EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING STACY RASTAUSKAS FOR HER WORK IN THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN CLOAKROOM

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, all too often, the hard work of House staff goes unnoticed. Members of Congress thank their legislative staff when their bills pass the House, but rarely do they thank the people who make the House Floor run on a day to day basis. So today I rise to recognize someone who deserves the thanks of this entire institution: Stacy Rastauskas, the outgoing Assistant Floor Chief of the House Republican Cloakroom.

For 2 two years, Stacy has helped to run the House Floor from her desk in the Republican Cloakroom. She has been a source of invaluable information to all Members, a trusted colleague to countless House staff, and a mentor to our House pages. It is impossible to visit the Cloakroom without being on the receiving end of one of her brilliant smiles. In short, Stacy made the Cloakroom feel like home to us all.

Soon Stacy will be leaving to open a Washington office for Ohio State University. I cannot possibly thank her enough for the dedicated hours she spent as Assistant Floor Chief. It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye and good luck. The Republican Cloakroom won't be the same without her.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSSIE B. LAWSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Jossie B. Lawson in recognition of her commitment to public service through her work in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office and dedication to her community through volunteer efforts in her church.

Jossie B. Lawson was born in Brooklyn, New York on December 6, 1954. She is the proud mother of two talented daughters, Sareve C. Lawson and Alia H. Akili. Jossie is the product of the New York City public school system. After graduating from Performing Arts High School, she attended Hunter College. Her most recent academic achievement was the completion of the prestigious EEO Complaint Handling program at the Cornell University, School of Industrial and Labor Relations in 2001.

Shortly after receiving her certification in Paralegal Studies from Long Island University, Jossie was hired as a paralegal by the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office in 1983. She was later promoted to Administrative Manager in 1990, and again to her current position of EEO Coordinator by the current District Attorney Charles "Joe" Hynes in 1998. She is also responsible for facilitating the College Internship program in the agency and has represented the District Attorney's Office on the Board of Women's Advisors for the City of New York.

As a young adult, Jossie began working with the youth of her congregation, Zion Baptist Church where Dr. M. M. Peace is the pastor. She is a gifted singer and serves as a worship leader in her church. Her strong commitment to personal mentoring and use of her considerable skills as a life coach, has earned her the love and respect of many.

Jossie has given her time and support to countless individuals across the years. Her ability to motivate and encourage people coupled with her gift of helping others discover and nurture the gifts within themselves is why she is frequently invited to participate in workshops and motivational sessions. Jossie is a woman who will push you to excellence, pray you toward success and pull you with the strength of her belief in your potential. Many have been blessed by her guidance. She is truly a woman who makes a difference.

Mr. Speaker, Jossie B. Lawson has dedicated her life to her community through both her professional and her personal activities. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PRESENTING A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RAMON J. REEVEY

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD recognizes the extraordinary spirit of this man, who after becoming a paraplegic went on to accomplish what others would consider impossible. He had started his career with the Federal government when tragedy struck in a car accident. But he was not deterred and as a paraplegic, he worked hard and received his Baccalaureate degree from Long Beach State University. He went on to receive his Master's degree in Hospital Administration from the University of California at Los Angeles; and

Whereas, Ramon J. Reevey distinguished himself to veterans and hospital administrations nationwide by demonstrating total commitment to the Department of Veterans Affairs. He understood the problems of patients in the Veterans hospitals. His empathy allowed him to manage the resources of the hospital to better provide needed care. His caring and positive attitude is reflected in his motto: "If you have happy employees, you have happy patients"; and

Whereas, Ramon J. Reevey throughout his career accomplished many goals, with the crown jewel of his career being the hosting of the 23rd National Veterans Wheelchair Games in July 2003, while heading up the VA Long Beach Healthcare System. He was also a competitive participant in the Games; and

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the dedication of this man to the welfare of the lives of our community is much appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MICHAEL LEMAY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Michael Lemay, who is retiring from the California State University San Bernardino after 12 dedicated years of service to the university. Dr. Lemay is an individual of great distinction, and we join with family and friends in honoring his remarkable achievements and expressing pride in his work throughout the last dozen years.

Dr. Lemay has devoted his life to helping students through his chosen profession in education. His kindness and passionate spirit make him an incredible resource to the university and beloved community member.

For the past 12 years, Dr. Lemay has dedicated himself to Cal State San Bernardino, serving as Associate Dean, Assistant Dean, Department Chair, Academic Advisor, and Professor. In these capacities, he has been an integral contributor to the management and administration of the school, as well as a participant in developing the young minds of the future.

Through his participation in countless activities and committees, Dr. Lemay has exhibited kindness, love, humility, and a deep resolve to ameliorate all aspects of university life, so it is only appropriate that we thank him today. He has received the highest evaluation of his profession for integrity and performance, and has taken a proactive approach to leadership at Cal State San Bernardino.

I join today with family in friends in congratulating him for his 12 years of service. He is a symbol of all that is good in his profession and an inspiration to all that know him.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we salute Dr. Michael Lemay. We express admiration in his career and hope that others may recognize his good works in the community.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. HE-HON LAO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. He-Hon Lao in recognition of her contribution to the field of medicine and her special

role in helping to standardize the field of acupuncture in America.

Dr. Lao is a physician in Chinese medicine, a senior Acupuncturist and Herbalist, and the Founder and Director of New York Oriental HealthCare Center in Brooklyn. As a graduate of Shandong University of Medicine in 1968, she received her post-graduate training with herbal master Huang Siang-Zhou and acupuncture professor Jin Rui. She also served as Chief physician at the Red Cross Hospital under the Department of Complementary Medicine in Canton, China. While working at the Red Cross Hospital, she was one of the first physicians in China at that time to use Acupuncture and Chinese medicine in clinical research.

Inspired by the lack of standardization and regulation of the acupuncture profession, Dr. Lao joined the New York State Department of Education in January 1991 where she established a comprehensive educational requirement for licensing and code of ethics. She believes a profession without proper and rigorous training is not a profession. In addition, Dr. Lao set standards in the clinical experience of acupuncture with an emphasis on professional competency. In fact, the comprehensive practice of acupuncture today is a direct result of her advocacy.

As a physician, Dr. Lao has over 35 years experience of clinical practice and teaching in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. She has a long list of published works and is also a frequent lecturer on holistic medicine. Most of her lectures and seminars are professional development oriented for other doctors and healthcare professionals.

Currently, Dr. Lao works at Woodhull Hospital as a supervisory acupuncturist where she treats several thousand patients every year. She is in charge of supervising the acupuncture detoxification program which is an integral part of the treatment for chemically dependent patients. She finds her job very rewarding, especially when she sees a converted drug addict go to the podium and receive a graduation certificate from her hands. She has a similar impact on many other people's lives, and that is why she loves her job.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. He-Hon Lao has dedicated her life to easing patients' pain through the practice and development of acupuncture. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PRESENTING A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF FRANCIS OLIVER ARNOLD

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker: Whereas, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD recognizes the fine work of this man, who was born and raised in the city of Los Angeles, attended David Starr Jordan High School; became an entrepreneur starting and operating his own trucking company, while serving as an employee of the City of Los Angeles; later co-owning and operating Moe's Liquor Store in Compton successfully for nearly 20 years. He enjoyed listening to Jazz and traveling whenever possible. His loving wife, Evelyn, and his family will always cherish his love and devotion.

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the dedication of this man in enriching the lives of our community is much appreciated.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition of H.R. 4281 and the association health plans it creates.

This bill does nothing to help uninsured Americans, hurts those who enroll in the plans and will even cause healthcare costs to go up.

There are 44 million Americans who are uninsured in this country and this bill will not even help one percent of them. Not one percent!

A Congressional Budget Office study showed that only 360,000 uninsured Americans would join AHP's. There has to be a better way to help 44 million uninsured Americans.

What is just as bad is that AHP's will use loopholes to get around state health regulations. This will leave consumers who enroll in these plans without needed safeguards.

If an AHP denies someone a cancer treatment or diabetic supplies that person may not have the right to appeal the decision. Their health will suffer and they will be left with no options.

AHP's will enroll only the healthiest Americans. This will leave those other Americans, the ones who are sick and the ones who take prescription drugs, with fewer options.

According to the Congressional Budget Office up to 20 million Americans will face higher healthcare costs. 20 million!

Health insurers will give breaks to the AHP's and charge other consumers more.

These higher healthcare costs could cause up to 10,000 Americans to become uninsured.

There is a better way to help small businesses and the uninsured.

That is why I support the Democratic substitute to the AHP bill.

The substitute will provide small businesses and their employees with affordable quality health insurance. The plan is even similar to what the federal government offers its employees.

The substitute will protect patients by making sure the insurers are overseen by the states.

And finally this substitute will not raise the price of healthcare.

H.R. 4281 will not help small businesses or their employees.

By voting for the substitute we will help these businesses. We will help their employees and we will help all Americans have access to and afford health insurance.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE SPENCER

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Julie Spencer, of Baraboo, Wisconsin. Julie was the fastest U.S. female in the 108th Boston Marathon. She finished 16th in a time of 2:56:39, her personal best. The Boston Marathon is a competitive international race, and it is an honor to recognize Julie Spencer for her great athletic achievement.

The Boston Marathon ranks only behind the Super Bowl as the largest single day sporting event in the world. Approximately 500,000 spectators line the streets of the 26.2 mile course. In this year's historic Boston Marathon the elite women runners started before the elite men runners for the first time in marathon history, giving Julie a truly unique Boston Marathon experience.

In addition to being a dedicated runner, Julie is a teacher at East Elementary School in Baraboo, Wisconsin. She uses her running expertise to help coach Baraboo High School's cross country team and track teams. By coaching, she shares and passes on her passion to the high school teams.

Obviously, it is an impressive feat to accomplish the 26.2 mile Boston Marathon on the fifth hottest day in the race's 108 year history, but to be the top female U.S finisher is worth the praise of all. It is my esteemed pleasure to contribute to the recognition of Julie Spencer's first place finish for the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Julie's friends and family have been quoted as saying, ''We're so proud.'' I know Wisconsinites and runners across the world share this message and join me in recognizing her today.

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE GAINER

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize today a woman who is, at one and the same time, exceptional and representative. Bonnie Gainer has served with great dedication as director of the Rutland County Women's Network. Originally the Battered Women's Shelter, this organization has been a mainstay for women who seek counsel, help, and often a safe haven, from abusive relationships.

Bonnie Gainer is exceptional in both the depth of her commitment to women in need, and her ability to organize both staff and community so that those women can find the support and assistance that they all too often desperately require. But in another sense, she is representative: all across Rutland, all across Vermont, all across this nation, women respond and have been responding to the inhospitable condition in which too many of their sisters live.

Physical and mental abuse is, tragically, widespread in America. It is not limited to women, of course, but with Greater frequency than most can imagine wives, girlfriends and daughters find themselves trapped in difficult

and dangerous relationships. It is both a point of pride—in the good work they do—and despair—that the number is so large—that I report that the Women's Network has sheltered women in Rutland for 1087 bed-nights in the past three months alone.

For a decade and a half Bonnie Gainer has led the effort to provide a haven and an alternative to women who are abused. She has been a bulwark in the community, a truly essential resource for hundreds and hundreds of women. She is a remarkable woman, and I salute her, and the many, many other women who support each other in times of desperate need.

H. CON. RES. 398: EXPRESSING THE CONCERN OF CONGRESS OVER IRAN'S DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEANS TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this ill-conceived and ill-timed legislation. Let's not fool ourselves: this concurrent resolution leads us down the road to war against Iran. It creates a precedent for future escalation, as did similar legislation endorsing ''regime change'' in Iraq back in 1998.

I find it incomprehensible that as the failure of our Iraq policy becomes more evident—even to its most determined advocates—we here are approving the same kind of policy toward Iran. With Iraq becoming more of a problem daily, the solution as envisioned by this legislation is to look for yet another fight. And we should not fool ourselves: this legislation sets the stage for direct conflict with Iran. The resolution ''calls upon all State Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), including the United States, to use all appropriate means to deter, dissuade, and prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons . . .'' Note the phrase ''use all appropriate means.''

Additionally, this legislation calls for yet more and stricter sanctions on Iran, including a demand that other countries also impose sanctions on Iran. As we know, sanctions are unmistakably a move toward war, particularly when, as in this legislation, a demand is made that the other nations of the world similarly isolate and blockade the country. Those who wish for a regime change in Iran should especially reject sanctions—just look at how our Cuba policy has allowed Fidel Castro to maintain his hold on power for decades. Sanctions do not hurt political leaders, as we know most recently from our sanctions against Iraq, but rather sow misery among the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society. Dictators do not go hungry when sanctions are imposed.

It is somewhat ironic that vie are again meddling in Iranian affairs. Students of history will recall that the U.S. government's ill-advised coup against Iranian leader Mohammed Mossadegh in 1953 and its subsequent installation of the Shah as the supreme ruler led to intense hatred of the United States and eventually to the radical Islamic revolution of 1979. One can only wonder what our relations would be with Iran if not for the decades of meddling in that country's internal affairs. We likely would not be considering resolutions such as this. Yet the solution to all the difficulties created by our meddling foreign policy always seems to be yet more meddling. Will Congress ever learn?

I urge my colleagues to reject this move toward war with Iran, to reject the failed policies of regime-change and nation-building, and to return to the wise and consistent policy of non-interventionism in the affairs of other sovereign nations.

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE SAUK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sesquicentennial of the Sauk City Fire Department. On May 23, the Sauk City Fire Department will celebrate its 150 years of service to community in a festival at the Saint Aloysius Church.

Sauk City was founded in 1854 as Wisconsin's first incorporated village. That same year a Sauk City merchant, J.J. Heller, had a small wooden fire engine built to protect his store from fire. Mr. Heller organized a meeting seeking assistance with the labor-intensive fire engine, making Sauk City home to Wisconsin's oldest volunteer fire department and oldest standing fire station.

During the 19th century, there was a great need for organized and responsive fire departments due to the fire prone stoves, lamps, and chimneys of that era. Furthermore, the business districts, composed of crowded rows of wooden buildings, were constantly at risk for a rapidly spreading fire. Sauk City was a pioneer for this region in stopping these devastating fires.

This is a wonderful success story about a community coming together to fill a need. In 1859, the fire department had a new locally made fire wagon. In order to raise money to purchase a bigger fire engine, the town and its several breweries organized a festival. The outpouring of support was so impressive at the first festival that it became a boisterous event. As the community grew and the technology advanced, the Sauk City Fire Department kept pace with new stations and fire engines. Today, the thirty-eight volunteer professional firefighters of the Sauk City Fire Department serve a 170 square mile area in south central Wisconsin.

While the sheer length of the Sauk City Fire Department's service to the community is worthy of praise, it boasts several other impressive qualities. The Sauk City Fire Department has done a remarkable job of restoring two of its locally manufactured fire engines from 1924 and 1928. It was also first fire department to use the two-toned Decot siren, which was created by Sauk City Fire Chief Ted Decot and became a nationwide commercial success.

Mr. Speaker, I join Fire Chief Michael Fehrenbach and all the residents of Sauk City in celebrating the Sauk City Fire Department's 150 years of service to the community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALAN ALBERTUS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a true American. Alan Albertus was a man that served his country in the U.S. Air Force, as well as his community as an engineer. He was an outdoorsman who had few peers, respecting the land God had blessed us with while enjoying the challenges of Colorado's Rocky Mountains.

Alan gave much of his time to defending our constitutional right to bear arms, and often instructed young families on firearms safety, reloading, and firearms ballistics. He was active in politics—he organized rallies, celebrated the Bill of Rights, and was a delegate to conventions. Alan believed the best legacy he could leave to America was that of freedom, and he worked hard to preserve that freedom.

Most importantly, Alan Albertus served his family and his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He will be missed.

A TRIBUTE TO MONICA GILL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Monica Gill, in recognition of her dedication to children and young adults as a teacher and social worker, as well as her accomplishments in the business world.

Monica is not afraid of anything that comes before her other than God as she has always had obstacles in her life that she had to overcome. Losing her mother at the early age of 13 set the precedent for a difficult road ahead. She attended the Spence School—High School, University of Nebraska—Omaha, University of Missouri, Kansas City and Hunter College Graduate School of Social Work. Monica earned a BA in Journalism/International Studies, a M.S. in Urban Studies and 24 credits toward her Masters in Social Work, respectively. While obtaining her college degrees, she had three children: Joan, and twins, Imani and N'Namdi. At the same time, she would also work one or sometimes two jobs.

She began her career as a photographer/public relations assistant at Warner Communications. Next she went to Europe, where she assisted Air Force personnel with their college achievements in Europe. Monica returned to the states where she worked with the college administration preparing the paths for college graduates to successfully gain employment for one of the Fortune 500 companies. She would work one job during the day around her classes and on weekends, she worked with Cox Cable of Omaha in the production and programming department.

In 1983, she received a scholarship from the National Association of Black Journalists for an essay she wrote regarding the life of Malcolm X. That same year she received a broadcaster's award from KMTV–TV Omaha and an internship from KETV–TV as a weekend reporter. She moved to Kansas City and

became an in-house writer for the Federal Reserve Bank District 10. Afterward, she worked for the Kansas City Conventions and Visitors Bureau and the Kansas City Globe (an African-American Daily). Her journalism and broadcasting career was booming, until the twins helped her change careers and she became a Language Arts Teacher for four years. The frustration of teaching children who were dirty and hungry led her to become a social worker and work to improve the lives of youth. After working as a social worker for more than 10 years, she realized her specialty was working with adolescents from 16–23 years old. She assisted over 200 youth to obtain housing, GEDs, employment and vocational training to better their lives. Finding services and advocating for the youth was a God-given vocation for her, which Monica had to recently give up due to surgical complications.

Monica is currently a real estate sales associate for Coldwell Banker-Five Star Realty and serves on the Bedford Stuyvesant Real Estate Board. She is on the Advisory Board for Building Blocks Child Care Center, Board Advisor for the NYS Office of Children and Family Services—Pyramid Reception Center, Bronx, and a consultant for the Caribbean Carnival Bands and Activities. Monica also attends Christian Cultural Center, which is pastored by the Rev. A.R. Bernard.

Mr. Speaker, Monica Gill has significantly improved her community through her work as a teacher, social worker, and now as an advisor to advocacy organizations. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PRESENTING A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF WILLIE PEARL ESTERS

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters was born on April 22, 1915, in Scottsville, Louisiana, she was the third child of Charlie and Lucille Graham; and was affectionately called ''Pearl''. She spent her early life in Bossier City and Shreveport, Louisiana where she attended public schools; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters accepted Jesus Christ at an early age and was baptized at the Bright Star Baptist Church in Scottsville, Louisiana. She met and married Herman T. Walker and to that union two daughters were born, Maxine W. and Joyce Ann Walker; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters, in 1936 moved with her family to Los Angeles, California where she united with Bethlehem Baptist Church, later she joined New Hope Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School and was a member of Choir #2, and the Mission; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters, in 1949 met the man who was to be her life-long spouse, Everson Boyd Esters, and after a brief courtship they were married and from this union was born a son Everson B. (Chuck) Esters; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters was always looking out for the welfare of her children and left no stone unturned to expose them to the beauty of the arts, culture and the world of music. She would not settle for what was common, but she gave them her best in the hope that they would comprehend and excel. She surrounded them with a loving home and a rich family environment; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters, with her family in God's hands, caught the fire of the holy spirit and followed her husband into the ministry. She grew a large circle of love by serving the needy and encouraging others to challenge what they weren't sure they could do. As a result, she developed a number of leaders and singers in the church, she expanded her circle and achieved State and national recognition for her voluminous work in service to others; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters, after lengthy illness passed on, leaving us to humbly acknowledge the living legacy of her love of her husband, Everson B. Esters, her children, Maxine Swan, Joyce Walker and Chuck Esters and other relatives and friends. She will be missed in the lives of all those she has touched, and . . .

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD proudly recognizes this woman of faith, leadership, dedication, courage, persistence and wisdom and her distinguished service to her church and our community.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE, LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTH CARE (HEALTH) ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4280. This bill gives us the wrong solution to a complex problem.

The bill will limit the rights of patients, it will harm low-income Americans and it will do nothing to lower the cost of health insurance.

This bill proposes to cap non-economic damages at $250,000. That is fine if a victim of poor medical care is a business executive, because they will receive economic damages as compensation. But what happens to the minimum wage worker or the stay-at-home mom? They rely on non-economic damages to receive adequate compensation.

This bill shows that the life of a wealthy American is worth more than that of a new immigrant working in a restaurant or a stay-at-home mother who raises her children.

We're all searching for a way to lower the cost of health insurance for all Americans. But this bill won't help. The Congressional Budget Office found that this bill won't do anything to help bring down the costs of health insurance.

Even if the cost of malpractice insurance goes down, those savings will not be passed along to Americans who try to purchase health insurance. They will still face the high cost of health insurance without any help.

This bill does not help patients and it does not help Americans. The Republicans have given us a bill that does nothing to solve the real problems with our healthcare system.

I oppose this bill because it does nothing to lower healthcare costs. And it does nothing to protect patients' rights.

TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE DALE SHELTROWN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of an extraordinary public servant and community leader, State Representative Dale Sheltrown. Dale is currently serving his third and final term representing the 103rd District of the Michigan House, which includes Roscommon, Missaukee, Iosco and Ogemaw Counties. Dale's record of leadership in public office, business and his community stands as a shining example of a citizen legislator.

Dale Sheltrown was born on Election Day, November 5th, 1940, foretelling a lifelong commitment to public service and political leadership. His father, Ed Sheltrown, served for 35 years as Township Supervisor, and two of his five siblings are also elected officials.

Dale has been a lifelong resident of Ogemaw County, and after earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in Agriculture from Michigan State University, he began his successful business career. From 1965 to 1974, Dale owned and operated his own dairy and beef farm. From 1974 to 1976, he was a sales manager at the John Deere dealership in West Branch, Michigan. Since 1976, Dale has been a partner with Century 21 Horizon Realty in West Branch.

Dale recognized long ago the importance of giving back to the community that had been so good to him. He was elected to serve on the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners from 1974 to 1982 and from 1988 to 1998. From 1986 to 1988, he was the Township Supervisor and Assessor in Edwards Township, Ogemaw County, Michigan. Dale's dedication and leadership has also been recognized by his appointment to the Michigan State Commission on Aging from 1980 to 1990.

On November 3rd, 1998, Dale was elected to his first term in the Michigan House of Representatives. In the years since, he has served with distinction on the Agriculture and Resource Management Committee, the Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Committee, and the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. Dale has spearheaded efforts in the Michigan House to control the Bovine Tuberculosis epidemic that has hurt so many farmers in Northeast Lower Michigan. He has also been a leader in the State's program to award high school diplomas to veterans of World War II and the Korean War.

Dale Sheltrown's exceptional life of public service and community leadership provides ample reason for this recognition, but Dale's commitment to his family is one of the things I respect most about him. Dale and his wife Lori have four grown children and four beautiful grandchildren that he never misses an opportunity to talk about. It is clear to me that whatever else Dale might be doing in his life, his family always comes first.

Mr. Speaker, Dale Sheltrown's commitment to his family, his community and the State of Michigan serves as an example to all of us, and I ask the House to join me in honoring him.

A TRIBUTE TO JASMINE EDWARDS, ESQ.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Jasmine Edwards in recognition of her commitment to serving families in need of assistance.

Born to Guyanese immigrants, Jasmine is a member of the first generation in her family to be born in the United States of America. Her mother emigrated to the U.S. as a registered nurse and later became a New York City school teacher. Her father, a former probation officer supervisor emigrated to the U.S. to attend the University of Connecticut. She recently became the seventh member in her family to become an attorney.

Jasmine is admitted to practice law in New York State and the United States District Courts. She is a member of the Association of Black Women Attorneys, Brooklyn Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. She is also a licensed real estate broker and an instructor at the New York Paralegal School. Her law firm of Edwards & Greenidge is based in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Jasmine and her partner, both Guyanese-Americans, are committed to serving those in the community who desperately need legal advice.

After graduating from Temple University, she worked as a social worker. Jasmine provided services to families that had been accused of child abuse and/or neglect. Her goal was to assist parents in implementing alternative parenting skills. During her tenure at CUNY School of Law, Jasmine accepted an internship at the prestigious Federal Defenders Association of Philadelphia in the Habeas Corpus Unit. The objective of the Habeas Corpus Unit was to convince the appellate courts that certain convicted criminals should not be executed. While working as a researcher that summer, Jasmine discovered that over 80 percent of the persons on death row shared the same painful experiences when they were younger as those abused and neglected children, who were part of families that she once counseled as a social worker.

These experiences coupled with her desire to assist others inspired her to establish a law office in a neighborhood where many people are underserved. Jasmine's goal is to provide outstanding legal representation that is proactive as well as reactive.

Mr. Speaker, Jasmine Edwards has dedicated her life to helping those in need, as a social worker for abused and neglected children and now as an attorney for the underserved residents of Brooklyn. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPRUCE CREEK ROD AND GUN CLUB

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club for reaching its 100th anniversary.

Since 1904, the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club has never lost sight of its original purpose: to preserve Spruce Creek as a fishery. While maintaining its honorable traditions of conservation, the club in Huntingdon County has conquered numerous obstacles and received high acclaim for its perseverance.

Throughout the past century, the club has undergone a complete restoration, upon conclusion of which the building was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1991. With the extraordinary vision of its past leaders, the club has been able to merge the old with the new by upholding its age-old traditions while improving the services available to members.

Due to its reputation for excellence, Spruce Creek has attracted such renowned leaders as Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Jimmy Carter, Senator John Heinz, Vice President DICK CHENEY, and former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, to name a few.

The success of the club over the past one hundred years is a testament to the integrity with which the institution has been run. I would like to congratulate the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club on its 100th Anniversary. Thank you for upholding Pennsylvania's tradition of distinguished service to its citizens.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT ALL AMERICANS OBSERVE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION WITH A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING AND BUILDING ON THE LEGACY OF BROWN

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision in Brown versus the Topeka Board of Education.

In 1951, a door closed on Linda Brown when she was denied admission to an all-white public school in Topeka, Kansas. But on this day in 1954, a door opened for our nation. The Brown decision was the culmination of many desegregation cases. Previous court decisions had ruled that "separate but equal" was a valid policy.

By ruling in favor of Linda Brown, the Supreme Court helped America finally open its eyes and see that segregation is, in fact, wrong and does, in fact, perpetuate inequality. Through the plight of young Linda, a mere third-grader, Americans came to understand that separate is never equal.

While in law school, I was privileged to study under Paul Wilson. Earlier in his life. as a humor Kansas assistant attorney general, Professor Wilson was assigned to defend the Topeka Board of Education. He never suspected that he would end up arguing before the Supreme Court.

I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to Professor Wilson. His role in the Brown decision was a difficult one. He knew that segregation was wrong, but he was charged with the duty of defending the Topeka Board of Education. During his time at the University of Kansas, Professor Wilson wrote about the Brown decision and his recollections of that time period. In the classroom, he told my fellow students and me about his trip to Washington, D.C., and about being admitted to the Supreme Court bar. He said to us, "The decision issued in 1954 caused me, caused America, to realize that to argue the policy of separate but equal was to defend the indefensible." Professor Wilson's words, and the tales of experiences, have stayed with me.

We must never lose sight of the importance of Brown versus the Topeka Board of Education. This decision has set a higher standard for our schools and for our nation. Even today, disparities exist among groups of students, and we must continue working to ensure that all students are learning what they need to learn, and are receiving the kind of high-quality education they deserve.

As the father of two daughters, one in middle school and one in high school, I am thankful for the change that the Brown decision brought to the American education system and to our society. I am thankful that my daughters attend school in a country where all children are considered equal.

Our public schools today are rich in diversity because of the hard work of the NAACP, and the willingness of Linda Brown and her family to stand up for what is right. Because of the Brown decision, we are better able to foster understanding, tolerance, and morality in our young people.

I am proud to have been a part of establishing the Brown vs. Topeka 50th Anniversary Commission in 2001. Since its inception, the Commission has been preparing for this anniversary. Commission members have traveled all over the country, visiting the cities whose desegregation cases set the stage for Brown's success. The Commission has also encouraged many activities across the nation related to the anniversary, including an essay contest, a film and discussion series, and traveling museum exhibits.

I want to thank everyone who worked to make this anniversary so memorable and so historic. Cheryl Brown Henderson, daughter of the late Oliver Brown, has worked tirelessly, not only for this anniversary, but also for educational equity everywhere. As cofounder of the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research, Mrs. Brown Henderson has helped establish a living tribute to the plaintiffs and attorneys involved in the Brown case.

Today, President Bush visited Kansas for the first time. The President spoke this morning in Topeka at the dedication of the National Park Service's $11.3 million historic site in the Monroe School, the former all-black school that Linda Brown attended before the 1954 Supreme Court ruling. I want to thank President Bush and the city of Topeka for helping to make this anniversary worthy of the event it commemorates.

We cannot forget that our work is not yet done. We have celebrated and remembered, but we must do more. We must recommit ourselves to the philosophy behind the Brown decision—to the elimination of bias and the changing of society for the better. We must continue working to provide equal opportunities for all. We must make a fresh commitment to this Nation's children.

Colleagues, I trust we can be of one voice tonight. Let us join together in our celebration

of the 50th anniversary of the Brown decision and in our renewed commitment to our children.

A TRIBUTE TO SANDRA DOCTOR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sandra Doctor in recognition of her long-standing commitment and work for her immediate community, New York City and the State of New York.

Sandra is a woman of faith, hope and strength. A spiritual person, she is hard-working and cares deeply for her family and her fellow man. She tries to make a difference in the lives of others. She also has a passion for the arts, modern and praise dancing, and music. Sandra loves to read books as well.

Sandra was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She is the eldest daughter of Roy Lee and Mildred Miller. She has been a member of St. Paul Community Baptist Church for over 31 years and has served on the young adult usher board and now works with the Jewel Collective Women's Ministry.

Sandra attended Bay Ridge High School in Brooklyn and went on to pursue a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Management from the State University of New York College at Old Westbury in May 1986. After graduating from college she worked for the New York City Board of Education as a Purchasing Assistant. Two years later, she took a position with the NYC Human Resources Administration, Adult Protective Services, and has been there for the last 16 years. She has held many positions including Field Caseworker, Intake Caseworker, Unit Supervisor, Assistant to the Director, and is currently the Community Outreach Coordinator. Sandra is the liaison between APS and community based organizations, the Office of Health and Mental Health, the NYS Office of Fair Hearings and NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

She also worked weekends for two years at Clinton Housing Development Corp. as a counselor and front desk security. CHDC is a SRO that provides housing and social services to mentally ill, elderly and previously homeless adults. Currently Sandra attends Hunter College School of Social Work Management Development Program.

Sandra serves on many advisory boards; Manhattan Geriatric Committee, New York County Taskforce on Elder Abuse, Elder Mistreatment Committee, Living Alone Needing Care (LINC), and Mentally Ill Chemically and Alcohol Dependent (MICA).

She has been a member of the Women's Caucus for Congressman Ed Towns since 1998. She is also a member of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, the Mayor's Taskforce and HRA Crisis and Disaster Team, where she has volunteered for the last five years. Sandra has received awards for the 911 Tragedy and the Citywide Y2K Operation. She has received emergency training through HRA Crisis and Disaster team and the American Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, Sandra Doctor has dedicated her life to her community and her church through both her professional and personal life. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PASTOR REVEREND MINGO HONORED BY THE CHRIST TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH FOR 13 YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Peterson Mingo, a friend and distinguished community leader, who celebrates his 13th Pastoral Anniversary this month with the Christ Temple Baptist Church located in the Evanston neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Pastor Mingo was honored on Friday, May 14th for his distinguished service to Christ Temple Baptist Church and for his tireless efforts to improve the lives of young people in the Evanston neighborhood and throughout the entire inner city.

Pastor Mingo has dedicated his life to community service by fostering relationships and building partnerships throughout the city. Pastor Mingo founded the Evanston Youth Association, the Inner City Rites of Passage Program and the Evanston Bulldogs Youth Football team. He still manages to work with the Cincinnati Youth Street Worker Program during the day, and has a full time job at night.

For the past several years, I have had the honor of serving with Pastor Mingo on the board for a Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati. I am continually inspired by his dedication and commitment to providing drug free environments and healthy alternatives for our young people. Pastor Mingo also serves on the recruitment committee for the Life Center, and serves on the board of the Cincinnati Cooperative Church League.

Pastor Mingo is also dedicated to his family. He is the loving father to 11 children—eights sons and three daughters—and is a devoted husband to his wife, Regina.

All of us in Cincinnati thank Pastor Mingo for all he has done to make our community a better, safer place for our children to live and play, and we congratulate him on his Pastoral Anniversary.

CREDIT UNIONS, A VITAL AMERICAN INSTITUTION

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk today about an essential element in our national life, America's credit unions. They are one of the most vital, one of the most democratic, institutions in America, and yet time and again credit unions are overlooked and even ignored by the mainstream media. But I know, as tens of millions across the Nation know, that credit unions are healthy, thriving, and essential to the prosperity of the Nation and the well-being of millions of families.

The principle behind credit unions is simple. A group of people join together to pool some of their resources; in turn, those resources are available as low-cost loans to the members of the group. Without the need to make a profit, without heavy advertising costs, without huge bonus packages to corporate executives, credit unions can provide loans at rates lower than other financial institutions. And they also can provide loans to those who might otherwise be turned away from conventional banking institutions.

Credit unions are cooperatively owned by those who deposit money in them, not by 'investors' who want to make a profit from loaning money. They are democratic, owned and run by their members. And anyone who makes a deposit is a member.

Although the concept of coming together to pool resources dates back to ancient times, the modern credit union movement began in the mid-nineteenth century, when economic depression, massive crop failures, and especially harsh winters created horrendous conditions for rural and working people in Europe. The first credit union dates from 1850 in Germany. Quickly, the idea spread across Europe.

In 1901, in Quebec, the Canadian province neighboring my State of Vermont, the first credit union in North America was established by Alphonse Desjardins in a town called Levis. It was called La Caisse Populaire de Levis, and like its European counterparts it made credit available to all sorts of people who could not get loans from banks: small farmers, working families, and renters who had no collateral.

In 1908, inspired by that model, the first credit union in the United States was founded. Parishioners of St. Mary's Church in New Hampshire, Vermont's neighbor to the east, formed the first U.S. credit union, with help from Desjardins. (Today, St. Mary's Bank is still a credit union and still vital, with more than $450 million in assets.)

In 1909 Edward Filene, a progressive businessman whose department stores are still prominent in the Northeast—one is located in Burlington, Vermont—helped develop and enact the Massachusetts Credit Union Act. Many states followed Massachusetts in passing similar legislation. By 1930 there were 32 states with credit union laws, and there were a total of 1,100 credit unions nationwide.

The depression, of course, made credit more important than ever to hard-pressed working people. In 1934, the Congress passed the Federal Credit Union Act. When President Franklin Roosevelt signed the law in 1934, he said its purpose would be "to make more available to people of small means credit for provident purposes through a national system of cooperative credit."

Credit unions grew and flourished. By 1960 more than 6 million people were members at one or more of over 10,000 federal credit unions.

I was proud to be an original sponsor, and to work side-by-side with credit unions and their members during a long and contentious struggle in 1998. We were successful in that fight, and passed the law that preserved the right of consumers to join credit unions. So, credit union membership remained open to many millions of Americans.

Today, I am pleased to report, credit unions are stronger than ever, and serving more people than ever. There are over 12,000 credit

unions in existence today. They have $316 billion in assets—and they serve 70 million people in our nation.

The credit union movement's long and great history of making credit available to people of small means has been based on the same central idea from the outset. Credit unions enable everyday people to band together for the common good, allowing them to make basic financial services available through not-for-profit and democratic means.

In our day, unhappily, tragically, the conditions that led to the beginning of the credit union movement in Germany more than a century-and-a-half ago still exist. Families, even with two and three workers in a household, even with people holding multiple jobs, often cannot pay their bills, their health care, their pharmaceutical costs.

Our economy is booming—but only for some. Corporate profits are up, productivity is up and stock prices are relatively high. The wealthiest people in our country have never had it so good. The richest one percent of our population now owns more wealth than the bottom 95 percent, and the typical CEO of a major corporation now earns over 300 times more than the average worker.

But workers across the country are often working longer hours for lower wages than they earned twenty-five years ago. Thirty percent of our workers earn poverty or near-poverty wages. In fact, low-wage American workers are now the lowest paid in the industrialized world. One out of every five children in America now lives in poverty, compared to one out of seven twenty-five years ago. Thirty-four million Americans live in hunger or in families so poor that parents skip meals so their children can eat.

Ordinary Americans are struggling. They need allies like the credit union movement.

Meanwhile, the for-profit financial services industry has left many ordinary Americans behind. Mergers have led to larger institutions serving higher-end customers, the loss of local ownership and control, less competition, higher fees, and the lack of life-line financial services to moderate- and low-income consumers.

There are 20 million American adults who do not have checking or savings accounts. Some have been priced out by high fees. Others simply can't get small loans from banks. When their cars break down, they borrow the money to fix them from wherever they can—like payday loans. Banks often think that the best way for working people to get a loan is to draw heavily on their credit cards—cards that often charge hefty monthly penalty fees on top of close to thirty percent interest rates!

So America's credit unions are just as vital today as they were when Desjardins helped organize that first credit union in New Hampshire.

Yet even though credit unions serve seventy million people—perhaps because they serve seventy million people—they are under attack by the for-profit financial establishment.

Today, huge corporate banks are hard at work lobbying Congress to tax credit unions. Unscrupulously, the banking lobby has even questioned the safety and soundness of credit unions. They hammer away and hammer away at their theme: "It is not fair that credit unions are not taxed. They get a federal subsidy." Yet it is the banks, with their multi-million dollar CEO's, their rising profits, and their rising ATM surcharges, that come before Congress to ask for huge bailouts for bad overseas investments. When the banks say that credit unions should pay a billion a year in taxes, they conveniently forget to mention that privately owned banks have received hundreds of billions in taxpayer support in the last fifteen years, ranging from outright bailouts of failed domestic banks to underwriting of their losses abroad.

Credit unions are tax exempt for good reasons, and not because anyone is doing them a special favor. Credit unions are tax-exempt because they are not-for-profit institutions. And under federal law, and rightly in my view, nonprofits are exempt from taxes: churches, hospitals, libraries, universities—and credit unions.

For almost all of the past century, credit unions brought people together, allowed them to share their resources, and served the financial needs of their members in good times and bad.

It is my belief that credit unions and their members have the potential to be an even more important economic, social and political force in our country in the decades ahead. In a nation facing forces that threaten to rip our economic well-being apart—downsizing, outsourcing, shipping jobs abroad—credit unions remind us that we can work together for the common good. They show us, day after day, that it is not necessary to incorporate the profit motive into every aspect of American life. In fact, credit unions show us how, if profits are not involved, people can come together to help themselves, sustain themselves, and create healthy communities.

I never make excuses for the fact that I am a strong supporter of credit unions. I want to see credit unions grow and flourish because I believe credit unions are good for the working people of Vermont and good for America.

A TRIBUTE TO JANET B. MUNROE ROUSSEAU

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Janet B. Munroe Rousseau in recognition of her dedication to her community and improving the lives of children.

Janet was born in Trinidad, West Indies. When she immigrated to the United States with her husband, she had already had a nursing degree. She started her nursing profession in England. However, Janet decided to broaden her scope of knowledge by completing the certification for the Nurse Midwifery Program (R.N, C.N.M.) at Downstate University in Brooklyn, New York. She is licensed to practice Midwifery by the New York State Education Department and the American College of Nurse Midwives. Janet also completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health at St. Joseph's College while working full-time and presiding as Vice-President of the PTA at her daughter's elementary school.

Janet is a member of over ten professional affiliations within her nursing career including: the Nursing Admissions Committee, the Clinical Faculty of the College of Health Related Professions, and the Search Committee for the Chairperson of the Nurse-Midwifery Program, which is only given to those who are accomplished in their field.

During her career Janet has collaborated with other nursing professionals in formulating the first health fair for Central and East Flatbush area.

In addition to being a health care provider, Janet has been a member of the Sesame Flyers International Inc. since its inception in 1983. She has held numerous positions within this prestigious organization including Vice-President, Treasurer, Comptroller, Head of Social Affairs, Nutritionist for the Children's Saturday Program and now, a member of the Board of Directors. This community service organization is her second family. Janet devotes a lot of her spare time to making sure the group lives up to the motto, "Love a Kid Today and Everyday."

Janet is truly worthy to be honored as a "Woman Who Dares to Be Different." She is not only a daring woman, but she is also a dynamic wife, mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, sister, friend and well-rounded blessed person.

Mr. Speaker, Janet B. Munroe Rousseau has dedicated her life to strengthening her community as a health care provider and community activist. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

RECOGNIZING INDUSTRY EFFORTS TO FIGHT UNDERAGE DRINKING

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during prom and graduation season to recognize The Century Council and the distilled spirits industry for their efforts to fight underage drinking this month and throughout the year.

As we focus on public health and safety issues during prom and graduation season, we must pay close attention to the challenges facing our nation's youth. While many youth under the age of 21 obey the minimum drinking age law and do not drink, other youth unfortunately make irresponsible decisions about beverage alcohol. The consequences can be tragic. In addition to countless non-fatal injuries, statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show there were 516 alcohol-related traffic fatalities among youths under the age of 21 in May and June 2002.

The Century Council, funded by America's leading distillers to fight drunk driving and underage drinking, is kicking off its fifth annual National Prom and Graduation Safety Months Initiative consisting of a series of initiatives aimed at educating students, parents, educators and lawmakers throughout the upcoming months. This includes the nationwide distribution of prom and graduation safety kits and gubernatorial proclamations in more than 30 states.

The Council's programs have been implemented across the country in numerous public/private partnerships to educate parents, educators, youth, lawmakers, law enforcement, and community groups about the problem of underage drinking. The Council's programs are developed by experts to provide the

public with educational tools and programs aimed at reducing underage drinking.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join more than 30 governors from across the nation who have recognized the efforts of The Century Council in declaring May and June Prom and Graduation Safety Months.

REGARDING CO–SPONSORSHIP OF H.R. 4061

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regards to H.R. 4061, the Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Act of 2004, which passed the House International Relations Committee by unanimous consent on March 31th.

Last week the International Relations Committee filed House Report 108–479.

Because House rules prohibit the addition of additional co-sponsors to a bill once the committee report has been filed, I am not able to formally add another Member of Congress as a co-sponsor of this legislation.

I ask that the record show that Ms. Granger of Texas is in support of my bill and should be considered by this body as a co-sponsor of H.R. 4061.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School BCC in my district for being named a GRAMMY Signature School by the GRAMMY Foundation. BCC is only one of 41 public high schools in the country to receive this prestigious award. The GRAMMY Foundation recognizes outstanding public high schools across the U.S. that demonstrate a commitment to music education.

I am proud that, even in the midst of budget cuts, faculty and staff at BCC have managed to maintain and develop its arts and music program. BCC has successfully used the arts to captivate and engage students in the process of learning. The arts help children develop discipline as well as problem solving and critical thinking skills which are invaluable for future endeavors.

I applaud BCC for its commitment to music education and for making a positive difference in the lives of young people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 13, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on the following: Rollcall vote No. 172 on agreeing to the Kind substitute amendment to H.R. 4281, the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2004; and rollcall vote No. 173 on the motion to recommit H.R. 4281, the Smail Business Health Fairness Act of 2004.

I would have voted "yes" on the following: Rollcall vote No. 174 on passage of H.R. 4281, the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2004; Rollcall vote No. 175 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.J. Res. 91, Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944; and Rollcall vote No. 176 on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 414, Expressing the sense of Congress that, as Congress recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, all Americans are encouraged to observe this anniversary with a commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education decision, which declared segregation of public schools illegal. The case was sparked by Linda Brown, a black girl denied admission into a white elementary public school in Topeka, Kansas. The NAACP took up her case, along with similar ones in Kansas, South Carolina, Virginia, and Delaware. All five cases were argued together in December, 1952 by Thurgood Marshall.

I am proud to stand here today in honor of one of our country's pioneers in the history of civil rights. Before serving 24 years as the first African-American on the United States Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall served as legal director of the NAACP. Marshall was once asked for a definition of "equal" by Justice Frankfurter. He responded, "Equal means getting the same thing, at the same time, at the same place."

I am grateful to have contributed to the legacy of such a great American. As immediate past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am pleased that the seed planted under my administration has now blossomed into a fruitful initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank all of my colleagues here in Washington, around this nation and Topeka, Kansas for commemorating this significant event, so fundamental to our societal growth. I am here today because I believe that education must be our number one national priority. In my almost thirty years as a legislator, I have fought to ensure that education is at the forefront of the legislative agenda.

The President has promised to "leave no child behind", unfortunately, the current administration is not getting the message. The President's budget falls $9.4 billion short of the funding commitment made in No Child Left Behind to K–12 education for Fiscal Year 2005. In my home State of Texas, the President's budget will impact math and reading programs for 205,157 children.

How can we ask educators to meet high standards at the same time we hand them a budget that forces class size increases, cuts in academic programs, and teacher layoffs? Demanding more but paying less does not work.

Other programs barely survive the budget chopping block—resources for teacher training, educational technology, after-school programs, and safe and drug-free schools are frozen; while for the second year in a row he allocates no money for school modernization.

Education is not a luxury item that can be trimmed when more enticing budget items beckon. It is an essential element that should be our highest national priority. Now is the time to increase education spending.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by asking my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending my appreciation to the legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall, the Brown family, and all of the unsung heroes who worked so tirelessly for equality and justice in America's public institutions of learning.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark civil rights ruling of Brown vs. The Board of Education. The plaintiffs in this case, led by Thurgood Marshall, argued that states did not have a valid reason to impose segregation, that racial segregation caused psychological damage, and that restrictions based on race or color violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth amendment. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court unanimously agreed.

Fifty years later, we must ask ourselves if the vision of equality sought by the plaintiffs in Brown has been realized. While today the legal battle against segregation is largely over, the struggle for equal opportunity continues. Gaps in academic achievement and outcomes separate white and minority students, and little has been done to address them. New data from the Urban Institute and the Harvard Civil Rights Project indicates that only about one-half of black and Hispanic students graduate from high school nationwide. The study also found that black students are over represented in special education programs and under represented in honors education programs.

Meaningful change in our public schools is needed, but the No Child Left Behind Act passed by Congress in 2001 is not the answer. Showcasing achievement gaps will only further erode support for our public schools and drive more students to private schools. A national mass exodus from our public schools, which has already occurred in some urban communities, would turn our public schools into classrooms of last resort and little hope.

The dream codified by Brown is alive, but we must continue to push for full equity and quality in education for all Americans. Today is an occasion to celebrate the progress made in the last 50 years, reflect on our progress thus far and recommit ourselves to the goal of equality that is the promise of our Constitution.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago today, in the landmark Brown v. the Board of Education, Chief Justice Warren declared, unanimously, that ''in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place.'' Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. The Brown decision promised that every child, regardless of the color of his or her skin, would have unequivocal access to quality education and an equal opportunity to pursue his/her dreams. Since that moment, our society has evolved to the point where the idea of intentionally separating students on the basis of on the color of their skin in the United States of America is appalling. However, while we should certainly celebrate the demise of overt official racism, we must also critically examine where we are at this historical moment, recognize the many challenges ahead and reaffirm our commitment to making Brown v. Board a reality.

In Massachusetts we tend to think about segregation and racial disparity as a southern phenomenon, alien to our abolitionist New England roots. But a recent study released by the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University found that the Metro-Boston area still remains a widely segregated society. In fact, 70 percent of white students attend suburban schools that are over 90 percent white, while more than 75 percent of black and Latino students attend schools in the inner city or in one of the urbanized satellite cities. The segregated schools of today are arguably no more equal than the segregated schools of the past. Students who attend high minority and high poverty schools are far less likely to graduate on time, be taught by a ''highly qualified teacher'' and apply to college, and are far more likely to drop out of school, score poorly on the SATs, and fail the MCAS.

I am proud of what has happened in my hometown, where Mayor Howard seized an opportunity to modernize the entire school system so that everybody in this diverse working-class community feels that people care about the education of Malden's children, regardless of race or income. Unfortunately, this is the exception, not the rule. Efforts at the national level to support such initiatives have been very uneven. The No Child Left Behind NCLB Act set lofty goals but is failing to provide the funding and the assistance needed to achieve those goals. President Bush's budget for next year failed to provide $9.4 billion of promised money to K–12 education, $7.2 billion of which was intended to help schools educate our country's most impoverished children. In order for our schools to make ''adequate yearly progress,'' the President needs to provide ''adequate yearly funding.'' Almost every day, I get calls from constituents, and communicate with teachers about the many problems with implementing standards without financial support.

Our work is clearly not done and there is too much at stake to leave the work unfinished. Education is not only a ladder of opportunity, but it is also an investment in our future. Our nation's security, economy, and place on the world stage depends on the success our educational system. Although children are only 24 percent of the population, they're 100 percent of our future and we cannot afford to provide any child with a substandard education.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today we mark the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's historic ruling in Brown v. Board of Education. This monumental decision effectively overturned the egregious standard of ''separate but equal'' and truly opened the schoolhouse doors for all children in America.

The decision was a watershed event in U.S. history. It represents the moment in time when the U.S. government no longer sanctioned discrimination against a person solely based on the color of their skin. Most importantly, the decision established the fundamental right of access, granting everyone the ability to gain an education and excel in America.

Mr. Speaker, even though this nation officially banished slavery and attempted to fully integrate the former slaves into society with the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution, equality did not come immediately. States enacted laws to circumvent the intention of these post-Civil War amendments. Then in 1896 the Supreme Court codified the usurpation of rights in the decision that allowed for ''separate but equal'' facilities for African Americans, in essence endorsing an official government policy of segregating black and white citizens.

Shortly after that shameful decision, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded and soon began its legacy of fighting legal battles that address social injustice. One of the most prominent lawyers from the NAACP legal team was a young man named Thurgood Marshall, who graduated first in his class from Howard University School of Law in 1933, and joined Julian Dugas, Charles Houston and Oliver White Hill to advocate for the NAACP in the nation's courtrooms. After a series of legal successes, Thurgood Marshall scored one of the greatest legal victories when he and Charles Houston successfully argued Brown v. Board of Education before the Supreme Court in 1954.

The success of this case was enhanced by the Court's unanimous decision. This was largely thanks to Chief Justice Earl Warren, who recognized that proponents of segregation might see a divided decision as vulnerable to being revisited in later years. Furthermore the Chief Justice wisely recognized that failing to get the support of all the Justices would carry less weight with the Eisenhower Administration and the general public.

Mr. Speaker, despite the lofty promises of desegregating schools with all deliberate speed that the Supreme Court offered when it decided Brown v. Board of Education, some communities still suffer from de facto segregation.

Even more troubling are the disputes that still exist. Part of the problem stems from schools being largely based on housing patterns and funded by local property taxes. A school with a majority African American or Latino population, especially in large cities, is less likely to have proper textbooks, experienced and prepared teachers, and adequate classrooms of manageable size as a result of these funding imbalances. Unfortunately, this means these schools are often rated the worst and produce unprepared students, along with having high drop-out rates.

Students at these schools have limits placed on their access to a quality education. Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that students who go to impoverished schools are less likely to take college preparatory or advanced placement classes, and in the hyper-competitive world of college admissions the classes are mandatory to gain entrance. A quality education has the power to break the cycle of poverty that has plagued minority communities. We are the richest country in the history of the world, and it is unconscionable that schools are failing their students.

Mr. Speaker, as we stand in the shadow of this extraordinary decision half a century after it was made, we in Congress should recommit ourselves to the doctrine of Brown v. Board, which Chief Justice Warren stated so eloquently 50 years ago when he said, ''We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place.''

IN HONOR OF MARK TOGNAZZINI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant, Mark Tognazzni, of the highest caliber on his retirement from the posts of Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures for San Benito County, California. I wish to express my gratitude for his good work, and wish him well for the future.

Mark is a native of San Benito County, born and raised in Hollister. After attending local schools, he started working with the Agricultural Commissioner's office in 1963, and over time worked his way up through the ranks to become Commissioner in 1984. While in that position, Mark has worked on a local and regional level to promote good dialogue and relationships with the agricultural industry. His work continued State-wide as well and he was active in the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, serving as both the Vice President and President of that group. His local work includes eight years as the Chairperson of the Agriculture/Horticulture Division of the San Benito County Fair and work with other county fairs in the area.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Tognazzini's career has spanned four decades and huge changes in the way California farmers operate and the government regulates. Throughout this time he has maintained good relationships with growers and residents, and has served the people of San Benito County and the State of California well. I am sure I join many others in wishing him all of the best for the future in his retirement.

ROSS OPPOSES ADMINISTRATION OVERTIME REGULATIONS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 12, 2004, I missed a vote to table the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2660, the Labor–HHS Appropriations Act of fiscal year 2004, offered by Representative GEORGE MILLER. Had I been present, I would have voted no on the motion to table.

Although the FY04 omnibus appropriations bill included the FY04 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, technically, it is still in conference and motions to instruct are in order. By tabling this motion to instruct, it will injure the working men and women of Arkansas's Fourth Congressional District, and the nation who often depend on overtime pay to make ends meet. I support the Senate language to prohibit the use of funds to issue or enforce a regulation that would take overtime pay away from any employee who, under current regulations, is entitled to overtime pay.

On April 23, the Labor Department published a final overtime eligibility rule in the Federal Register that will take effect later this year. The final rule differs from the proposed rule in that it substantially expands the Fair Labor Standards Act's (FLSA) exemptions and threatens the overtime rights of millions of workers. For instance, the final rule greatly expands the exemption for administrative employees, thus creating loopholes for employers to potentially exploit hard working Americans. Additionally, the final rule expands the learned professional exemption to workers without college degrees and jeopardizes the overtime protection of blue collar workers considered ''management.''

Working families in the Fourth Congressional District of Arkansas depend on overtime pay to feed their families, make their mortgages, and contribute to this great society. Any action by our government to reduce this simple process in unconscionable.

It is for these reasons that had I been present, I would have voted no on the motion to table Representative GEORGE MILLER's Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2660.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, the development of modern transportation infrastructure has changed the way Americans live, travel, and continues to be one of the driving factors in maintaining a strong economy. Since this is National Transportation Week I would like to recognize the significant contributions transportation infrastructure has made in districts like mine.

The 2004 American Almanac of Politics recently rated Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District as the fourth most rural in Congress. As a farm boy who grew up and lives in one of the most rural counties in the district I understand the importance of roads, and infrastructure. Many of the communities, towns and cities in my district, like many others, depend on these investments for their livelihood.

A Senate and House Conference Committee have been working with the Administration to find common ground in the highway reauthorization bill, commonly referred to as TEA–LU. The funding for this legislation has been set for a six year span. It is my strong belief, the investment in building and adding upon existing infrastructure will not only impact our grandchildren, but their children as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to praise the work we have accomplished in strengthening our nation's roads, highways, national security, and economy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in attendance for votes on May 13, 2004 due to a family commitment.

1. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 169, a substitute to H.R. 4275, I would have voted ''aye.''
2. On rollcall No. 170, H.R. 4275, to extend the 10-percent individual income tax rate bracket, I would have voted ''nay.''
3. On rollcall No. 171, a motion that the House instruct conferees on S. Con. Res. 95, I would voted ''aye.''
4. On rollcall No. 172, a substitute to H.R. 4281, the Small Business Health Fairness Act, I would have voted ''aye.''
5. On rollcall No. 173, a motion to recommit H.R. 4281, I would have voted ''aye.''
6. On rollcall No. 174, the Small Business Health Fairness Act, I would have voted ''nay.''
7. On rollcall No. 175, Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, I would have voted ''aye.''
8. Finally, on rollcall No. 176, Expressing the sense of the Congress that, as Congress recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, all Americans are encouraged to observe this anniversary with a commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown, I would have voted ''aye.''

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. TOPEKA BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, it was 228 years ago that the Second Continental Congress affirmed that all men are created equal, as they declared their independence from England. Despite the grand idea of creating a better government that cherished equality and unalienable rights, the United States of America endorsed overt racial discrimination and exploitation for over 178 years.

It was only 50 years ago, in the Supreme Court ruling on Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education that our government took a big step towards correcting these wrongs and recognizing the full spirit of equality. This ruling reversed the Plessy vs. Ferguson case and established that, ''separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.'' The Supreme Court's acknowledgment in Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education was a pivotal point in the rising civil rights movement that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Today, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education. We also honor all the people, young and old, who bravely challenged the status quo and risked their own personal safety to fight for equality. It was their courage that spurred our country to become a better place and we will continue to recognize their important role in our history.

As we commemorate the achievement of the Brown decision, we must also recognize that this fight is not over. Across the country children of all races are being deprived of their fundamental right to an education. In California we see painful overcrowding in schools, creating conditions that are not conducive to learning. Without the critical skills provided by a good education, our children's futures are restricted. In the last several years we have seen a symbol of commitment to improving education in the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Law. This legislation sets high standards for the kind of achievement we would like to see from all of our children. However, this law fails to provide the resources and tools for states and localities to achieve these goals. Underperforming schools are punished instead of helped, and our children are once again denied their right to a good education.

The significance of Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education is too important for us to let it slip away. We must continue to dedicate ourselves to achieving equal rights and equal opportunity for all Americans.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT HESLEY BOX, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Hesley Box, Jr, of Chidester, Arkansas, who died on May 6, 2004, fighting for his country. Hesley, just 24 years old, was part of the Arkansas National Guard, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry, 39th Brigade Combat Team. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

I am deeply saddened by the tragic loss Hesley Box, Jr. from Arkansas's 39th Brigade, who died while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Hesley lost his life while making the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country, and I will be forever grateful to him for his courageous spirit.

Hesley gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero. My deepest condolences go out to his parents, Barbie and Hesley, his brother, Tarcus, his wife, Alexis, their daughter, TaDarius, and their son, Zacheas. I know Hesley was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow

soldiers, and all those who knew him and counted him as a friend. I will continue to keep Hesley and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING MR. RICK CRANDALL FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rick Crandall of Aurora, Colorado for his lifetime of achievement and service to his family, community, and country.

Mr. Crandall served his country honorably with the U.S. Air Force in Guam. Following his service, Mr. Crandall created the popular radio talk-show ''The Breakfast Club'' emphasizing the sacrifices made by American veterans. On his show, Rick interviews veterans about their experiences on and off the battlefield. The show made history in 2000 when he went ''on the air'' from the American Cemetery above Omaha Beach. Rick's radio venue has been warmly welcomed by the veteran community and he has received special recognitions from the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars for his work.

Mr. Crandall has been an outstanding advocate for several other causes as well. He holds annual charity events for the American Lung Association and the American Heart Association. He has also been helpful for community organizations like the Aurora Senior Center, Rainbow Bridge, and the Denver District Attorney's Office. Most notably, Rick hosts an annual golf tournament which raises funds for the local Meal on Wheels.

Rick Crandall has made service a life-long pursuit. His latest undertaking is the establishment of the Colorado Freedom Memorial in Aurora. This memorial honors the thousands of Coloradans who have given their lives serving in combat for the United States since the Spanish-American War. The Colorado Freedom Memorial is just in its introductory stages, so Mr. Crandall surely has a project to keep him active for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor a man who has given so much to so many. Rick has been an inspiration to our Nation's youth by promoting community service and activism. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Rick Crandall and the commitment he has made to improving his community.

TRIBUTE TO MAEVA NEALE IN MEMORY OF A LEADER, ENVIRONMENTALIST, POET, SCHOLAR AND DOCTOR

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent Maeva Neale who passed away on May 8, 2004. She was a physician, leader, a poet, and a hero to those who lived in the coastside town of Pescadero, California. She lived a life filled with values, devoting herself to improving the lives of everyone around her.

Maeva Neale was born in Chicago, the daughter of a minister and Spanish teacher. She majored in Russian studies at Cornell University and was fluent in Swahili, Spanish, French, German, and Arabic. She began medical school at the University of Chicago and completed her studies at the University of California at San Francisco. In the spirit of her thirst for knowledge and adventure, she moved to Kenya for a decade where she practiced medicine and raised her two children, Ama and Geoffrey. Looking for new adventure, she then moved to Saudi Arabia for two years.

In 1989, our community was blessed with Maeva Neale's decision to move to Pescadero, where one of her first acts as a member of our community was to foil an attempt to drop sewage sludge above the ecologically vital coastal area of Pigeon Point. She spent ten years on the Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council, including one as the Chair, leading the drive to stop chemical spraying along Pescadero's roadways. She wrote volumes of beautiful poetry in several languages that were illustrated by local artists and was commended by President Clinton for her work on behalf of Russian children who were devastated by severe pollution.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life of Maeva Neale. She brought our community together, no matter how divergent its opinions. She was an artist and a healer, and always was an inspiration to me. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and remembering Maeva Neale for her extraordinary life of service to our community and humanity. We are better people because of her gentleness, her leadership and her incredible spirit.

IN HONOR OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in the case of Brown v. Board of Education. Fifty years ago today, Chief Justice Earl Warren announced that, under the Constitution, education is ''a right which must be made available to all on equal terms.'' That ruling paved the way for the end of legal segregation; it affirmed the truth that we all knew in our hearts—that separate can never be equal.

In only 2,000 words, Chief Justice Warren changed the course of our nation for the better. It took the Chief Justice only a few minutes to read the ruling, but his words are still echoing in every classroom throughout the country. His words reverberated through the Supreme Court's marble halls and flowed into public school hallways. Those words continued to carry across the land by drawing power from the hope they gave to the people who heard them. They were a promise that every child would have the same opportunity to receive an education and, even more importantly, that every person would have the opportunity to shape and contribute to our society's future.

The Brown v. Board of Education ruling was a crucial step on our way to becoming a more just society. We still have a very long way to go, but we cannot let the length of the road ahead of us discourage us. The Brown v. Board of Education ruling put the power of the law behind the fight for racial equality. It was a legal ruling that did so much more than end legal segregation in schools; it promised all Americans the right to participate in the ''American dream.''

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) carefully formed a strategy to boldly challenge the constitutionality of segregation. Linda Brown represented the millions of children suffering from the effects of segregation, and her father, Oliver Brown, represented the millions of parents who believed that their children deserved better. Civil rights advocates used the Supreme Court's ruling on education to challenge discrimination in transportation, voting practices, housing and other parts of our society. The effort to win legal rights also gave birth to Dr. Martin Luther King's powerful dream of an America where all people are free from the scars of discrimination.

Today, we celebrate the courage and conviction of those who stood up for their rights and helped to bring about the great victory of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Today we also must join together to reaffirm our commitment to equality and to work so that all Americans have a real opportunity to reach their full potential. The goal of achieving equal opportunity requires us to continue to fight for justice and equality. It also requires that we expand opportunity by providing adequate funding for quality, public education; creating good jobs; ending health disparities; and guaranteeing full access to the ballot booth in practice as well as in theory.

Today, we have much to celebrate but we also have much left to achieve.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Brown versus the Board of Education. Fifty years ago, the Supreme Court ruled the doctrine of ''separate but equal'' unconstitutional, and the doors of education were opened to every child.

Sadly, although schools were open to every child, a tremendous learning gap opened up. Some students received a great education, while others—largely poor and minority—slipped through the cracks of the system. The achievement gap between African-American and Caucasian fourth-graders is 28 percentage points, and 29 points between Hispanic and Caucasian students.

This is not equal access to education.

The No Child Left Behind Act continues Brown's legacy. Under NCLB, every child, regardless of race or national origin, is given the same opportunity to learn. Schools are required to ensure that every child is learning.

No longer can students shuffle through the system without learning. We are already seeing positive results. According to a 2004 study by the Council of Great City Schools, the achievement gap is narrowing between minority and Caucasian students in both reading and math. These results are due, in large part, to NCLB.

The No Child Left Behind Act is the second step of Brown. The ruling in Brown may have given students equal access to the classroom, but NCLB ensures that they are given equal access to an education in that classroom.

TRIBUTE TO NEIL BRADLEY

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the members of the Republican Study Committee (RSC) to express our sincere gratitude and best wishes to Neil Bradley. Neil, who has served as Executive Director of the RSC since January 2000, was recently asked by the House Majority Whip to serve as his Policy Director. As the members and staff of the RSC prepare to wish Neil well in his new position, we wanted to take a moment to reflect upon his outstanding service to our organization and to thank him for it.

For those who may be unaware, the Republican Study Committee is a group of Republicans organized for the purpose of advancing a conservative economic and social agenda in the House of Representatives. The group is dedicated to a limited government, a strong national defense, the protection of individual and property rights, and the preservation of traditional family values. Although these values are shared in the abstract by a majority of my colleagues, it is necessary that we measure what is produced through the deal-making and political give-and-take that permeates this institution against the ideals we were elected to uphold. The RSC plays an invaluable role in seeking to ensure that all legislation that moves through this body reflects and respects these fundamental values.

Over the past four and a half years, the RSC's efforts have been tremendously improved because of the service of Neil Bradley as the group's Executive Director. Neil is a committed and principled conservative. He is a tireless and effective advocate for the RSC's objectives. And, as anyone who has worked with or against him will readily acknowledge, Neil is a master of House procedure, especially the federal budget process. Mr. Speaker, Neil has served the RSC with integrity and distinction. We will miss him greatly, but are glad that he will be working for our shared values in a position of influence within the House Leadership.

As his friends and colleagues know, Neil's emails always conclude with some quotation from a famous conservative political thinker or office holder that is relevant to the policy fight of the day. Many of the quotes come from Neil's political hero, former President Ronald Reagan. I thought it would be fitting to close with some words from the great leader.

In 1989, in his farewell address to the Nation, Reagan said the following to the officials and staff that served in his Administration:

> [A]s I walk off into the city streets, a final word to the men and women of the Reagan revolution, the men and women across America who for 8 years did the work that brought America back. My friends: We did it. We weren't just marking time. We made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, Neil Bradley has spent 4 and a half years working passionately for the Republican Study Committee, for the House of Representatives, and for America. He was not just marking time. He made a difference.

On behalf of the RSC, I thank him for his service and wish him well in his new endeavor.

HONORING BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. This landmark victory in the effort to rid this nation of segregation continues to product national repercussions, and on this day I believe we must rededicate ourselves to the ideals that it proposes.

Mr. Speaker, many people consider Brown a failure. It is not universally accepted or practiced, and the victories of the civil rights movement have been overturned or forgotten in the subsequent years. Minority populations including black and Latino children continue to find themselves as this nation's lowest academic performers. Indeed, if Thurgood Marshall surveyed the racial landscape today, he may wonder if Brown had been overturned.

But these very real challenges must not let us forget the lasting lesson of Brown. For many black parents, integration was not the key issue as it was the recognition of the fact that unless their children went to school with the children of the whites who controlled the purse strings, their children's educational opportunities would likely be shortchanged.

Brown ultimately decrees that all children—black, white, Latino; Asian, Native American—are all equally deserving of a high quality education, and that we cannot allow superficial differences to dissuade us from this fact. We must provide our children the presumption of competence and the expectation of success. Our children must have an environment that nurtures aspiration, guardians who provide direction, and peers who provide support. If we are serious about realizing the promise of Brown, then we must challenge ourselves to deliver those things which they most desperately need.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2004 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 19

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine personal gain relating to a transition from public sector to private sector.

SR–253

Foreign Relations

To continue hearings to examine the way ahead in Iraq.

SD–419

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

SD–538

Appropriations

District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the District of Columbia.

SD–138

Finance

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Treasury Department and terrorism financing; to be followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Juan Carlos Zarate, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Stuart Levey, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement.

SD–215

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 37, to acknowledge a long history of official depredations and ill-conceived policies by the United States Government regarding Indian Tribes and offer an apology to all Native Peoples on behalf of the United States, and S. 2277, to amend the Act of November 2, 1966 (80 Stat. 1112), to allow binding arbitration clauses to be included in all contracts affecting the land within the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation.

SR–485

10:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Business meeting to markup an original bill to reauthorize child nutrition programs.

SH–216

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD–366

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 900, to convey the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, the Savage Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, and the Intake Irrigation Project to the pertinent irrigation districts, S. 1876, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands and facilities of the Provo River Project, S. 1957, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to cooperate with the States on the border with Mexico and other appropriate entities in conducting a hydrogeologic characterization, mapping, and modeling program for priority transboundary aquifers, S. 2304 and H.R. 3209, bills to amend the Reclamation Project Authorization Act of 1972 to clarify the acreage for which the North Loup division is authorized to provide irrigation water under the Missouri River Basin project, S. 2243, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska, H.R. 1648, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution systems of the Cachuma Project, California, to the Carpinteria Valley Water District and the Montecito Water District, and H.R. 1732, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Williamson County, Texas, Water Recycling and Reuse Project.

SD–366

Aging

To hold hearings to examine Health Savings Accounts and the New Medicare Law, focusing on the future of health care.

SD–628

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD–406

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine SPAM.

SR–253

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar items; to be following immediately by oversight hearings to examine the FBI, terrorism, and other topics.

SD–226

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Extended Custodial Inventory Program.

SD–538

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine prescription drug reimportation.

SD–106

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 2382, to establish grant programs for the development of telecommunications capacities in Indian country.

SR–485

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1672, to expand the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Florida, S. 1789 and H.R. 1616, bills to authorize the exchange of certain lands within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for lands owned by the City of Atlanta, Georgia, S. 1808, to provide for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings at historically women's public colleges or universities, S. 2167, to establish the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in the States of Washington and Oregon, and S. 2173, to further the purposes of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2000.

SD–366

JUNE 2

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the greater Middle East initiative.

SD–419

SEPTEMBER 21

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345 CHOB

CANCELLATIONS

MAY 19

9:30 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider pending calendar items.

SD–430

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 20

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine intellectual property.

SD–138