

Mr. Speaker, the importance of Kazakh oil fields to the U.S. cannot blind us to President Nazarbayev's ongoing assault against the liberties of the men and women of Kazakhstan. I call upon President Nazarbayev to live up to his stated commitments to human rights and an independent media. And I call on this Administration to press for a resumption of a free press and tolerant government in Kazakhstan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to cast my votes on rollcall votes 230, 231, and 232 on June 17, 2002. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 230, 231, and 232.

THE FIRST TEE RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution recognizing the efforts of The First Tee, a youth character building organization with programs located throughout the country that provides young people of all backgrounds an opportunity to develop, through both the game of golf and character education, values and character traits that will positively impact their lives and experiences in school.

The First Tee programs are community-based and are implemented through a partnership of parents, civic and corporate leaders, state and local governments, youth-serving agencies, schools, and the golfing community.

This week, President and Mrs. Bush are hosting a conference at the White House on the importance of character education to our Nation's youth. This resolution reflects the House's continuing commitment to ensuring that positive values are instilled in all children at a young age, and recognizes one community-based program that is making a real difference for disadvantaged children across the country.

Many children throughout the United States face difficult circumstances in their lives. Broken homes, poverty, drugs, alcohol, and violence are everyday factors that many of today's youth continually face. A structured activity, the enjoyment of sport, and the teaching of positive values and character traits can be a tremendous experience and welcome respite in the lives of these young people.

The First Tee, an innovative model of public-private partnership, is working to make the game of golf more affordable and accessible to young people throughout the Nation by opening up golf courses and providing instruction for free and reduced rates to children of all socioeconomic backgrounds. By the year 2005, The First Tee will serve more than 500,000 children in 250 programs throughout the United States. In my state of Ohio, there are currently four First Tee facilities that serve more than 1,500 hundred children.

And just as importantly, the golf-related exercises are paired with The First Tee Life Skills program, through which young people learn the importance of maintaining a positive attitude, considering the consequences of their decisions, setting and achieving objectives, holding themselves to high standards, and applying to their everyday lives values such as responsibility, honesty, integrity, respect, confidence and sportsmanship.

One student in particular, Amber Davis, has been involved with The First Tee of Atlanta since April of 2000. Her dedication and enthusiasm has helped her progress through the first three levels of The First Tee certification process. She has participated at both of The First Tee Life Skills and Leadership Academies at Kansas State University over the past two summers, and received the Renee Powell Award for Female Leadership during the inaugural academy. She currently spends her spare time volunteering as a mentor for 13 of the young female participants in The First Tee program. An accomplished golfer, she has competed in several local, regional, state and national tournaments and was the only freshman to make the golf team at Woodward Academy in Atlanta. She credits The First Tee program with helping her to develop her strong leadership skills.

Again, I am pleased to bring attention to The First Tee and am grateful for its work in our Nation's communities. I ask for my colleagues support and urge them to join me as a cosponsor of this resolution.

FRANK H. DAVENPORT: A LIFE-LONG ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank H. Davenport as he prepares to close the chapter on his 24 years of service as a member of the Essexville-Hampton Public Schools Board of Education. Frank's devotion to children and his dedication to improving the quality of education in Essexville will serve for many years as a model for all who choose to volunteer their time and talents to their community.

Frank's passion for education began in 1954 as a civics teacher at Essexville Schools, where stayed for 10 years before heading to the Bangor School District to work with Special Education students. After eight years, Frank again was ready for a new challenge, spending the next 13 years at the Bay Arenac Skill Center, now known as the Career Center, from which he retired in 1985 as Curriculum Coordinator. His work earned him a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America.

Frank was elected to the Essexville-Hampton Board of Education for the first time in 1967, where he served until 1971. He returned in 1982 and has been a board member ever since, including terms as Board President during the 2000-01 school year and as Board Secretary from 1996 to 2000 and again during the 2001-02 school year. He also has served on the Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District Board of Education since 1989.

Frank's enthusiasm for starting young people off on the right path led him to become the first President/Manager of the Essexville-Hampton Little League. He also was the original President of the Garber Athletic Association. His eagerness for improving his community also prompted Frank to serve on the City Commission and the City Planning Commission in the 1960s.

Naturally, the magnitude and longevity of Frank's community service required the encouragement and support of his family. Gloria, Frank's wife for 51 years, and their seven children, Frank III, Thomas, Charles, David, James, Beverly and Daniel also deserve our gratitude for having been an integral part of his efforts.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to applaud Frank Davenport for his years of commitment to young people. He has served our community well. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing thanks to Frank for his many years of service and in wishing him the best in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI IRWIN GRONER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 20 there will be a celebration of the 70th birthday of Rabbi Irwin Groner and the 40th anniversary of his service to Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, Michigan.

Shaarey Zedek has a long and distinguished history in the Detroit metropolitan area. It has served as a spiritual home for tens of thousands of families, including my own beginning with my beloved grandparents and so many others after their arrival from Europe and continuing with our parents of blessed memory and their generation.

Rabbi Groner came to the leadership of Shaarey Zedek after the tragic death of Rabbi Morris Adler. He continued, indeed deepened, the tradition of meeting the needs of individual spirituality and serving both the Jewish community and the broader community of metropolitan Detroit.

During his 40 year tenure, Rabbi Groner has responded to the needs of all whether in times of joy or moments of bereavement, whether encouraging the young in search of knowledge, new families seeking guidance and support for their aspirations, or older persons. His sermons over the years have been marked by their insightfulness, wisdom, and wit, delivered with the brilliance of his unique oratory. As said by his colleagues, he is "a brilliant orator and original thinker."

Even more significant still has been Rabbi Irwin Groner's endeavors one on one. For thousands, he filled gaps when there was a deep vacuum and provided strength at times of weakness.

He has reached out to the broader community on national issues, on state issues, serving as the Chairman of the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission, and on metropolitan Detroit issues, having been active in programs of interfaith dialogue and honored at the annual Dove dinner, along with Detroit Cardinal Adam Maida.

It is an honor to be able to present in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, on behalf of so

many of my constituents and so many others, a heartfelt tribute to Rabbi Irwin Groner. Forty plus seventy has the sound of biblical numbers; Rabbi Groner has surely lived up to, indeed exceeded, his biblical calling.

TRIBUTE TO MILLIE BENSON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in sad acknowledgment of the passing from this life of a national heroine and true Toledo treasure. Millie Benson, author of the original Nancy Drew series of books and lifelong adventurer, passed away on Tuesday, May 28, 2002 the age of 96 years. She had spent the day at her desk at The Blade newspaper completing her regular column. That last column, published on May 29, 2002, discussed the history and importance of the public library system. It is a fitting end to the storied career of a woman who inspired a lifelong passion for reading, as she herself had, in generations of youngsters.

Millie Benson was born in the town of Ladora, Iowa to Dr. J.L. and Lillian Augustine on July 10, 1905. In addition to being a voracious reader, she also excelled at athletics. She pursued both while a student at the University of Iowa, where she was a champion diver, a reporter for the local newspaper, and a published author. Her first story was published in 1919 in The Nicholas Magazine of New York. It was when completing her Master's Degree that she began her famous book series, and under a pen name wrote the first 23 books of the Nancy Drew mysteries. Paid little and required to sign away the rights, Mildred Benson remained in obscurity as the books' author until a legal battle in 1983 revealed her identity.

In the meantime, Mildred Benson, who had married Asa Wirt in 1928, kept busy with many other pursuits including the writing of several other series for children and novels, obtaining both commercial and instrument rated private pilot licenses (in her sixties!), and traveling into such remote outposts as the jungles of Mexico and South America and archeological sites in Central America, where she pursued her hobby exploring Mayan civilization. After Mr. Wirt's passing, in 1950 she married George Benson. Mr. Benson was editor of the Toledo Times newspaper. Thus began her revived career as a reporter. When the Toledo Times ceased publication in 1959, she began working for The Blade.

The 1990s brought her renewed acclaim as the author of the Nancy Drew series. Although in her eighties and nineties, she was a guest of many national and worldwide conferences, publications, and televised broadcasts. In 1993, she was the feature of the University of Iowa's Nancy Drew conference. Recognized by her alma mater not only for her journalism, she was also remembered as the first woman to receive a master's degree in journalism from that institution, an accomplishment she achieved in 1927. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame and received her alma mater's highest alumni award. Other recognitions included lifetime achievement awards from the Ohio Newspaper Women

(1997) and The Blade (1999), an honorary Doctor of Letters Degree from Adrian College in Michigan (1999), and the Ohio Library Association's recognition of her "distinguished and creative contributions to children's literature" (1989). Even while living this full and creative life, Millie Benson never forgot her fans. She answered every single letter, honored each request for an autograph, and always had time to talk to her fans.

Everyday of Mildred Benson's life was spent living to life's absolute fullest. Her example inspired those around her. Her unflagging enthusiasm for her chosen profession was infectious and her zest for life unsurpassed. Perhaps Blade publisher John R. Block summarized her best, saying "Millie Benson was one of the greatest women writers and journalists of the 20th century. She was gutsy and daring, a living embodiment of her Nancy Drew heroine." Our deepest condolences go now to her daughter Peggy. Yet Mildred Benson's lasting legacy remains through her books and the millions of lives her writing and her life have influenced.

In a 1973 issue of Books At Iowa describing her career, Millie Benson wrote of writing for the ages and not just a place in time, but her essay "The Ghost of Ladora" is actually the finest tribute to her life's passage, "So now it is time for the final chapter, seemingly one destined from the beginning. A fadeout becomes the most difficult of all, for the story is finished, the reader led to believe that the very best lies directly ahead. New worlds to conquer! New horizons to explore! . . . and all the pilots of fantasy suddenly take shape before our eyes, their wagging wings flashing the personal message: 'Come fly with me.' Such challenge cannot be denied. Work forgotten, we hasten to the nearby airport where a small plane awaits its all-too-willing passenger. Eagerly we take off, climbing high above the smog, the petty perplexities of life. The sky is blue. The wind blows free, Here at last, far above the earth, age and youth imperceptibly blend, and stem reality dissolves into the ultimate Magnificent Dream."

HONORING PROFESSOR YAN XIN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions and achievements of Professor Yan Xin on the twelfth anniversary of the professor's introduction of the "Yan Xin Life Science Technology" to the American public. Working as a physician, a professor and a scientist, Professor Yan Xin has had an integral role in major breakthroughs in experimental research, which have led to new methods of preventing disease and promoting the health of humankind.

Professor Yan Xin has long been recognized as a leader in the fight against cancer, AIDS, and diseases associated with the aging process. He has been certified as a chief physician by the Ministry of Health in China and has conducted collaborative research with several world-renowned research institutes and universities. Professor Yan Xin has been a blessing to both his colleagues and those who have benefited from his healing, so much

so that Presidents George H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton and George W. Bush have all met with him personally and praised his work.

The key to Professor Yan Xin's success is his ability to combine modern scientific procedures with traditional healing and fitness methods. Yan Xin Life Science Technology utilizes elements of traditional Chinese culture such as acupuncture and medicines derived from natural products, then incorporates Western health treatments and the research of Professor Yan Xin and his peers in the modern scientific community. This blend of intuitive and empirical thinking serves as an example for all of those who are working improve the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Professor Yan Xin both personally and on behalf of all those whose lives have been improved as a result of his work. Professor Yan Xin's career is far from over, and we can all look forward to continuing successes in his many areas of expertise.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BENJAMIN REED

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this month brings us the retirement of Dr. Benjamin Reed, long time county coroner in Fulton County, Ohio. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Reed, who ended his service April 1, 2002 after nearly four decades.

A physician in the finest sense of the word and true public servant, Dr. Reed is known by everyone in Fulton County and is doctor to all in his hometown of Delta and to so many more in Northwest Ohio. A friend and confidante to all who knew him, his energetic attitude and dedication to his profession are unsurpassed.

The practice of medicine runs deep in Dr. Reed's family. He followed in his grandfather's footsteps, obtaining his medical degree from the University of Louisville. He began his practice in Kentucky, then moved to West Virginia where he doctored to the people of a coal mining town. There he learned to put his skills to the test as he practiced everything from obstetrics to cardiology to surgery. It was soon after moving to Delta that he began working in the coroners office, to which he was elected after seven years. In 1994, his neighbors recognized him as Delta's Citizen of the Year.

In addition to his practice and his coroner's work, Dr. Reed held offices with the Ohio State Medical Association, the Fulton County Medical Society, and the American Heart Association's Northwest Ohio Chapter. As he ends his public life, may Dr. Reed enjoy the serenity of family life and the peace which comes from a job well done. We wish him a very enjoyable retirement as he spends time on his own schedule and preferred activities, and with the family and friends dear to him. Thank you Dr. Reed, for your exemplary service to us all!