

workers who made it are being paid well and being respected.”

One such worker is Maritza Vargas. When BJ&B ran the factory, she was a stand-up-for-your-rights firebrand fighting for 20 union supporters who had been fired.

Student groups and the Worker Rights Consortium pressed Nike and other companies that used the factory to push BJ&B to recognize the union and rehire the fired workers. BJ&B relented. Today, Ms. Vargas is president of the union at the new plant and sings a very different tune. In interviews, she and other union leaders praised the Alta Gracia factory and said they would do their utmost to make it succeed and grow. Mireya Perez said the living wage would enable her to send her 16-year-old daughter to college, while Yolando Simon said she was able to pay off a \$300 debt to a grocer.

At other factories, workers said, managers sometimes yelled or slapped them. Several said they were not allowed to go home when sick, and sometimes had to work past midnight after beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Comparing this factory with other ones, Ms. Vargas said, “The difference is heaven and earth.”

HONORING ROBERT DEDMAN

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2010

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Dedman, a dedicated public servant who is completing his third term as Wilson County Mayor. Since 1998, Mayor Dedman has served with distinction as Wilson County's Executive and has announced that he plans to retire at the end of the current term.

A lifelong resident of Lebanon and Wilson County, this native son has also rendered meritorious service to his fellow citizens as Wilson County Assessor of Property and as a Lebanon City Councilman representing Ward 4.

After completing a tour of duty in the United States Army in the 1950's, Robert Dedman worked for the American Legion for many years before entering public service. He began his long and distinguished career in government in 1972, when he was hired as the first Purchasing Agent for the City of Lebanon. He also enjoyed a productive tenure with the Tennessee Secretary of State's Personal Property and Inventory Division from 1978 until 1984. Robert Dedman additionally served Tennessee's 100th General Assembly as a Senate sergeant-at-arms.

Because of his broad experience in local, county, and state governments, Mayor Dedman was successful in promoting a harmonious relationship between and among all levels of government to accomplish Wilson County's future goals.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Robert Dedman is a remarkable man who has compiled a singular record during his exemplary career in county and state government. Please join me in honoring him as he retires after thirty-eight years of outstanding service to the people of Wilson County and Tennessee.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5266, to extend the final report deadline and otherwise reauthorize the national commission on children and disasters. H.R. 5266, is an important piece of legislation that assists a commission whose job is to report to Congress and the President on the necessary precautions and actions needed before major disasters or emergencies.

I would like to thank Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and Chairman OBERSTAR for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congresswoman BROWN, for her important work on the reauthorization of the national commission on children and disasters through 2013.

Madam Speaker, in an average 3-year period, roughly 5 hurricanes strike the coastlines of the United States. The 2009 Atlantic hurricane season included 9 named storms, including 3 hurricanes, 2 of which were category 3 or higher. In 2009 there were 1843 earthquakes in the United States between the magnitudes of 3.0 and 6.0. From 2007 to the present, 269 fatalities have resulted from tornadoes. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response, my Subcommittee recently held a hearing on the difficulties of reaching those with special needs, such as children, during emergencies such as a hurricane or tornado. Children comprise about 25 percent of our population and have unique needs during a disaster that require specific recognition and coordination on the part of federal, state, Tribal and local governments and their non-governmental disaster-relief partners. The rise in major disaster declarations over the past two decades, and more recent disasters have highlighted the need to improve the gaps in preparedness, response and recovery policies that should specifically address the needs of children.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that H.R. 5266 would reauthorize the National Commission on Children and Disasters through 2013. The National Commission on Children and Disasters examines and reports to the Congress and the President on the needs of children during the preparation for, response to, and recovery from major disasters and emergencies. Under current law, the commission would terminate in 2011.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I support this legislation to keep our children safe. I am pleased that Congress is taking action to promote increased safety measures in emergency situations as well as providing the funds in support.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5266.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, on July 22nd, I missed six rollcall votes numbered 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, and 466 because I was unavoidably detained in Kansas.

Rollcall No. 461 was a vote on H. Res. 1550, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4213, Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Rollcall No. 462 was a vote on H.R. 1469, the Child Protection Improvements Act of 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Rollcall No. 463 was a vote on H.R. 4213, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Rollcall No. 464 was a vote on H.R. 5341, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Orndorf Drive in Brighton, Michigan, as the Joyce Rogers Post Office Building. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Rollcall No. 465 was a vote on ordering the previous question for H.R. 4773, providing for consideration of H.R. 1264, Multiple Peril Insurance Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Rollcall No. 466 was a vote on H. Res. 1549, providing for consideration of H.R. 1264, Multiple Peril Insurance Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2010

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, due to prior commitments in my district, I was absent from the House Monday, July 19 and Tuesday, July 20, 2010, and thus did not cast any votes on those dates. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way on bills considered by the House: “yea” on rollcall 448; “yea” on rollcall 449; “yea” on rollcall 450; “yea” on rollcall 451; “yea” on rollcall 452; and “yea” on rollcall 453.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL GEORGE JUSKALIAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Colonel George Juskalian, a constituent from Centreville, Virginia, for his dedicated service in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He passed away on July 4, 2010, at age 96, having served nearly 30 years on active duty.

Colonel Juskalian was one of the most highly decorated Armenian-American veterans to