

every Federal dollar invested in education, that we get 95 cents of every dollar back into the classroom.

It is time for us to remove the red tape which really restricts innovation at the local level. It is time for us to allow local school districts to decide whether they want to use money on technology, to hire teachers, to pay teachers more for teacher training or for investment in other projects. Allow people at the local level to make the decisions.

There is a lot of good things happening in education in America today. The focus needs to be on the local level and not here in Washington.

TRIBUTE TO GILBERT WOLF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and a great American, Mr. Gilbert Wolf. On April 1 of this year, Gilbert Wolf retired as Director of the National Plastering Industry's Joint Apprenticeship Trust Fund and Administrator of the Plasterers and Cement Masons Job Corps Training Program. After 49 years in the industry, Mr. Wolf has left a legacy of superior skills training directed toward young people entering the construction trades.

A plasterer by trade, Mr. Wolf began his own career as an apprentice and went on to become a journeyman and then apprentice instructor. In 1969, he was instrumental in securing a contract with the Department of the Interior to train economically disadvantaged youth to become plasterers and cement masons. After a successful operation in three Job Corps centers, Mr. Wolf was awarded additional contracts with the Department of the Interior and labor. The Plasterers and Cement Masons Job Corps Training Program, under Gilbert Wolf's guidance, now boasts participation in 41 centers throughout the United States.

Training and motivating youth in careers in the construction industry has been Mr. Wolf's major focus for over four decades. He spearheaded several national events to bring the need for youth training to the forefront. Competition was one of his favorite themes. The result was three international apprenticeship competitions over a 5-year period; two Job Corps national competitions and countless skills demonstrations at trade shows and construction industry events throughout the United States. These events consistently showed the public the need for and the importance of solid skills training.

The Smithsonian Institute's famous Festival of Life became the setting for another national skills demonstration by Job Corps students from around the country. Mr. Wolf led the committees who organized the 2-week long festivals and won a spot on Good Morning America.

Mr. Wolf also coauthored papers on historical preservation and restoration with the Department of the Interior and the National Trust for Historical Preservation. A partnership with the NTHP brought opportunities for Job Corps students to learn and to work on important historical landmarks and to develop specialized skills.

Mr. Wolf also coauthored the Incentive Apprenticeship Training Course, which guides instructors through the process of training a number of people at multiple levels.

Gilbert Wolf is also credited with pushing hard to increase the number of women and other minorities into skills training and the construction industry. He was the first in the Job Corps to hire a woman as an instructor in a non-traditional trade.

When asked what has kept him going in this industry for the last 49 years, Mr. Wolf responded, where are the future skilled crafts people coming from, and who will train them? Passing a legacy of knowledge from one generation to the next is the backbone of our building industry. Young people are our only chance to keep building a strong America.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to express my own personal deep appreciation for the fact that Gilbert Wolf has been a mentor to my brother Roger and a valued friend to me. This Nation would be stronger and we would all be better people if more of us were more like Gil Wolf. I wish him a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

PIPELINE SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, in June 1999, a gasoline pipeline ruptured in Bellingham, Washington, and the ensuing fireball killed three young men. Following that tragedy, the House of Representatives did nothing.

Several months ago, a fuel pipeline ruptured by the Patuxent River in Maryland, spilling over 100,000 gallons of fuel, creating an environmental disaster. And following that disaster, the U.S. House of Representatives did nothing.

Several weeks ago in New Mexico, in Madam Speaker's own State, entire families were incinerated in a terrible tragedy due to a ruptured natural gas pipeline. And to date, despite many of our best efforts, the U.S. House of Representatives has done nothing.

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This Chamber, despite this continuing toll of human loss and environmental loss, has not moved one bill through committee, has not moved one bill to the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote despite many of our bipartisan efforts to accomplish a meaningful bill this year.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on the House leadership to bring forward

to this Chamber a meaningful, comprehensive, pipeline safety bill with real teeth. And we have several to choose from in the House. We have a bipartisan bill cosponsored by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF), a Republican from the Second District in Washington, and myself, H.R. 4558. I am a prime sponsor on a bill, House bill 4792, bills that will achieve something we have long needed in this country and that is statutorily codified inspection criteria to require that pipelines in this country are inspected on a regular basis to try to prevent these tragedies.

Now, why is that so important? It is important because the tradition in the last several decades here has been of abject failure. What has happened before is that when tragedies of this nature have occurred, the U.S. Congress has passed bills that have essentially deferred to an administrative agency, to the Office of Pipeline Safety, and have directed the Office of Pipeline Safety to adopt meaningful inspection criteria, to adopt meaningful training criteria for operators.

And what has happened despite those continued grants of discretion to the administrative agency? Well, what has happened is total failure.

In 1992, this Chamber required requirements to identify high-risk pipelines. And yet, in a new millennium, we still do not have a regulation or rule requiring that. We have the National Transportation Safety Board. It found "in 1987, the Safety Board recommended that the Office of Pipeline Safety require pipeline operators to periodically inspect their pipelines to identify corrosion, mechanical damage, or other time dependent defects that may prohibit their safe operations. Yet, 13 years after our initial recommendation was issued, there are no regulations that require pipeline operators to perform periodic inspections or tests to locate and assess whether this type of damage exists on other pipelines."

Thirteen years and yet we are on the cusp of a failure if we do not pass a bill that has a statutorily required maximum period between inspections.

Now, the other Chamber, Madam Speaker, has passed a bill that again requires and gives discretion to the Office of Pipeline Safety to act. Well, frankly, we need a tougher bill. We need to break this chain of failure in the U.S. Congress. We need to bring to the floor of this House a bill that will have a statutorily codified inspection regime to make sure that these pipelines are in fact inspected.

I believe we can obtain a bipartisan resolution and get a bill to conference committee relatively quickly to do that under the leadership of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member.

There have been lots of discussions, and I believe we can find a bipartisan

solution to this to make sure we pass a meaningful bill.

I want to address a couple of other things our bill needs to do if we are going to give Americans the confidence they deserve in their pipelines. Besides the inspection, we have got to pass a bill that has meaningful training requirements for the people who operate these pipelines. They have to get a license to drive a truck with gasoline in this country. They have to get a license to fly an airplane. But they do not have to have any license or essentially any training requirements to operate a pipeline. It is time to require a meaningful training requirement for all operators.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to help this leadership bring these bills up for a vote.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN B. DUFF, PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA COL- LEGE CHICAGO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. John B. Duff, who is retiring as President of Columbia College Chicago after 8 successful years and an illustrious career in both academia and the public sector.

Prior to Columbia, Dr. Duff served as commissioner of the Chicago Public Library system, where he supervised construction of the Harold Washington Library, the world's largest public library. His academic positions include serving as the first chancellor of the Board of Regents from Massachusetts' newly reorganized system of public higher education; president of the University of Lowell, Massachusetts; and lay provost, executive vice president and processor of history at Seton Hall University.

Founded in 1890, Columbia College Chicago is an undergraduate and graduate college in downtown Chicago, dedicated to communication arts as well as media arts, applied and fine arts, theatrical and performing arts, and management and marketing arts. It is the fifth largest private institution of higher education in Illinois and the largest and most comprehensive arts media and communications college in the country.

More than one-third of Columbia's 9,000 students are minorities, the largest minority enrollment of any arts and communication institution in the country.

Columbia today is 50 percent larger than it was 9 years ago. In terms of physical space, under Dr. Duff's leadership, Columbia acquired 650,000 square feet. During this time, the first residence hall and new film stage facilities were opened, a new home for the music department was purchased, a new dance center was built, the 33 East Congress Building was purchased to

house the English Department and the Radio Department, and Chicago's historic Ludington Building was acquired providing gallery space, student space, the Film/Video Department, and the Center for Book and Paper Arts.

The college has played a major role in the revitalization of the South Loop and, working with its neighbors, arts organizations, entrepreneurs and the city is spearheading the development of a Wabash Avenue Arts Corridor.

The growth of Columbia's faculty was also a priority for Dr. Duff during his tenure. The college added more than 100 full-time faculty positions to enhance curriculum development and management, to give more continuity to the educational programs, and to increase student contact with faculty.

Dr. Duff also reinforced the college's commitment to its students by strengthening developmental education programs, to help students stay in school and graduate. Open-admissions arts colleges are rare, but one as academically strong as Columbia is truly unique.

Today, thanks to Dr. Duff's leadership, Columbia remains secure in its mission and traditional commitments to opportunity, diversity, and professional education in the arts and communications.

Madam Speaker, I invite all Members of the House to join with me in recognizing Dr. John Duff's many contributions to higher education to the City of Chicago and to the State of Illinois and in wishing him and his wife, journalist Estelle Shanley, our very best as they join one-fifth of the rest of the population in this country and move out to California to spend the rest of their days.

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to join a number of my colleagues in celebrating National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.

The contributions made by HBCUs to the African American community, to our country, and to our culture cannot be overstated.

As President Clinton noted in proclaiming the week of September 17 as HBCU Week, "Generations of African

American educators, physicians, lawyers, scientists, and other professionals found at HBCUs the knowledge, experience and encouragement they needed to reach their full potential."

The alumni rolls of HBCUs are very long. They include two very distinguished, extraordinary Americans, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Booker T. Washington. In addition, they include a number of my colleagues who will be joining me today.

Today, Madam Speaker, Historically Black Colleges and Universities comprise about three percent of all colleges and universities. However, they confer nearly 30 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded each year to African Americans.

HBCUs, Historically Black Colleges, also confer the majority of bachelor's degrees and advance degrees awarded to black students in the physical sciences, mathematics, computer sciences, engineering, and education. More than half of all African American professionals, including 70 percent of African American dentists and physicians, graduated from Historically Black institutions.

The real story, Madam Speaker, that underlies these figures is the story of hope and opportunity. We cannot, we should not, we must not run from our history no matter how painful, no matter how disgraceful.

Before the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, African Americans were routinely and wrongly excluded from institutions of higher learning. It did not matter how smart they were. It did not matter how much talent or potential they had. The only thing, tragically, that mattered was the color of their skin.

But out of that rank injustice, that indefensible racism, was born a fortitude and a determination to rise above, to overcome, to overcome through education. Thus, the first black college, which is now known as Cheyney University in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, was founded in 1837.

To appreciate the magnitude of this, remember that Cheyney was created a full 28 years before the ratification of the 13th amendment established to train free blacks to become school teachers.

Today Cheyney is one of the 105 HBCUs that continue to serve with great pride as an avenue for African Americans to attend college and indeed for other Americans to attend college, as well.

Four of those Historically Black Colleges are located in the State of Maryland, including Bowie State University in my own district, which was founded in 1865. Bowie State University is the oldest Historically Black University in Maryland. The others, Madam Speaker, are Morgan State, Coppin State, both in Baltimore, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Shortly, I will be joined by my colleague, the gentleman from Maryland