

TRIBUTE TO MR. HERBERT D. KATZ

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, Representatives ALCEE L. HASTINGS, KENDRICK B. MEEK, and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and I rise to recognize Mr. Herbert D. Katz for his dedication as a member of the South Florida Jewish Community for the past 35 years. During this time, Herb has held numerous leadership positions in organizations including AIPAC and the United Jewish Appeal (UJA). Herb has served on AIPAC's National Board of Directors for over 20 years and played a key role in strengthening U.S.-Israeli relations, especially on Capitol Hill. Herb's knowledge, credibility and passion for politics have led him to foster key relationships with a wide-range of elected officials, and we deeply value his activism, patriotism and exemplary public service.

Herb Katz has dedicated his life to enhancing U.S.-Israeli ties and has an extraordinary history of championing Jewish causes at the local, national and global level. He served on the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet in its earliest years. He also served as the president of Jewish Federation of Hollywood in the early 1970s and was the first president of the newly established Jewish Federation of Broward County in 1996. He chaired the Board of Overseers of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He also served as president of the National Board of American Friends of Hebrew University, which awarded him an honorary degree. Herb and his wife Ellie have selflessly exemplified the highest form of hesed and have demonstrated exemplary Jewish leadership and pro-Israel political activism, and we hold them both in the utmost regard.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we offer our heartfelt congratulations to Herb for being honored by AIPAC—one of the foremost advocacy organizations in the world.

Herb's commitment and dedication to U.S.-Israeli relations is immeasurable and his leadership continues to be critical to maintaining the unbreakable bond between the two nations. It is our honor to join AIPAC and its members in recognizing Herb. We thank him for his work, and wish him mazel tov and much continued success.

HONORING BARBARA T. BOWMAN FOR LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Barbara T. Bowman, who tonight will receive the prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. Professor Bowman is co-founder and former president of Erikson Institute, and currently serves as chief officer of the Chicago Public Schools' Office of Early Childhood Education.

Along with Professor Bowman, Sharon Lynn Kagan and Ellen Moir are being honored dur-

ing an awards ceremony at the New York Public Library. They have been chosen to receive the prestigious 18th annual award for their work in early childhood education and teacher professional development. They have brought academic innovation, as well as a tireless focus in preparing students and teachers for success.

Professor Bowman is a lifelong proponent of higher education for those who teach and care for young children, and a pioneer in building knowledge and understanding of the issues of access and equity for minority children. She co-founded Erikson Institute in 1966 to educate preschool teachers to work with children from low-income families in the Head Start program. Today, largely because of Bowman's leadership, Erikson's educational programs reach more than 2,500 students and, through them, hundreds of thousands of children.

Professor Bowman and her husband are residents of the Hyde Park Community in Chicago, and they are well known for their community, civic, and political activities. They represent the best of citizenship and what it means to live in a free and democratic society.

I salute Professor Bowman and the other honorees for their outstanding contributions to education. These individuals have dedicated themselves to improving education in this country and their accomplishments continue to make a difference today.

HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MARK-UP OF H. RES. 375, H. RES. 408, AND H. RES. 419

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my support for H. Res. 375, as well as H. Res. 408 and H. Res. 419, all requesting information from the Administration regarding plans and communication leading up to the war in Iraq, as well as requesting information regarding the leak of CIA Agent Valerie Plame's name to the media. These resolutions highlight a disturbing trend within the Bush Administration to hide critical information from Congress and the American people. The President owes Americans the truth, especially when it involves the lives of our sons and daughters.

Like so many of my colleagues, and so many of my constituents in the 4th District of Minnesota, I was profoundly disturbed when I learned of the so-called Downing Street Memo in May 2005. This document details minutes of a July 2002 meeting between British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his cabinet. The minutes of the meeting indicate that British officials believed President Bush had already decided to pursue war with Iraq. The minutes further appear to indicate that the Bush Administration was intentionally distorting intelligence information to justify the case for invading Iraq.

Concern by Congress and the American people regarding the Downing Street Memo have escalated since first reported. Earlier this year, over ninety Members of the House sent a letter to President Bush requesting a full accounting of these allegations. The President

has yet to respond to this letter. However, the British government has not disputed the authenticity of the Downing Street Memo, and a former senior Bush Administration official has confirmed the accuracy of this account to the press. The failure of the Administration to address these concerns and to adequately investigate the leak of an undercover CIA agent's name to the media is obstructionist. This is a matter of accountability and transparency, and I support all three of these resolutions.

While all Americans stand united in support of our troops, President Bush has offered no plan for success in Iraq. In fact, most Americans now agree that the President's complete mishandling of the war in Iraq has transformed Iraq into a terrorist haven and made our own nation less safe. As a member of the minority party in Congress, I will continue to hold the Bush Administration accountable for the flawed and dangerous policy in Iraq.

H. Res. 375, H. Res. 408, and H. Res. 419 should be favorably reported out of the House International Relations Committee, and the citizens of this country should finally be told the truth by this Administration.

NEXTENERGY CENTER GRAND OPENING

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize NextEnergy, a non-profit organization in my district of Detroit. It is a leader in the development and research of technologies that will make our nation more energy independent.

On September 29, leaders from Michigan and around the country will celebrate the grand opening of the NextEnergy Center, a state-of-the-art alternative energy innovation center. This is a wonderful day for everyone interested in making sure that Michigan is at the forefront of alternative technologies which will create jobs and ensure energy security with economic growth in the years ahead. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have been a supporter of Congressional funding for this effort, and I have no doubt that this federal investment will pay many dividends.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan revolutionized personal transportation with the development and production of motor vehicles. The automobile industry became a key part of our state's heritage and way of life.

Now at the dawn of the 21st century, we need to find new ways to power our cars and trucks. We want to develop better systems to improve energy efficiency and reduce air pollution. And we know that there is no better place to lead this new effort than from the heart of the Motor City. We have the knowledge, the talent, the expertise, the creativity, and the drive to get the job done.

With the opening of the NextEnergy Center, another important milestone has been reached. It will showcase a new breed of emerging technologies. From my discussions with the automobile companies and other industry leaders, I know that advanced technologies offer great promise for the future. But

much research and testing is still required before some are commercially viable. That is why the NextEnergy Center is so important and will play a vital role in developing breakthroughs.

By working with the automotive, electric power and defense industries, NextEnergy offers an exciting mix of opportunities. I am pleased that companies from Minnesota, New York, Texas and other states recognize the value of this effort and are signing up to do business.

The commitment to alternative energy innovation will ultimately address the needs of consumers, train a new generation of workers and lay the foundation for technologies in the marketplace. The future is bright for NextEnergy and I am pleased to be a supporter.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2133, SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, since I have been in Congress, I have been a consistent supporter of Head Start. This program assists over 900,000 children and their families nationwide, including the 1,421 children enrolled in 6 Head Start programs in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. Thanks to this program, children enrolled in Head Start in the district are nearly twice as likely as other low-income children to receive basic medical care and over three times as likely to receive dental care. In the Third Congressional District, 77 percent of Head Start children have received basic primary health care, and 76 percent have a continuous, accessible source of dental care. The program has also provided mental health services to over 150 children in the district and has provided assistance to 200 children with disabilities.

I commend the Education and Workforce Committee for working in a bipartisan manner, by reporting legislation that did not include provisions that prevented similar legislation from being enacted in the 108th Congress. Specifically, the Education and Workforce Committee did not include language permitting faith based organizations to discriminate on the basis of religion, which was part of similar legislation in the 108th Congress.

During the debate on H.R. 2123, the House adopted an amendment offered by Representative JOHN BOEHNER, which permits faith based organizations to make hiring decisions based on a person's religion. I cannot, therefore, vote for H.R. 2123 because it undermines fundamental civil rights protections against employee discrimination for Head Start teachers and volunteers. Since the inception of Head Start, this civil rights protection has allowed for religious organizations to participate in programs, while maintaining constitutional and civil rights standards. I appreciate the important contributions faith based organizations make to the education of thousands of students, through participating in the Head Start program. If the repeal of existing civil rights protections becomes law, then teachers

or parent volunteers could lose their jobs based solely on their religion.

The Head Start program provides essential early childhood education services, and I will continue to support its important work. I cannot, however, vote for this legislation that permits discrimination in hiring.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, due to preparations for Hurricane Rita in my district, I unfortunately missed the following votes on the House floor on Friday, September 22, 2005.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall vote number 488 (Sauder Amendment to H.R. 2123), 489 (Stearns Amendment to H.R. 2123), 491 (Musgrave Amendment to H.R. 2123), 492 (Boehner Amendment to H.R. 2123), and Rollcall vote number 493 (Final Passage of H.R. 2123, School Readiness Act). I strongly support these amendments and the bill because they take important steps to prepare children for success in school.

I also ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "nay" on Rollcall vote number 490 (Davis (D-IL) Amendment to H.R. 2123).

TRIBUTE TO THE TEAM OF CIVILIAN ENGINEERS STATIONED AT THE COLD WEATHER TEST DETACHMENT, IN LADD, ALASKA

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the team of civilian engineers stationed at the Cold Weather Test Detachment, in Ladd, Alaska during World War II. I first became aware of the significant contributions of the engineers at Ladd Field through the first hand accounts of my constituent, Mr. Paul J. Burchett.

From 1942 to 1945, Mr. Burchett and his colleagues served at the Cold Weather Test Detachment in Ladd, Alaska. Civilian employees, Mr. Burchett and his colleagues voluntarily worked alongside our servicemen during the war. They endured extreme weather conditions and worked to ensure the safety of our pilots and our planes in the frigid temperatures of Alaska. The contribution that Mr. Burchett and his colleagues made to support the war effort will not be forgotten. Even today, their innovative work is still used for both commercial and military applications.

While at Ladd Field, Mr. Burchett's commanding officer, Colonel R. Stewart, highly praised Mr. Burchett, and his work. In a report to Mr. Burchett's company, Stewart wrote, "As a result of his diligence and interest, Mr. Burchett was most helpful in assisting maintenance personnel of this organization. As a result of his efforts, many of the problems which were experienced were readily overcome, thus averting a serious loss of time. Mr. Burchett was keenly interested in his work, and spent many hours over the normal working day in accomplishing his mission."

After World War II, Mr. Burchett worked as a professor at Pasadena City College for 35 years. While there, he continued to develop after-war designs for experimental aircraft. Mr. Burchett helped develop aircraft for Lockheed from 1937-1959. While working for Lockheed, Mr. Burchett helped develop the first working jet fighter.

Mr. Burchett, now 90 years of age, has led a remarkable life. Until recently his work at Ladd Field was classified. This is why I now wish to recognize that work and commend Mr. Burchett on a lifetime of dedicated service to his nation. He deserves our respect and gratitude.

HONORING THOMAS HEALY OF ALPHAPOINTE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Thomas Healy and Alphapointe Association for the Blind, who will retire from the organization September 30, 2005. During his 25 year tenure as President and CEO, Thomas has been the guiding force behind Alphapointe's flourishing as a nonprofit organization in the Greater Kansas City community.

Mr. Healy has been a community leader at Alphapointe for his 34 years with the organization, and as President and CEO helped Alphapointe achieve heights worthy of praise by the organization's founder, Catherine Hale.

To understand how deeply Mr. Healy has touched the Greater Kansas City community, we must all understand what a unique company he has been leading. Founded in 1911 and originally incorporated as the Kansas City Association for the Blind in 1916, Alphapointe was first a group of blind men and women who gathered together for company and recreation. Originally a social organization, Alphapointe has expanded its sense of purpose to provide not only needed social services like rehabilitation and educational services, but also jobs.

Today, the company proudly manufactures over 30 million plastic bottles for pharmaceuticals and over 11 million writing instruments each year. It is not the volume or product of Alphapointe's production that makes it unique; it is the composition of the company's employee base. Over half of the employees, from management to custodial staff, are blind or disabled. Remaining true to its foundation, Alphapointe continues to provide a place of community for all. Under his leadership and guidance, Thomas has helped this vital organization grow from a company of 55 employees to more than 160 earning more than \$20 million per year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in saluting Mr. Thomas Healy and Alphapointe Association for the Blind for their years of dedicated service to the City of Kansas City, Missouri and the surrounding metropolitan community. Thank you Thomas, we will miss seeing you at the helm, but know you will continue to be an advocate and guided voice in our area as a member of Alphapointe's Advisory Board of Directors.