

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MATTHEW M. LEWICKI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the members of the Michigan Department of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA to pay tribute to Matthew M. Lewicki, World War II veteran, for his service in the United States Army's 45th Infantry 179th Infantry Division from May 1, 1943 to November 5, 1945. On Saturday, October 16, 2004 the Polish Legion along with family and friends will gather to present Mr. Lewicki with medals he earned during his military career.

On May 1, 1943 Mr. Lewicki entered into the U.S. Army during World War II. He was assigned to the 45th Infantry 179th Infantry Division as a Private Infantry Auto Rifleman. He was wounded at Anzio Beach, Italy. Dunlop Acting Adjutant General sent notification to Mr. Lewicki's family on April 11, 1944 stating that he had been captured by the Germans and was a Prisoner of War. He had been missing in action since February 18th. The Germans sent him to a warehouse in Italy for three weeks, after which he was transferred to a prison camp in Germany where he was assigned to work on a farm. His Prisoner of War number was Stalag 7-B, #11689. Mr. Lewicki spent a total of 14 months in captivity. Corporal Lewicki was honorably discharged on November 5, 1945. Mr. Lewicki, after his discharge from the service, returned to his employment at General Motors Buick Motor Division. He retired in 1980 after 44 years of employment.

Matthew M. Lewicki was born on June 13, 1915 in Troy, New York. The Lewickis relocated to Flint, Michigan in 1917 when Matthew was 2 years old. Mr. Lewicki met his lovely wife, Albina Piotrowski, in 1940 and they were married on May 3, 1941. To this blessed union were born two sons, Matthew and David. Mrs. Lewicki passed away on March 6, 1992 at the age of 70. Matthew Lewicki is a lifelong charter member of Dom Polski and the Sea League. In his spare time Mr. Lewicki enjoys bowling and fishing.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I consider it my duty and my privilege to protect and defend human dignity and the quality of life for our citizens. I am extremely grateful to have a person like Matthew M. Lewicki who shares these beliefs, and has made it his life's work to see this task achieved. I honor Mr. Lewicki for his commendable service to our Nation and its mission of spreading peace. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating Mr. Lewicki, and wishing him the best in future endeavors.

THE DISABLED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES PROTECTION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to introduce the Disabled Federal Employees Protection Act.

The Disabled Federal Employees Protection Act (DFEPA) simply states that in cases where federal jobs are contracted out, a Federal employee should not lose his or her job if that employee is an individual with a significant physical or developmental disability and had been hired under a program designed for individuals with such disabilities.

The DFEPA was drafted to respond to a particular situation that occurred at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Last fall I visited the Hospital, which has developed an innovative and successful program hiring developmentally disabled individuals from our local community to work in its kitchen and cafeteria. Many of these individuals have worked there for more than 20 years. They are hard-working, reliable, and beloved by the naval officers and staff. I was shocked to learn that the Administration had selected these positions to be subject to competitive sourcing. In other words, these hard-working disabled employees, who had been hired under a federal program designed specifically to hire the severely disabled, would be forced to compete for their own jobs against people who were not disabled, leaving them on the verge of losing their jobs. I wrote the President about this injustice and am pleased that as a result of our timely intervention, plans to compete these jobs have been withdrawn and these individuals have been able to keep their jobs and the sense of dignity that comes with them.

But it is unconscionable that other severely disabled Federal workers might have to suffer through the same thing. The DFEPA will protect Federal employees with severe disabilities from losing their Federal jobs as a result of contracting out. The bill does allow for jobs to continue to be contracted out to organizations like NISH (formerly known as the National Institute for the Severely Handicapped) and the National Industries for the Blind covered under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (JWOD). JWOD established specific programs to hire the severely disabled; it is not the intention of the DFEPA to interfere with JWOD.

The DFEPA is supported by many organizations, including ANCOR (The American Network of Community Options and Resources), The Public Policy Collaboration of United Cerebral Palsy and the Arc of the United States. The DFEPA also has the support of the Professional Services Council, one of the principal organizations representing government contractors, because they agree that supporting employment opportunities for the disabled is important.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that everyone in this body wants to protect employment opportunities for the severely disabled. I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor the Disabled Federal Employees Protection Act.

I am submitting for the RECORD an article that was published by The Washington Post on October 14, 2003 that describes the situation involving the scullery workers at the National Naval Medical Center.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 4, 2004]

IN BETHESDA, HIRING POLICY, "COMPETITIVE SOURCING" CLASH

NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER CONSIDERS REPLACING DISABLED WORKERS

(By Christopher Lee)

President Bush's efforts to make government run more like a business collided this month with the reality that, in many ways, government is not a business.

For the past 2 years, the Navy, as part of the Bush administration's initiative, has been studying whether a private contractor should take over the custodial and food services provided by 21 Federal employees at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda.

It is just one small example of Bush's "competitive sourcing" initiative, which requires hundreds of thousands of civil servants across the government to prove they can do their work better and more cheaply than a private contractor, or risk seeing the work outsourced.

But in one important way the 21 workers in the hospital scullery are different: All are mentally retarded, beneficiaries of Federal policies that promote the employment of people with disabilities.

To their supporters, the administration's requirement that they compete for their jobs misses the point that government employment has always been about more than the bottom line. Through various policies and laws, Federal agencies for decades have gone out of their way to hire members of certain populations, from veterans to disabled people to welfare mothers and students.

"There are different goals of the Federal government, and one of those goals is to get different people into real jobs," said Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), who met last month with the scullery workers at the hospital, which is in his district. "And this [policy] will undercut that goal."

Bush has strongly defended "competitive sourcing," calling it one of his most important management initiatives. He says forcing government workers to compete with private contractors for their jobs promotes government efficiency and saves taxpayer dollars—even if the jobs stay in-house. An Oct. 3 report by the Office of Management and Budget said Federal agencies have identified 434,820 jobs that are ripe for such competition, of which 103,412 are being evaluated for possible contracting out.

"We are confident that the savings and service benefits expected from this effort will soon follow," Clay Johnson III, OMB's deputy director for management, said that day.

That provides scant comfort to employees such as Deborah Shapiro, 30, who has worked at the hospital scullery for 10 years and worries what will happen if she loses her job.

"I like working here," Shapiro said the other day while taking a break from the first

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