January 2008 marks their centennial anniversary of serving God and sharing the gospel of Jesus.

"Of the many influences that have shaped the United States into a distinctive nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible." Because of this the Gideon's are an undeniable part of American history. From their humble roots in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, three traveling businessmen devised a plan called "the Bible project". Their mission was to simply furnish a Bible in hotel rooms throughout the United States. One hundred years later The Gideon's presence in America and across the globe has grown tremendously. They have now placed more than 1.3 billion Bibles in more than 180 countries around the world.

The Gideon's patriotic spirit is truly realized through their quest to give all military personnel serving in the United States Armed Forces a small, pocket size New Testament. They also distribute Bibles to patients in United States Veterans hospitals. Their distribution of Scriptures, touches the lives of many people regardless of age, gender, income, or need and for that they are great patriots.

For the past 100 years, Gideons International members have given so much time and service to their communities, state, nation and the world. In so doing, they have brought the Gospel message to life by distributing God's Word. I invite you to join me in honoring all Gideons for their continued faithfulness and service to God.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health Resources and Services (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Child Protection Center, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1750 17th St., Bldg. L, Sarasota, FL 34234

Description of Request: I secured \$285,000 for the Child Protection Center.

The "Pillar of Hope" Campaign seeks to build a Child Advocacy Center in Sarasota, Florida. Along with the expansion of the counseling program, the Center will have two new state-of-the-art medical exams rooms at their location. By having the ability to provide more medical services to abused children the burden on local emergency rooms will be lessened. Currently, the Center is unable to offer certain services as they are limited in space in their current location.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Charlotte County

Address of Requesting Entity: 18500 Murdock Circle, Suite 536

Description of Request: I secured \$380,000 for Evacuation Route Widening/Burnt Store Road Project.

Funds will be used to complete design and begin construction of this evacuation route, extending from Zemel Road to the Lee/Charlotte County line. Emergency evacuation times from Charlotte and Lee Counties are unacceptably high. The Burnt Store Road evacuation road, which services over 250,000 residents in Lee and Charlotte Counties, requires 17.3 hours clearance time for a category three hurricane during peak season.

Funds will be used to expand the existing 2-lane rural highway to a 4-lane divided arterial with shoulders. It is estimated that this effort will reduce clearance time by 11 hours and enhance the overall safety of the route.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Corps of Engineers—Investigations
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Sarasota

Address of Requesting Entity: 1565 First Street, Sarasota, FL 34236

Description of Request: I secured \$166,250 for the revitalization of the Robert L. Taylor Community Center as part of the Newtown Redevelopment Comprehensive Plan.

The Robert L. Taylor Community Center is the only government sponsored/owned recreation center in Newtown and is the most heavily used recreation center in the City. Its renovation will provide modern recreation facilities for the youth of Newtown. The recreation center and its 10 acres of land, including athletic fields and a pool, is the home of the Redskins football league (little league football), a gym, weight room, auditorium (used heavily by seniors for meetings and bingo, etc.), and business offices. The center is also the primary facility used by local high school student athletes when their school facilities are in use by in-season sports. Unfortunately, most of the facilities are in need of complete intense renovation or replacement

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN