

good health, happiness, and success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, on February 6, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and missed votes. Listed below are the votes I missed and how I would have voted had I been there.

H. Res. 867, rollcall No. 29, Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup: Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Res. 942, rollcall No. 30, Recognizing the significance of Black History Month: Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Res. 943, rollcall No. 31, Remembering the Space Shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986: Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

EXPRESSING SYMPATHIES AND SUPPORT FOR THE INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS AFFECTED BY THE POWERFUL TORNADOS THAT STRUCK CERTAIN COMMUNITIES ON FEBRUARY 5, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 971, Expressing the sympathies and support of the House of Representatives for the individuals and institutions affected by the powerful tornados that struck communities in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee on February 5th, 2008. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the families that have experienced the loss of loved ones caused by these tornados. This resolution is important, as it communicates to those affected that Congress is here to do all that it can to help rebuild and restore our damaged communities.

While my district was not affected this time by the tornados on February 5, other communities throughout the State of Mississippi were. And as you know, my State has been no stranger to experiencing disasters. In fact, we are still recovering from the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and empathize with what the affected communities are experiencing.

We know that after a disaster has occurred, the recovery and rebuilding effort of our communities takes time. And when Federal, State and local governments work efficiently and effectively to provide resources to our communities in a timely fashion, the rebuilding effort moves along more smoothly.

As the chairman of the committee with oversight of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, of which FEMA is a part, our committee works diligently to ensure that DHS is prepared to respond to all disasters—whether they be natural disaster or acts of terrorism.

As communities are working hard to recover from the damage caused by the tornados, the committee will closely monitor the responsiveness of FEMA and ensure that the communities affected will receive the assistance that they need to rebuild housing, public facilities and critical infrastructure.

In closing, let me thank my colleague Representative BART GORDON along with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their leadership on this resolution. It is our hope that the rebuilding effort will soon begin, communities will be repaired and that families will begin to heal and return to normalcy.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA SBDC 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (Louisiana SBDC).

For over a quarter century, the Louisiana SBDC, a network of nine service centers operating in Louisiana, has provided communities throughout the state with the means to launch new businesses and maintain successful existing businesses through offering consulting, business education classes, information resources and other specialized services.

Just in the last six years, the Louisiana SBDC has counseled over 25,000 entrepreneurs, created nearly 7,000 new jobs, and has assisted small businesses in securing nearly \$359 million dollars in financing. Initiatives such as the Louisiana SBDC with its track record of success are just what our nation needs during this time of decline in our economy. This work is made possible through the Louisiana SBDC's partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Louisiana Economic Development, participating universities and economic development agencies.

With the help of federal funding, The University of Louisiana at Monroe's College of Business in partnership with the Louisiana SBDC, is poised to develop the Northeast Louisiana Business and Community Development Center. This allows the Louisiana SBDC to continue its mission in Northeast Louisiana and provide for greater opportunity for rural businesses. This center will be a source of entrepreneurship expertise for rural communities in this area, and I expect great things for Louisiana's 5th Congressional District's economy to emerge from the efforts of this center.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 25th Anniversary of the LSBDC as it continues its commitment to empowering local citizens to reach their goals of establishing successful new businesses, which create not only a stronger Louisiana but a stronger national economy.

HONORING H.O. TANNER TEACHERS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on February 21 the Texas Delta Xi Chapter of the Honorary Educators Organization Alpha Delta Kappa will honor those Texas Delta Xi teachers who attended the H.O. Tanner School in Texas, and then returned to teach at H.O. Tanner after completing their education. H.O. Tanner was constructed in 1900 in order to ensure that Texas' segregation laws did not prevent African-American children from obtaining a quality education.

Laws dictating what schools a child can and cannot attend, based solely on that child's race, are a shameful aspect of America's history. It is hard to think of a better way to celebrate Black History Month than by honoring those who did not allow the burden of the "Jim Crow" laws stop them from obtaining an education, and then used their education to serve the children of their community by devoting their lives to teaching.

It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that I join Texas Delta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa in honoring Geneva Barrett, Cora Mack, Berniece Smith, and Sister Julia Mack, who taught kindergarten at the "new" Henry O. Tanner; Sister Mary Crecy, Geneva Barrett (both of whom will be honored posthumously), and Mary Dixon who taught at the original Henry O. Tanner School; and Sisters Julia and Cora Mack who attended classes on the "new" H.O. Tanner campus.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 44 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NAACP ON ITS 99TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H. Con. Res. 289, the resolution introduced by Congressman AL GREEN to commend the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, on their 99th anniversary.

Few organizations have had such a wide-ranging and long-lasting impact on the United States as the NAACP. Since their founding on February 12, 1909, the NAACP has been a strong, consistent voice for minority Americans. In the face of hatred and opposition, the members of the NAACP have consistently stuck to their guiding principle of nonviolence, and worked instead through elections, the