

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO
SOUTH KOREA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, fifty-five years ago, the United States came to the aid of South Korea, when it was invaded by Communist forces from across its northern border. This month, South Korea has come to the aid of the United States, when a natural disaster struck from across our southern coastline.

With its generous pledge of \$30 million in cash, services, and in-kind contributions, South Korea joins a list of more than 90 countries that have offered some form of assistance to our efforts of relief and recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

What is noteworthy is that, among those nearly 100 countries, South Korea is providing the fourth-largest offer of assistance. According to a recent statement by the Korean Embassy, "Seoul's commitment of \$30 million will comprise of \$5 million from the government budget with the remainder to be raised through a collection of contributions by the Korean National Red Cross, the religious community and Korean corporations with U.S. subsidiaries." In fact, just last week in New York, the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) pledged \$10 million to be collected from Korean conglomerates directly to the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund.

It is not mentioned often enough that South Korea is one of America's most important and trusted allies. In the global war on terror, there are more South Korean troops stationed in Iraq than any other nation besides the United States and the United Kingdom. They have assisted our efforts there from almost the moment the Saddam Hussein regime was toppled and have done so at great personal peril to the soldiers deployed and at considerable political risk to the government in Seoul.

As I had the opportunity to travel to North Korea at the beginning of the year along with several of my colleagues, including Rep. CURT WELDON, the status of the Six-Party Talks to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue has been of great concern to me. That is why I was pleased to know that earlier this week, after lengthy deliberation, a joint statement was agreed to by all the parties involved.

I commend the U.S. Envoy to the Six-Party Talks, my good friend Ambassador Christopher Hill, for his skillful diplomatic leadership in helping to achieve the accord. I also commend South Korea for remaining a key partner throughout the difficult negotiations. It is my hope that the joint statement will provide the impetus for a denuclearized Korean peninsula and I encourage the six nations to work together to make it a reality.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my personal appreciation to the government and people of South Korea for all they have done to continually support the United States, at home and abroad. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to offer their own expressions of gratitude to the Korean people for their generosity, spirit of friendship and abiding commitment to an enduring alliance partnership with the United States.

HONORING GROVER BARNES

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Grover Barnes on the occasion of his 98th birthday. Grover Barnes is the oldest living African American Man in Santa Barbara, and a most esteemed citizen of our fair city. He truly is a rare gem and a community treasure.

Grover Barnes, a Texas native, came to Santa Barbara over 62 years ago. In 1942 he was hired by the Miramar Hotel as a porter and one year later was the first African American promoted to Bell Captain where he served for thirty-five years. It has been said that Grover Barnes is an inimitable part of history of the city of Montecito. His level of service is remembered by generations of guests. He was known for his warm hospitality to the young and old, the rich and famous, and the not so rich and famous. In 2001, Grover Barnes was voted as a Local Hero of Santa Barbara and affectionately called "The Ambassador of Hospitality."

The generosity of spirit that marked Mr. Barnes' professional life is many times amplified in his lifelong dedication to his friends and family, to community service and to his church. It is his deep devotion to his community, his concern for those who have been left behind, his commitment to making sure the right thing is done for someone in need, that makes him a true community treasure. He has worked tirelessly to advance just causes and has always stayed focused on the right issues. To this day, Mr. Barnes contributes to our community life by writing letters to the Santa Barbara News Press editor which are thought provoking and historically significant.

Grover Barnes has received numerous honors for his greatest joy: a lifelong devotion to serving others and for making sure justice is done. He has been intensely involved in many community organizations including: the NAACP Santa Barbara Chapter, the Brotherhood of Santa Barbara, the Mason Lodge, the Eastside Study Group and the George Washington Carver Scholarship Society. As a man who has devoted his life to helping others, I today recognize Grover Barnes as a role model of the very best kind, a man who has been a friend to many and a teacher to all, a shining example of what makes this country and community great.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 125th Anniversary of Ursuline High School. Ursuline High School, founded in 1880 in Santa Rosa by the Ursuline Sisters, is a private Catholic secondary school committed to excellence in educating young women.

Ursuline High School, known in the early years as Ursuline Academy, first opened its

doors at 10th and B Streets in the former Santa Rosa Christian College Building. By 1957, the school relocated to its current location in northern Santa Rosa on a portion of the Howarth Estate. The year 1965 saw the addition of Cardinal Newman High School, a private school for young men, on the adjacent property.

Even as Ursuline High School has grown and spawned such acclaimed alumni as Olympic Swimming Champion Ann Curtis and Broadway actor Valerie Leonard, the school has remained focused on empowering young women to realize their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Ursuline High School for its 125 years of commitment to educating young women to be leaders.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3132, CHILDREN'S SAFETY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Children's Safety Act. We have heard heart-wrenching accounts of the devastating effects, both immediate and long-term, of sexual abuse and it is time we pass legislation that would help prevent further cases of abuse.

It is vital that sex offenders are required by law to report to law enforcement nationwide once they move residences. Our children are at risk when these felons are unaccounted for. With a National Sex Offender Registry in place and freely accessible to the public, American families will be safer and parents can further protect their children from sexual predators. We have heard of too many victims that suffered through the horrible acts of sexual abuse by a convicted sex offender who failed to update their registration with the sex offender registry. Too many times sexual offenders have moved out of state and left their hurtful past only to commit the same crimes. Too many times sexual offenders have been released from prison after serving a term for sexual abuse only to disappear because they were never forced to register. Too often parents have found out after the attack that a neighbor or friend has a history of sexual abuse.

The Children's Safety Act would give additional tools to our citizens and law enforcement to track offenders and prevent additional attacks. By expanding the coverage of sex offenders to include any felony sex offender and misdemeanor sex offenses and possession of child pornography, we will be giving our parents and our police the additional information so they are proactive on preventing sexual attacks. The Children's Safety Act also puts into law more common sense, that sex offenders should be forced to register before they are released from prison. And the Children's Safety Act allows states to increase the amount of information that they post on the Nation Sex Offender Registry so families and law enforcement officials can keep track of these predators.

I am disappointed that this bill was brought to the floor of the House with an amendment

expanding federal hate-crimes protections. I voted AGAINST this amendment, but supported the bill to further protect our children against sexual predators, under the assurance the “hate crimes” amendment would not survive the Conference between the House and the Senate as was the case last year with the Defense Department Authorizations Bill. The amendment would federalize local crimes if the suspected motive is animosity toward homosexuals or transgender. While I strongly

abhor bigotry and discrimination, hate-crime legislation would require the government to provide for more punishment for any given violent crime or physical assault simply because the government decided that the motive for the crime was more heinous than another. Every citizen must be afforded the same amount of protection and fairness provided for under the law; however, none must be given a “special” status. Individuals caught committing a crime must understand that conviction

will be certain, sentencing will be swift and punishment will be severe—and now with the passage of the Children’s Safety Act, sex offenders will be held to more strict punishment and limitation.

Ensuring the security of our citizens, and especially our children, should be the primary focus of government. The Children’s Safety Act helps meet this entrusted obligation, and I am proud to cast my vote in support of this measure.