

INTRODUCTION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, one of the primary responsibilities of each Member of Congress is to protect our nation and our citizens. Representing New Jersey, a "9-11 State," it is an important duty, whether the issue concerns funding for programs designed to protect areas which are prime terrorist targets, or ensuring that our military forces and intelligence agencies are fully supported, or securing our borders and reforming our broken immigration system.

In addition to restoring our economy with an effective stimulus that is targeted, timely and temporary, these are among the most important issues facing the nation today.

But on occasion, serious events develop in a Member's Congressional District that must be brought to the attention of this House and the nation. My District in northern New Jersey is witnessing developments that cry out for correction.

In April 2008, a 20-year old foreign national was arrested and charged with endangering the welfare of a child and aggravated sexual assault following an alleged attack on a 12-year-old girl. He was remanded to the Morris County, New Jersey jail where he remained until August when he was able to secure his release from Morris County custody by posting \$50,000 bail. Aware that the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had a "detainer" on the suspect, the Morris County Sheriffs Department transferred custody of the suspect to ICE.

In September of 2008, the suspect was transferred to an ICE detention center in Louisiana where he appeared before an immigration judge and was ordered deported. Appropriate officials in New Jersey were never informed that this potentially dangerous suspect was about to be or was subsequently deported.

Of course, the suspect failed to appear for his preliminary hearing in November 2008 in New Jersey, prompting a warrant to be issued for his arrest. He has subsequently been indicted on charges related to aggravated sexual assault on a minor.

Of course, the deportation of this suspect will delay, if not prevent, the suspect from ever answering these serious charges in an appropriate U.S. court. As a result, a young New Jersey victim and her family have been denied justice.

Clearly, the interaction between the state criminal code and federal immigration law is multi-layered and complex. In this incident, and another similar case where another foreign national charged with assaulting a nine-year-old girl is facing deportation,

Madam Speaker, today I introduce two measures designed to bring the glare of public attention onto these outrageous situations.

I am introducing legislation that provides an important new tool to states and local judicial officials as they work to bring to trial illegal immigrants charged with a serious crime. Our legislation would allow a state's chief execu-

tive or chief law enforcement officer, or that of a political subdivision, to request that the Department of Homeland Security stay the removal of an alien charged with an aggravated felony.

This solution is by no means perfect but it attempts to strike a balance between our national desire to deport as many illegal aliens as possible as quickly as possible and the ability of victims of serious crimes to have their rights protected. Simply put, the federal government needs to think twice before handling the alien suspect in an aggravated felony a "get out of jail free" card. These matters are too important to be put on auto-pilot!

I am also introducing a Sense of Congress resolution which directs DHS and ICE to develop an effective and efficient system of communication that allows state and local law enforcement and prosecutors to know, in a timely manner, when suspects charged in their jurisdictions with aggravated felonies are in the final stages of the deportation process.

My colleagues, these measures are not parochial in their nature. These are not issues confined to one county in one state. I suspect that if Morris County, New Jersey is grappling with the dueling conflict between state criminal law and federal immigration process, then so are counties in your Congressional District. I urge you to check with your law enforcement and prosecutors back home and then co-sponsor these two measures.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP
THOMAS J. WELSH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thomas J. Welsh, the founding bishop of the Catholic Dioceses of Arlington, Virginia. He passed away on February 19 at the age of 87, from pulmonary fibrosis.

Bishop Welsh served as Arlington's bishop from 1974 to 1983. He established six additional area parishes: St. Stephen the Martyr in Middleburg; St. Catherine of Siena in Great Falls; St. John Neumann in Reston; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Lake Ridge; Our Lady of the Blue Ridge in Madison; and Holy Martyrs of Vietnam in Arlington County. Bishop Welsh dedicated 11 new churches during his years with the Catholic Dioceses of Arlington.

Other notable achievements in his career as Arlington's bishop include helping to establish Christendom College in Front Royal and Catholic Distance University in Hamilton, both of which are in Virginia's 10th District. He also approved the purchase of the building for Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax. Bishop Welsh believed in the importance of Catholic education, both at school and at home. He founded the Arlington Catholic Herald newspaper in 1975 and established the Family Life Bureau in 1977. The Family Life Bureau worked to organize various pro-life activities within the Arlington diocese.

After leaving Arlington in 1983, Bishop Welsh became the second bishop of the diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania. He retired from Allentown in 1997.

His dedication and ministry will be missed by all who knew and worked with him. In the

homily given at his funeral Mass, Msgr. Anthony D. Muntone, pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish in Whitehall, Pennsylvania, quoted one of Bishop Welsh's favorite saints, St. Thomas More, who said: "Pray for me and I will pray for thee that one day we will meet merrily in heaven." I believe Bishop Welsh, as a dedicated believer and servant to the Catholic Church, will indeed be met merrily in heaven. His memory will live on through all the lives he touched and the legacy he left in both Arlington and Allentown.

HONORING RESURRECTION
CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Resurrection Catholic Middle School in Lakeland, Florida, on winning the Polk County Middle School E-Team Academic Tournament. In addition to winning the overall award, Resurrection Catholic School won the eighth-grade competition. This victory is the first for Resurrection, after taking second place in the previous two years.

Teams of sixth, seventh and eighth graders represented their schools and tested their knowledge of economic terms, language arts, mathematics and social studies. Thirty one schools participated in the competition this year with only six schools advancing on to the final round.

Coleman Cavanah, Alanna Wehle, Andrew Noonan, Tanner Donahoo, Matthew Murphy, Keegan Rand, Zoe Holmquist, Matthew Patterson, Emily Collins, Courtney Krakowski, Justin Lucas, Gabe Tone, Gabby Dilullo, Jarrad Pazda, Andrew Goding, Jacob Murphy, Riley Perrow, and Andreana Paz were all a part of the Resurrection E-Team. These students spent countless hours after school, studying an array of subjects and taking many practice tests over a course of nine weeks. Their dedication truly exemplifies academic excellence.

I would like to recognize Principal Nancy Genzel and Coaches Maryellen Krakowski, Cindy Stanford, and Lisha Fletcher for the positive example they set and for the leadership they provide. Their diligent work properly prepared these students for the competition and led them to this amazing success.

I commend Resurrection Catholic School for leading the way in excellence and for their commitment to empowering young minds. Congratulations on your success!

HONORING THE WHITE FAMILY

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas B. White Sr. and his family, who have selflessly served our country by enforcing the law in Southeastern Pennsylvania for over 100 years.

Thomas B. White Sr. started his career with the Philadelphia Police Department on March