

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2559,
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, in response to questions on why I was one of five Members to vote against the conference report on H.R. 2259, the Military Construction Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004, I prepared the following statement: I voted against yesterday's conference report because it fails to include a vital project important to our national security on the Northern Border at the Niagara Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, New York.

Shortly after being elected to represent part of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, New York, I visited the base. I have become familiar with the service it provides not only to our community, but also to the nation. Most recently, I visited for the base for the happy occasion of the 914^b Airlift Wing's homecoming from deployment. The Air Force Reserve has even publicized the contributions of the base by showcasing the decision of 1st Lieutenant Chris Pfeil, Jr. and Staff Sergeant Tim McNelis, both from the 914th Airlift Wing, to follow their fathers' careers in the military. I ask unanimous consent that this article on their service be inserted in the RECORD. Other units stationed in Niagara Falls that are defending the home front and serving overseas are the 107th Air Refueling Wing and soldiers with the 865th Combat Support Hospital.

I have worked tirelessly with local officials, as well as my counterparts in the Senate, to secure the necessary funding to construct a facility at the base. Unfortunately, it appears that this project, rated the top priority by Niagara County officials, was not included in the final bill for the third year in a row. The fact that this funding was included in an earlier version of the bill, and then stripped out at the last minute during backroom maneuvers which sent the money to another part of New York State, is an insult to our democratic process. It seems that only bases represented by Members on the committee were funded. This is a disservice to the military facility in my district and bases throughout the country. It is a disservice to the men and women in uniform from the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station who have been deployed to serve their country in Iraq.

I could not, in good conscience, support this conference report. There is no doubt in my mind that the soldiers, not to mention the citizens in Niagara Falls, deserve better than what this bill provided. I want to assure the courageous servicepeople at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station that I am already preparing for the next opportunity to remedy this situation.

[From afreserve.com, June 17, 2003]

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON IN SOUTHWEST ASIA
(By Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith)

SOUTHWEST ASIA—The decision to follow their fathers into the military wasn't a difficult one for 1st Lt. Chris Pfeil Jr. and Staff Sgt. Tim McNelis, both from the 914th Airlift Wing, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, NY.

"I was introduced to it very young," said Chris Jr., a C-130 pilot with the 772nd Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. "So joining the military was always something I kept in the back of my mind."

Pfeil said his father, Senior Master Sgt. Chris Pfeil Sr., a C-130 loadmaster also assigned to the 772nd EAS, never pressured him but set an example for him to follow.

"It had to be his decision," said Chris Sr., "and it was important to support him in whatever he chose to do."

"I've always wanted to fly, and this was the best decision," Chris Jr. said, "but he never pushed it."

For Tim, a C-130 crew chief assigned to the 320th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, it was his father's advice against joining another branch of the service that encouraged him to try the Air Force Reserve Command.

"He wanted to join the Marines at first and then he talked about the Army," said Senior Master Sgt. Jerry McNelis, a C-130 loadmaster with the 772nd EAS, "but I talked him out of it."

Tim said he's happy with the decision he made to join the Reserve because it allowed him to continue with school, and two years ago he was hired as a full-time air reserve technician.

He also is happy he's had the opportunity to deploy with his father in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"It's good to have a family member here," Tim said. "You always have someone to talk to."

Knowing that his father will be flying on one of his aircraft also makes him want to go that extra step.

"It gives me the incentive to work that much harder knowing my dad is on my plane," he said.

For the Pfeils, being deployed here together has given both of them peace of mind.

"Any parent or child is going to be concerned," said Chris Sr., "but when Chris goes on a mission, chances are I was there the day before so I know the environment and what he can expect and that helps."

Having each other to lean on during this deployment has been a benefit for both father/son teams, and for the fathers it's an opportunity to see their children follow that much closer in their footsteps.

TRIBUTE TO AL HEILMAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated and selfless individual on the eve of his retirement from public service, Kalamazoo's Al Heilman. Since 1968, Al has served with great distinction the citizens of Kalamazoo in a number of capacities—from being first elected to the County Board in 1968 to having served as City Commissioner since 1995.

Many words come to mind as one reflects upon Al Heilman's public service to our community. He is selfless, generous, giving, caring, humble . . . the list goes on. Al is widely known for his extensive charitable gestures, often giving both money and time to local individuals, businesses, universities, and the community as a whole. There is no question that Al's dedication and contributions to the city will be missed.

Now, Al can "retire" to pleasing folks with his other trade—as owner and operator of

Heilman's Nuts and Confections. As a member of the business community, Al Heilman will continue to be a part of our everyday lives.

Our community is in debt to Al Heilman for his continued public service since 1968. I wish him and his family all the best as he departs public service. Al's contributions to our community have been many, and we are all better off from his service. For those that know him, his name alone helps define public service. All those that have met him, like him. All those that know him, love him.

TRIBUTE TO GTR OF GASSAWAY,
WEST VIRGINIA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of GTR of Gassaway, West Virginia, for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, GTR has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, GTR has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud GTR for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of GTR, and I offer them as an example to small and medium sized enterprises everywhere.

IRVING FRADKIN'S CONTINUED
WORK FOR EXPANDED EDU-
CATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, from time to time I have used this medium to share with my colleagues the important work being done by the Citizen's Scholarship Foundation of Fall River, Massachusetts, the organization created and run—with the help of many, many others in increasing numbers—by Dr. Irving Fradkin.

I do so not simply to give well deserved recognition to the tireless efforts of Dr. Fradkin on behalf of young people who might not get to benefit from a college education without his work, but more importantly to give an example to others of what can be done in this regard. Of course it is important that we in the Congress continue to provide public funds to help provide the equality of opportunity to higher education, which we all want to be a part of the American experience. A sufficient level of

public support is indispensable. But this does not mean that volunteer efforts of the sort that Dr. Fradkin encourages are irrelevant or insignificant. We need both.

Mr. Speaker, as an indication of the continued importance of Dr. Fradkin's work in helping gather funds to provide higher education to people who would otherwise be unable to afford it, I ask that the following documents be printed here. They include a Proclamation from the North Dakota Dollars for Scholars Governing Board, and several letters from young people who have been the beneficiaries of the scholarships generated by Dr. Fradkin's work.

PROCLAMATION TO HONOR DR. IRVING FRADKIN
ISSUED THIS FOURTH DAY OF JUNE, 2003, BY THE
NORTH DAKOTA DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS GOV-
ERNING BOARD

Whereas, North Dakota citizens value education and are supportive of young people pursuing postsecondary education plans; and

Whereas, North Dakota Dollars for Scholars has grown to having 69 chapters impacting 129 communities at the close of FY 03; and

Whereas, North Dakota has Initiated a state level organization, led by a voluntary group of state Governing Board members, to continue its rich history of scholarship support for postsecondary education; and

Whereas, all chapters in North Dakota to date have raised \$9.4 million for local awards and endowment building; and

Whereas, all chapters in North Dakota to date have awarded scholarships to 8,454 students why also receive a key message of encouragement and pride from their community in addition to the monetary award; and

Whereas, all programs of Scholarship America helped to bring over \$965,000 to North Dakota postsecondary education institutions, and

Whereas, the Dollars for Scholars program would not have been possible without the determination and vision of one man named Irving Fradkin;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By The North Dakota Dollars for Scholars Governing Board:

That our deep gratitude is extended to Irving Fradkin for making Dollars for Scholars possible in North Dakota and around the United States; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the North Dakota Dollars for Scholars Governing Board presents this resolution and plaque to Dr. Irving Fradkin to honor all he has done and accomplished for youth and education in America.

CHARLES STROUP,

Hazen, ND, NDDFS Governing Board Chair.

JULY 26, 2003.

HOW THE AMERICAN DREAM CHALLENGE AFFECTED ME

As a child I did not think about my future very much. Therefore, I was not very enthused when our teacher told us that we would be writing an essay to compete for a scholarship. I remember thinking that it was pointless considering I did not even know what a scholarship was until that very moment. I was in the fourth grade and the only thing I cared about was getting through the fifth grade to make it to middle school.

My attitude changed when I won the award. I was very proud of myself. I had earned the scholarship and now I looked forward to the day I could put it to use. I don't think that the essay process itself made me feel that way. Winning is what made me realize that college was a possibility. Ever since then, I have tried my best to do well in all my academics.

It has been eight years and some of my achievements include membership in the National Honors Society and being awarded a thousand dollar scholarship. I was accepted to Stone Hill College and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The American Dream Challenge is an excellent program that should be supported for the good it brings to our community. The youth is our future and the supporters of this program realize that and how important it is to influence children to strive for success.

NELIA LIMA.

DEAR DR. FRADKIN: I am a winner the American Dream Challenge and a Dollars for Scholars Scholarship. I would like to thank you and your colleagues for helping make my transition to college easier. Winning these scholarships made paying for college easier and I cannot thank you enough. There is so much going on when beginning college and these scholarships relieved some of the stress. Your commitment to the youth is unbelievable. I say this because I have experienced your commitment first hand. The belief you and your colleagues have in today's youth gives us a little more confidence and determination to achieve our goals so one day we can help tomorrow's youth. Once again, I would to thank you for helping me on my path into the future and that what you have done for me and so many others is greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten

Sincerely,

BRYAN S. DE SA.

C.V. CARROLL SCHOOL,
Fall River, MA.

THE AMERICAN DREAM CHALLENGE: A BLUEPRINT

The American Dream Challenge Program Committee is a dynamic, dedicated group of individuals who are working for a common goal, and unified goals. Their exceptional talents, dedication, and commitment are certainly felt within our educational system in our community.

What a Herculean task this is! The American Dream Challenge Group volunteers countless hours so that positive attitudes, ethics, and enthusiasm can regenerate in this depressed area and can begin with our youngest elementary students.

The concept of encouraging our students to do their very best, take charge of their lives, and stay in school is emphasized so magnificently by the Committee. The American Dream Challenge Group awards scholarships to elementary school children who are urged to put forth their best effort and make a difference in their school, their neighborhood and eventually give to their community.

With the American Dream Challenge we can feel the necessity for our students to strive for decency, and get back to basics of their lives.

Today we need more programs like the American Dream challenge with interested, concerned citizens volunteering with our youth and building better citizens and adults for tomorrow.

Thank you Dr. Fradkin and the American Dream Challenge Committee for including me and my students in a worthwhile endeavor.

Congratulations American Dream Challenge Committee and Dr. Irving Fradkin on a mammoth undertaking and a commendable start. The principal at C.V. Carroll school, Hr. Edward Campion, pledges his support for this program and encourages his staff to participate and pledge for future years.

BETSY COREY,
4th Grade Teacher.

O. AMARELO,
American Dream Challenge,
Fall River, MA.

DEAR MR. AMARELO AND THE REST OF THE AMERICAN DREAM CHALLENGE CHAIRPERSONS: As a member of the first recipients of the American Dream Challenge scholarship award, I would just like to give you an update on my status in my first year of college, as you asked for us to keep you updated at the award ceremony earlier this year. I am a student at Boston University and I am currently pursuing a major in psychology, and eventually, a pre-law concentration. I have just more than a month left of my first semester and it has been wonderful. The college courses and professors have given me new challenges to keep me going in pursuit of my education, in pursuit of the American dream of success and prosperity. College life has been amazing with a whole new atmosphere and communal life and with many new experiences that I know will make great memories. I would just like to thank you again for the scholarship that you gave me. It helped me to buy the books and supplies that I needed for college, in addition to serving as a motivation for me to have this great opportunity of attending a place of higher learning. Without your scholarship, I still would have made it because of my determination to achieve my dream, but it would have been harder. Thank you once again and I hope that you continue to make students' college hopes and dreams to come true, as you did mine.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER PAIVA.

ENDING PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 and to commend the Congress and the President for outlawing the gruesome procedure known as partial-birth abortion.

I do not refer to it as "so-called" partial-birth abortion like some do, because the term is perfectly accurate. An infant is partially delivered—often with the entire body outside of the womb except the head—then a pair of long, sharp scissors is forced through the back of the infant's skull and the doctor sucks the child's brains out before completing delivery of the now dead infant.

The child is just moments away from birth—just a few inches from being delivered, from being completely out of the womb and breathing fresh air. It is one the most horrific, gruesome procedures I can imagine, one performed without anesthetic on an otherwise healthy infant that is alive during the process.

In America today, in our infinite wisdom, we have decided that it is "cruel and unusual punishment" to sentence a prisoner convicted of murder to death by electrocution, but we freely allow abortion doctors to jam a pair of scissors through the skull of a healthy baby who is a tug away from birth, often 20 to 32 weeks in gestation and sometimes at fullterm!

I have often said that in order to reduce the number of abortions in this country each year we must change the hearts and minds of the

NOVEMBER 10, 2002.