

TRIBUTE TO RODGER REEVES  
MEIER

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 24, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an admirable leader and beloved friend, Rodger Reeves Meier. As a dedicated hard worker, Mr. Meier was committed to his family, career, and community. His life exemplifies an attainable American dream. Mr. Meier was dedicated to balancing a life of family and career as he grew within the Dallas community and for this I commend his legacy.

As a young perseverant man, Mr. Meier completed high school in 1941. He then attended Texas Christian University where he met his partner for life. In 1946, Mr. Meier married Ms. Joyce Fowler. Shortly thereafter they both moved to Dallas, TX, to start the well-respected Meier family.

In 1952, Mr. Meier was appointed the first Dallas representative of the Cuban Tourist Institute. This accomplishment is one of many, as this allowed for him to continue to grow within the community. He was later named district agency and interline sales manager for the Cuban Tourist Institute. Continuing a path to a great career, Mr. Meier became a senior executive at the E.F. McDonald Company.

In 1969, a diligent Rodger Meier opened his Cadillac franchise on LBJ Freeway. Both he and his son worked together to expand the family owned business. In 1990, they added an Infiniti franchise and in 1994 an Oldsmobile brand. After years of dedication to his business, Mr. Meier sold his business and retired so that he could dedicate his time to charity work.

During his retirement, Mr. Meier became an outstanding community leader. He was chairman of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport board, the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the American Cancer Society. His work with the American Red Cross, Greenhill School, and Dallas Community College made an immeasurable impact to the Dallas community.

On behalf of the Dallas, TX, community, I am honored to commend the life of an astounding man and my dear friend, Rodger Meier.

CANINE DETECTION TEAM  
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 24, 2007*

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, some of the nation's most dedicated citizens stand at the ready each and every day, working to detect and prevent the next terrorist attack on our soil. They are vital to our security and are to be commended. Often, they fulfill this critical homeland security work with significant help from what we have come to call "man's best friend." Canines trained to detect explosives and other dangerous materials regularly roam our nation's airports, subways, and ports, any-

where else that they are needed to deter, prevent, detect and respond to terrorist threats. U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the United States Secret Service, the Coast Guard, and the Federal Protective Service regularly use canine detection teams to secure National Special Security Events and to protect Federal buildings and their occupants.

As a consequence of September 11, demand for trained explosive detection dogs has increased dramatically. Today, there simply are not enough trained dogs to meet the demand. There also are no national standards to certify a dog as a capable bomb-sniffing dog or drug-sniffing dog. In the absence of national training and certification standards, there have been a number of cases of fraudulent operations and the use of inadequately trained canines and canine handlers. In one documented case, a Virginia man, Russell Lee Ebersole, was hired to protect several government buildings, including the Federal Reserve Board. In multiple tests his dogs failed to detect 50 pounds of dynamite, 50 pounds of TNT, or 15 pounds of C-4 in the agency's parking facilities.

The "Canine Detection Team Improvement Act of 2007," which Rep. MIKE ROGERS of Alabama is introducing today and on which I am the Democratic original cosponsor, will make the United States more secure by addressing the shortage of trained canine detection teams and establishing standards for canine detection teams and an accreditation process to assure Federal, State, local and tribal authorities that the dog they look rely on to help defend the homeland can get the job done.

Specifically, the bill directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to coordinate all training programs within the Department, including research and development of new canine training methods. The bill also directs the Secretary to consult on the use of canines with other Federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, universities, and private training facilities in order to increase the number of trained canines available to Federal, State, and local law enforcement. By coordinating all programs within the Department and working with outside resources, section 2001 empowers the Secretary to build upon the synergy of multiple resources to enhance dog training programs.

Section 2002 of the bill addresses canine procurement. It directs the Secretary to make it a priority to increase domestically bred canines used by the Department, and includes a provision encouraging the use of universities and private and non-profit organizations to accomplish this effort. This bill's section also directs the Secretary to consult with other public and private entities to not only encourage the use of domestic bred canines, but also to work with them to consolidate canine procurement wherever possible in the hopes to reduce the cost of purchasing canines across the Federal Government. Section 2003 of the bill is a "Domestic Canine Breeding Grant Program" for further encouragement of the development and growth of canine breeds best suited for detection training purposes.

However, perhaps the most significant accomplishment of this law is the establishment of an accreditation board, which will ensure proper certification standards. The board will consist of experts in the field of canine training and explosives detection from Federal and State agencies, universities, other research institutions, and the private sector. It is modeled

after the executive board of the Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detectors, or SWGDOG as it is popularly known. This group has already done a tremendous job in bringing together the major stakeholders in canine detection and I applaud them for their work on this issue. This law will build upon the success of SWGDOG in order to ensure the proper standards for voluntary certification are applied and maintained. The board will maintain a public list of accredited entities upon which other agencies, Federal, State, and local can rely for qualified canines. The aim of this board is to reduce misrepresentation, fraudulent or otherwise improper certification of dogs and their training organizations, but ultimately the board will ensure public safety and the safety of law enforcement.

Before closing, I want to personally thank MIKE ROGERS from Alabama. Under his leadership in the previous Congressional session, the Committee on Homeland Security began to address this issue. He held a hearing in the previous Congress entitled "Sniffing Out Terrorism: The Use of Dogs in Homeland Security." Many of the findings from that hearing were a source of guidance in writing this legislation and I thank him for his stewardship on this issue. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in passing this very critical legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF LATIN AMERICANS OF JAPANESE DESCENT ACT

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 24, 2007*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act. This bill would create a commission to review and determine facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation of Japanese Latin Americans, and subsequently recommend appropriate remedies.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the day that then President D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 that led to the internment of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry. With the stroke of a pen, innocent men, women, and children became prisoners and were branded disloyal to the nation they called home. Lives were disrupted and homes were broken as these Americans were uprooted from their communities and locked behind barbed wire fences. Over the past years, the anniversary of this date has been nationally observed with educational events to increase public awareness about the World War II experience, recognize the unjust action, and to provide an opportunity for all people to reflect on the importance of justice and civil liberties during times of crisis and war.

The 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians concluded that the internment was the result of racism and wartime hysteria. Five years after publishing its findings, then President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that provided an official apology and financial redress