

natives and life-long residents of my hometown, Tarkio, Missouri. They will be celebrating their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, June 20, 2004.

Duane and Rowena were married in 1954 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Westboro, Missouri. They both graduated from Tarkio High School, Rowena in 1949 and Duane in 1948. Duane served two years in the United States Army during the Korean War and returned to Tarkio to farm for forty-seven years. He retired from farming in 1997. Rowena worked at the local Hy-Vee Food Store and the Flesher Pharmacy in Tarkio. They are both active in the county 4-H organization, the Atchison County Fair, and the St. John's Lutheran Church.

Duane and Rowena have one son and daughter-in-law, Donald and Mitzi Broermann. They have two grandchildren, Eric and Tyler. Rowena is a housewife and a member of the Red Hat Society. Duane is a member of the St. John's Church Choir and enjoys playing ping-pong and golfing with his friends. Both will tell you their main hobby is their grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending this exemplary couple for their dedication to community, family, and church. Duane and Rowena are exceptionally fine assets to the Sixth District of Missouri. I am proud of them and wish them well on their Fiftieth Anniversary.

#### UNITED STATES REFINERY REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2004*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to join me in opposing a bill that fails to protect human health, our environment and our economy. In the name of reducing gas prices, the House today is debating legislation that will allow the Secretary of Energy to overturn the environmental and health concerns of our federal, state and local leaders.

We need to increase our Nation's refinery capacity. Refineries are running full speed to meet gasoline demand. There are many reasons, however, why the number of domestic refineries has declined since the early 1980s. Congress should examine how consolidation in this industry affects gas prices.

There have been no hearings on today's bill. No record has been established that fully describes the impact of this legislation on gasoline prices, refining capacity, our environment and especially our public health. Instead of finding ways to ensure that our refineries protect the public's health, House Republican leaders want to allow the Secretary of Energy to override clean air, clean water and hazardous waste laws. There was recently a discharge from a local refinery in Newport, Minnesota. My constituents were concerned that their homes and yards were covered with a fine white dust when they woke up a few weeks ago. They didn't know the dust wasn't toxic and dangerous to their health. This bill doesn't protect their public health from future threats.

The Environmental Council of the States, the National Conference of State Legislatures

and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials oppose this bill. The House should heed their warnings and reject this bill today.

#### A TRIBUTE TO AL BURCH

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Al Burch, who has served northern Virginia as an educator for 42 years. Mr. Burch spent 32 years as the principal of Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, Virginia. After over four decades of dedicated service to our youths, Mr. Burch announced his retirement earlier this month.

I am proud to call attention to the achievements and dedication of Mr. Burch as he ends his career as an educator and principal. I would also like to share a recent article from The Arlington Catholic Herald which honors Mr. Burch and describes his many accomplishments.

[From the Arlington Catholic Herald, May 20, 2004]

FORTY-TWO-YEAR RUN COMES TO AN END FOR  
O'CONNELL'S BURCH

(By Mary Frances McCarthy)

In 2001, at the beginning of his 40th year at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, Principal Al Burch told the Herald, "In about two or three years I'll be ready to retire."

Three years later, the O'Connell family is saying goodbye to Burch, a much-loved and respected coach and administrator who has worked at the school for all but four years of its existence. A farewell Mass and party will be held at the school on June 5 at 5 p.m.

When his career began, Burch never imagined he would spend 32 years as an administrator.

After graduating from the University of Corpus Christi in Texas with a bachelor's degree in education, Burch thought that "Everyone would hire me because I was so good at sports." Burch attended the university on a football scholarship.

When coaching jobs didn't fall at his feet as he thought they would, he took a job at Surrattsville Junior High in Clinton, Md., teaching history, science and English.

In 1961, Burch learned of an opening in physical education at O'Connell through Bob Rusevlyan, athletic director. Burch took the job, teaching health and physical education and coaching football, baseball and basketball. Under his leadership, the O'Connell 1963-65 baseball teams were Catholic League champions and gained nationwide recognition in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Coopers-town, NY, for winning 42 consecutive games.

Coinciding with the beginning of co-education at Bishop O'Connell, Burch was named assistant principal under Msgr. McMurtrie in 1972.

"I owe a lot to Msgr. McMurtrie," Burch said. "He saw it was my dream to keep coaching, but he saw something in me that maybe I didn't see."

While Burch was assistant principal, coaching three sports and raising three kids, he went back to school to get a master's degree in education at American University. "And I still haven't slept well since then," Burch said.

His coaching career ended in 1977, when he was named principal of O'Connell by former Arlington Bishop Thomas J. Welsh.

In the first 10 years Burch was at O'Connell, the school grew from 1,000 students to 1,600 students, with a wait list 200 students long. In 1982, Bishop Welsh opened Paul VI Catholic High School to ease the strain on O'Connell.

Now, in a diocese with three diocesan high schools and three private Catholic high schools, Burch said, "The chemistry of O'Connell is what makes it different." With more than 110 teachers, 12 are Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 18 are retired military personnel and 28 are O'Connell graduates. Burch said he has prided himself by being able to "put talent where they belong."

"Surrounding myself with great people has been the key to my success," he said. "Sitting back and watching them work has been a joy."

To Burch, O'Connell's teachers are all first draft teachers. He has organized his school much like he would a baseball or football team. Only the best are good enough for him.

"That chemistry, and people who want to be here, I'm proud of that," Burch said. "We've been able to maintain that we are a Catholic school." Burch said O'Connell has had more than 65 alumni who have pursued religious vocations.

Dr. Timothy McNiff, diocesan superintendent of schools, said that Burch's leadership "epitomizes the uniqueness required of those individuals who have been given the task of ensuring our Catholic schools are institutions of both academic success and Christian values."

O'Connell was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in 1993 as a Blue Ribbon School and Burch was honored by The Washington Post in 1997 when he was named a "Principal of Excellence."

In his retirement, Burch said, he will miss the students above all else. "I enjoy seeing them," he said. "I think O'Connell comes closer to that term, family. People return to O'Connell. They're very happy here."

Burch looks forward to continuing his relationship with Bishop O'Connell High School and working with the alumni. In ongoing renovations at O'Connell, he still hopes to see an Alumni of Distinction hall. "There are people out there doing great things," O'Connell has over 15,000 graduates. "They're really making a positive impact on society. I hear good stuff."

All three of Burch's children—Kenny, Karen and Kristy—are among those graduates. Burch hopes that one day, his five grandchildren, "if they study and work hard," will go to O'Connell too, and become members of the O'Connell family.

"I consider myself blessed and fortunate," Burch said. "It's been a great job. I didn't have to work to make O'Connell classy. It's always been a class act."

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. FREDERICK S. CONLIN, JR., DDS

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor today to pay tribute to Dr. Frederick S. Conlin, Jr., DDS. Dr. Frederick S. Conlin, Jr., DDS will retire this June from both politics and his practice in dentistry after more than 30 years. Dr. Conlin has had a general practice in dentistry for 38 years in West Springfield, MA, and has been a model citizen in our city. He held many honors in both of these fields, including being

elected to the Valley District Dental Society as Vice President for 2 years.

Dr. Conlin graduated from the College of Holy Cross with an A.B. degree in 1953. He later attended the American International College for Post Graduate studies from 1958 to 1959. Frederick Conlin received his DDS from the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry in 1963.

Conlin has also served in the Armed Forces for his country. From 1954 until 1956 Dr. Conlin proudly served as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. However, Lieutenant Conlin has also given to his country through his participation in local politics, having held many elected positions in his local community.

Dr. Conlin was elected as a Town Meeting Member for 25 years. He was also elected to the Park and Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectman both for 6 years respectively. He was also chosen to be on the Board of Health for 5 years. Dr. Conlin served as Vice President of the City Council for 3 years.

In addition to being elected to numerous organizations by his peers, Dr. Conlin also has volunteered to donate his time and talents to a plethora of other boards and organizations; including, the Town Government Study committee for 15 years, the American Legion Post 207 for 15 years, the Ramapogue Historical Society for 6 years, and served on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Seniors for 4 years. He also was a co-founder and member of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for 10 years, and served on the West Springfield Veterans Council for 2 years. Always staying involved in politics, Dr. Conlin served 30 years on the Republican Town Committee.

Dr. Conlin is a citizen of Springfield that we are extremely proud of and we wish him nothing but the best in his retirement. Dr. Conlin has been a member of St. Thomas Church for 50 years. He has been blessed with his wife the former Barbara Crowley for 26 years, and has one son, Rick, who currently attends Temple University School of Medicine. We wish you the best of luck and good health, Dr. Conlin.

#### TRIBUTE TO MCKINLEY LANGFORD BURNETT

#### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, our nation recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine, holding that segregated public schools violated the equal protection provisions of our Constitution.

As we honor the many intrepid Americans who fought for racial equality for many years in order to make the *Brown* decision a reality, I want to bring to your attention the important contribution to this effort made by McKinley Langford Burnett of Topeka, Kansas. The *Brown* decision was the fulfillment of a long fight over several years to assure equal education for children. McKinley Burnett began the Topeka, Kansas-based arm of this campaign in earnest in 1948, when he became president of the Topeka chapter of the Na-

tional Association of Colored People [NAACP]. While earlier attempts had been made to challenge segregation in Topeka, by 1948 only Topeka High School was integrated, and that school had separate sports teams for white and black students. As an observer of the situation said of Burnett after the fact: "He faced a school board and superintendent who believed that schools should remain segregated, black teachers afraid of losing their jobs, and many who just didn't want to rock the boat. They all faced McKinley Burnett, a man whose drive and determination kept him working for the day when schools would be open to all."

Born in Oskaloosa, Kansas, in 1897, McKinley Burnett faced discrimination throughout his early life: offered only parts as dancers or butlers in school plays; relegated to working as a supply clerk at the Veterans Administration; and turned down for a job as a route driver with a local bakery because of his race. In 1948, however, he became president of the Topeka chapter of the NAACP, in a community where separate schools for the races had been established in 1927. For 2 years, Burnett held meetings and wrote letters seeking support for school desegregation, without success. According to Charles Baston, a member of the Topeka NAACP chapter, the school board would often extend its meetings by sitting and joking, hoping the NAACP members at the meeting would leave without speaking: "We never left."

In 1950, the NAACP, under Burnett's leadership, recruited 13 black families to challenge segregation by sending their children to enroll in white-only schools. The 20 children, including 7-year-old Linda Brown of Topeka, were denied enrollment, and in February 1951 the NAACP filed suit. Three years later, the Supreme Court issued their landmark decision, in a case that also included suits from South Carolina, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Burnett continued to serve as president of the Topeka NAACP chapter until 1963, dying in 1968. As Roy Wilkins of the NAACP said upon his death, in a telegram to Burnett's widow, Lea: "Throughout the years he was in the vanguard of our fight for full citizenship rights. For more than a quarter century he served as President of the Topeka branch of the NAACP. During that period against seemingly insurmountable odds he was instrumental in initiating the school desegregation case of Linda Brown in Topeka which culminated in the historic *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision. He could have no better monument than this decision which changed the course of public education in our country."

Mr. Speaker, proclamations honoring the life of McKinley Langford Burnett were issued by the Topeka Board of Education, the Shawnee County, Kansas, Board of Commissioners, and the Governor of the State of Kansas. I include them in the RECORD, along with an Associated Press article summarizing Mr. Burnett's life and good works, and an editorial from the Topeka Capital Journal commending his life.

#### RESOLUTION 01-06

Whereas, McKinley Langford Burnett was a behind-the-scenes force in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court *Brown vs. Board of Education* of Topeka case that dismantled the "separate but equal" provisions for the education of African American students in America's public schools; and

Whereas, Mr. Burnett was the Topeka chapter president of the NAACP from 1948-1963, concentrating his efforts on the integration of Topeka Public Schools and with determination, conviction and persistence challenged the Board of Education to end segregated schools; and

Whereas, Mr. Burnett was responsible for recruiting a group of 13 black families to challenge segregation by sending their children to enroll in all-white schools in the fall of 1950 and upon the denial of their enrollment, Mr. Burnett, along with other NAACP officials and attorneys, developed a strategy for a court case and filed suit against the School Board through the local NAACP chapter, on behalf of the families; and

Whereas, three years later the U.S. Supreme Court reviewed the case, which had been joined with four other school desegregation lawsuits from South Carolina, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia, and on May 17, 1954 issued their landmark ruling that said "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal" and that the separate but equal doctrine had "no place" in public education; and

Whereas, 40 years later, the Topeka Public Schools' Board of Education entered into a school desegregation remedy plan in the reopened *Brown* case, successfully implemented the remedy plan, and four years later, July 27, 1999, District Court Judge Richard Rogers approved the district's motion for unitary status and directed the case be closed; and

Whereas, a committee appointed by the Superintendent of Schools pursuant to Board Policy 2200 has recommended that the unnamed Administrative Center of the Topeka Public Schools be named in honor of Mr. Burnett.

Now therefore, in recognition that Mr. Burnett's vision and passion for educational justice for all children resulted in *Brown vs. The Board of Education*, and has been felt in Topeka and across the land,

Be it resolved, on this 7th day of June, 2001 that the Topeka Public Schools' Board of Education, to commemorate the progress of educational equity initiated by Mr. Burnett in the 1940's, immortalized by the 1954 Supreme Court, and sustained in recent years by the courts and Topeka Public Schools' Board of Education; and to honor this unsung hero for his untiring efforts until his death in 1968, does hereby name the Topeka Public Schools' Administrative Center, the: "McKinley L. Burnett Administrative Center."

#### PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the late McKinley L. Burnett would have been 100 years old this year on January 31, 1997; and,

Whereas, the original 1942 charter for the Topeka Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be on display at the Topeka-Shawnee County library between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on May 17, 1997; and

Whereas, on February 28, 1951 the NAACP led by McKinley Burnett filed a lawsuit which resulted in the Historic Supreme Court decision on May 17, 1954, *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education*; and,

Whereas, on Saturday, May 17, 1997, the Kansas Committee to Commemorate *Brown v. Education* and Bias Busters of Kansas will observe the 43rd anniversary of the Historic Supreme Court Decision at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library at 4:00 p.m.; and,

Whereas, at the Committee's annual observance, a special ceremony on this day, tribute will be paid to McKinley L. Burnett, president of the Topeka Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of