

5/03/2004 This Week In Congress

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May 5, 2004

Dear Friend,

Recognizing World War II Veterans, Completion of New Memorial

In Washington, D.C. this week, the new National World War II Memorial opened to the public. During this year's Memorial Day weekend, thousands of WWII veterans from across the country will gather in the nation's capital to dedicate the new WWII Memorial on the National Mall.

This week, I also introduced a congressional resolution that recognizes the more than 16 million Americans who served during World War II, the 400,000 who died defending the country and the millions of men and women who supported the effort on the home front. The resolution also celebrates the completion of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The resolution, H. Con. Res. 409, also recognizes the efforts of National Chairman Senator Robert J. Dole and National Co-Chairman Frederick W. Smith for their role in raising donations to pay for the construction of the memorial. In addition, the resolution recognizes the efforts of actor Tom Hanks, the Advertising Council and the History Channel for

their role in increasing public awareness of the heroic achievements of American World War II veterans and for raising support for the memorial.

After years of planning, I am pleased that we, as a nation, are finally recognizing the selfless sacrifice and undaunted courage of the World War II generation with a national memorial. This resolution not only celebrates the completion of the National World War II Memorial, but it also recognizes the valor of those who served, the spirit of those who died and the strength of those who supported the war effort on the home front.

Preventing Tax Increases on Married Couples

On Wednesday, I supported House passage of legislation that would prevent tax increases for 30 million married couples. This bill, H.R. 4181, will help young couples keep more of the money they earn. Before 2001, a married couple earning similar incomes paid more in taxes than two single taxpayers filing individually. Tax relief passed by Congress in 2001 phased out these penalties by providing couples with a standard deduction that is twice that of single taxpayers. The legislation would make permanent the benefits of the 2001-passed tax relief and prevent married couples from facing tax increases. This legislation will now go to the Senate for consideration.

Hosting Kansas Legislature Show on Public Television

Later this week, I will moderate the "Kansas Legislature Wrap-Up" show live on Smoky Hills Public Television. The show will focus on the legislative activities of the 2004 Kansas Legislature. The program will air live on Friday, May 7, 2004 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Smoky Hills Public Television.

Participating in the program will be members of the Kansas House and Senate, including: Senator Stan Clark, (R-Oakley), Senate District 40; Senator Larry Salmans, (R-Hanston), Senate District 37; Representative Deena Horst, (R-Salina), House District 69; Representative Dennis McKinney, (D-Greensburg), House District 116; Representative Jim Morrison, (R-Colby), House District 121; and Representative Ralph Ostmeier, (R-Grinnell), House District 118.

Consult your local cable company or local program guide to determine the public television channel in your area.

Uniting for American Soldiers

On Tuesday, I gave a speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives about the war in Iraq. During the speech, I called on my fellow members of Congress to put partisan politics aside and support our troops. I do not consider it unpatriotic to question governmental decisions, but what we need today are politicians who put the country above partisanship and our nation ahead of the next election. We need statesmanship.

A full copy of the speech can be found at: http://www.house.gov/apps/list/speech/ks01_moran/sp042704Iraq.html.

On Wednesday, I took part in a congressional hearing, at which U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick reviewed agricultural trade negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Much of the testimony focused on a WTO interim ruling against the U.S. cotton program announced last week. The WTO dispute panel will issue its final report in June and the U.S. will likely appeal the panel's decision. While still preliminary, this ruling could have an effect on future farm programs.

During the hearing several of my colleagues and I reiterated our displeasure with the ruling and emphasized the need to negotiate a level playing field for U.S. agricultural producers. The U.S. will not unilaterally disarm its agricultural subsidies, and cases such as this undermine the agricultural negotiations in the WTO. I, along with my colleagues, support the efforts of the Administration to fight for U.S. agricultural producers in the WTO.

Honoring Senator Roberts at 2004 Eisenhower Institute Awards

On Wednesday, I attended the 2004 Eisenhower Institute Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1983, the Eisenhower Institute is dedicated to advancing President Dwight Eisenhower's intellectual and leadership legacies in foreign and domestic policy. Annually, the Institute gives an award to those individuals whose accomplishments reflect Eisenhower's legacy of leadership and integrity in the public domain. Senator Roberts was selected for his leadership in Congress as the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and as a prominent member of the Armed Services and Agriculture Committees.

Speaking at the Right Grain Coop Annual Meeting

On Saturday evening, I spoke at the annual business meeting of the Right Grain Coop in Dodge City. We discussed a wide range of issues relating to agriculture and the economy, including the importance of a strong agriculture economy to the future of Kansas, the promotion of grain-based fuels, wind energy and the need for more involvement in government by those who earn their living from farming and ranching. People at the meeting were concerned about the high prices of fuel and the future of crop insurance when faced with multi-year drought.

In the Office

Ina Selfridge of Burdett, Nancy Spiegel of Formoso and Mabel Glunt of Jetmore were in Washington, D.C. this week for the annual meeting of Women Involved in Farm Economics. Scott Downing of Dodge City, Eric Farber of Norton, Bob Bush of Hutchinson and Dan Vidricksen of Salina were in on behalf of the National Beer Wholesalers Association of Kansas to discuss taxes and the prevention of underage alcohol consumption.

The executive director of Great Plain Development in Dodge City, Patty Richardson, was in the office to discuss economic development projects in southwest Kansas. Dr. Jean Sellers, the director of the Center for Education at Fort Hays State University, was in on behalf of the Cooperative Education Exchange Program to discuss international educational exchanges. David Sanderson of Salina is with the American Physical Therapy Association and was in to discuss improving access to physical therapists.

In for a tour of the Capitol this week were Doug and Amy Harter of Pawnee Rock.

Very truly yours,

Jerry