

new realities of expensive water projects and their environmental problems, and put the project on a back burner with a while emphasizing water conservation.

The Biological Opinion has also been criticized by downriver communities concerned about proposed lower summer flows and effects on the seal population at the mouth of the Russian River. SCWA has promised further studies and expanded river monitoring to iron out difficulties. Yet if the B.O. succeeds it will be a major step in restoring the river's once thriving fishery.

Randy recognized that climate change required the agency to do something about its own energy use—the highest in the county and he set SCWA on a zero carbon project, which will make it totally reliant on renewable energy by 2015. The Agency has kicked off the project with the installation of a 1 MGW solar system at its offices.

Randy was also instrumental in devising the nationally recognized Energy Independence Program, where home owners can weatherize their homes and install energy saving devices and solar panels at no upfront costs. Always thinking big, Randy has taken his energy ideas nationwide, forming a coalition of like-minded communities and promoting bills for local model projects and to lower consumer costs for home energy conservation and conversions to renewable energy.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Randy Poole for his years of service to the customers of the Sonoma County Water Agency. I have been occasionally caught off balance by his whirlwind personality and grand approach to finding solutions, but I will miss his clear vision of the necessity of change in a changing world.

ALEXANDER DANIEL ADAMEK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Daniel Adamek. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Heart of America Council Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the eight years Alexander has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alexander became a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Foxman from the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. Alexander has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alexander organized and supervised the collection of clothing, hygiene products and other necessities and made supply backpacks to be donated to Synergy Services, Inc. These backpacks were then distributed to runaway and homeless teenagers through Synergy's Street Outreach program.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Daniel Adamek for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, though I was attending a previous engagement in Kansas on Friday, February 26, had I been present in the House of Representatives, I would have voted in opposition to H.R. 2701, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (rollcall 73). Additionally, I would have voted to support the Republican Motion to Recommit (rollcall 72).

I believe this Intelligence Authorization bill is more concerned with providing political cover than addressing a number of real national security issues, including the administration's misguided efforts to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility and transfer detainees to the United States, and improving intelligence gathering and coordination in the wake of recent attacks at Fort Hood and the Christmas Day airline bombing attempt.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud co-sponsor in strong support of H. Res. 944, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on religious minorities in Iraq.

Freedom of religion is the beating heart of our American historical and political experience. After all, it was the search for a place to worship in liberty and dignity that led to the European settlement of this continent.

Our American founding fathers placed paramount importance on the right to worship freely and securely, as clear from the first amendment to our Constitution, which enshrines the right to free exercise of religion.

We are grateful to live in a country where it is safe to worship according to the dictates of one's conscience. We cherish these rights and privileges because we know that in many parts of the world—including Iraq—not all religious minorities can worship as they wish.

Historically, Iraq is one of the richest and most diverse religious mosaics in the world. Its Christian traditions can be traced back to the Christian apostles. Yet Iraq today is in a moment of crisis, for many of its smallest and most vulnerable religious minorities are threatened by the ugly forces of intolerance and intimidation in Iraq.

In recent years, there has been an alarming surge in Iraq of physical and psychological violence against religious minorities, and we must do our part to encourage the emphatic rejection of such violence by the Iraqi state and society.

While all Iraqis have suffered greatly in past years, the suffering has been most acutely felt by its religious minorities, including Chaldeans, Syrians, Assyrians, and other Christians. Many hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Christians have already fled Iraq to escape religious turmoil, many of them settling in my own home state of Michigan. How this crisis is resolved will be an indicator of the future that awaits Iraq.

Iraq's development into a sovereign, stable, and secure country is of immense strategic importance and political responsibility to the United States. The world should know that the United States stands with the Iraqi people and its elected government against the forces of radicalism and intolerance.

H. Res. 944 advances Iraq's trajectory towards a future of diversity, pluralism, and freedom. It will help to internalize and institutionalize an environment where religious minorities are protected by the Iraqi government.

Informed by our own American experience, we in this House are obliged to encourage Iraq to value the rights and privileges of its religious minorities. There is too much at stake for Iraq to fail them. And neither can we.

MAYOR OTIS T. WALLACE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our community's most humble and steadfast leaders, the mayor of Florida City, Mr. Otis T. Wallace. For nearly three decades, the people of Florida City have put their trust in him as mayor, leader and friend. A graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Miami Law School, he is the director of TIB Bank.

Mayor Wallace is completely dedicated to the residents of Florida City and ensuring that the needs and priorities of his community are met. Despite the pressures that elected office can bring, Mayor Wallace keeps his cool, always smiling and acting humbly, with the best interest of others in mind. He has proven to be a dependable, hard working and selfless leader, always willing to work with others to find commonsense solutions.

Mayor Wallace is no stranger to civic engagements. He is the chairman of the Florida City Community Redevelopment Agency and a member of the Homestead-Florida City Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as the chairman of the Florida City Foundation and on the board of directors of the Florida National Parks and Monuments Association, Inc., the Miami-Dade Criminal Justice Council and the Homestead Area Indigent Care Foundation, Inc. He is also a member of the NAACP.