

MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS
ALLOWABLE USE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1791, the “Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act”, but I have serious concerns about this legislation and its overlap with the policies appropriately established in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA).

Of course, we all agree that it is important for states, territories, tribes, and high-risk urban areas to be prepared for possible acts of terrorism. And we also agree that medical preparedness and related activities are an important part of this.

However, I worry that this bill may result in duplicative and uncoordinated efforts across the government.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the lead federal entity on the public health and medical response to public health emergencies and incidents, including bioterrorist attacks. Specifically, this bill conflicts with HHS’s authority under PAHPA. Legislation reauthorizing the PAHPA authorities at HHS was passed on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis by the House and Senate and signed into law just last March.

HHS already undertakes a number of activities related to enhancing medical preparedness and medical surge capacity in States and cities. The Department also maintains a stockpile of countermeasures and other pharmaceutical supplies for terrorist attacks and other public health emergencies—which is managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

I believe the use of DHS grant funds for medical preparedness activities authorized in H.R. 1791 without any consultation requirement or acknowledgement of HHS’s role in public health and medical response efforts is short-sighted. It has the potential to undermine HHS’s leadership and expertise on this important issue and impede a unified federal response to terrorist attacks.

If my colleagues believe that there should be enhanced support of medical preparedness activities, I hope that we can work together to find a way to ensure coordination of efforts and preserve HHS’s important role.

CELEBRATING MS. JACKIE PEER,
RECIPIENT OF THE 2014 WOMEN
IN MANUFACTURING STEP
AWARD

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Jackie Peer, recipient of the 2014 STEP Award from the Manufacturing Institute. I am pleased to recognize her contributions to Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc., her industry, her community in Eastern Washington, and our nation.

Seeking to inspire the next generation of female talent, the STEP Award recognizes

women in science, technology, engineering, and production roles who have made significant achievements in manufacturing.

Manufacturing is revitalizing our economy and making America strong. Investments in manufacturing, engineering, and science multiply across the economy, creating jobs and growth in other sectors. While today’s manufacturing industry, is competitive, high tech, safe, and working hard to encourage women into the field, manufacturers still have difficulties finding the skilled workers they need. Part of this skills gap is due to the lack of women in the industry. While women make up 50 percent of the U.S. workforce, they make up only 24 percent of the manufacturing workforce. Passionate about developing the next generation of workers for the electric power industry, Ms. Peer is also working to encourage other women to enter the science, technology, and engineering industries.

Ms. Peer joined Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL) in 1996 as an application engineer. During her career at SEL, she has managed the research and design of distribution relays and controls as well as time and communications products—significant and essential products used by electric utilities around the world. The developments and offerings achieved under Ms. Peer’s leadership have resulted in reliability improvements to the electric power grid and have helped drive the growth of SEL’s U.S.-based manufacturing.

Ms. Peer has also led technical marketing and regional sales and services teams within the company. Her passion for workforce development led to her current role as the director of SEL University, a department within SEL dedicated to training the next generation of power system engineers. She also recently started a group called Women in Engineering to help women at SEL foster collaboration, create dialogue around everyday topics and challenges and to provide mentorship and support.

Ms. Peer is a senior member of the Society of Women Engineers as well as a member of IEEE, IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE), IEEE Women in Power (WiP), the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE), and the American Marketing Association. She holds a bachelor’s of science in electrical engineering from Washington State University.

So today, I rise to acknowledge and thank Ms. Jackie Peer for her years of dedication and hard work. I also want to congratulate her for setting an example of professional excellence and advocacy of women in manufacturing, as well as her commitment to Eastern Washington.

JOHN P. STANTON

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a life of faithful service and dedication.

John Patrick Stanton was the youngest of four children born to Irish immigrant parents in Philadelphia in 1928. After his graduation from high school, he entered the U.S. Navy serving in the Pacific Theater of World War II.

Upon returning, he went to LaSalle University on the GI Bill and eventually married his

wife of 63 years, Harriet—together they were parents to 12 children and 46 grandchildren.

Aside from a large and loving family, Mr. Stanton leaves behind a legacy of compassion in the way of the Pro-Life Coalition of South-eastern Pennsylvania and other pro-life groups.

Mr. Stanton was a tireless advocate for the unborn and a recognizable site each week ministering to young mothers at women’s clinics in the city. Through his commitment to his faith and his calling, he saved the lives of countless families and brought many others into religion.

For his witness, Mr. Stanton was recognized with a number of awards and honors, and eventually would earn a master’s degree in religious education from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary—ensuring that his teaching would continue.

John P. Stanton passed away peacefully on January 31, 2014 at the age of 86. While he is gone, his service to his country, his community, his family and his faith will remain.

CELEBRATING TEX AVERY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the artistry and influence of Tex Avery. A leading innovator of a distinctly American form of popular culture, Avery created iconic cartoon characters adored the world over by young and old alike and pioneered a new and lasting approach to animated storytelling.

Avery, born in Taylor, TX in 1908, was a man of many gifts: animator, cartoonist, voice artist, director. A central figure during the Golden Age of Hollywood Animation (1935–55), his work was marked by speed, sarcasm, and irony. Collaborating with top shelf artists like Chuck Jones and legendary voice actors like Mel Blanc, Avery created Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Droopy, and developed Porky Pig and Chilly Willy. Youngsters loved their cartoons’ action and slapstick; grownups loved the sly dialogue and clever commentary.

Avery’s artistry reflected the joy of a nation leading the world yet restlessly seeking new ways to express itself. He wasn’t afraid to innovate and regularly pushed the boundaries of the cartoon form. His characters would speak directly to the audience, object to the plot of the adventure they were starring in, or leap out of the end credits. Yet Avery understood that cartoons had to be more than just animated hijinx featuring colorful characters. A lifelong perfectionist, he would add or cut frames out of the final negative of a cartoon short if he felt a gag’s timing was not precise.

Avery’s importance to animation cannot be overstated. He saw things differently, changed them, and pushed the art of cartoons forward. His impact is as permanent as the characters he created are beloved.

Tex Avery’s tremendous legacy will be honored February 22, 2014 by the Taylor, TX Conservation and Heritage Society with a memorial being placed in Heritage Square. I join all who appreciate fearless innovators in celebrating his enormous contributions to animation and American culture.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 33, I was unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 357. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN CELEBRATION OF JOHN
BLANKENSHIP'S RETIREMENT**HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to celebrate the retirement of John Lee Blankenship. For the past 43 years, Mr. Blankenship has made it his life's work to protect and serve the citizens of Brazoria County. In February 1971, John Blankenship enrolled in the Angleton Police Department Academy because several of his friends were officers. Six months later, John graduated from the Academy and joined the ranks of the Angleton Police Department. John's sense of duty did not stop with the Angleton PD; he also joined and became a member of the Angleton Volunteer Fire Department.

As years went by, John's dedication enabled him to move up the ranks to become Criminal Investigator for the Brazoria County District Attorney's office in 1984. Nine years later, John was again promoted, this time to Chief Investigator. Throughout his career, John had received numerous recognitions for his achievements in law enforcement. In 1983, he was awarded the Investigator of the Year Award by Brazoria County Sheriffs Department. In 2001, John was named an Officer of the Year Finalist by the 100 Club of Brazoria County. Most recently, in 2013, John was awarded the Chuck Dennis Memorial Award, Prosecutor Investigator by the Texas District and County Attorney's Association.

While retirement may take some getting used to, John and his wife of 44 years, Maggie, have plans to take an Alaskan Cruise, as well as a road trip in his motorhome to various destinations throughout the United States. It is my great hope that you will enjoy retirement with your darling wife, two beautiful children, Mindy and Chara, and their families including your four wonderful grandchildren. Thank you, John, for your 43 years of service. Your commitment and dedication to God, family, the citizens of Brazoria County, and the great State of Texas has been unparalleled and for that we recognize you today on the floor of the 113th Congress.

VIEWS ON FARM BILL SECTION
12313**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House agreed to the con-

ference report on H.R. 2642, the Farm Bill. Section 12313 of this legislation addresses an issue that should not go unnoticed, and I would like to make its intent clear.

In the 112th Congress, the House passed H.R. 2541, the Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act, introduced by Representative HERRERA BEUTLER. The stated intent of this legislation was to return Clean Water Act permitting of silvicultural operations around forest roads to the same standards that applied before recent court decisions created uncertainty about which standards should be used. Before court actions, a Clean Water Act permit was not required for nursery operations, site preparation, reforestation and subsequent cultural treatment, thinning, prescribed burning, pest and fire control, harvesting operations, surface drainage, or road use, construction, and maintenance. Permits were only required for activities that involved rock crushing, gravel washing, log sawing and log storage. That standard has worked for many years, and I support continuing that standard.

However, as originally written, H.R. 2541 could have created legal ambiguity on what should be covered with a Clean Water Act permit. I introduced an amendment to H.R. 2541 in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee clarifying that activities exempt from permitting are limited to the silvicultural activities specified in the bill, and not all silvicultural activities. The language I sponsored and set forth as an amendment of this bill is generally the same as that in Section 12313 of the Farm Bill. Thankfully, the Farm Bill addresses this issue without ambiguity. Put simply, those activities which required a Clean Water Act permit in the past should continue to do so. Those which did not should continue to be exempt.

I appreciate Representative HERRERA BEUTLER's efforts on this issue and I am pleased that this issue has been addressed without ambiguity.

HONORING PORT RICHMOND ON
PATROL "PROP" ON THEIR 25TH
ANNIVERSARY**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Port Richmond On Patrol, better known as "PROP," as it celebrates 25 years as a town watch and civic organization in the City of Philadelphia.

In 1988, in the wake of the Sean Daily murder that rocked the close knit blue collar neighborhood of Port Richmond when a 17 year old local teenager was beaten and killed by another group of teens, a handful of neighbors sprung into action to keep their neighborhood safe.

Three women were instrumental in the birth of PROP: Phyllis Hackimer, Helene LaBenz, and Jackie Saier. These women were involved from the very beginning, working to keep their neighborhood and their kids safe and secure the streets of Port Richmond. PROP Townwatch started out at Phyllis' kitchen table with coffee and pound cake. The first meeting drew hundreds of people wanting to be the

eyes and ears of Port Richmond in the 24th Police District.

Through the years, PROP patrolled the streets of Port Richmond every Friday and Saturday night, both in personal vehicles and even on foot patrol, and then initiated the "Eyes and Ears on Your Block" program that invited neighbors to look around and hear what's happening on their block and street and encouraged them to report suspicious behavior.

Hackimer and LaBenz have shared a stoop on Port Richmond's 3600 Gaul Street for decades and raised their kids alongside one another as next door neighbors and friends. Saier, who lives at Almond and Westmoreland Streets, is a walking encyclopedia of Port Richmond history and family ancestry and can usually be found on her porch watching over A&W playground.

PROP has always put the betterment, safety, and security of Port Richmond as their goal and mission statement and have consistently worked hand and hand with the Captain and Police Officers of the 24th Police District.

PROP was also one of the first town watches in the City of Philadelphia to embrace and participate in the National Night Out Program, which they still help organize every August in a citywide event. Furthermore, PROP is a proud ally of Operation Town Watch, an organization dedicated to the development and promotion of organized law enforcement-affiliated crime and drug prevention programs. Members include: Neighborhood, Crime, Community, Town and Block Watch Groups; law enforcement agencies; state and regional crime prevention associations; and a variety of businesses, civic groups and concerned individuals working to make their communities safer places in which to live and work.

HONORING JEFFREY CHEATHAM

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Jeffrey Cheatham, who died on October 3, 2013, at the age of 51. His mother and my friend, Patricia McVay, tells me that his life was full of adventure and love, and he will be missed by many. As I thought about how challenging this time is for Jeff's family and friends, a few thoughts struck me.

First, I couldn't help but think of the parable of the talents, and how that story reminds us that we ought to make the most out of what we are given each and every day. The parable describes a master who traveled away and left his money with his servants. Upon his return, he discovers that two of his servants invested and doubled the value of their portions, while one servant hid the money and protected it. The master rewarded the two who made the most of their time and his wealth, and punished the one who didn't take advantage of the opportunity. The bigger picture here is simple—we all have limited time, and we have to make the most out of what we are given.

I think Jeff's approach to life and those around him is a good example of that. From what I've been told, Jeff lived a life that was truly in service to others, and he made the most out of his time. His good attitude, jokes