

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on October 4, I was detained in Florida due to a speaking engagement and as a result, missed three votes. I ask that my absence be excused and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show that had I been present:

For rollcall No. 487—the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. Con. Res. 76, I would have voted “aye;” for rollcall No. 488—the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1814, I would have voted “yea,” and for rollcall No. 489—the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 567, I would have voted “yea.”

INDIANA STATE DELEGATION
WORKING TO PROMOTE CIVIC
EDUCATION**HON. BARON P. HILL**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, Alexander Hamilton once said, “Here, sir, the people govern.” These words grace the entrance to the House of Representatives to remind us of the promise of our representative democracy. The Founders of this nation understood that a free society must rely on the knowledge, skills, and virtue of its citizens and those serving in public office on their behalf. That is why civic education in our schools is so important. In my state of Indiana, and throughout the nation, I am pleased to learn that a proactive effort has recently been initiated to improve civic learning and instruction.

On September 20–22 of last year the First Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was launched. The conference was sponsored by the Alliance for Representative Democracy and co-hosted by the four leaders of the U.S. Congress.

One of the very positive outcomes of the congressional conference was the establishment of state delegations that would return to the state to enact specific policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools. I would like to recognize John J. Patrick, the facilitator of the Indiana delegation, for leadership in working to design an action plan to improve civic education in our state. These state activities include: (1) organizing conferences for professors of Indiana colleges and universities to emphasize civic education in the preparation of teachers; (2) producing reports about exemplary practices of civic education; (3) supporting programs to improve teaching and learning about the United States Constitution in schools, and (4) building a network of organizations and individuals to promote civic education in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the success of the Indiana civic education delegation and their participation at the Second Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education on December 4–6 of this year.

TRIBUTE TO 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF TRINITY EVANGELICAL LU-
THERAN**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 100th year anniversary of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This celebrated Church has stood and continues to stand as a symbol of faith, hope, and reverence.

The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church began as a mission congregation on December 4, 1904. The first service was held at “The Auditorium” on Portage Street, and the church was referred to as the English Lutheran in the 1905 Kalamazoo City Directory. When the congregation had grown to need a larger facility, the present site was purchased on April 11, 1926 for \$7,200.00. The “new” Trinity Lutheran Church construction began September 12, 1927, with the cornerstone being laid on Reformation Sunday. The building was dedicated June 10, 1928, and 262 members moved into the new building.

Another stint with over crowded conditions and the need for more space led to another building project—the 34-room Parish Education Building. The cornerstone was laid in 1956 and the new \$160,000.00 project was dedicated on October 13, 1957. Several projects over the years have changed the appearance of this wonderful church building, both “inside and out,” bringing it to the current configuration 100 years later.

It goes without mention that God has richly blessed Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo and there is and always has been much talent, enthusiasm, and dedication among Trinity’s members. Of even greater significance has been their repeated desire for and response to the Word of God for direction.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF CAPTAIN ROBERT J. APRILL**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Captain Robert J. Aprill of the United States Naval Reserve. Captain Aprill joined the Reserve Officer Candidate program in February of 1974 while pursuing dual degrees at Eastern Michigan University in Political Science and History. After his graduation, Captain April attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island and received his commission in the Naval Reserve in December 1975.

In his twenty nine years with the Naval Reserves, Captain Aprill has served America honorably. His many reserve duty assignments included: Training Officer and Executive USS *W.S. Sims*, Commanding Officer USS *Elmer Montgomery* and Gaining Command Liaison Officer USS *Elmer Montgomery*.

Mr. Speaker, since 1915 it has been the mission of the United States Naval Reserve to maintain a state of constant readiness and availability, able to deploy rapidly and effec-

tively in times of peace or war. With the new threats facing America in the War on Terror, this mission has been paramount to America’s security, but it cannot be accomplished without dedicated civilian soldiers like Captain Aprill. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Aprill for his service to America and to wish him the best in his retirement.

9/11 COMMISSION
IMPLEMENTATION**HON. TOM DeLAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, in this, the final week of this legislative session, Congress will cap off two years of diligent, important work protecting America’s security, prosperity, and families. We have strengthened and improved health care for American seniors, funded the liberation of two enslaved nations, protected our homeland, outlawed partial-birth abortion and protected pregnant mothers, held the line on spending, and provided pro-growth tax relief to millions of American families.

And this week, the House will finish its work on the most sweeping homeland security and intelligence reform legislation in decades: the 9/11 Commission Implementation Act.

When the 9/11 Commission first released its report, many sought for Congress to either rubber-stamp or reject outright the commission’s findings. But we in the House took a novel approach: we read them. And we studied them, in six committees, in more than 20 hearings.

The bill has been marked up by five full committees—Armed Services, Intelligence, Judiciary, Government Reform and Oversight, and Financial Services—and two more committees have approved it without markup. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we set out to craft a comprehensive, thoughtful, and valuable reform package, and that’s exactly what we’ve got.

The 9/11 Commission Implementation Act takes the findings of the commission, shapes them into legislative language, and then adds in necessary details where the report lacked specifics. The 9/11 Commission’s report is not just 41 recommendations. It is 567 pages of problems we face defending America. This bill goes right to those problems and begins the process of solving them one at a time.

The bill will reform America’s intelligence infrastructure by establishing a National Intelligence Director and a National Counter-Terrorism Center, both strong recommendations of the commission. We will also include provisions that will help our intelligence and homeland security officers better fight terrorists, prevent them from ever endangering the American people, and prosecute those who do. And we will work to better secure our borders from penetration by terrorists, and make it easier for authorities to throw terrorists out once they do get in.

These are important reforms, all necessary to the protection of the American people and our victory in the war on terror, the most critical priority of this Congress and the entire government. Passage of these reforms will mark a fitting close to the legislative session, and, I should add, the debate surrounding it

will serve—on its own—as a fitting reminder to the American people that those of us in Congress are more interested in winning the war than just winning the next election.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on October 4, 2004, I had a meeting in my district and, therefore, missed three recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Vote No. 487, "aye" on rollcall Vote No. 488, and "aye" on rollcall Vote No. 489.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was absent attending to a previously scheduled commitment and missed the votes on rollcall Vote No. 487, on S. Con. Res. 76, Recognizing November 2, 2003 as "A Tribute to Survivors" at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; rollcall Vote No. 488, on S. 1814, to Transfer Federal Lands Between the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of the Interior; and rollcall Vote No. 489, on H. Res. 567, Congratulating the American Dental Association for sponsoring the second annual "Give Kids a Smile" program.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 487, "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 488; and "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 489.

IN MEMORY OF TROY H. LAGRONE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, my remarks today are to honor my friend, Troy H. LaGrone, retired President of Ben E. Keith Beers. Troy was a fixture in both the business and academic community in my hometown of Denton.

Troy LaGrone was a graduate of Carthage High School and later attended Draughton's Business College in Dallas before joining the Ben E. Keith Company as a clerk in 1953. After 47 years of service, in 2000, Mr. LaGrone retired as President of the company, but he continued to serve on its board of directors and for the company's Foundation.

In addition to his extensive business career, Mr. LaGrone had served in the U.S. Army and was consistently involved in local and community projects. Throughout the years, Troy served on the board of directors of the Denton State School, Denton Orchestra, Denton Public Schools Foundation and North Texas Fair.

He organized the President's Fellows of the University of North Texas and chaired the President's Council. He also served on the President's Council of Texas Woman's University.

Mr. Troy LaGrone is survived by his wife, Sarah LaGrone and their three children, Joanna LaGrone-Headrick, Robert A. Strawn and James A. Strawn; one brother, Joe Ben LaGrone of Oak Ridge, Tennessee; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

As a Texan and a friend, I can say we were blessed to have had him with us as a guide, to encourage us and to direct our paths. I am glad I had the chance to know him, and I honor his life here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 4, I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the Rules and agree to S. Con. Res. 76, (rollcall No. 487), on the motion to suspend the Rules and pass S. 1814 (rollcall No. 488), and on the motion to suspend the Rules and agree to H. Res. 567 (rollcall No. 489). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three measures.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN A. PEREZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize John A. Perez, the Director of Political Affairs for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 324.

Mr. Perez has spent over a decade working as a labor organizer and political operative. He initially gained an appreciation for politics while growing up in the working class community of Highland Park, a nearby suburb of Los Angeles. From a young age, he appreciated the impact of politics on the lives of working people.

He channeled that appreciation into a career helping working people organize and gain political power. After graduating from the University of California Berkeley, John began working on designing and organizing education programs for several community-based organizations and unions. In the 2002 election, he served as Political Director of the California Labor Federation of the AFL-CIO, which represents over 2.1 million working families. He co-chairs the California Democratic Party Finance Committee and is an elected member of the Democratic National Committee.

In addition to his efforts to improve the lives of working families, Mr. Perez is very active in other areas including AIDS Project Los Angeles, the CORO Foundation, and the California League of Conservation Voters.

He has been an asset to the labor movement and numerous Democratic organizations. I commend him for his dedication to improving the lives of hard working people throughout Southern California.

HONORING PETER H. DIAMANDIS

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter H. Diamandis, the X Prize Foundation and SpaceshipOne. The X Prize Foundation is based in St. Louis and SpaceShipOne is the now famous commercial rocket which won the Foundation's \$10 million award for successfully completing two trips into space within a 14-day time span on October 4, 2004. Without the leadership and initiative of Peter H. Diamandis, president and founder of the Foundation, this historic feat would not have been accomplished.

Resurrecting the ingenuity of the Spirit of St. Louis Organization and the legacy of Charles Lindbergh, the X Prize Foundation ensures that Americans will continue to lead. The X Prize Foundation utilized the inspiration and "can-do spirit" so characteristic of other great American entrepreneurs and innovators. Astounding the world and catapulting the commercial aviation industry into a new economic stratosphere, Charles Lindbergh's flight in 1927 was truly transformative. Lindbergh proved that the vision and leadership of the individual and private industry compose the greatest impetus to secure new technology and expand the horizons of human accomplishment. Seventy-seven years later, the X Prize Foundation provided the opportunity for pilots Brian Binnie and Michael Melvill to complete the two trips in order to claim the prize. With this most recent triumph, the horizon is no longer the objective, but rather the runway to the stars.

Beginning with the 1904 World's Fair, St. Louis has played an integral role in the aerospace industry. St. Louis has been home to the designers and builders of the beginnings of the Apollo Moon landings, the origin of Lindbergh's historic flight, a center of aerospace manufacturing and, most recently, the X Prize Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the initiative and ingenuity of the X Prize Foundation and the crew of SpaceShipOne for their great accomplishment of opening the door to the heavens more widely to everyone.

HONORING MRS. PAULA D. HAV- ERON, CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Paula D. Haveron, who retired on July 31, 2004, after completing over 42 years of Federal Service.

Mrs. Haveron began her Civil Service career in 1958 as a clerk-stenographer in the Office of Air Force Civil Engineers.

Having demonstrated her competence in working with Members of Congress and their staffs, Mrs. Haveron was selected for service in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Legislative Liaison Inquiry Division, in 1960.