

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BHOPAL GAS DISASTER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal gas disaster. On December 3, 1984, 27 tons of deadly gases spewed out of the Union Carbide plant, forming a cloud of poisonous gas over Bhopal, India. As a result, 8,000 people lost their lives. In total, the deadly effects of this disaster have left 20,000 dead and another 20,000 with chronic illness.

A 2003 study by the highly regarded Journal of the American Medical Association found that children born to parents affected by this disaster still suffer the effects of Union Carbide's poisonous gases. In fact, a Greenpeace report documented the presence of chloroform, lead, mercury, and a series of other chemicals in the breast milk of nursing women who live near the factory.

Just this past June, a report by the Bhopal Medical Appeal and the Sambhavna Trust Clinic found that the water in and around Bhopal still contains unsafe levels of carbon tetrachloride and other pollutants, solvents, nickel, and other heavy metals. Therefore, it is not surprising that populations in the areas around Bhopal have high rates of birth defects, rapidly rising cancer rates, neurological damage, and mental illness.

It is simply unbelievable that Union Carbide refused to acknowledge which chemicals and gases were leaked for fear of legal liability. This left doctors to treat patients with no knowledge of how to proceed or what treatment to use. Union Carbide's use of unsafe and untested technologies led to one of the worst chemical disasters in world history. Rather than acknowledge the devastation they created and fully pay for the damages, Union Carbide decided to walk away.

However, in 2001 Dow Chemical Company, based in the United States, purchased Union Carbide and acquired all of its assets and liabilities. To this day, Dow Chemical refuses to shoulder the liabilities and obligations that it took on when it purchased Union Carbide.

Dow should clean up the factory site, which continues to contaminate the local environment and should go beyond simply providing compensation to the victims. Dow should also fund the necessary medical care and research studies necessary to treat victims and offer them the chance to live fruitful lives not plagued by chemical affects.

I believe that the Indian Government has a role to play in ensuring that the survivors of the Bhopal disaster and those that continue to face its deadly effects receive dignified care. Despite an order from the Supreme Court of India that clean drinking water should be supplied immediately, more than 25,000 people in Bhopal are forced to consume water known to contain dangerous contaminants.

Last year, along with 15 of my colleagues I wrote to Prime Minister Singh to express support for the people of Bhopal and urged him to personally meet with survivor groups to address the long-standing demands for justice. We expressed our hope that the Indian Government would pursue Union Carbide and Dow Chemical for their civil and criminal liabilities in the country.

We argued the victims of the Bhopal tragedy were right and deserving in their request for a commission to execute social, economic, and medical rehabilitation, implement an environmental clean-up of the polluted land, and provide funding for clean drinking water.

Today, thousands remember the lives lost in Bhopal and protest the current inaction and lack of responsibility associated with the Bhopal disaster. I hope that my colleagues will join me remembering the lives that were needlessly lost because of Union Carbide's negligence and the devastating effects that continue to plague the people of Bhopal.

Although this may be the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal disaster, people are still dying from the horrible affects of the chemicals that Union Carbide's plant leaked. I remain dedicated to fighting for the rights of the survivors of the Bhopal disaster and ensuring that those in Bhopal today receive the assistance needed to live in a clean and healthy environment.

HONORING CORPORAL JAMESON CHAREST UPON HIS RETURN HOME FROM SERVICE IN IRAQ

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest joy that I rise today to join the more than 300 family and friends who have gathered to welcome home Corporal Jameson Charest of Wallingford, Connecticut. I have known Jameson's family for many years. His mother, Karen, served as a Congressional Aide in one of my Connecticut colleagues' District Office and I often had the opportunity to work with her. There are no words to describe how proud we all are of his outstanding service to our nation and, most importantly, to his fellow marines.

Jameson enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Iraq, where he served a 7 month tour. During his tour, he earned both the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Ribbon, when the vehicle he was in was destroyed by an IED. Needless to say, when word spread of his injuries, we were all concerned for his health and safety. Fortunately, Jameson has recovered and is ready to return to service. Though home on leave for the next several weeks, Jameson will report to Okinawa on New Year's Day and, in May, will report to the Pentagon.

Jameson will be the first one to tell you he is not a hero—that he is simply a marine,

doing his job. However, in my mind, Jameson, and all of the men and women who volunteer to serve in our Nation's Armed Forces are heroes. Dedicating themselves to protecting the freedoms and values we all cherish, they often give up much of themselves—and that is particularly true for those who have served in combat. Corporal Jameson Charest is a very special young man who certainly deserves our respect, our gratitude, and our admiration. He is a source of inspiration to all of those fortunate enough to know him.

For now, Corporal Jameson Charest has come home and it is certainly cause for celebration. I am so proud to stand today and join his parents, Karen and Denis, as well as all of those who have gathered this evening to welcome our hero home and to wish him all the best as he continues his service as a United States marine.

HONORING JAMES HARDEN "PAT" DAUGHERTY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable American. Mr. James Harden "Pat" Daugherty, a long-time resident of Silver Spring, Maryland, was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II when he was 19 years old. He was assigned to the U.S. Army's 92nd Infantry Division, known as the Buffalo Soldiers, which was the only division-strength unit comprised of African Americans to fight in the European Theater. The division fought German and Italian troops in northern Italy, suffering thousands of injuries and deaths. Mr. Daugherty watched some of his best friends die right before his eyes. He was decorated with the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement and the Combat Infantryman Badge for outstanding performance of duty in action.

The Buffalo Soldiers were great American heroes who waged a fight for freedom abroad even as they were denied freedom at home. After the war, they returned home to face racism, segregation, job discrimination and widening injustices. At age 23, upon returning from war, Mr. Daugherty felt compelled to document his wartime experiences as an African American. Earlier this year, coinciding with the 65th anniversary of D-day and the election of the first African American President, Mr. Daugherty published his firsthand account as a Buffalo Soldier in his memoir, *Buffalo Saga*.

Following the war, Mr. Daugherty resumed his studies with the aid of the GI Bill and received his bachelor of science from Howard University and his master of public health from Columbia University.

Mr. Daugherty was an educator in the District of Columbia public schools, where he organized an after-school tutoring program and taught students in math and reading. In 1964,

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

he was the first African American to serve as Health Educator for the District of Columbia Health Department. He was the first African American to be elected to the Montgomery County, Maryland Board of Education and served for many years on the Board of Visitors for the Maryland School for the Deaf.

From 1966 to 1994, Mr. Daugherty worked for the U.S. Public Health Service in a variety of positions. He was committed to improving the Nation's health care, particularly the underserved—rural and urban poor and minorities, coal miners, migrant workers, and incarcerated individuals. For his dedicated and tireless efforts, he received numerous awards and recognition, including the U.S. Public Health Service's "Administrator's Award for Excellence." The Mississippi Medical and Surgical Association honored Mr. Daugherty for his "dogged determination and work with divergent groups in a leading role to establish many community health centers throughout Mississippi and the South in the 1960s and 1970s—a time when racial injustice was one of the main barriers that separated black Americans from adequate health care."

In 1975, Mr. Daugherty was one of five co-founders of "Blacks in Government" and served as the first chairman of the national organization. This organization was formed to address the needs of African Americans in public service with the goal of promoting excellence in public service, equity in all aspects of American life and opportunity for all Americans.

Montgomery County, Maryland, declared July 28, 2009, "James Harden Daugherty Buffalo Soldier Day." Mr. Daugherty also was recognized for his contributions by Maryland's Governor and was recently interviewed by Smithsonian Magazine and National Public Radio.

Mr. Daugherty is a man of courage and integrity who has been a role model through his inspirational life of service to our Nation, especially to the underserved and needy. Mr. Daugherty's desire to share his story in his memoir allows all of us to benefit from his experiences.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. James Harden "Pat" Daugherty for his life of achievement and service.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am submitting the following: in regards to my bill, H.R. 1854 to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 to modify an environmental infrastructure project for Big Bear Lake, California.

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Big Bear Department of Water and Power
Address of Requesting Entity: 41972 Garstin Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Description of Request: The city of Big Bear Lake delivers its potable water from 70 year old 2-inch diameter pipes that have led to declining water quality at the faucet, massive unaccounted for water loss, and most dangerously—low water pressure.

Because of this lack of water pressure the city does not have the capability to effectively fight a fire of size within city boundaries. Big Bear exists within the San Bernardino National Forest one of the most high risk zones for wildfire in the State of California. It has also led to rampant power consumption to move water through the system making Big Bear Lake the second highest rate payer in the region.

This bill will modify an existing authorization for Big Bear Department of Water and Power and reduce the previously authorized amount by \$3,000,000.

Amount: \$9,000,000

RECOGNIZING THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE TENNESSEE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 278TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, two days ago, thousands of Tennessee's finest men and women boarded buses and began the first leg of a long journey that will eventually lead them to the other side of the globe. Tennessee's largest National Guard unit, the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, has received its orders and begun its deployment—first to Camp Shelby, MS, and then on to Iraq.

The 278th has proven itself to be an essential part of our Nation's Army. Without the citizen-soldiers that make up today's National Guard, our ability to defend ourselves and our allies would be severely diminished. A long deployment is very difficult, however, and for many of these soldiers this is not their first deployment. I hope these soldiers know how valuable, essential, and honored their service to our country is.

I specifically think today of Troop A, 278th Support Squadron, based in Lobelville, Tennessee. These fine men and women were appropriately honored by their community on December 4, and I know will fulfill the high expectations placed upon them by their commanders and perform admirably.

I ask my colleagues to lift up the 278th ACR in prayer, to honor the sacrifice their service represents, and support their families in every way possible.

IN HONOR OF LEE MATHEWS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Mr. Lee Mathews, the Director of Edison Job Corps Academy in Edison New Jersey, who passed away November 29, 2009 at the age of 57. Mr. Mathews served as an anti-drug advocate and spokesman for youth issues in his position as Director of Edison Job Corps Academy, and previously in his position as Director of the South Bronx Job Corps Center. Both institutions were nationally recognized, and Mr. Mathews had himself been recognized with the

National Award for being involved with the most innovative Job Corps Program in his last 3 years with Edison Job Corps.

When ResCare took control of the Edison Job Corps Center in November 1995, the center was rated 100 out of 109 and had an exceedingly poor image in the community. Mr. Mathews was able to improve the performance of the center to over 110 percent of the Department of Labor standard. Under the helm of Mr. Mathews, the program rose to prominence, ranking 21st out of 123 in the country.

By establishing relationships with companies like Aamco Transmission, Roto Rooter, and AT&T, Mr. Mathews revolutionized Edison Job Corps Academy's vocational training and made it into a model program that Job Corps programs nationwide are seeking to imitate and follow.

While the death of Mr. Mathews comes as a great loss to Job Corps, it comes as a greater loss to the State of New Jersey. His efforts and advocacy for youth issues will be greatly missed, though his legacy will live on through his accomplishments and work.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Lee Mathews, as our State remembers his determination and excellent service.

HONORING RONALD McDONALD CHARITIES OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ronald McDonald Charities of the Central Valley upon 25 years of service. The organization will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at the Third Annual Red Heart Ball held in Fresno, California.

Ronald McDonald Charities of the Central Valley operates the Central Valley Ronald McDonald House that is affiliated with Children's Hospital Central California. The current house was built in 2001 and is adjacent to Children's Hospital. The 3-winged home has 18 bedrooms with multiple recreation and relaxation rooms. The house provides services for the families of the patients at Children's Hospital. These services include home cooked meals, private bedrooms and bathrooms, playrooms for children, recreational activities, toiletries and laundry materials, emotional support and clothing when necessary. It has been found that being just steps away from their sick child, along with the services offered, reduces a tremendous amount of stress for families and the patients. Further, children who are near their families while ill are more likely to heal faster.

Currently, the Ronald McDonald House runs at 99 percent occupancy. In recent years, hundreds of families have been turned away. With fundraisers, amazing support from the community and a recent 8-acre land donation adjacent to Children's Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House is looking to create a larger home in the future to meet the increasing demands for the services that they provide.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ronald McDonald Charities