

the-clock-protocol support, decade after decade. From meeting aircraft with dignitaries on the flight line in the early hours to planning and directing social functions at the general's residence into the late evening, Mr. Miller upheld the rules of decorum for tasks small and large with professionalism and enthusiasm.

The most notable example of Mr. Miller's exceptional commitment to seeing to the needs of Eglin airmen, civilians and family members at large was during a memorial service attended by more than five thousand people. This was held on base to reflect upon the twelve fallen Airmen from the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base who were killed in the Dhahran Air Base bombing of the Kohbar Towers in Saudi Arabia in June, 1996. The memorial, organized by Mr. Miller and held a few days after the bombing, was recognized as "an absolutely flawless ceremony and an outstanding tribute to our fallen warriors," by the Air Force Development Test Center Commander. Mr. Miller was awarded the Exemplary Civilian Service Award for his work.

He is married to the former Carmen Sue Brown of Dublin, Georgia, and they have one son, Michael, who resides in Denver, Colorado.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mr. David O. Miller for his excellent leadership and service to the United States Air Force both as a military member and civil servant. His dedication to our Nation is most deserving of this recognition. From all the constituents of Florida's First Congressional District, I would like to congratulate him on his retirement and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BLUE STAR/GOLD STAR FLAG ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it is no coincidence that the greatest country in the history of civilization also happens to have the world's finest military. The strength and caliber of our military results from a variety of factors, not the least of which is the way in which our government provides for the veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much. Indeed, my love and passion for supporting America's veterans is second-to-none.

Wednesday, May 19, the House passed H.R. 2546, the Blue Star/Gold Star Flag Act of 2009 by voice vote. This legislation would impose a federal prohibition against a homeowners' association policy preventing residents from displaying a Service flag on or around their homes. This proposal is a response to an incident in which a homeowners' association prevented an Ohio woman from displaying a Service flag honoring her son who served in Operation Desert Storm and again in 2003 in Iraq. Although the homeowners' association ultimately made an exception in this circumstance, such policies are offensive to many Americans, such as myself, who hold such great affection for our country's cherished service members and veterans.

In this respect, I can certainly appreciate the support for legislation such as H.R. 2546. However, I take exception with this matter coming before Congress, since this body has no Constitutional authority to impose such a mandate on the private sector. Indeed, matters such as this are best left to the discretion of local governments or civic associations.

Allowing Congress to possess this type of authority could ultimately lead to more controversial proposals. Certainly there would be great objections raised if Congress sought to prohibit homeowners' association policies preventing the display of the Confederate flag or nativity scenes. On the other hand, one must wonder whether Congress could one day prohibit speech of the minority which our Founding Fathers so vehemently sought to protect.

Our Constitution established a set of enumerated powers to prevent Congress from seizing illegitimate powers. Despite the best of intentions, the rule of law rightly supersedes congressional desires to respond to the passions of the moment. Doing otherwise would set a precedent, opening the flood gates to future policies considerably more problematic than the one before us today.

The framers of the Constitution envisioned a nation composed of states empowered to govern according to the will of the people, with a Federal Government tasked with limited responsibilities and powers. As the 10th amendment states so clearly, "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Each time the Federal Government, even with the finest motivations, intrudes into the jurisdiction of the States and the people of America, the Constitution is further undermined and the erosion of liberty continues apace.

Good intentions were never meant to stand in for constitutional governance. Congress must rein in its tendency to legislate solutions to even the smallest of "problems" that would be better left to local problem-solvers in either local government or private citizen associations. With each passing usurpation of the rights of State and local governments and with each imposition of a federal one-size-fits-all "solution," Congress dilutes the strength of federalism and pushes our nation closer to dependency upon a power-hungry central government.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 27, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 28

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2011.

SR-222

JUNE 8

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Children and Families Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of American children.

SD-430

JUNE 9

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of the antitrust laws.

SD-226

3 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 2891, to further allocate and expand the availability of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam, S. 2779 and H.R. 3671, bills to promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, S. 3387, to provide for the release of water from the marketable yield pool of water stored in the Ruedi Reservoir for the benefit of endangered fish habitat in the Colorado River, and for other purpose, S. 3404, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to take actions to improve environmental conditions in the vicinity of the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel in Lake County, Colorado, and H.R. 4252, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of water resources in the Rialto-Colton Basin in the State of California.

SD-366

JUNE 10

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine assessing the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on states, localities and the private sector.

SD-342

JUNE 16

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine veterans' claims processing, focusing on if current efforts are working.

SR-418

JUNE 17

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and the implications for national security programs.

SD-106