

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL
GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE
OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 38, "Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service", introduced by Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, of the District of Columbia. I would also like to thank Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON for her leadership on this.

Everyday, men and women from all over the nation put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we all enjoy. They have taken an oath to serve and protect us from dangers both seen and unseen, and do so with distinction and great diligence. This very brave group of people put aside all fears and inhibitions, risking their health, well-being, and comfort of their families to serve in a capacity that few desire. I believe it to be a worthy honor to have the Capitol grounds used for the memorial services.

Many believe that police officers have the most stress filled jobs. There's no question that police officers experience stressful situations with more frequency than most people. While municipalities hire and pay individual policemen, they seldom consider that the entire family endures the pains of the job, many of which have a deleterious affect on the family. The job and family simultaneously creates an environment that can be managed by few. Given the many sacrifices officers make during their lives for our rights and privileges, the burdens on the family should be few and minimized. Using the Capitol grounds for memorial services offers appreciation to not only the officer, but to the entire family, which they so graciously deserve.

Washington, DC, our nation's capital, is filled with memorials and museums that help us to remember the countless sacrifices that men and women have made for the freedoms of our great nation. We are a nation who knows the importance of erecting these symbols to help us remember those who fought and died for the greater good.

The World War II Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war effort from home. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th Century, the memorial is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people.

The Veteran's Memorial, which is a gleaming black granite wall etched with the names of the 60,000 soldiers who died in Vietnam or remain missing in action. While it does nothing to diminish the tears of families who visit year after year; however, it permanently helps them recognize that their dying was not in vain and that the government of the United States remembers their sacrifice.

There are veterans and other exceptional individuals buried at Arlington National Cemetery from the Revolutionary War to the present military action in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since May of 1864, Arlington has been a fully operational National Cemetery. Today, the ceme-

tery performs services for military casualties from the Iraqi and Afghanistan war fronts, as well as the aging World War II veterans.

This country has a long history of recognizing soldiers who have fallen fighting foreign threats. This country must also recognize those who fall fighting domestic threats. Therefore, I stand in support of H. Con. Res. 38, "Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service."

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY ECKERT
FOR 9/11 VICTIMS WORK

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 201, which recognizes the life of Beverly Eckert, a co-founder of "Voices of September 11th" and the widow of Sean Rooney, who was killed in the Twin Towers on September 11th.

Ms. Eckert worked tirelessly for "Voices of September 11th," an advocacy and support group of widows, mothers, and children of the victims of 9/11, which served as a driving force for intelligence and homeland security in the wake of the attacks of September 11, 2001. After the attacks, Beverly Eckert focused all of her emotions into organized advocacy for government accountability and future transparency to make our Nation more secure. Ms. Eckert was faced with opposition and indifference, but she continued to press forward in her fact-finding and preventative efforts.

Her strong, constant voice led to the creation of the National Commission on Terrorists Attack Upon the United States—or the 9/11 Commission. After the Commission's formation, Eckert continued her mission by participating in hearings and demanding implementation of the Commission's recommendations. During testimony as a member of the 9/11 Commission's Family Steering Committee, Eckert praised the Commission for their efforts to completely inform the public as to the failures on September 11th through public hearings and reports. She also warned Congressional members and the White House in regards to the Commission's recommendations that, unlike other commission recommendations, implementation of 9/11 Commission recommendations would be necessary because "there is no shelf on which they can be hidden." To that end she successfully pushed for the passage of the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007."

In conclusion, Beverly Eckert was a tenacious citizen who nudged and prodded the leaders of this Nation to look at their mistakes and implement the steps to correct them. Ms. Eckert was not interested in partisanship, fear-mongering, or saber-rattling. She was a woman who made sure that the death of her husband and those who died on September 11th would not be in vain. In that process, she reinforced the message that you can make a difference and that we, as a nation, should not give into the fear of terrorism.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution and formally recognize Ms. Beverly Eckert

for her continued work to ensure that the victims and families of the September 11th attacks are never forgotten and to ensure that our country is protected from such attacks in the future.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING NA-
TIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST
PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 210, Recognizing the importance of the National School Lunch Program and commend my colleague, Rep. GWEN MOORE for bringing this measure before the House.

This important program provides breakfast to over 8 million children through either free or reduced-price meals in approximately 16,000 schools. With the current economic crisis, working families are facing challenges they never expected. Last week, the Department of Labor announced the U.S. economy lost 651,000 jobs in February, and the unemployment rate hit 8.1 percent, its highest point in since 1983. These job losses make it even harder for some families to feed their children—so they turn to schools for help. We know that children who live in families that experience hunger have been shown to be more likely to have lower math scores, face an increased likelihood of repeating a grade, and receive more special education services.

We've learned over the years that making breakfast widely available through different venues, such as in the classroom, or as students exit their school bus, or outside the classroom, has been shown to diminish the stigma of receiving free or reduced-price breakfast, which often prevents eligible students from getting a traditional breakfast in school cafeterias.

Providing breakfast in the classroom can improve attentiveness and academic performance, while reducing tardiness and disciplinary referrals. Students who eat a complete breakfast have been shown to make fewer mistakes and work faster in math exercises than those who eat a partial breakfast. Students who skip breakfast are more likely to have difficulty distinguishing among similar images, show increased errors, and have slower memory recall. Studies have shown that access to nutritious programs such as the National School Lunch Program and National School Breakfast Program helps to create a strong learning environment for children and helps to improve children's concentration in the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, this is an incredibly important program with a well-documented track record of success. I'm pleased to add my voice of support for the National School Breakfast Program and I will be working with my colleagues to make sure that we provide the resources necessary to provide the benefits of this program to every hungry child who needs breakfast at school.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker:
Requesting Member: Representative ADAM H. PUTNAM

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009

Account: FY09 Financial Services appropriations bill, Small Business Account

Project Funding Amount: \$298,257

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Department of Citrus

Address of Requesting Entity: Post Office Box 148, Lakeland, FL 33802

Description of Request: In order for small business citrus operations to remain viable in an ever competitive marketplace and lessen their reliance on manual labor, an effective mechanical harvesting technology must be developed. These small business operations are currently at competitive disadvantage, as they are one of the last sectors for which mechanization has become an effective alternative. Such technology is critical for the future economic survival of Florida's small business-run citrus operations.

For this reason, funding is sought for the benefit of citrus small business operators, directed to the Florida Department of Citrus, to continue completion of the development of a mechanical harvesting abscission compound, through the FY2009 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17 women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Public Service Award winner is Pamela Ely of Bridgewater. She is a founding member of the Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Pamela served on the organization's board of trustees for three years and as president for three years.

She has been the organization's executive director for the past decade, and has made substantial contributions to the organization's growth and success.

I am pleased to congratulate Pamela Ely for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

EL SALVADOR ELECTIONS

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, El Salvador is a good friend and ally of the United States. After we suffered the attacks of 9–11, most Salvadorans kept us in their prayers . . . But one group felt differently.

The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), an extreme left-wing party, issued a communiqué that the U.S., for its policies, was itself to blame for being attacked. The U.S. Embassy publicly denounced the FMLN's declaration.

Four days after 9/11, the FMLN had a march in their capital city to celebrate the attack by Al-Qaeda and to burn the American flag. The leader of that march was Salvador Sanchez Ceren, who today is the FMLN's candidate for Vice President. The FMLN political party in El Salvador supports designated terrorist organizations, such as the FARC and State Sponsors of Terror, such as Iran and Cuba.

The FMLN has a long history of hostility towards us. If the FMLN should take power in El Salvador, it will be urgent for Congress to review our policies in order to assure the national security of the United States. Under current law, the election of a pro-terrorism party in El Salvador would have real consequences. Since the 9/11 attacks, the U.S. has enacted stronger tools to fight terrorism and those who funnel money to support it.

I want to make clear that these actions would not be punitive; they are not meant to chastise Salvadorans, but the U.S. will not aid sponsors of terrorism. We have an obligation to protect the U.S. and our citizens against those seeking to do us harm.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPORAL JAVIER ALVA-REZ

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize former United States Marine Corporal Javier Alvarez, who January of this year was awarded the Silver Star for his gallantry in Iraq.

As a Squad Leader with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit near New Ubaydi, Iraq, Corporal Alvarez joined other U.S. and Coalition forces attempting to stem the flow of foreign fighters and insurgents in Operation STEEL CURTAIN. Corporal Alvarez and his platoon were attacked by frontal and flanking fire from four, well-fortified enemy positions.

Braving certain peril, Corporal Alvarez courageously led his squad one-hundred meters through withering automatic weapons fire to reinforce his Platoon Commander and other Marines. Although wounded, Corporal Alvarez continued to lead his Marines in close combat with the enemy, while aiding in the evacuation of other Marines. While reloading his weapon, an enemy grenade was thrown in the midst of

Corporal Alvarez and his squad. Selflessly and without regard to his own well being, he grabbed the grenade and began to throw it back at the enemy when it detonated.

Severely injured by the blast, Corporal Alvarez was evacuated by his Platoon Sergeant. His valiant efforts and those of his fellow Marines resulted in the deaths of 18 enemy insurgents and undoubtedly saved the lives of numerous Marines and Sailors.

His citation reads in part, "Corporal Alvarez's indomitable spirit, dauntless initiative and heroism were an inspiration to those with whom he served. By his outstanding display of decisive leadership, unlimited courage in the face of heavy enemy fire, and total devotion to duty, Corporal Alvarez reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude and remembers his fellow Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen who have paid the ultimate price in Iraq and Afghanistan.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

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This year's Management Award winner is Nandita Kamdar of Branchburg. She is currently vice president at Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor in Warren and in charge of the mechanical-engineering department.

Nandita earned her MBA in management from Rutgers. She holds multiple engineering licenses in New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania and California.

I am pleased to congratulate Nandita Kamdar for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

MAKE HEALTH CARE A PRIORITY

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the New Democrat Coalition including myself met with President Obama at the White House to discuss legislative strategy including the looming crisis of health care.

Missourians I represent expect their leaders to talk straight and provide common-sense solutions. President Obama and the new Congress have been doing just that. This year we