

was the goal of Mayor Ernie to make sure the students believed in their potential.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that Ernie Kolb's enthusiasm for education, community strength, and civic leadership will forever linger in the minds of the people of Oak Lawn.

RECOGNITION OF LANCE CORPORAL TORREY STOFFEL-GRAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Torrey Stoffel-Gray, who was recently killed in action in Iraq.

Lance Cpl. Torrey Stoffel-Gray was a 19-year-old Marine from Patoka, Illinois. Patoka is a rural town in my district with a population around 630. At 16 he left Patoka to enter Lincoln Challenge, a military-style alternative school at Rantoul, Ill. Many friends and family say that Lincoln Challenge changed his life and helped him find his way. This young man was recently killed in action in Iraq when his convoy was struck by rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire in the Al Anbar Province. My condolences go out to his family and friends.

Lance Cpl. Stoffel-Gray is survived by his mother, Mary Stoffel, his stepfather Jerry Stoffel and his three brothers, Brandon, Russell, and Blake. Lance Cpl. Stoffel-Gray was awarded the Purple Heart, which was presented to his mother at the time of his burial. Not enough can be said about Lance Cpl. Stoffel-Gray and the rest of our brave men and women serving in Iraq. These soldiers are risking their lives everyday to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy.

RECOGNIZING VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MILITARY IMPACTED SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATION, AND STAFF FOR THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION OF MILITARY CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here to recognize the valuable contributions of military impacted schools and their contributions to the education of military children. There are approximately 750,000 school-aged children of members of the active duty Armed Forces in the United States. 650,000 of these military have been children served in public schools across the United States.

Approximately 100,500 military children have been served in Department of Defense Education Activity schools in the United States and overseas.

Schools serving military installations stress the importance of being aware of what is hap-

pening in the world and the impact of world events on the lives of military families and can provide students a sense of safety and reassurance.

Schools serving military installations understand the importance of providing a normal environment and regular routine for children of parents in the military before learning can ever take place and can offer increased counseling for military children due to the deployment of family members.

These schools serve students whose parents can be deployed for long periods of time and often with short notice. The teachers are trained to work with military children and their classmates when there is a service-related incident or death.

I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues to recognize the contributions of the teachers, administration, and staff of Military Impacted Schools and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools world-wide. Also, I commend the teachers in military impacted communities who work on the front lines at home to educate students during times of peace and times of conflict.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KAY HAYASHI

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Kay Hayashi, of Grand Junction, Colorado, who passed away recently at the age of eighty-five. Kay's extensive involvement with Club 20 has done much for the people in my district and for the State of Colorado. As her family and community mourn her passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional woman, and her many contributions to her community and state.

Kay had been an active member of Club 20 since its founding in 1953, an organization dedicated to representing the people of the Western Slope at all levels of government. Kay was one of the first members awarded Emeritus status to acknowledge her years of commitment to the organization. During her years of service, Kay served as Treasurer, and was a member of both the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize the life of Kay Hayashi. She dedicated her life toward the betterment of her community, state and nation, and she will be greatly missed. My thoughts are with her loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

STATEMENT ON IRAN AND SMART SECURITY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn Iran's continued pursuit of nuclear weapons and its failure to disclose nuclear en-

richment projects to the international atomic energy agency. Surely the United States must utilize its influence as the world's largest democracy to encourage countries that have signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—like Iran—to forego the pursuit of new nuclear weapons. However, there is a right way and there is a wrong way to register our influence in situations like this.

In October of last year, the foreign ministers of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom met in Tehran to negotiate the possibility of IAEA inspections of Iran's nuclear sites. Iran agreed to this deal. In the months since the Tehran summit, inspectors have found several sites that seem to have some connection to the production of nuclear materials. That means the inspections have been at the very least reasonably successful.

Today Congress voted on H. Con. Res. 398, a resolution condemning Iran's nuclear activities. This resolution demands that Iran immediately cease all efforts to acquire nuclear enrichment activities and calls for the country to honor its stated commitments to grant IAEA inspectors unrestricted access to nuclear sites. But the resolution also calls upon all state parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—including the United States—to use "all appropriate means to deter, dissuade, and prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons."

Doesn't anyone remember the last time we provided someone with the authority to use all means "necessary and appropriate?" In case you've forgotten, let me remind you: When we granted President Bush the authority to use all means "necessary and appropriate," he lead us into a devastating conflict in Iraq, one which has already cost the lives of over 740 Americans and thousands of unarmed, innocent Iraqi civilians. Supporting another resolution that promotes the use of "all appropriate means" is like giving your kid the keys to the car after he's already wrecked it once. Even if this bill doesn't authorize the use of force against Iran, codifying the language of preemptive war is a dangerously slippery slope to tread.

We need to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and keeping the American people safe must be our highest priority. But we must avoid equating our security with aggression and military force. There has to be a better way, and there is. One that emphasizes brains instead of brawn. One that is consistent with American values. I have introduced legislation to create a SMART Security Platform for the 21st Century. SMART stands for "Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism" and it calls for aggressive diplomacy, a commitment to nuclear nonproliferation, strong regional security arrangements and vigorous inspection regimes.

SMART security advocates maintaining our commitment to existing international treaties, like the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention. SMART Security promotes adequately funding programs like the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which works with the Russian Federation and the states of the former Soviet Union to dismantle nuclear warheads, reduce nuclear stockpiles, and secure nuclear weapons in Russia. And we must replicate this type of program in other troubled regions, like Iran, because in the long

run, negotiating with other countries will keep us much safer than scaring them into submission.

The Bush doctrine has been tried, and it has failed. It's time for a new national security strategy. SMART Security defends America by relying on the very best of America—our commitment to peace and freedom, our compassion for the people of the world, and our capacity for multilateral leadership. SMART Security is tough, pragmatic and patriotic. SMART Security is smart, and it will keep America safe.

HONORING REBECCA GALLOWAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Rebecca Galloway for winning the Reading Is Fundamental National Poster Contest. In this back-to-school reading-motivation contest, Rebecca competed with more than 500 other entries nationwide. The poster she created, depicting a child reading a book with the sun, earth and stars in the background, took the top honors in this contest.

Ms. Galloway is a 10-year-old student from Warwick, Rhode Island. She is in the 5th grade at the Warwick Neck Elementary School. Rebecca enjoys reading in bed with her mother at night and they are both fans of the Nancy Drew Mystery series. Rebecca and her family understand how important reading is for children and they take advantage of the opportunities that books create for them daily. Rebecca hopes her poster will encourage other children to take advantage of these same opportunities.

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) is a nationwide non-profit group that aims to ensure that all children have access to free books. RIF encourages children, especially those most at risk, to take home and keep the books they distribute. In partnership with the U.S. Department of Education and Nestlé, RIF distributed 16.5 million new books in 2003 to children throughout the country. RIF also supports various programs to encourage reading, such as the poster contest.

Ms. Galloway will receive a gift certificate to purchase books, a laptop computer, a basket of Nestlé products, and a \$1000 U.S. Savings Bond for winning the poster contest. She will also attend a special awards ceremony and her school will receive funds to purchase books for their library. In this day and age with so many forms of media competing for our children's attention, it is important that we encourage them to turn toward the infinite possibilities offered by books. Once again, I congratulate Rebecca Galloway for her award-winning poster and thank the Reading Is Fundamental organization for the work they do for the young minds of America.

TRIBUTE TO WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT BAIRD TIPSON

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wittenberg University President Baird Tipson for his 9 years of dedicated service to the students and faculty of the university, and the community of Springfield, OH.

On July 1, President Tipson will be leaving his post as president for a new opportunity to serve as the 26th president of Washington College in Chestertown, MD.

During his tenure at Wittenberg, President Tipson has been a leader in promoting the highest standards of excellence in higher education. In particular, he has led the university's efforts to provide a state-of-the-art learning environment for students.

In recent years, I have had the privilege of working with President Tipson to complete Wittenberg's most ambitious capital improvement to date, and the most significant improvement to the university's science facilities since the original construction of the Science Hall in 1965. I am of course referring to the Barbara Deer Kuss Center.

President Tipson and I worked together to complete this innovative science education center that provides Wittenberg students and faculty with a safe environment to perform their scientific research as part of the science education curriculum.

Over the years, President Tipson has also served as a leader in the Springfield community. He served as the president of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra Board and as a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board. In addition, he has served on the boards of the Community Leadership Academy and Aid for College Opportunities (ACO), and as a member of the Springfield City Schools Business Advisory Council.

I have lived in Springfield for most of my adult life and have seen Wittenberg University grow into one of the best liberal arts universities in Ohio. I have greatly enjoyed representing and working with the university over the years. And, a highlight of that time has been my working partnership with President Tipson.

As the Member of Congress who represents Springfield and Wittenberg University in the U.S. House of Representatives, I am proud of the achievements and curriculum enhancements made under the steady leadership of President Tipson.

In closing, I would like to express my best regards to President Tipson and his wife, Sarah, as they embark on this new endeavor.

INTRODUCING THE VIDEO DESCRIPTION RESTORATION ACT OF 2004

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Video Description Restoration Act of

2004." Mr. Speaker, the language in this bill is identical to provisions in Section 9 of Senate bill S. 1264, sponsored by Senators JOHN MCCAIN and FRITZ HOLLINGS. Mr. Speaker, we have a long history in telecommunications policy of trying to ensure that the benefits of technology reach all segments of American society. Our policies, enacted by Congress and implemented by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), have sought to further the three principal goals of telecommunications policy, namely, universal service, diversity, and localism—even as such policy objectives are buffeted by rapid technological change and competition.

For instance, in the late 1980s, the Telecommunications Subcommittee enacted legislation to include a decoder chip in all televisions to ensure that the deaf and hard-of-hearing community had affordable access to closed captioning. While the industry opposed such efforts as being too costly, with exaggerated claims of how much the price of televisions would rise as a result of this mandate, the technology cost was minimal and now turns out to be about a dollar a set. The FCC's video description rules were designed to similarly serve a community, in this case the blind community, in a modest effort to ensure that television was available to that community. Video description is the insertion of narration about the visual setting and background when that information is not already included in the audio portion of the program. Because television is a mainstay for information, news, and family-oriented viewing in the home, it is important that steps are taken, in furtherance of longstanding universal service goals, to reach the blind community.

This bill would restore the video programming rules. Recently the DC Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated the rules, alleging that the Commission did not have sufficient authority to promulgate such rules. Passage of this legislation would remove any ambiguity. I believe Congress ought to give the Commission clear guidance that such rules should be reinstated in a way that no court could question the intent of Congress that the Commission should have such authority. Moreover, by approving such legislation, Congress can also establish that such video description rules do not regulate content in violation of any Constitutional protections. Broadcasters are free to air whatever content they wish over the course of a week. The video description rules simply require that a modest portion of such speech be made available to all listeners, including those who cannot see. The regulations would not stipulate which speech is acceptable, favored, or otherwise and broadcasters can choose which speech they wish to make available to the blind community. In fact, rather than infringing upon speech, the rules celebrate it, essentially saying that such speech is so important, so valued, that more Americans deserve to be able to hear it over their public airwaves, as broadcast by public licensees who are required by law to serve the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will move legislation this year to re-instate these important video description rules and look forward to working with all of my colleagues on this issue in the weeks and months ahead.