

HONORING LOUISE BELKIN, FRANK JOSLYN, AND TERRY WERDEN FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO TEACHING AT THE WEST DISTRICT SCHOOL IN FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the achievements of three excellent teachers from West District School in Farmington, Connecticut. They are Mrs. Louise Belkin, Mr. Frank Joslyn, and Mrs. Terry Werden. All three will leave West District at the end of the 2001–2002 school year.

Mrs. Belkin has been an elementary school teacher in the Farmington School System for 33 years, teaching at West District for 27 years. She has been a leader in the field of mathematics and served as the school's math resource teacher for 14 years. During this time, she created and composed math curriculum and assessments for the district as well as organized and taught the district's math summer school program. She has served as an elementary-level representative to the ATOMIC Executive Board and a PIMMS Fellow. In 2001, she co-authored a geometry book to be used by teachers published by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Mrs. Belkin has actively served in the Farmington Education Association, serving as the building representative for ten years, treasurer for fourteen years and a member of the negotiations committee through five contracts.

Over the past 20 years, Mrs. Belkin has arranged for me to hold annual press conferences for West District School's fifth grade. I have looked forward to this every year and regret that Mrs. Belkin's retirement and the change in the grade structure in the Farmington School system mean the end of these events at West District School.

Mr. Frank Joslyn was recognized as Farmington's Teacher of the Year for 1993–94. He served with the Farmington Education Association as a building representative, a Council member and an officer. He developed and implemented a "Homes of America" program for both parents and children, teaching them history through architecture. He also co-planned and produced the annual Veteran's Day Program at West District School. And he served as West District's "lead teacher" for more than 8 weeks during the prolonged illness of the principal. Mr. Joslyn's influence on the school body and fellow members of the faculty has been tremendous. He has shared his artistic skills to enhance the school building, designing a display case, memorial benches, banners as well as the school's letterhead and note cards and a memorial sculpture. While everyone at West District School will miss Mr. Joslyn's leadership and artistic insight, we take comfort in the knowledge that the students at Farmington's new 5–6 school will benefit from his talents and abilities.

Mrs. Terry Werden has been with West District School for 34 years, serving as the Science Resource Teacher for 13 years. She served as an outdoor educator, organized the "Kids and Chemistry" nights for several years

and introduced the "Invention Convention" the West District School's Grade 5. She also has given her time as an active member of the Farmington Education Association, and as a member of curriculum teams for writing, science and social studies. She currently has three students whose parents she also taught in the Farmington School system. Mrs. Werden is a dedicated public servant and her influence has been strongly felt throughout West District School and the families it serves. Her presence within our walls will be greatly missed, as she moves on to teach at Farmington's new 5–6 school.

These three educators have served on the same team for a quarter of a century. Combined, their efforts have amounted to 93 years of service at the West District School. The children, parents and families whose lives have been touched by their expertise and dedication can never forget the example of public service these three outstanding educators have set. I wish them well in all their future endeavors.

THE RECOGNITION OF DR. SIDNEY PESTKA, 2001 NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY LAUREATE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Sidney Pestka who was named the 2001 National Medal of Technology Laureate for his pioneering achievements in the field of biotechnology. Dr. Pestka is from my district and joins us from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey in Piscataway, New Jersey.

Mr. Chairman, in 1969, Dr. Sidney Pestka began a project to determine what interferon was—a substance that held the possibility of curing viral diseases, diseases that defied treatments, diseases that challenged the ingenuity of medicine for centuries, diseases including hepatitis, influenza, Ebola, Dengue, Yellow Fever, West Nile, and even the common cold. The possibility that a single medicine could treat all or at least many viral diseases was alluring. After a few months evaluating the scientific basis and potential of interferon, Dr. Pestka began to translate this dream into reality.

For the next seventeen years, Dr. Pestka made a remarkable series of discoveries and developments, often bucking prevailing beliefs and designing innovative solutions to problems along the way to success. His achievements carried out at the Roche Institute led to numerous medical applications including cloning of the human genes, development of immunological assays with monoclonal antibodies and medical application of interferon for viral diseases, to name only a few. In 1986, Dr. Pestka's dreams became reality when the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the interferon that he developed.

The approval of interferon by the FDA was significant, not only because it allowed Dr. Pestka's development to be applied to treat viral diseases but also because it prepared the pathway for many other biotherapeutic agents

now used in the clinic and stimulated the creation and development of today's extensive biotechnology industry. Dr. Pestka's achievements are the basis of several U.S. and foreign patents and interferon is now a major product of several U.S. and foreign companies. The market for interferon is expected to exceed \$7 billion by 2003.

In addition to interferon's commercial impact, there was no general antiviral therapy available before Dr. Pestka began his work on interferon; today, interferon is the first and only general antiviral therapy. Interferon is used to treat hepatitis B and C, diseases that afflict 300 million people worldwide. Today, interferon is used for the treatment of cancers such as metastatic malignant melanoma, kidney and bladder cell carcinoma, some leukemias, AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma, and multiple sclerosis. Mr. Chairman, many individuals are now alive and well after treatment with interferon as a result of Dr. Pestka's achievements.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to point out that the potential of interferon has caught the imagination of the public with many newspaper, magazine and journal articles about interferon over the past twenty years. Most scientists in academia do not bring achievements in research directly into commercial products with special considerations for scale up, environmental impact, economy, efficiency and efficacy. Dr. Pestka has bridged this gap by making seminal achievements in all these avenues from concept, to basic research and to practical application. He has fostered new industries in multiple areas, developed new medicines for previously untreatable diseases, and brought new hope to those afflicted. These pioneering achievements were prefaced and followed by many other basic scientific discoveries in chemistry, biochemistry, genetic engineering and molecular biology from the genetic code and protein biosynthesis to interferons, cytokines, receptors and cell signaling.

In closing, Dr. Pestka's achievements in innovation and translation provide a role model for this and future generations.

TRIBUTE TO MARATHON GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Marathon High School Girls Field Hockey Team for winning their fourth consecutive Class D New York State Championship. The MHS Girls Field Hockey team, coached by three-time New York State Championship Coach Karen Funk, finished the year with an unprecedented (24–0) season while also receiving the New York State Scholar/Athlete Team Award by maintaining a team average of 94.5.

The Lady Olympians scored a total of 127 goals this season while only allowing 6 goals against them which contributed to 18 total shutouts this season. In addition to their outstanding season, MHS had two National All American players and two All State Players. With a combination of hard work and determination the MHS Girls Field Hockey Team

has established a dynasty within the realms of Girls Field Hockey.

On behalf of the residents of the 25th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate the Marathon High School Girls Field Hockey team and their coach Karen Funk on their Class D New York State Girls Field Hockey Championship. With these remarks, I would like to recognize the following players and staff: Coach—Karen Funk, Scorekeeper—Jenelle Dayton, Alexandra Askew, Brooke Atwood, Nikki Billings, Amanda Bliss, Danielle Braman, Lauren Brooks, Nicole Dann, Danielle Dayton, Danielle Diaz, Heather Doran, Alissa French, Lisa Gilbert, Jamie Gofgosky, Jessica Gofgosky, Eileen Hoyt, Maranda Kinsman, Tiffany Marsh, Jolene Phillips, Allison Robertson, Jacki Rose, Shira Thomas, and Kaitlin Veninsky.

Congratulations to all.

A TRIBUTE TO LENFORD L.
ROBINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lenford L. Robins, a leasing representative and a fine individual.

Currently the Founder and Chairman of Bridgeport Capital Resources Inc. Mr. Robins attended St. George College in the West Indies and subsequently worked as a law clerk in the Criminal Justice System, Sutton Street Court Division, Kingston, Jamaica, and immigrated to the United States in 1969 to further his studies. In the United States, he attended New York School of Dentistry and Brooklyn Community College, where he received his degree in Orthodontic Dentistry. He went on to invent the "Tooth Aligner," commonly known as the "Spring Retainer," which is used in all dental practices globally.

In 1973, Mr. Robins changed his career path and pursued corporate financing. He became a member of the "Elite Clout Club" of First Investor Investment Corporation, and joined Ford Motor Credit from 1976 to 1979, where he was trained as a representative. He has worked as a Leasing and Credit manager for Toyota Motor Credit, Honda, Volkswagen, and BMW, and has received several awards for his outstanding performance and contributions in the leasing industry.

Mr. Robins has also served as the Director of Leasing for Emar International and Reserve Lease Systems, as the President of Leasing Research International, and as the Director of International Markets for Blockwell Funding Corporation. He has also headed the International Division for GFI Business Capital. In each of these capacities, he has used his expertise to train others, and has been recognized and respected by his peers. As proof of his prominence, Mr. Robins has been interviewed on the Bill McCreary Report on Fox Channel 5 Television and CNBC Television, and has been written about in several newspapers and magazines. He is also the author of "The Advantages of Leasing."

I would like to commend to my colleagues' attention the many achievements of Mr. Lenford L. Robins, a true expert in equipment leasing.

ARTICLE BY GEOFF D. PORTER

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record a June 1 New York Times op-ed by Geoff D. Porter, a professor of Middle Eastern studies who expresses frustration at what he says is a slow and ineffective means by which the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been trying to recruit those proficient in Arabic. Since his insight as to the need for experts in the various dialects makes a compelling argument, I've also forwarded a copy of the article to FBI Director Robert Mueller.

I thank my friend, Professor David Randall Luce of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for bringing this article to my attention.

[From the New York Times, June 1, 2002]

LOST IN TRANSLATION AT THE F.B.I.

(By Geoff D. Porter)

In announcing his restructuring of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Robert S. Mueller III, its director, stressed the importance of upgrading the F.B.I.'s intelligence capabilities by recruiting "the right people with the right experience." If my own experience with the agency is any guide, that should include an urgent recruiting drive for people with the right Arabic language skills.

Less than a week after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, I responded to the F.B.I.'s calls for Arabic translators. I know of a half-dozen other Middle Eastern studies graduates who also applied—Ph.D.s who, like me, are proficient in one or more Arabic dialects, as well as in Modern Standard Arabic. Ultimately—dismayed by what seemed to us the agency's flawed understanding of what proficiency in Arabic means—none of us pursued our candidacies.

I applied less than a week after Sept. 11 but wasn't called for the four-and-a-half hour translation test until January. It wasn't until February that I sat for a four-hour interview and polygraph test. The F.B.I. was then to begin a six- to eight-month background check. At the earliest, I might have started translating more than a year after I applied.

The slow pace, however, wasn't the most unsettling characteristic of the process. There was something more worrisome: The F.B.I.'s Arabic translation test simply does not measure all the language skills needed for intelligence gathering focused on Arabic speakers.

The Arabic-language test—copyrighted in 1994 by the Defense Language Institute, according to the back of my exam booklet—was solely in Modern Standard Arabic, the Arabic most frequently studied at American universities. This is the form used for official speeches and in the news media in Arab countries—but almost never in conversation. It differs substantially from the spoken varieties of Arabic in vocabulary, syntax and idioms—enough so that a non-native speaker who learned only Modern Standard Arabic would not be able to understand Arabic speakers talking to one another.

The regional dialects also differ from one another—varying considerably from one end of the Arabic-speaking world (in Morocco) to the other (in Oman). The dialects are, for some Arabic speakers, mutually unintelligible. (Once, I mistakenly gave a Cairo taxi driver directions in Moroccan Arabic, and he responded: "Ich spreche kein Deutsch.")

These varieties of Arabic are the language of the market, the home and the street for

the world's 200 million Arabic speakers. Yet no colloquial Arabic, in any dialect, appeared anywhere on the F.B.I.'s Arabic translation test, which included a listening-comprehension section.

During my post-exam interview, I tried to offer some feedback about the test's failure to measure skills in everyday spoken Arabic, but the interviewer brusquely moved on to his next question. Nor was there a chance for me to name the two Arabic dialects in which I am proficient. The interview is scripted; there is no room for unscripted interaction. All the other Middle East studies applicants with whom I spoke said they, too, noticed the test's shortcoming but couldn't find an opening to comment on it.

As the F.B.I. reorganizes, it should improve its recruitment of Arabic translators by adding tests that measure fluency in one or more of these numerous Arabic dialects. Otherwise, its translators may be limited to reading Arabic newspapers or listening to Al Jazeera broadcasts. They may misunderstand wiretapped phone conversations or be unable to identify crucial information. Until the F.B.I. shows more willingness to listen to the experts it is trying to attract, it will not get the expertise it needs.

CONTINUATION OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to racial discrimination which continues to be a problem in America. Recently, in my home state of Mississippi, more specifically, Brandon, Mississippi, a couple was discriminated against while trying to buy a home. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Keys, an African-American couple, were attempting to purchase a home in Brandon when they were harassed verbally by a neighborhood resident, Chris Hope. Hope threatened the safety of the Keys' children after asking them why did they want to stay in a white neighborhood.

Mr. Hope was later subpoenaed when the Department of Housing and Urban Development filed charges on behalf of the Keys, who filed a housing discrimination complaint. Mr. Hope was later ordered to pay \$146,000. Hope is to pay \$126,000 to the Keys for damages and \$8,140 to their real estate agent. He has to also pay \$11,000 in civil penalties.

Mr. Speaker, HUD released a statement saying that, "racial discrimination will not be tolerated". I strongly support that statement. Discrimination is too often overlooked because it is thought of as a topic of the past. This story reinforces my belief that racial discrimination still exist. We must respond accordingly to discrimination cases.

A familiar document that we know as The Declaration of Independence states that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Racial discrimination is not only a moral injustice but it is also a legal injustice.