

Resolved, AASHTO encourages international harmonization of road safety regulations and good practices through accession to and implementation of related United Nations legal instruments, resolutions, and manuals issued by the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration; and finally be it

Resolved, AASHTO encourages the United States to take a leadership role at the First Ministerial Conference on Road Safety and for the United States to work with nations around the world to achieve the goals and ideals of a decade of action for road safety and to reduce the impact of this health epidemic on the global community.

PRESIDENT MA OF TAIWAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to comment on the remarkable achievements of the government of Taiwan in moving forward a new era of peace in the Pacific.

One year ago, the new President of Taiwan took office amid increasing tensions between China and Taiwan. Today, because of the initiatives of President Ma ying jo, Cross Straits relations have improved to such an extent that they have now produced a series of agreements to enhance mutual cooperation between Taiwan and China.

For too long Taiwan, opposed by China, has been excluded from the World Health Organization. As a result of the conciliatory efforts of President Ma and the recognition by authorities in China of the need to have Taiwan represented, Taiwan now has achieved status by the World Health Assembly. Good work President Ma. With the new health crisis the world faces with Swine Flu, politics must not impede mutual cooperation in combating this dreadful problem.

Increased communications, charter flights and postal agreements negotiated through the initiatives promoted by President Ma in his first year in office have lessened tensions to the extent that day to day contacts have replaced confrontation.

It is in the interest of the United States that this progress, which we understand is the hallmark of President Ma, continue. Peace in the Pacific is an essential ingredient of world progress.

Good luck Mr. President. May the successes of your first year in office be the forerunner of many years to come.

INTRODUCING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Sanctity of Life Act. This legislation provides that the federal courts of the United States, up to and including the Supreme Court, do not have jurisdiction to hear abortion-related cases. Since the Supreme Court invented a "right" to abortion in *Roe v. Wade*, federal judges have repeatedly thwarted efforts by democratically elected officials at the state and local level to protect the unborn.

However, the federal courts have no legitimate authority to tell states and local communities what restrictions can and cannot be placed on abortion. Even some intellectually honest supporters of legalized abortion acknowledge that *Roe v. Wade* was incorrectly decided. Congress must use the authority granted to it in Article 3, Section 1 of the Constitution to rein in rogue federal judges from interfering with a state's ability to protect unborn life.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in support of using the power granted to the Congress by the Constitution to protect the ability of individual states and the people to restore respect for the sanctity of human life.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

HON. BETSY MARKEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record that had I been present for the vote on H.R. 915, I would have voted in favor of the FAA reauthorization. As my daughter and son are graduating from college and high school, respectively, I am unable to be present for the vote. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I was proud to approve the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009 in our committee.

Being from Colorado, I fly in and out of Denver International Airport. Denver has struggled recently with a dearth of properly trained air traffic controllers. Denver TRACON is struggling with staffing problems because of: retirements, resignations, trainee failures and an inability to recruit and retain both the experienced veteran workforce and high quality trainees that have the ability to succeed in the training program. Air traffic controllers are required to retire by age 56, and of late, 98 percent of controllers have retired before that age because their salaries are not competitive. I am pleased that H.R. 915 addresses the mediation issues between the National Air Traffic Controllers Association and the FAA.

Additionally, the inclusion of funding to accelerate the implementation of the NextGen system is critical. It is important that we seize any opportunity that we have to make our airways not only safer but also more efficient.

I am also pleased to see that the bill increases funding for Essential Air Service. Coming from a rural district, I understand how critical EAS is to economic development. Rural communities across America count on EAS to preserve affordable, reliable air service. The EAS program is a major piece of our rural transportation infrastructure and greatly enhances the ability of these communities to attract and retain new business investment. I support continued efforts to maintain this vital program and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RON VANVOORHIS, TEACHER AT EAST MUSKINGUM MIDDLE SCHOOL, FOR GIVING STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE WASHINGTON, DC FOR 30 YEARS

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ron VanVoorhis, initiated East Muskingum Middle School's annual trips to Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, Mr. VanVoorhis has been responsible for close to 4,000 students being able to see and experience Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, Mr. VanVoorhis has consistently attended each trip, missing only one year for the birth of his daughter; and

Whereas, Mr. VanVoorhis has provided this service without stipend and consistently at very low cost, saving each student an average of \$100 per trip; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Mr. Ron VanVoorhis on his service to the East Muskingum Middle School, and congratulate him on his 30 years of service in bringing the students of EMMS to Washington, D.C. to give them a better idea of what it means to be an American citizen.

IN HONOR OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NOVA-ANNANDALE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2009 AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra on the occasion of their 15th Anniversary and to pay tribute to their 2009 Award Recipients.

In 1994, Dr. Claiborne Richardson of The Reunion Music Society and Dr. Gladys Watkins of the Northern Virginia Community College formed a partnership between the two organizations to create the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra. This orchestra combines the talents of local professional and amateur musicians and college students to develop their skills and to perform the music of different cultures and heritages. On April 17, 2009 during the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra's 15th Anniversary celebration, The Reunion Music Society announced the award recipients in two special categories: The Richardson-Watkins Founders Awards, which recognize persons or businesses from the community that have made significant contributions to the success of the Reunion Music Society's programs, and The Orchestra/Players Awards, which are given to musicians who have made significant contributions to the success and development of the Symphony over several years and are selected by their peers in the orchestra.

The recipients of The Richardson-Watkins Founders Awards are:

Annandale Florist, Inc. and Mr. Gary Sherfey for many years of providing complimentary flower arrangements displayed on the theater stage at the Symphony Orchestra concerts and for helping to promote concerts through displays at the florist shop.

Mr. Norman Johnston, a long-time volunteer and one of the founding members of the RMS, who served on the Board of Directors for many years. He continues to support the Symphony Orchestra by serving as the organization's graphic artist as well as providing significant financial support both personally and through the solicitation of paid advertising.

Dr. Bruce Mann, Dean of Liberal Arts at Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale campus, who serves as the college's liaison to the RMS. He oversees the music courses that involve college students and members of the Symphony Orchestra and coordinates the scheduling of concerts and rehearsals. In addition, he successfully solicits and obtains financial resources for concerts. Dr. Mann is presently serving his fourth year on RMS' Board of Directors.

The recipients of The Orchestra/Players Awards are:

Mr. Claiborne T. Richardson II: For the last 15 years "Clai" has generously contributed his time and talent to the Symphony Orchestra helping it to grow and thrive. As the orchestra's percussion and timpani section leader he leads and teaches his section, which is composed of many budding musicians, while encouraging and promoting the works of new young composers. Clai is a mainstay musician with the other RMS programs—the Annandale Brass, Reunion Music Society Jazz Orchestra, and the Chris Johnston Trio.

Ms. Jody Smalley: Jody has been playing the violin with the Symphony Orchestra since it was formed 15 years ago. As vice president of the Orchestra's Board of Directors, Jody arranges for guest musicians to rehearse and perform with the Orchestra. Her production of CD's of music to assist other musicians with their individual practices and the Power Point presentation she prepares to accompany the annual "Winter Wonderland" program helps to ensure the high quality of the performances.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra on their 15th Anniversary and paying tribute to the recipients of The Richardson-Watkins Founder's Awards and of the Orchestra/Player Awards.

TRIBUTE TO RODGER MCFARLANE,
PIONEER IN THE LGBT CIVIL
RIGHTS AND HIV/AIDS MOVEMENTS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Rodger McFarlane. A pioneer and legend in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights and HIV/AIDS movements, this remarkable man merits our recognition and our esteem for his unprecedented contributions to our nation and to the world.

Sadly, Rodger was taken from us far too young, at age 54. Larry Kramer, Rodger's

longtime partner and collaborator, has said that Rodger "did more for the gay world than any person has ever done." Rodger was at the forefront of responding to the AIDS epidemic as it began to ravage our country in the early 1980's. Before HIV even had a name, in 1981, Rodger set up the first HIV/AIDS hotline anywhere; in fact, he used his home phone. Rodger, one of the original volunteers at Gay Men's Health Crisis, the nation's first and largest provider of AIDS client services and public education programs, became its first paid executive director. Until his death, Rodger was the president emeritus of Bailey House, the nation's first and largest provider of supportive housing for homeless people with HIV. Rodger was also a founding member of ACT UP-NY, the pioneering protest group responsible for sweeping changes to public policy as well as drug treatment and delivery processes.

In 1989, Rodger became executive director of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, merging two small industry-based fundraising groups into one of America's most successful and influential AIDS fundraising and grant-making organizations. From 2004 to 2008, Rodger served as the executive director of the Denver-based Gill Foundation, one of the nation's largest funders of programs advocating for LGBT equality. Rodger was instrumental in the creation of the Gill Foundation's sister organization, Gill Action.

Rodger took three organizations in their infancy and grew each into a powerhouse to tackle the international tragedy of HIV/AIDS. At Gay Men's Health Crisis, Rodger increased fundraising from a few thousand dollars to the \$25 million agency it is today. During his tenure at Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, he increased the organization's annual revenue from less than \$1 million to more than \$5 million, while also leveraging an additional \$40 million annually through strategic alliances with other funders and corporate partnerships. He transformed the Gill Foundation by sharpening its strategic purpose, focusing its philanthropy in the states, aligning its investment with political imperatives, and forging alliances that furthered both the LGBT movement and the progressive movement as a whole.

The breadth of Rodger's accomplishments is astounding. A proud U.S. Navy veteran, Rodger was a licensed nuclear engineer who conducted strategic missions in the North Atlantic and far Arctic regions aboard a fast attack submarine. A gifted athlete, he was a veteran of seven over-ice expeditions to the North Pole. He also competed internationally for many years as an elite tri-athlete.

Although Rodger never completed college, he was an accomplished and best-selling author and producer of works for the stage. Rodger co-wrote several books, including *The Complete Bedside Companion: No Nonsense Advice on Caring for the Seriously Ill* (Simon & Schuster, 1998), and most recently, Larry Kramer's *The Tragedy of Today's Gays* (Penguin, 2005). In 1993, he co-produced the Pulitzer Prize-nominated production of Larry Kramer's *The Destiny of Me*, the sequel to *The Normal Heart*.

Rodger's many achievements led to well-deserved awards; he was recognized with honors such as the New York City Distinguished Service Award, the Presidential Voluntary Action Award, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award, the Emery Award from the Hetrick Martin Institute, and Tony and Drama Desk honors. Most re-

cently, he received the Patient Advocacy Award from the American Psychiatric Association.

Beyond his professional contributions, friends knew Rodger as a devoted caregiver who nursed countless friends and family members battling cancer and AIDS. He was the most compassionate and giving of friends, especially to those in physical or emotional distress. A hallmark of his personality, his humor made him stand out from the rest.

Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Rodger McFarlane, a constituent of mine, who was a tireless activist, a brilliant strategist, a remarkable leader, and a treasured friend. A man who achieved so much in such a short time, Rodger will be missed by many. Denver is better for the time he spent there. Our world is better for the time he spent here.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAKWOOD
CEMETERY IN MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the 125th anniversary of Oakwood Cemetery in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Since Oakwood's formal recognition in 1883, concerned local citizens have worked tirelessly to ensure that those in the community who have left this life have a peaceful and dignified final resting place. This Memorial Day, the hard-working staff, which does so much to maintain Oakwood, will welcome area residents to the annual Memorial Day Weekend Drive-Thru. Local citizens can visit the resting places of such prominent citizens as the city's first mayor, James Pace, Civil War Generals C.W. Pavey and W.B. Anderson, and Illinois Governor L.L. Emmerson.

Over the decades, local residents have put great efforts in creating a beautiful and serene final resting place. According to its official history, the cemetery has over 9,000 markers spread along five miles of roads. The groundskeepers mow an average of 35 times per year, totaling 1,600 acres.

I want to salute the board members and staff members, past and present, of the Oakwood Cemetery in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, for the important work that they have done for 125 years.

THE MEDICAL RIGHTS ACT OF 2009,
H.R. 2516

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand here today to introduce the Medical Rights Act of 2009 that will protect the doctor-patient relationship, the integrity of the medical profession and the right of Americans to choose the care they deem appropriate without federal delay or restriction.

The President outlined three principles for health care reform—lower costs, choice and access. I support these goals. To back them,