EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF PETTY OFFICER JOHN M. COOPER III

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Petty Officer John M. Cooper III, United States Navy. Petty Officer Cooper III is retiring from the Navy after 20 years of service to our nation.

In 1990, Petty Officer Cooper III, enlisted in the United States Navy. In his career as Hull Technician, Petty Officer Cooper III was responsible for helping to keep the fleet operational and ensuring that the navy vessels are in good condition.

During his time in the United States Navy, Petty Officer Cooper III traveled the world and received many medals and ribbons for his service. He was certified as a Quality Assurance Officer, Safety Supervisor, and Gas Free Engineer.

Petty Officer Cooper III has dedicated years of service to this nation, and for that, we thank him. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Petty Officer John M. Cooper III on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Navy.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I object to the anti-choice amendment brought forward by Reps. BART STUPAK and JOSEPH PITTS. The Stupak-Pitts amendment goes beyond the scope of current law and effectively prohibits private insurers in the health insurance Exchange from offering insurance plans with abortion provisions. This amendment prohibits the use of federal funds from covering any part of the costs of any health care plan that includes coverage of abortion coverage, even if federal dollars do not go towards an abortion procedure. This amendment truly undermines the spirit of health care reform by rationing women's care and taking away current benefits plans that include abortion coverage.

This amendment strips women's legal right to abortion procedures and turns back the clock on decades of legal precedent and legislation.

This is a procedure that some women must consider in the interest of their health. This is a choice that no one, not a Member of Congress, or government official should make for a woman. This is a woman's choice that must be preserved. A woman's reproductive choice has been recognized by the Supreme Court of this country, and honored by the citizens and lawmakers of this country.

Please oppose this amendment and protect women's health.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF SISTER DONNA L. HAWK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Sister Donna L. Hawk of Cleveland, Ohio, as she is named the West Side Catholic Center's Walk in Faith recipient of 2009.

Throughout her life, Sister Donna Hawk has turned her faith into action, uplifting the lives of those living on the streets. Sister Donna has become a nationally-known leader by creating and operating transitional housing for the homeless, especially for women and their children fleeing domestic violence. While working for many years as a volunteer at the West Side Catholic Shelter, Sister Donna developed a special compassion for women, many of whom had young children, who sought refuge from abusive situations.

In 1986, without funding, Sister Donna teamed with Sister Loretta Schulte to rally community leaders and developers in order to transform a motel on Cleveland's west side into Transitional Housing, Inc.—a place of shelter and source of counseling and resources for women and children in need. For more than twenty years, Transitional Housing, Inc. has served as a model for similar programs throughout the nation and across the world.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing of Sister Donna L. Hawk, whose faith in action, unwavering belief in the possibility of transformation, and staunch advocacy has given strength and hope to countless women and children.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Republican adopted standards on earmarks, I submit the below detailed explanation of the Biotechnology Research and Development Corporation in Peoria, Illinois.

Bill Number: H.R. 2997—FY 2010 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Provisions/Account: Agriculture Research Service—Salaries and Expenses.

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is the Biotechnology Research and Development Corporation at 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604.

Description of Request: This funding will be used to find new market opportunities for commodity agricultural products, improve efficiency of production, develop new methods of disease control for both plant and animal commodities, and facilitate communication between the government and academic scientists and American Industry.

LISTEN TO THE DISSIDENTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues an editorial from the November 8 Washington Post by columnist Jim Hoagland. Hoagland's piece is aptly titled "Listen to the Dissidents." Hoagland points out the limits of "engagement" as pursued by the Obama administration—particularly engagement that relegates human rights issues to the back-burner.

It is tragic that, as Hoagland points out, "the dissident—a hero and catalyst for enormous change in the Soviet empire, China, the Philippines and elsewhere only two decades ago—has become a largely neglected and absent figure in this administration's diplomacy."

I join the growing chorus of voices in urging the President to listen to the dissidents.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 8, 2009.]

LISTEN TO THE DISSIDENTS

(By Jim Hoagland)

Barack Obama's extended hand was whacked across the knuckles by the leaders of Iran, Syria and assorted other thuggeries last week. But the Obama administration did manage a good demonstration in Burma of how its brand of engagement can and should work.

Kurt Campbell, the State Department's top Asia official, traveled to the isolated military dictatorship to talk with its corrupt junta. But Campbell also insisted on having a highly visible meeting with the leader of the country's democracy movement, Aung San Suu Kyi, and then publicly called on her persecutors to grant her party more freedoms.

This is the balance that has been missing in Obama's outreach to other authoritarian states. Demonstrators on the streets of Tehran underlined the president's missing link Wednesday by chanting: "Obama, Obama—either you're with them or you're with us," as Iranian police beat them, according to news accounts. Obama and his advisers need to take the dissidents' message to heart.

The dissident—a hero and catalyst for enormous change in the Soviet empire, China, the Philippines and elsewhere only two decades ago—has become a largely neglected and absent figure in this administration's diplomacy. Media coverage of political protest globally also seems to have waned since the end of the Cold War.

True, Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have made symbolic gestures toward the politically oppressed on their