

TRIBUTE TO DR. EDMOND YUNIS

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to pay tribute to Dr. Edmond Yunis, a professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School, who was recently named the 2005 National Hispanic Scientist of the Year by the Museum of Science and Industry, MOSI, in Tampa, FL.

Dr. Yunis is well-deserving of this prestigious national award as he has made significant contributions in scientific and medical research. This research includes the genetic mapping of human major histocompatibility complex, MHC, genes and their role in immune responses, aging, and autoimmune diseases. Dr. Yunis' laboratory work identifying genes also has been especially important for matching donors and recipients for organ and stem cell transplants.

Dr. Yunis was born in Sincelejo, Colombia, and he received his M.D. from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in 1954. Dr. Yunis received his postdoctoral training in pathology at the University of Kansas, the University of Minnesota, and the Children's Hospital in Boston. He joined Harvard Medical School in 1976 as Professor of Pathology, and he became Chief of the Division of Immunogenetics of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute that same year. Along with being a professor of pathology at Harvard, Dr. Yunis currently is a member of the Department of Cancer, Immunology and AIDS at Dana Farber. Dr. Yunis has received numerous medical awards throughout his career for this outstanding work, and he and his wife, Borghild, have four children.

The National Hispanic Scientist of the Year award was established 5 years ago to recognize an outstanding national Hispanic scientist who promotes a greater public understanding of science and who also encourages increased interest in science education by Hispanic youth.

I'm also pleased to know the proceeds from MOSI's National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award Gala on October 22, 2005, go toward scholarships for Hispanic boys and girls to participate in MOSI's Youth Enriched by Science program, known as the "YES! Team." Established in 1991, the YES! Team program is designed to help at-risk youth develop self esteem and to encourage them to study science and consider science-related careers.

In conjunction with the weekend gala celebration, MOSI also is hosting a "Meet the Hispanic Scientist Day" where approximately 1,000 Hispanic students from the Tampa Bay area will get a chance to hear a presentation by this year's award winner and to get access to MOSI's hands-on science exhibits. Again, I want to congratulate Dr. Yunis for receiving the 2005 National Hispanic Scientist of the Year award. He serves as an outstanding role model for students in the Tampa Bay area and his visit will help motivate them to stay in school and to realize their dreams.

H.R. 4093, THE "FEDERAL JUDGESHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2005"

HON. F. JAMES SENENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. SENENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Federal Judgeship and Administrative Efficiency Act of 2005." I urge the House to pass the legislation expeditiously.

The purpose of this bill is to provide the President with the necessary authority to appoint needed circuit and district court judges and to increase the number of authorized bankruptcy judgeships.

A further purpose is to make changes in the structure of the court of appeals system, which are required to modernize, streamline, and improve the administration of justice for nearly one in five Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the last comprehensive judgeship bill that was passed by Congress was enacted in 1990. Since that time, the volume of cases handled by the judiciary has increased substantially.

The Federal Judgeship and Administrative Efficiency Act authorizes the creation of 68 new judgeships—12 at the circuit court level and 56 at the district courts. In addition, the bill contains authority to create 24 new permanent or temporary bankruptcy judgeships.

These new judgeships will benefit districts across America. When confirmed, these new judges will be in a position to help address a growing backlog of cases that threatens to clog our courts and imposes substantial human and economic costs on our citizens.

A judiciary that fails in its basic obligation to dispense justice in a timely, fair, and dispassionate manner compromises its own credibility. A court that is too far removed from those whose disputes it is responsible for adjudicating impose severe costs on those who must appear before it. The bill before us speaks to these concerns by providing for the realignment of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the establishment of a new Twelfth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Ninth has become so big—in geographic size, in workload, in number of active and senior judges—that it can no longer appropriately discharge its civic functions on behalf of the American people.

Consider: The Ninth has 47 judges, a figure that approaches twice the number of total judges of the next largest circuit. The Ninth represents 56 million people, or roughly one-fifth of our Nation's population. This is 25 million more people than the second largest circuit. The Ninth encompasses nearly 40 percent of the geographic area of the United States.

The Ninth Circuit also has the most number of appeals filed and the highest percentage increase in appeals filed over the past 4 years. It is the circuit-wide leader in the number of appeals still pending and ranks a close second in the longest median time until disposition.

Given these and other problems created by the mammoth breadth and size of the Ninth, I believe the responsible action is to modernize and streamline the structure of the Courts of Appeals.

Briefly, H.R. 4093 creates a new Ninth that will feature California, Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The new Twelfth will consist of the States of Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Importantly in this regard, H.R. 4093 authorizes the President to appoint five new judges to permanent Ninth Circuit seats along with two other judges who will fill temporary seats. My bill provides that the official duty station for these newly authorized judges will be in California.

These additions are consistent with requests made by the Judicial Conference and will ensure that future caseload demands on the new Ninth will more closely mirror its judgeship resources. California is not being singled out or punished by this legislation. Quite the contrary, the district and circuit courts that affect the rights of the citizens of California are being provided with their proportionate share of resources and being liberated to become more productive.

Mr. Speaker, bigger does not always mean better. The constant expansion of the size of a court without also adopting commensurate reforms will, most assuredly, not result in improving the performance of the judiciary.

The allocation of judicial resources must be made with an eye toward achieving structural coherence within each circuit.

H.R. 4093 accomplishes that purpose and I urge its adoption.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SHAWN BARRINGTON SILVERA

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery and service of Officer Shawn Barrington Silver of the Lino Lakes Police Department.

Officer Silvera was killed in the line of duty on September 6th, 2005, when he was struck by a stolen car driven by a convicted felon attempting to evade arrest.

Officer Silvera was a Minnesota family man in the truest sense of the words. He married his high school sweetheart, Jennifer, to whom he sent flowers every month to mark their anniversary, even after five years of marriage.

Together, Shawn and Jennifer had two children, eighteen-month-old Jordan and five-month-old Madelynn.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Silvera loved giving back to his community and to society as a whole.

He joined the Lino Lakes Police Department in 1997, but took a leave of absence to work for two years with the Peace Corps in Honduras, where he helped build a community library.

Outside of police work, Officer Silvera worked with the Explorers program, to get teenagers interested in careers in law enforcement. He also served in the D.A.R.E. drug awareness program, and worked as a counselor at the local Safety Camp.

Even after all this volunteer work, Officer Silvera would often join the kids he worked with for lunch or a game of football or basketball.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Silvra knew the dangers of his profession, but he also knew of its importance. He genuinely loved helping people, and he touched countless lives before his tragic death.

Officer Silvra was a true American hero, and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family for their loss.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE AASU TENNIS TEAM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I come forth today with the honor of recognizing Georgia's Armstrong Atlantic State University women's NCAA National Champion tennis team. The Armstrong Atlantic women's tennis team did an outstanding job capturing the school's third NCAA Division II National Championship in 2005, defeating BYU—Hawaii by a score of 5–3 to win the title.

The No. 2-ranked Lady Pirates ended BYU—Hawaii's NCAA record of 130-match winning streak with the victory and finished a hard undefeated season of their own at 30–0.

One of only 10 teams across every sport and division of the NCAA put together an undefeated campaign.

AASU, who's other National Championships came in 1995 and 1996, accomplished the feat with unprecedented team depth as all six starters on the squad earned All-America honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).

Junior Luisa Cowper (Sutton Coldfield, England) finished the year as the No. 3-ranked singles player in the Nation and was named the Peach Belt Conference's Player of the Year.

Sophomore Dziyana Nazaruk (Minsk, Belarus) was the No. 8-ranked singles player and was named the ITA's "Player to Watch" in 2005.

Freshman Johanna Dahlback (Hasselby, Sweden) won the clinching match in the national championship victory and was the No. 9-ranked singles player in the Nation.

Juniors Caroline Grage (Hamburg, Germany) and Manuela Emmrich (Magdeburg, Germany) teamed together to make up the No. 8-ranked doubles team in the Nation, while senior Laura Peaty (Loughborough, England) teamed with Cowper to make up the No. 3-ranked doubles team in the Nation.

The man who provided guidance for the women's success is Head coach Simon Earnshaw. He was named the Peach Belt Conference Coach of the Year for his efforts in earning his first National Championship.

I am very proud of this team for displaying such hard work and sportsmanship throughout the season and can only hope that they might bring the National Championship title back to Georgia in 2006.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE MARSHALL PETER BRIERTY IS A TRUE NATIONAL FORESTRY HERO

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to honor San Bernardino County Fire Marshall Peter Brierty, who has been recognized this month as a National Forestry Hero. I know from personal experience that this award is justly deserved, for Peter Brierty is widely regarded among my constituents as one of the heroes who saved thousands of people and their homes from the terrible fires of 2003 in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Many of my colleagues have heard me speak on the urgent need to get rid of millions of trees killed by a drought and insect attacks in and around the San Bernardino National Forest in my district. The fire danger from these trees jeopardizes the lives and homes of tens of thousands of people and homes that make this one of the most urbanized forests in the Nation.

One of the first people to understand the potential danger from this situation was Peter Brierty. More importantly, Peter Brierty realized the need to act quickly and bring the whole community together to reduce the danger and be ready to evacuate if fires struck. For most of the past three years, Fire Marshall Brierty has worked tirelessly, pushing his staff and other public officials to develop these plans. He has become a well-known figure at countless meetings with residents, convincing them of the need to cooperate to save lives and property.

Under Fire Marshall Brierty's direction, San Bernardino County launched an ambitious effort to eliminate dead and dying trees on private and public lands outside of the national forest. The operation he created has been highly praised by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which has funded the effort, as extremely cost-efficient and effective.

But the danger was too great in 2003, and the "Old Fire" struck before we could even begin to cut enough trees to stop it. Nearly 70,000 people were in danger, but the plan devised by Fire Marshall Brierty and other county, state and federal officials safely evacuated all of them. Not one life was lost in the fire, even though 350 structures and more than 800,000 acres were ravaged by the blaze.

Mr. Speaker, many people have devoted countless hours and unlimited energy to reducing the fire danger and restoring the forest in the San Bernardino Mountains. The task is far from finished, but we have seen two fire seasons now in which no major blaze has threatened homes to the extent of the Old Fire.

In recognition of the role he played in confronting this threat to whole communities, Fire Marshall Peter Brierty was presented the 2005 National Forestry Heroism Award by the STIHL Incorporated this month. I would ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating him for this recognition, and thanking him for his unwavering devotion to public service.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER PAUL PILLEN

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report the passing of Chief Warrant Officer Paul Pillen. He was killed while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Paul's goodwill and service. He inspired all those who knew him. Our Nation is a far better place because of his life. All Americans owe Paul, and the other soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom, a tremendous debt of gratitude for their service.

Every member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, Chief Warrant Officer Paul Pillen lived that commitment to our country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sympathies to the family and friends of Chief Warrant Officer Paul Pillen. I believe the best way to honor him is to emulate his commitment to our country. I know he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS SCHELLING'S NOBEL PRIZE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I often talk with great pride about the University of Maryland, both as an outstanding academic institution and as my alma mater. Today is no different. While this latest achievement revolves around the concept of games, it is not Gary Williams or Ralph Friedgen who are bringing home the hardware. Instead, it's Thomas Schelling, a University of Maryland professor and 50-year expert in the concept known as "game theory," who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences last week.

The Fifth Congressional District congratulates Professor Schelling, whose contributions to economics will influence generations of policy-makers, diplomats, and strategic thinkers. Schelling is best known for his book, "The Strategy of Conflict," a groundbreaking effort to deter the use of nuclear weapons. Schelling used his "game theory" to explain how the Cold War could effectively be prevented from turning into a nuclear holocaust. As Michael Kinsley recently noted in the Washington Post, Schelling's theory was born to deal with interdependence. "The other side had to be confident that it could survive and retaliate if you went first," he said. "Otherwise, in a crisis, it would be sorely tempted to go first."

Fortunately, the world averted disaster in the case of the Cold War, but many modern day security threats remain. With nuclear terrorism the most glaring and preventable