

(Laughter)

Tony Hall, it is wonderful to hear of your life, and the message that you have given us. It is wonderful to have a president and a first lady who give us spiritual leadership. Jo Ann, you have done an outstanding job in the last year for that special hour that we each meet on Thursday morning, as our president and as the chairman of this event today. And for all of us who have gathered here today, as we give praise to God, there is a blessing that we all have received. Since the dawn of the age of civilization, man has turned to our creator, through prayer for guidance in the times of difficulty. Today in modern day America, we are no different. In fact, thanks to our founding fathers, one of the oldest traditions of the United States Congress is to begin each day with prayer so that we may have spiritual help in making decisions that affect our country, and our world.

On June the 28th in 1787 when the Constitutional Convention was lost in a sea of confusion and could not agree upon a course of action, Ben Franklin rose and addressed then-president George Washington. I quote what he said,

"We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings, 'except that the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this and I also believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel. We shall be divided in our little, particular, local interests, our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and a byword down the future ages. And what is worse, mankind may, hereafter, from this unfortunate instance despair of establishing the government by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war or conquest. I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberations be held in this assembly each morning before we proceed in business, that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service."

Each morning we still pray when we start our actions in Congress. These words are as relevant today as they were over 200 years ago. Following in the tradition of Ben Franklin's request, rise please, and let us pray.

Father, we ask that you look down upon us today, and instill in our hearts and minds the faith and perseverance to do your will. We ask for courage and wisdom as we look toward the future and aim to establish a world where your children will not suffer from the actions of man. In these trying, uncertain times, your inspiration and love is desperately needed. Bless our endeavors and guide our steps so that we may truly do your work. Too often in today's world man's vision becomes cloudy with constant temptation. When this occurs, man can easily become lost in a Godless wilderness, void of spirituality. Sin thrives in this wilderness, and selfishness abounds. Lord, free us from temptation and give us strength. Please allow your light to shine upon our paths and bless us with the compass of your will so that we will seek to do what is best, just not for ourselves, but for others. Let us know the beauty of Godly deeds.

Lord, I have often turned to you for aid and strength in making difficult decisions. I ask divine help for each of us to continue to seek the satisfaction found only in a spiritual life. Today I ask for you to continue to bless the lives of all your children, and give today's attendees the strength to lead morally and ethically as we embrace the challenges of achieving lasting peace in the face of an unknown future.

Lord, you have blessed our country. Let us realize that it is only through your grace that we receive these blessings. Burden us to continue to give our hearts to you. Give our nation and the nations of the world the passion to clothe the naked, to feed the hungry, to quench the thirsty, heal the sick and help the oppressed break free from the torments of their oppressors. Let our passion for a Godly world never fade.

Lord, for our America, give the leaders the courage to ask for your stewardship through faith. Give our leaders peace of heart and assist us in our endeavors so that we may positively impact America and the rest of the world. Allow our spirits to feel your guiding hand. Bless all the nations of the world and fill their leaders' hearts with hope for a better tomorrow. Shepherd them through their daily challenges toward the goal of everlasting peace. Help these leaders strive to make decisions reflective of your resolve, for if we enact your will, we can know a blessed life.

Lord, help us recognize the value of mankind throughout the world. Help us to continue to thirst for peace and an end to anguish. Help us embrace our differences as we work to achieve the goals of common good. May peace, hope and God's love burn in our hearts. These things I only ask in Jesus' name, amen.

(Applause.)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, personal business in my district prevents me from being present for legislative business scheduled for today, Monday, June 13, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on S. 643, a bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to authorize State mediation programs (Rollcall No. 241), and "aye" on H.R. 2326, a bill designating the "Floyd Lupton Post Office" (Rollcall No. 242).

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROCHE

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations in honor of the 100th Anniversary of Roche, one of the leading healthcare innovators in the world. Roche is a specialty care company that employs over 10,000 people in America and 60,000 globally. I am pleased to represent Roche Molecular Systems, which employs hundreds of people in my District, all of whom are dedicated to improving the quality of health care for millions of people.

For a century now, Roche has invested in advanced research and manufacturing techniques that have yielded breakthroughs in healthcare. Founded in Switzerland in 1896, Roche's roots in America are deep and strong, dating back to the opening of its New York office in 1905. From its start in Manhattan in 1905, Roche has extended its reach to nine sites across the United States, in California, Indiana, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Colorado.

As an industry leader in the field of diagnostics, Roche's products help patients manage their diabetes, give physicians and hospitals the ability to identify illnesses more quickly and more accurately, and tailor treatments in a way that best suit an individual's personal medical condition. These inventions are part of why we are proud that Americans enjoy the highest quality medical care in the world.

I commend the people of Roche Molecular Systems in California and Roche employees worldwide for their impressive achievements, and congratulate them again on this very special 100th Anniversary.

A TRIBUTE OF DAVID LEWIS MOORE

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Reverend David Lewis Moore for his important work in North Carolina. Reverend Moore was recently chosen as one of 10 national recipients of the 2005 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award. This honor includes a monetary award of \$105,000 which Reverend Moore can utilize to assist him with his work in the community.

Reverend Moore's efforts in rural Beaufort County, North Carolina have transformed the lives of hundreds of residents and provided health care to thousands struggling with poverty and illness.

After attending Seminary and receiving a Master's Degree at Yale University, Rev. Moore became Pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Beaufort County and immediately set out to improve the quality of life of the region's low-income residents, most of whom are African-American. The county, which is also home to a small but significant number of Latino farm workers, has the highest rates of HIV/AIDS, diabetes, and heart disease in North Carolina; and we should commend Rev. Moore's diligent efforts over the years to combat these very serious and detrimental conditions.

Rev. Moore founded Metropolitan Community Health Services in 1990. One of its core programs is the Agape Community Health Clinic which offers health care to some 4,000 low-income people every year. Initially, the clinic operated with little financial support, but it grew in size through grants that Rev. Moore obtained, including one that paid for a doublewide trailer to serve as the clinic's headquarters. Soon the clinic will expand to a renovated bowling alley, thanks to funds raised by Rev. Moore.

Not stopping at improving health care for the region's poor, Rev. Moore also mobilized area churches from across the U.S. and Canada to assist in the reconstruction of homes following Hurricane Floyd. As a result, 43 new homes were constructed.

Rev. Moore has also helped to develop more than 500 units of housing for families, single mothers, senior citizens, victims of domestic violence, people with disabilities and migrant workers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Rev. David Lewis Moore on receiving this

award and ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his work, past, present and future, on behalf of the people of North Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOHN L. BURTON TRAIL ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, along with the majority of California's House delegation, I am introducing legislation to name a trail in a northern California redwood grove after former State Senator President John Burton.

With this legislation, we are honoring our former colleague in the House for his pivotal role in the landmark 1999 state-Federal agreement to protect the ancient redwoods of the Headwaters Forest Reserve.

In addition to being a great ally for those who have needed a helping hand, John Burton has been a powerful advocate for environmental values throughout his time in public service. His work to protect this important redwood forest was just one of the many highlights of his inspiring career.

Among other accomplishments, he was instrumental in forcing a debate over the appropriate use of the Headwaters. That debate eventually led to a 1999 negotiated agreement through which the Federal and State governments were able to protect a total of 7,400 acres.

That agreement was not only a victory for these threatened old-growth trees and all the fish and wildlife living in this ecosystem. It was a victory for all of us: generations in the future, Americans will be able to visit this amazing natural landscape.

Under this bill, all future maps of the Reserve will include the "John L. Burton Trail" designation, ensuring that visitors to the ancient redwoods are aware of Burton's leadership to help save the grove from destruction.

I look forward to the speedy passage of this non-controversial legislation to properly recognize John Burton for just one of his many contributions to the state of California and our country.

HONORING FIRST PLACE WINNERS OF EXPLORAVISION AWARDS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two very bright young men from the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, Alec Lai and Atreya Rajagopalan. These two students from Hawken Middle School in Lyndhurst, Ohio received first place honors in the Exploravision Awards.

Exploravision is a competition for students of all interest, skill, and ability levels in grades K-12. The purpose of the competition is to encourage students to combine their imaginations with the tools of science to create and explore a vision of a future technology.

Alec and Atreya's project was titled "Visible-Light Photocatalysis," this technology is intended to be used to clean and detoxify water and air, to create self-cleaning walls, and to prevent bacteria contamination and spreading. Their project was selected as a regional winner and then given the first place award for the middle level (grades 7-9) at the national competition.

I am very proud to say that such creative young men from my district have been honored so greatly. They are part of the next generation of great minds that keeps our country leading in the field of new and profound ideas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH WORKER PROTECTION ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, while many of us think that exploitative child labor is no longer a problem in the United States; the sad fact is that some of the most exploitative forms of child labor continue to occur in our country. In farm fields and in fast-food restaurants all over this country, employers are breaking the law by hiring under-age children and making them work in hazardous conditions.

In fact, the Child Labor Coalition (CLC), a consortium of over 30 non-profits and non-government organizations (NGO's) has a new report that shows how the Administration has failed to meet its obligations to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in our country. This extraordinary report, which I urge all of my colleagues to read, is titled Protecting Working Children in the Untied States—Is the Government's Indifference to the Safety and Health of Working Children Violating an International Treaty? I request the executive summary of this report and the recommendations made by the CLC be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The CLC's report details four specific developments that have occurred in the five years since the United States ratified the International Labor Organization Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (a/k/a ILO Convention 182), which raise serious concerns as to whether or not the United States remains compliant with its ILO 182 obligations.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you agree with me that the United States must remain committed to enforcing its international obligations. That is why I am pleased to announce that along with 25 of our colleagues, today I am introducing the Youth Worker Protection Act (YWPA), legislation that would erase any doubt whether the United States is in compliance with its ILO 182 obligations.

Among the worst forms of child labor that the signers of the ILO 182 agreed to prohibit and eliminate included work which, by its nature and the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. The United States regulates these types of practices through regulations known as Hazardous Orders (HOs) that are issued by the Secretary of Labor. These regulations are amended from time to time as new information becomes available or when revisions are recommended.

Despite numerous changes in our nation's economy, these HOs have not been substantially changed or revised for over thirty-years. Even more troubling is that because of the law creates a difference for the rules governing Agriculture and non-agriculture employment, the HO's contain numerous anomalies, including the fact that a 16-year-old worker can use a power driven circular saw if they're working on the farm—but not if they're working in the shop.

Mr. Speaker, I can only assume that the Department of Labor recognized that it had not substantially revised the Hazardous Orders, and that this recognition was the impetus behind the Department's commissioning of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to engage a detailed analysis of the HOs. After a comprehensive view of injury data and scientific literature NIOSH's recommended revising existing HOs as well as the creation of some new orders.

The NIOSH report was completed more than three years ago and unfortunately the Department of Labor has taken zero action on NIOSH's recommendations, including such common-sense proposals such as revising the rules on children whose employment involves construction work, using chainsaws, or operating dangerous motorized vehicles.

Given the gravity of the fact that more than 200,000 youth are injured in the workplace every year, and a young person is killed while working in this country once every five days, this inaction is inexcusable and inappropriate. The Youth Worker Protection Act would implement the NIOSH recommendations into Law ensuring that our nation's children are prevented from working in hazardous jobs and keeping America compliant with ILO 182.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to ensuring that the United States is in compliance with its international obligations to end the worst forms of child labor, the YWPA also takes crucial steps to modernize America's child labor laws to reflect the changed nature of America's economy since our child labor laws were enacted nearly 70 years ago.

In some ways kids today are working just as long as their "Mill Children" predecessors, especially when one considers the hours a student is in school. Mr. Speaker, the average time a student is in class is about 7 hours a day, or 35 hours a week. This does not include additional time for extracurricular activities or homework. Going to school is almost a full-time job itself. Therefore, in addition to devoting a minimum of 35 hours a week to their schoolwork, many high-school students are also working 30 to 40 hours a week for some of America's largest corporations, often working well past midnight while simultaneously trying to balance school requirements. When one combines the hours some of today's teens are at school with their hours at work, the 70-hour workweek is still in place.

Mr. Speaker, research clearly indicates that working more than 20 hours a week in addition to a normal school schedule has a negative effect on student's academic progress. Additional studies show that children who work long hours also tend to use more alcohol and drugs, which is why the YWPA creates common-sense limits on the hours that students can work during the school year.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation will reduce the problem of children working long hours when school is in session, and it strengthens existing limitations on the number of hours children