

ROSS OPPOSES ADMINISTRATION OVERTIME REGULATIONS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 12, 2004, I missed a vote to table the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2660, the Labor-HHS Appropriations Act of fiscal year 2004, offered by Representative GEORGE MILLER. Had I been present, I would have voted no on the motion to table.

Although the FY04 omnibus appropriations bill included the FY04 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, technically, it is still in conference and motions to instruct are in order. By tabling this motion to instruct, it will injure the working men and women of Arkansas's Fourth Congressional District, and the nation who often depend on overtime pay to make ends meet. I support the Senate language to prohibit the use of funds to issue or enforce a regulation that would take overtime pay away from any employee who, under current regulations, is entitled to overtime pay.

On April 23, the Labor Department published a final overtime eligibility rule in the Federal Register that will take effect later this year. The final rule differs from the proposed rule in that it substantially expands the Fair Labor Standards Act's (FLSA) exemptions and threatens the overtime rights of millions of workers. For instance, the final rule greatly expands the exemption for administrative employees, thus creating loopholes for employers to potentially exploit hard working Americans. Additionally, the final rule expands the learned professional exemption to workers without college degrees and jeopardizes the overtime protection of blue collar workers considered "management."

Working families in the Fourth Congressional District of Arkansas depend on overtime pay to feed their families, make their mortgages, and contribute to this great society. Any action by our government to reduce this simple process in unconscionable.

It is for these reasons that had I been present, I would have voted no on the motion to table Representative GEORGE MILLER's Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2660.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, the development of modern transportation infrastructure has changed the way Americans live, travel, and continues to be one of the driving factors in maintaining a strong economy. Since this is National Transportation Week I would like to recognize the significant contributions transportation infrastructure has made in districts like mine.

The 2004 American Almanac of Politics recently rated Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District as the fourth most rural in Congress. As a farm boy who grew up and lives in one of the most rural counties in the district

I understand the importance of roads, and infrastructure. Many of the communities, towns and cities in my district, like many others, depend on these investments for their livelihood.

A Senate and House Conference Committee have been working with the Administration to find common ground in the highway reauthorization bill, commonly referred to as TEA-LU. The funding for this legislation has been set for a six year span. It is my strong belief, the investment in building and adding upon existing infrastructure will not only impact our grandchildren, but their children as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to praise the work we have accomplished in strengthening our nation's roads, highways, national security, and economy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in attendance for votes on May 13, 2004 due to a family commitment.

1. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 169, a substitute to H.R. 4275, I would have voted "aye."

2. On rollcall No. 170, H.R. 4275, to extend the 10-percent individual income tax rate bracket, I would have voted "nay."

3. On rollcall No. 171, a motion that the House instruct conferees on S. Con. Res. 95, I would have voted "aye."

4. On rollcall No. 172, a substitute to H.R. 4281, the Small Business Health Fairness Act, I would have voted "aye."

5. On rollcall No. 173, a motion to recommit H.R. 4281, I would have voted "aye."

6. On rollcall No. 174, the Small Business Health Fairness Act, I would have voted "nay."

7. On rollcall No. 175, Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, I would have voted "aye."

8. Finally, on rollcall No. 176, Expressing the sense of the Congress that, as Congress recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, all Americans are encouraged to observe this anniversary with a commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. TOPEKA BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, it was 228 years ago that the Second Continental Congress affirmed that all men are created equal, as they declared their independence from England. Despite the grand idea of creating a better government that cherished equality and unalienable rights, the United States of America endorsed overt racial discrimination and exploitation for over 178 years.

It was only 50 years ago, in the Supreme Court ruling on Brown vs. Topeka Board of

Education that our government took a big step towards correcting these wrongs and recognizing the full spirit of equality. This ruling reversed the Plessy vs. Ferguson case and established that, "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." The Supreme Court's acknowledgment in Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education was a pivotal point in the rising civil rights movement that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Today, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education. We also honor all the people, young and old, who bravely challenged the status quo and risked their own personal safety to fight for equality. It was their courage that spurred our country to become a better place and we will continue to recognize their important role in our history.

As we commemorate the achievement of the Brown decision, we must also recognize that this fight is not over. Across the country children of all races are being deprived of their fundamental right to an education. In California we see painful overcrowding in schools, creating conditions that are not conducive to learning. Without the critical skills provided by a good education, our children's futures are restricted. In the last several years we have seen a symbol of commitment to improving education in the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Law. This legislation sets high standards for the kind of achievement we would like to see from all of our children. However, this law fails to provide the resources and tools for states and localities to achieve these goals. Underperforming schools are punished instead of helped, and our children are once again denied their right to a good education.

The significance of Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education is too important for us to let it slip away. We must continue to dedicate ourselves to achieving equal rights and equal opportunity for all Americans.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT HESLEY BOX, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Hesley Box, Jr., of Chidester, Arkansas, who died on May 6, 2004, fighting for his country. Hesley, just 24 years old, was part of the Arkansas National Guard, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry, 39th Brigade Combat Team. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

I am deeply saddened by the tragic loss Hesley Box, Jr. from Arkansas's 39th Brigade, who died while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Hesley lost his life while making the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country, and I will be forever grateful to him for his courageous spirit.

Hesley gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero. My deepest condolences go out to his parents, Barbie and Hesley, his brother, Tarcus, his wife, Alexis, their daughter, TaDarius, and their son, Zacheas. I know Hesley was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow

soldiers, and all those who knew him and counted him as a friend. I will continue to keep Hesley and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

**HONORING MR. RICK CRANDALL
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC
SERVICE**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rick Crandall of Aurora, Colorado for his lifetime of achievement and service to his family, community, and country.

Mr. Crandall served his country honorably with the U.S. Air Force in Guam. Following his service, Mr. Crandall created the popular radio talk-show "The Breakfast Club" emphasizing the sacrifices made by American veterans. On his show, Rick interviews veterans about their experiences on and off the battlefield. The show made history in 2000 when he went "on the air" from the American Cemetery above Omaha Beach. Rick's radio venue has been warmly welcomed by the veteran community and he has received special recognitions from the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars for his work.

Mr. Crandall has been an outstanding advocate for several other causes as well. He holds annual charity events for the American Lung Association and the American Heart Association. He has also been helpful for community organizations like the Aurora Senior Center, Rainbow Bridge, and the Denver District Attorney's Office. Most notably, Rick hosts an annual golf tournament which raises funds for the local Meal on Wheels.

Rick Crandall has made service a life-long pursuit. His latest undertaking is the establishment of the Colorado Freedom Memorial in Aurora. This memorial honors the thousands of Coloradans who have given their lives serving in combat for the United States since the Spanish-American War. The Colorado Freedom Memorial is just in its introductory stages, so Mr. Crandall surely has a project to keep him active for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor a man who has given so much to so many. Rick has been an inspiration to our Nation's youth by promoting community service and activism. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Rick Crandall and the commitment he has made to improving his community.

**TRIBUTE TO MAEVA NEALE IN
MEMORY OF A LEADER, ENVI-
RONMENTALIST, POET, SCHOLAR
AND DOCTOR**

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent Maeva Neale who passed away on May 8, 2004. She was a physician, leader, a poet, and a hero to those who lived in the coastside town of Pescadero, California.

She lived a life filled with values, devoting herself to improving the lives of everyone around her.

Maeva Neale was born in Chicago, the daughter of a minister and Spanish teacher. She majored in Russian studies at Cornell University and was fluent in Swahili, Spanish, French, German, and Arabic. She began medical school at the University of Chicago and completed her studies at the University of California at San Francisco. In the spirit of her thirst for knowledge and adventure, she moved to Kenya for a decade where she practiced medicine and raised her two children, Ama and Geoffrey. Looking for new adventure, she then moved to Saudi Arabia for two years.

In 1989, our community was blessed with Maeva Neale's decision to move to Pescadero, where one of her first acts as a member of our community was to foil an attempt to drop sewage sludge above the ecologically vital coastal area of Pigeon Point. She spent ten years on the Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council, including one as the Chair, leading the drive to stop chemical spraying along Pescadero's roadways. She wrote volumes of beautiful poetry in several languages that were illustrated by local artists and was commended by President Clinton for her work on behalf of Russian children who were devastated by severe pollution.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life of Maeva Neale. She brought our community together, no matter how divergent its opinions. She was an artist and a healer, and always was an inspiration to me. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and remembering Maeva Neale for her extraordinary life of service to our community and humanity. We are better people because of her gentleness, her leadership and her incredible spirit.

**IN HONOR OF BROWN V. BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in the case of Brown v. Board of Education. Fifty years ago today, Chief Justice Earl Warren announced that, under the Constitution, education is "a right which must be made available to all on equal terms." That ruling paved the way for the end of legal segregation; it affirmed the truth that we all knew in our hearts—that separate can never be equal.

In only 2,000 words, Chief Justice Warren changed the course of our nation for the better. It took the Chief Justice only a few minutes to read the ruling, but his words are still echoing in every classroom throughout the country. His words reverberated through the Supreme Court's marble halls and flowed into public school hallways. Those words continued to carry across the land by drawing power from the hope they gave to the people who heard them. They were a promise that every child would have the same opportunity to receive an education and, even more importantly, that every person would have the op-

portunity to shape and contribute to our society's future.

The Brown v. Board of Education ruling was a crucial step on our way to becoming a more just society. We still have a very long way to go, but we cannot let the length of the road ahead of us discourage us. The Brown v. Board of Education ruling put the power of the law behind the fight for racial equality. It was a legal ruling that did so much more than end legal segregation in schools; it promised all Americans the right to participate in the "American dream."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) carefully formed a strategy to boldly challenge the constitutionality of segregation. Linda Brown represented the millions of children suffering from the effects of segregation, and her father, Oliver Brown, represented the millions of parents who believed that their children deserved better. Civil rights advocates used the Supreme Court's ruling on education to challenge discrimination in transportation, voting practices, housing and other parts of our society. The effort to win legal rights also gave birth to Dr. Martin Luther King's powerful dream of an America where all people are free from the scars of discrimination.

Today, we celebrate the courage and conviction of those who stood up for their rights and helped to bring about the great victory of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Today we also must join together to reaffirm our commitment to equality and to work so that all Americans have a real opportunity to reach their full potential. The goal of achieving equal opportunity requires us to continue to fight for justice and equality. It also requires that we expand opportunity by providing adequate funding for quality, public education; creating good jobs; ending health disparities; and guaranteeing full access to the ballot booth in practice as well as in theory.

Today, we have much to celebrate but we also have much left to achieve.

**COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Brown versus the Board of Education. Fifty years ago, the Supreme Court ruled the doctrine of "separate but equal" unconstitutional, and the doors of education were opened to every child.

Sadly, although schools were open to every child, a tremendous learning gap opened up. Some students received a great education, while others—largely poor and minority—slipped through the cracks of the system. The achievement gap between African-American and Caucasian fourth-graders is 28 percentage points, and 29 points between Hispanic and Caucasian students.

This is not equal access to education.

The No Child Left Behind Act continues Brown's legacy. Under NCLB, every child, regardless of race or national origin, is given the same opportunity to learn. Schools are required to ensure that every child is learning.