

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPERVISOR JOHN D. JENKINS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Prince William County Supervisor John D. Jenkins and the years of service that he has selflessly devoted to his neighbors, constituents and friends. Supervisor Jenkins was recently awarded the Occoquan District Good Scout Award by the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. I cannot think of a more appropriate recognition of John's accomplishments in public service than an award based on the credo, "You are put here to do something for your fellow man and to take an active part in your community and its issues."

Supervisor Jenkins and his wife Ernestine moved to Prince William County in 1973 and immediately took a role in their neighborhood as the Forestdale representatives to the Dale City Civic Association. Their three sons were educated in the Prince William County Public School system and were Eagle Scouts in local Troop 1378. They have 14 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Supervisor Jenkins began his life in public office in October of 1982 when he was appointed to fill the vacant Neabscio District Supervisor's seat. He has since been reelected to that position 6 times. He has served two terms as Vice Chairman of the Board of County Supervisors, two terms as Chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, two terms as the State President of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions, two terms as the State President of the Virginia Association of Counties and two terms as the Chairman of the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board. John has served on boards and steering committees of the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Association of Counties, the National Association of Counties and represents the Board of County Supervisors on the Quantico Marine Corps and Fort Belvoir Base Realignment and Closing advisory committees.

Supervisor Jenkins has been a tireless advocate for many organizations throughout his 27-year tenure on the Board of County Supervisors. However, his involvement in the Scouts predates even his time in office, spanning 6 decades and involving countless Scouting causes. Camp William B. Snyder in Haymarket, VA opened its doors in 2006 due in part to the Supervisor's efforts to end its stalled development. He is a fixture at local Scouting promotion ceremonies and often uses his considerable fundraising abilities on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America. His dedication to the Scouts is unquestioned and with his receipt of the Good Scout Award, the Boy Scouts of America recognize his devotion to the people of Prince William County. As a two-

tour Vietnam Veteran and the longest serving county supervisor in Prince William County history, his career is one of service to country and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Supervisor John D. Jenkins' dedication to his community. As a public servant he embodies the values the Boy Scouts hope to instill in their youth. He has taught generations of Scouts the nobility of public service and the great potential that it holds to help one's fellow man.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Chair, I come to the House of Representatives to encourage my colleagues to support and fund an urgent national security priority—the creation of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, also known as NBAF.

From a rancher feeding his cattle this morning in Washington, Kansas, to a family sitting down for supper tonight here in Washington, D.C., Americans need to know that the United States is prepared to handle an outbreak of dangerous animal disease that could harm our country's economy and our food supply.

Our nation's current animal disease research center, located at Plum Island, New York, is well over 50 years old and can no longer meet our needs. With today's threat of bioterror attack, as well as the threat of natural and accidental outbreaks of foreign animal diseases, it is clear that more research capacity is needed. NBAF is needed to concentrate our efforts to assess disease threats to livestock, wildlife and humans, and to develop the vaccines and countermeasures against these threats. A modern, safe animal disease research laboratory is critical for protecting our country.

After years of study and a rigorous selection process, in January, the Department of Homeland Security unanimously chose to build NBAF at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. DHS found Kansas State University to be the best fit for this critical mission. Kansas was chosen because of the State's existing biosecurity research infrastructure, skilled animal science workforce, strong citizen support, and large cost-share contribution. At the time, NBAF was expected to be completed by 2015.

Despite the fact that there has never been stronger need for accelerated animal disease

research, I am incredibly disappointed that NBAF may now be delayed. The President requested \$36 million in 2010 for NBAF design and construction. I have concerns that this investment is inadequate for moving forward with this security priority. But as the House today considers H.R. 2892, the FY 2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, it appears that even the President's requested funding amount may not be provided. Citing safety concerns with researching foot and mouth disease, FMD, on the mainland, the spending bill provides no funding for NBAF. In addition, the bill requires yet another FMD risk analysis.

As a Member of Congress who represents a large agricultural district, I understand the importance of determining the risks associated with conducting FMD research, whether on an island or in the middle of the country. What we know is that studies by experts at DHS and elsewhere say that FMD can be safely studied on the mainland, as it is done in other countries like Canada, just across our northern border. Modern biocontainment technology has eliminated the need for locating this work on an island, like we did decades ago. The same state-of-the-art research methods and facilities allow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to research dangerous human diseases in the city of Atlanta. While I understand the risk associated with the research of any dangerous disease, it should not blind us to the risk of inaction. The bottom line is that if we do not build NBAF and increase our capacity to combat diseases, our country will be less safe.

The research that will be performed at NBAF is critical to secure America's food supply and protect our agricultural industries from animal disease outbreaks. A modern facility that can respond to outbreaks is urgently needed and must remain a top priority for the U.S. As the appropriations process moves forward, I strongly encourage my colleagues in Congress to fund and support NBAF.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1016, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act.

The men and women who have served our nation in combat deserve to be provided with the very best that we have to offer. One part of achieving that is getting these men and women the best health care that they can possibly have. In turn, it is critically important that the Veterans' Administration (VA) have assurances regarding their funding in a timely manner so that the VA can deliver health care in an efficient and timely manner.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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