

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.

Over the years, she served in numerous roles, culminating in her current duties as a Congressional Liaison Representative in 1997. In this capacity, Mrs. Haveron has been responsible for well over 100,000 constituent inquiries, from all 50 states and territories. In fact, she was the first civilian action officer to draft and successfully staff a Congressional response for signature by the Air Force Chief of Staff.

During her 42 years of work in the Office of Legislative Liaison, Mrs. Haveron has provided dedicated and professional service to both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. She has developed close working relationships with many of our staffs, and her efforts have greatly enhanced congressional understanding of Air Force personnel matters. The distinctive accomplishments of Mrs. Paula D. Haveron highlight a long and distinguished career in the service of the Federal Government, and reflect great credit upon herself and the Department of the Air Force.

IN HONOR OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON ETHIOPIAN JEWRY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry on the occasion of the first annual Adopt-A-Student reunion in Israel. On October 13th there will be a first-time reunion of Ethiopian Israeli graduates that were able to obtain education because of NACOEJ. Hundreds of American sponsors who provide support, correspondence and financial assistance have arranged to travel to Israel to take part in the celebration.

NACOEJ was founded in 1982 to help Jews cope with living conditions in Ethiopia; provide educational opportunities; aid with their emigration to Israel; and help aid the absorption of the émigrés into Israel's society while preserving their unique and ancient culture. In Ethiopia, NACOEJ is the sole supporter of compounds in Addis Ababa and Gondar Province providing 10,000 meals to babies, children, and pregnant or nursing women daily. In addition, it supports Jewish Day Schools for 3,500 students, as well as adult education, employment training, family food distributions and religious facilities.

In Ethiopia generations of Jews were always among the poorest inhabitants. Families faced poverty, famines and malaria epidemics while malnutrition, disease and civil war were a part of daily life. Yet since 1984, 2,200 Ethiopian Israeli university students have received NACOEJ living stipends that many times can mean the difference between dropping out and graduating. Many people that relocated to Israel are now leading free, fulfilling and fruitful lives because of the work this group does.

For their generosity, for their commitment to freedom and democracy in Ethiopia and Israel, and for their unyielding commitment to improving the lives of people in the worst of conditions, it is my privilege to honor the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House late in the afternoon on Thursday, September 30th, due to an unavoidable commitment, and, for the first two votes on Monday, October 4th, due to mechanical problems on the plane from Newark International Airport. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

On rollcall Vote No. 484, H.J. Res. 106, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage, "no";

On rollcall Vote No. 485, H. Con. Res. 501, honoring the life and work of Duke Ellington, "aye";

On rollcall Vote No. 486, H. Res. 792, honoring the United Negro College Fund on the occasion of the Funds 60th anniversary, "aye";

On rollcall Vote No. 487, S. Con. Res. 76, recognizing that November 2, 2003, shall be dedicated to "A Tribute to Survivors" at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "aye"; and

On rollcall Vote No. 488, S. 1814, the Mingo Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center legislation, "aye".

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, during the debate last week on the amendment that would overturn Massachusetts' decision to allow same-sex marriage, I received permission to put into the RECORD an excellent article by M.V. Lee Badgett, refuting the shoddy scholarship of Stanley Kurtz, who has alleged with no logical basis that same-sex marriages have somehow caused a decline in heterosexual marriages in some European countries. I should note that Mr. Kurtz completely ignores, in his research, the most relevant example for us—civil unions in Vermont. But even with regard to the handful of European countries he analyzes, his work does not support the conclusion he is so desperate to sustain.

M.V. Lee Badgett has done a very good job of refuting Mr. Kurtz, and I was glad to have a chance to insert her analysis in the record of the debate from last Thursday. Unfortunately, her name was omitted. I recommend, Mr. Speaker, that those reading this insertion who are interested in the subject go to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for September 30, at page H7914, to read the article entitled "Will Providing Marriage Rights To Same-Sex Couples Undermine Heterosexual Marriage?" in which Ms. Badgett demolishes Mr. Kurtz.

A TRIBUTE TO SONNY HALL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sonny Hall, the President of Transport Workers Union of America International, in commemoration of his 50 years of dedicated service to the union.

As the International President of TWU, Sonny Hall represents more than 110,000 men and women employed in the nation's transportation and allied industries. Hall was elected to this post at the Unions 19th Constitutional Convention in October 1993. Previously Sonny had served as President of TWU Local 100, the largest local union of TWU, representing nearly 38,000 members who operate the New York City subway system and both public and private bus lines.

Sonny, served in virtually every union position from Shop Steward on up. He was named President of Local 100 in May, 1985 and subsequently elected to full three-year terms in December 1985, 1988 and 1991. He joined TWU in 1950 as a Bus Cleaner for the old Omnibus Corp. and became a Bus Operator in 1957. In between, he served tours of duty in both the Marines and the Army.

Mr. Hall was elected an International Vice President at TWUs 17th Constitutional Convention in September 1985. He was appointed Executive Vice President by the International Executive Council on January 9, 1989, and was elected to that post for a four-year term at the Unions 18th Constitutional Convention in October, 1989.

Sonny was elected Secretary-Treasurer to the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department in 1995 and President of that organization in 1998. He was elected to the AFL-CIO's Executive Council at the Federation's Convention in October 1995. In addition to the aforementioned duties, Sonny is also a Board Member of the Mount Sinai Hospital Health and Safety Department; on the Board of Governors of the New York Chapter Arthritis Foundation, and the President's Advisory Council of the Deborah Heart and Lung Center of the Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation. He also serves as President of START (Safe Transit And Rail Transportation).

Sonny holds a B.A. from the Cornell Labor College and studied military and criminal law at the University of New Mexico. He is the son of a retired New York City Bus Operator, now deceased, who served the riding public for 30 years and was an early member of Local 100.

Mr. Speaker, after 50 years of dedicated service to the TWU, Sonny Hall is stepping down as International President of TWU. During this time, he has worked hard to improve the lives of TWU members, their members and all of organized labor. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.