

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SAN LUIS REY INDIAN WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1296, a bill to amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, approves and ratifies a settlement agreement entered into among the United States; five Bands of Mission Indians in northern San Diego County; the City of Escondido, California; and the Vista Irrigation District. The settlement agreement was contemplated by the 1988 San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act, in which Congress, seeking to end decades of litigation, created a \$30 million trust fund to be provided to the Bands with interest upon execution of a settlement. That amount was appropriated for the trust fund in 1989.

The parties' settlement agreement requires ratification and approval by Congress in order to be effective, hence the introduction of H.R. 1296. After the House Natural Resources Committee reported H.R. 1296, the Congressional Budget Office concluded that the bill would increase net direct federal spending by \$18 million over the 2017 through 2026 period. After further discussions, the bill was amended in a way that CBO concluded would eliminate the \$18 million spending effect. Specifically, the amended H.R. 1296 provides that the money in the trust fund—rather than becoming fully available to the Bands immediately upon the settlement taking effect as the 1988 Act provided—would be made available at the rate of \$3.7 million per year, with the Bands having the option to withdraw less than that amount. The House passed H.R. 1296 with this amendment on September 22, 2016.

The only change regarding the trust fund that H.R. 1296 as amended makes to the 1988 Act is to change the rate at which the money in the trust fund is made available to the Bands. The full amount of the fund that Congress appropriated in 1989, including the interest that has been and will continue to be earned on that money, is unchanged. And crucially, the agreement to limit the annual allocations to no more than \$3.7 million does not affect the Bands' right to eventually receive all of the money in the trust fund once the settlement takes effect.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAM E. CURL

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and salute the life of Dr.

Samuel "Sam" E. Curl, who passed away August 2, 2016.

Sam grew up near Tolar, Texas, where he graduated from high school in 1955. After earning a junior college diploma at Tarleton State University in 1957, he continued on to Sam Houston State University where he received his bachelor's degree. Then he earned a master's degree in Animal Genetics from the University of Missouri and a Ph.D. in Animal Physiology from Texas A&M University. He earned the rank of Captain through his service in the United States Army.

After his service, Dr. Curl was a Special Assistant to the President and then President of Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, and authored or co-authored three books and 95 scientific technical publications. Dr. Curl then moved to Texas Tech University, my alma mater, where he served a total 31 years, including three years as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. Before that, he was Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources from 1979 to 1997. He moved to Oklahoma State University in 1997 to head their College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, as well as being the Director of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. After retiring from working full time in 2004, Dr. Curl worked as a part-time consultant.

For all of his amazing accomplishments as a professional and an academic, I knew Sam as a loving father and grandfather who delighted in spending time with his family. He was an active member of Acton United Methodist Church. His passions for fishing, traveling, sports, and musical theatre were well known to his friends and family. I know that his wife, Mary, and his children Jane, Julia, Karen, and stepchildren Ryan and Shelly will miss him dearly, as will his grandchildren Rachel, Robert, Greyson, Avery, Robert, and Daisy.

Those who knew him, myself included, are better for having known Dr. Sam Curl, and I ask my colleagues to join me in this tribute to his wonderful life. He will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 22, 2016, and I missed votes in the House. If I had been present, I would have voted against the motion ordering the previous question on H. Res. 879 (the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5931, Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act), against the rule (H. Res. 879), and against final passage of the Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act (H.R. 5719). I would have supported H.R. 5320, Social Security Must Avert Identity Loss

(MAIL) Act, H.R. 5946, the United States Appreciation for Olympians and Paralympians Act, H.R. 2285, the Preventing Trafficking in Cultural Property Act, and H.R. 5523, Clyde-Hirsch-Sowers RESPECT Act.

I would have voted against ordering the previous question on the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5931 so that H.R. 4479, the Families of Flint Act, could have been made in order. I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 4479, which would provide \$765 million to improve water infrastructure and provide resources to the residents of Flint, Michigan. I was disappointed that the House moved the previous question and blocked H.R. 4479 from coming to the House floor.

I would have opposed H. Res. 879, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5931, because the rule limited amendments and did not provide for an open floor debate.

I would have opposed final passage of H.R. 5719, the Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act, because the bill did not include a critical amendment offered by Rep. CROWLEY that would have provided an offset to the \$1 billion in lost revenue created by the policy. Although I support efforts to promote employee ownership and reward employee's commitment to their companies, I was disappointed that the bill did not include Rep. CROWLEY's amendment.

H.R. 5320, the Social Security MAIL Act, provides an important privacy protection to anyone receiving Social Security documents through the mail. The bill restricts the Social Security Administration from sending documents that include an individual's complete Social Security number through the mail unless completely necessary. This common-sense policy will protect Americans from having their sensitive personal information compromised, and I would have supported this bill.

H.R. 5946, the United States Appreciation for Olympians and Paralympians Act, updates a provision of the federal tax code that requires Olympians and Paralympians to declare their prize winnings and medals as income for tax purposes. Although I would have preferred that this provision had been part of a comprehensive tax reform package, I would have supported this bill.

H.R. 2285, the Prevent Trafficking in Cultural Property Act, would bolster the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to protect against illegal trafficking of cultural property. The bill requires CPB and ICE to create a coordinated plan to update procedures and directive, and to train personnel in relevant laws and best practices for intercepting trafficked property. I support this bill and other efforts to ensure trafficked artifacts are not brought into the United States.

H.R. 5523, the Clyde-Hirsch-Sowers RESPECT Act, would prohibit the IRS from engaging in civil asset forfeiture of more than \$10,000 without probable cause. Unfortunately, in recent years there have been many instances of small businesses having their money seized without probable cause, and

• 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.

they have struggled to recoup their losses. This bill provides important protections to individuals and small businesses, and I support its passage.

CONGRATULATING ASU-SEARCY
ON 50 YEARS

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Arkansas State University-Beebe's Searcy Campus on its 50th anniversary.

Formerly Foothills Vocational Technical School, the Searcy campus opened in 1966 with 17 employees.

Dedicated in 1967 by Governor Winthrop Rockefeller, the focus of the campus was to provide its students with a skilled trade that would prepare them to enter the workforce upon graduation.

In 2003, Foothills Technical Institute merged with ASU-Beebe, forming its second technical campus.

Today, the Searcy campus serves both traditional and non-traditional students earning their GEDs, technical certificates, or associate degrees, providing many students with the skills, education, and training necessary to obtain employment and start a career.

I would like to extend my congratulations to ASU-Beebe's Searcy campus and wish it much continued success for generations to come.

THE MEDIGAP CONSUMER
PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, Medigap plans currently provide supplemental coverage to approximately 11 million Medicare beneficiaries. However, many of the laws governing the Medigap market have remained largely unchanged since 1990. In particular, consumer protections are inadequate, leaving many beneficiaries subject to discriminatory practices by issuers, lacking sufficient information about their plan options, and often enrolled in lower quality coverage.

That is why, today, I am introducing the Medigap Consumer Protection Act. This important legislation will make a number of reforms to the Medigap market that will strengthen the health security of millions of Americans and significantly improve the beneficiary experience.

Most importantly, this bill ends discriminatory treatment of Medicare beneficiaries by extending guaranteed issue rights to the entire Medigap-eligible population.

Currently, federal law provides limited guaranteed issue rights to Medicare beneficiaries. As a result, issuers in many states are permitted to deny consumers access to Medigap policies based on preexisting conditions. This creates substantial barriers to coverage, particularly for individuals who qualify for Medicare due to disability or End-Stage Renal Dis-

ease. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, only 2 percent of beneficiaries who are under 65 and living with a disability are enrolled in a Medigap policy, and 21 percent have no supplemental coverage at all.

The Medigap Consumer Protection Act closes the holes in federal law that permit discriminatory treatment of consumers by extending guaranteed issue rights to the entire Medicare population, including beneficiaries who qualify for Medicare due to disability or End-Stage Renal Disease.

It also will protect a number of other populations, including beneficiaries who have enrolled in Medicare Advantage for more than one year and wish to switch back to traditional Medicare; dual eligibles who either lose their Medicaid coverage or who are only Medicaid-eligible with a Share of Cost; and individuals enrolled in COBRA coverage who wish to switch into Medicare.

The bill also makes a number of reforms that will strengthen access to quality plans and improve the beneficiary experience.

It calls on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to review loss ratio standards for Medigap plans and submit recommendations to the Secretary to update federal standards.

It reforms how issuers price their products by calling on the NAIC to update its Model Regulations to prohibit pricing discrimination based on age, and by requiring Medigap issuers to set premiums by county.

It requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the Medicare Plan Finder website to increase consumer access to information regarding their coverage options through Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage, and Part D. The public will be afforded opportunities to comment on and improve the presentation of this information.

It restores access to the most popular Medigap plan options, which under current law are scheduled to be eliminated for beneficiaries who become eligible for Medicare beginning in 2020 or later.

Finally, it provides consumers with additional information about potential conflicts of interest by requiring issuers to disclose payments made to brokers, agents, and other third parties selling Medigap policies. These disclosures will be available to consumers through the Open Payments Database maintained by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare beneficiaries deserve access to high-quality Medigap coverage. The reforms made by the Medigap Consumer Protection Act will correct many of the problems that continue to exist in the market, including discrimination by issuers and a lack of information available to consumers. These reforms are long overdue, and I urge my colleagues to move to enact this bill without delay.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LA PORTE INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize La Porte Independent School District,

which celebrates its 100th Anniversary on October 1, 2016.

In 1916, only 19 years after the first classroom opened in La Porte, the Independent School District was established to provide quality education to students from Lomax to Morgan's Point. These first students had the privilege of choosing both the District's mascot and colors—the bulldog, and the orange and white that the students of La Porte rally around to this day.

Over 7,000 students from across La Porte began their school year within the Independent School District just weeks ago, and will continue a proud legacy of learning and achievement that has stood for 100 years.

It is my distinct honor to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of La Porte ISD, and their enduring commitment to every student's success. Go Bulldogs.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD GEIGER
FOR HIS LIFELONG SERVICE
AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Richard Geiger, a champion for the environment. Mr. Geiger is widely recognized as one of the most committed advocates for the protection and stewardship of our natural resources in the Puget Sound region.

A graduate of Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, Rich began his career by serving our country in the 82nd Airborne Division as an air defense officer. After serving for 13 years, during which time he was stationed in North Korea and Germany, he continued that commitment to service by dedicating his civilian career to protecting the environment.

First working for Mason County Public Works, and then for the last 15 years as a district officer at the Mason Conservation District, Rich helped to develop a wide range of small and large-scale efforts to protect natural resources. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment during his tenure with the Conservation District was the leadership he provided on the development and implementation of the Skokomish River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project, a critical and comprehensive effort to restore the river and surrounding waters in Puget Sound that encompassed more than 50 different individual restoration projects.

Mr. Speaker, Richard was not only an environmental advocate and steward, he was also a leader in the community. He excelled at fostering collaboration and consensus among diverse community stakeholders, including private landowners, businesses, Native American Tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies, to achieve common goals.

Richard's lifetime of service, stewardship, care, and leadership all contributed to a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant community in Puget Sound. The contributions of Mr. Geiger embody the values that make our community and our country a great place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I stand on the House floor today to honor the life of Mr. Geiger and to extend my condolences to those who he is survived by. Our lives are enhanced by having known him, and he will truly be missed.