

hemp has such a low content of THC (the psychoactive chemical in the related marijuana plant) that nobody can be psychologically affected by consuming hemp. Federal law concedes the safety of industrial hemp by allowing it to be legally imported for use as food.

The United States is the only industrialized nation that prohibits industrial hemp cultivation. The Congressional Research Service has noted that hemp is grown as an established agricultural commodity in over 30 nations in Europe, Asia, North America, and South America. The Industrial Hemp Farming Act will relieve this unique restriction on American farmers and allow them to grow industrial hemp in accord with State law.

Industrial hemp is a crop that was grown legally throughout the United States for most of our Nation's history. In fact, during World War II, the Federal Government actively encouraged American farmers to grow industrial hemp to help the war effort. The Department of Agriculture even produced a film "Hemp for Victory" encouraging the plant's cultivation.

In recent years, the hemp plant has been put to many popular uses in foods and in industry. Grocery stores sell hemp seeds and oil as well as food products containing oil and seeds from the hemp plant. Industrial hemp is also included in consumer products such as paper, cloths, cosmetics, and carpet. One of the more innovative recent uses of industrial hemp is in the door frames of about 1.5 million cars. Hemp has even been used in alternative automobile fuel.

It is unfortunate that the Federal Government has stood in the way of American farmers, including many who are struggling to make ends meet, competing in the global industrial hemp market. Indeed, the founders of our Nation, some of whom grew hemp, would surely find that Federal restrictions on farmers growing a safe and profitable crop on their own land are inconsistent with the constitutional guarantee of a limited, restrained Federal Government. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to stand up for American farmers and cosponsor the Industrial Hemp Farming Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABODE SERVICES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 20th anniversary of Abode Services, formerly known as Tri-City Homeless Coalition, based in Fremont, California.

Abode Services' roots lie in a coalition of Tri-City church congregations that mobilized support in the 1980s to help growing numbers of individuals and families who had no place to live. Former Fremont Councilmember Judy Zlatnik, a community activist and member of one of the congregations, remembers the day people came together at Fremont's Senior Center to develop a plan. The newly formed coalition implemented a plan to shelter people in churches on a rotating schedule, at first during the winter months only, but later, on a year round basis. In 1989, the coalition became known as the Tri-City Homeless Coalition of Fremont.

In the beginning, the coalition thought that it would serve as an emergency solution for

homeless individuals and families seeking a safe place to get out of the cold. When it soon became apparent that the need for shelter was long-term and enduring, the agency set its sights on a permanent building. They then selected a site to build Sunrise Village, one of the first shelters in the country designed and built from the ground up as a shelter for families and single adults. In August 1993, their goal materialized when the first residents moved into Sunrise Village.

Abode Services became an early adopter of Housing First, a national movement pioneered in the 1990s that addresses the most pressing and urgent needs for homeless families and individuals with a full complement of social services. Abode Services collaborates with more than 30 organizations to leverage program resources.

Abode Services now offers eleven housing programs linked to support services for homeless families and individuals. These programs provide an essential safety net for approximately 2,000 people annually who are homeless or at risk of becoming so, including single adults, families, emancipated foster youth, people with disabilities and seniors. Abode Services' Project HOPE Mobile Health Clinic, operated in collaboration with Tri-City Health Center, serves more than 1,000 homeless persons annually. Since 2005, Abode Services has created 325 units of permanent supportive housing for previously homeless families.

I join the community in congratulating Abode Services on this significant milestone of 20 years of exemplary leadership and service. The organization continues to fulfill its vision and mission of providing affordable housing and supportive services to individuals and families throughout Alameda.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 175 on a motion to table H. Res. 312. If present, I would have voted "yea."

386TH ENGINEERING BATTALION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women of the 386th Engineering Battalion and the Christus Spohn Healthcare System.

Since December 2006, members of the 386th Engineering Battalion have been working side-by-side with their civilian counterparts in the only level three trauma center in the Corpus Christi area. During their drill weekends, these soldiers are assigned to duties inside the hospital's emergency room to work in triage, fast track or trauma.

Through this joint effort, the 386th Engineering Battalion was able to utilize these real world experiences on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

I would like to take some time now to honor Lt. Col. John Beignano and Lt. Col. Francisco Zuniga. These gentlemen worked tirelessly with the Christus Spohn Healthcare System administrators to make this idea a reality. By participating in this important work, these soldiers are making significant contributions to the community and to their fellow soldiers. Their families and loved ones should be proud of their service to the country and the extraordinary way they have improved people's lives.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the men and women of the 386th Engineering Battalion and the Christus Spohn Healthcare System.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY SYSTEM FOR ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY AS A FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the University of Michigan and its University Library System in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary as a Federal Depository Library.

Since 1884, the University of Michigan Library has served the University of Michigan and the Southeastern Michigan community as a public space where citizens can find information about their government. As part of the Federal Library Depository Program (FLDP), the University of Michigan Library provides free access to journals, electronic resources, microfilm and more on an endless number of topics and is equipped with thoroughly trained librarians to help navigate. Throughout its history, the FLDP has striven to make our citizenry more informed and ultimately more engaged in the democratic process.

The University of Michigan Library in Ann Arbor is one of the largest university library systems in the United States. It consists of 19 libraries in 11 buildings, which combined, hold over 8 million volumes. These impressive statistics and the fine work of its employees mean this library system has consistently ranked as one of the top ten academic research libraries in North America. The fact that the University of Michigan has, for 125 years, been home to a FDLP library speaks to both its remarkable record as an educational institution and its committed role in ensuring access to our civic process.

Once again, I congratulate the University of Michigan on this tremendous achievement and I wish the library system and the entire university the very best in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOPE PLUS SCHOLARSHIP ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I raise to introduce the Hope Plus Scholarship Act, which

expands the Hope Education Scholarship credit to cover K–12 education expenses. Under this bill, parents could use the Hope Scholarship to pay for private or religious school tuition or to offset the cost of home schooling. In addition, under the bill, all Americans could use the Hope Scholarship to make cash or in-kind donations to public schools. Thus, the Hope Scholarship could help working parents send their child to a private school, while other parents could take advantage of the Hope credit to help purchase new computers for their children's local public school.

Reducing taxes so that Americans can devote more of their own resources to education is the best way to improve America's schools, since individuals are more likely than federal bureaucrats to insist that schools be accountable for student performance. When the federal government controls the education dollar, schools will be held accountable for their compliance with bureaucratic paperwork requirements and mandates that have little to do with actual education. Federal rules and regulations also divert valuable resources away from classroom instruction.

The only way to reform America's education system is through restoring control of the education dollar to the American people so they can ensure schools provide their children a quality education. I therefore ask all of my colleagues to help improve education by returning education resources to the American people by cosponsoring the Hope Plus Scholarship Act.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE KANSAS
CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the outstanding achievements and cultural legacy of the Kansas City Public Library in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, which I proudly represent. The Kansas City Public Library, having received the prestigious 2008 National Medal for Museum and Library Service presented by former First Lady Laura Bush for their "Books to Go" project, events and exhibits, represents preservation and celebration of Missouri's Fifth District's diverse history.

The Kansas City Public Library's role is to "actively provide timely, accurate and useful information; support individual of all ages pursuing a program of independent learning; and assists researchers in conducting in-depth study or investigation in specific subject areas". The library has come to serve nearly every contingent of the Fifth District population, in both urban and suburban areas, actively seeking to engage our citizens in classes, discussions, lectures and events. It allows our citizenry to explore its role as America's heartland evolving from a frontier city to a modern day metropolis with racial and cultural diversity. Through clubs, movies and exhibits, people of all ages can participate in the many opportunities that the library has to offer.

Under the wisdom and guidance of Chief Executive Crosby Kemper III and its Board of

Directors with Jonathan Kemper serving as Board President, the Kansas City Public Library has emerged as a crucial cultural center in our community. Housing and preserving in multimedia and primary source, the library system has come to foster intellectual enrichment through working collaboratively with our many world-class organizations of cultural preservation and celebration, such as the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum, and the National World War I Museum, to name a few. Our hallowed library serves as an extension of the works of these fine institutions to ensure that not a corner of our community is denied the opportunity to share in our heritage.

Mr. Crosby Kemper, a graduate of the esteemed Yale University and member of one of Kansas City's most philanthropic families, serves tirelessly as a distinguished administrator and innovator to expose our community to intellectual growth. Due to his efforts and that of the Board of Directors, the Kansas City Public Library provides events and lectures that provoke thought, information and discussion. The library has become a focal point of intellectual conversation in our community.

Perhaps most importantly, the Kansas City Public Library houses the freedom of opportunity which our nation cherishes as the cornerstone of its efficacy. Our understanding of peace and justice requires an intellectual grounding in the events of our shared history. Through history, we find our cultural underpinnings and past solutions which evolve into today's paradigm.

For these reasons and more, I am proud to have nominated the Kansas City Public Library for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Madam Speaker, through their efforts, they have let loose imaginations, inspired change and become a cornerstone around which our entire community gathers. A city can only be as good as its public libraries, and we all take pride that ours is among America's very best. Please join me in congratulating the Kansas City Public Library, its Board, Crosby Kemper, and the staff, volunteers and supporters that help to make our state-of-the-art Kansas City Public Library a national award winner.

HONORING MAUD F. ROBINSON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Maud F. Robinson to the town of Vienna, Virginia. Maud will be retiring from the Vienna Town Council in June, after serving on the council since 2000.

Maud and her husband, Charles A. Robinson, Jr., moved to Vienna in 1951. Since that time, Mrs. Robinson has been involved in every aspect of life in the town. She has served as president of various local organizations, including the Vienna Women's Club, the Ayr Hill Garden Club, and Historic Vienna, Inc. She was a founding member and president of the town's library. She served as a member of Vienna's first Architectural Review Board and on the town's Business Liaison Committee. Among other honors, Mrs. Robinson was se-

lected as Citizen of the Year in Vienna in 1993 and 2000.

Mrs. Robinson was appointed to the Vienna Town Council in 2000, to fill the term of Jane Seeman, who was elected town mayor following the death of Charles Robinson. Mr. Robinson served as town mayor for 27 years. Mrs. Robinson was reelected four times to her seat on the council, for a total of nine years.

Mrs. Robinson is a graduate of Smith College and attended the University of Virginia Law School. She served as a WAVE lieutenant, junior grade, in the United States Navy.

Maud Robinson's commitment to Vienna's citizens and business community is unparalleled. She is a woman of the highest moral integrity and is a true role model for all of Vienna's citizens. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring Maud Robinson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, during consideration of the End GREEED Act (H.R. 1575), my vote was recorded as "no" on final passage of the bill (rollcall No. 178). I intended to vote "aye."

HONORING STEWARTS CREEK ELE-
MENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER
TREY DUKE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trey Duke, a teacher at Stewarts Creek Elementary School, who was a 2008 recipient of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. Trey was the only Tennessee educator to receive the award in 2008, and he joins 56 other teachers from the state who have been honored with the award in the past.

The Milken National Educators Award program began in 1985 and is now the largest teacher recognition program in the United States. The award honors K–12 teachers, principals and specialists with \$25,000 individual awards and gives them the opportunity to participate in a national teachers conference. At the conference, award recipients engage in professional development and examine possible solutions to significant issues in education with leaders from academia, government, business and the community.

Prior to receiving the national award, Trey had only been teaching for five years. His creative teaching strategies, which include book clubs, music and PowerPoint presentations, have resulted in his fifth grade students not only meeting but exceeding proficiency goals. At the end of the year, he writes a poem detailing each student's progress and places the poem in his or her report card.

"I feel like part of my job is not just to instruct the students, but to make them excited and to make them want to come to school every day and to get them involved in what we