

homeland security challenge of our time, world leaders would be wise to consider Professor Schelling's theory wherever possible.

Professor Schelling has spent the majority of his adult life championing the most patriotic of causes: applying behavioral and economic sciences for the promotion of peace. The Nobel Academy rightly recognized his distinguished career, and the Nation should be proud of his accomplishments. As a native of Maryland and an alumnus of the place Schelling calls home, I take special pride in saluting his success.

CONGRATULATING CITIZENS FINANCIAL GROUP ON THEIR RECEIPT OF THE 2005 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Citizens Financial Group, recently chosen as a recipient of the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The award recognizes employers that were nominated by their employees who voluntarily serve in the National Guard and Reserve, for exceptional support above the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. This is the highest national award a company can receive for its support of the National Guard and Reserve.

Citizens is the first Rhode Island employer to win the highest national award for their outstanding support of colleagues serving in the National Guard and Reserve and their families. Citizens is one of only 15 employers in the United States to receive this prestigious award from among 1,492 nominees.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award reflects the exceptional support, leadership, and devotion provided by employers to our brave men and women of the Reserve Forces. The importance of employers who are supportive of our enlisted men and women should never be underestimated, and Rhode Island is proud to have employers like Citizens Financial Group hard at work in our community. On behalf of my home state, I would like to thank Citizens Financial Group for their dedication, and I wish them much success in the future.

ENCOURAGE INITIATIVE AND SELF-ESTEEM

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for a bill I have just introduced, H.R. 4095, the Encourage Initiative and Promote Self-Esteem Act of 2005.

There are many people in our country who receive Social Security Disability benefits (SSD) because they have a "waxing and waning" disease—Behcet's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Lupus, Parkinson's, Cancer, AIDS and

Arthritis are examples of "waxing and waning" diseases. Eric Peterson, who lives in my Congressional District, has taught me a great deal about these diseases and the need for a better way for people to seek and keep SSD.

This process of seeking SSD and keeping it is often times an adversarial one. The climate of suspicion that applicants and recipients say they feel leaves many to view the Social Security Administration, SSA, with a jaundiced eye. Everyone who actually gains disability benefits remembers the hoops of fire they had to jump through during the application process. As a result, many people often do not consider a try at working, fearing that the SSA will use that against them to deny future benefits. With concerns over fraudulent claims, I can understand how this environment came to be. But that doesn't make it right.

For people with "waxing and waning" diseases and conditions, they know that they will have good days and bad. They know that, barring a cure, they will always be sick, but that does not diminish their spirit. There needs to be a program that encourage people in this situation to secure temporary employment when they feel they can work without placing their SSD at risk for the times they cannot work.

Currently, if a person makes more than \$810 a month, disability benefits will stop. If one makes \$810 but then has less money than his SSD, there is no incentive to work. H.R. 4095 would install a system based on a sliding scale. The more money one earns, the fewer benefits he or she receives. But there will be a built-in incentive to stay the course because the total monthly income when working will be more than either the work income or SSD.

In addition, if a person makes \$300 or more a month, their review is put aside. This incentive will further encourage people to push themselves to continue working if at all possible.

Imagine a situation where those on SSD who have diseases that "wax and wane" could work, without fear, when able. That would be a lot of money put back into the Treasury in payroll withholdings and taxes—and more money put into the economy in increased purchasing, not to mention the contribution to society and elevated self-esteem of the workers. Think about the faith these people would have in a system of government that treats its people with dignity and respect instead of suspicion and contempt.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4095 improve the lives of thousands of Americans.

HONORING SHELDON LATZ

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheldon Latz who was named the 2004 Urban County Engineer of the Year award from the National Association of County Engineers during its annual conference. Sheldon was recently named Urban Engineer of the Year by the Illinois Association of County Engineers. That nomination put him in the running for the national award.

Sheldon has been employed by Will County since June 11, 1961 and has been the County

Engineer since 1996. When Sheldon first started working for the County, Interstate 55 was new and Interstate 80 did not even exist. A lot of the local roads were graveled and less than two lanes wide. Today, those same roads are paved and are four or five lanes wide. Will County has gone from a quiet rural area to one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. According to Sheldon, he is most proud of the CenterPoint development in Elwood which is located on the former Joliet Arsenal property. Bringing roads into the development has been a highlight of his career.

Sheldon's dream as a child was to be an engineer. He has a passion for road work that has never left his system. His love for the profession has prompted Sheldon to become a Joliet Junior College Adjunct Professor in 1974 where he has taught several courses in architecture, engineering and construction. Sheldon served in the United States Army as an Army medic and a Preventive Medicine Specialist teaching sewage and water treatment process and prevention of water borne diseases.

Not content to stay on the sidelines, Sheldon also serves on several local boards which includes Howell Shooting Club and the Howell Youth Shooting Camp. The camp gives girls and boys an opportunity to come together under a formal program to experience and grow in their appreciation of shooting sports. Sheldon and his wife Janice have four children and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other individuals in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's families and communities.

HONORING PROFESSOR RICHARD P. BERG

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Professor Richard P. Berg for 31 years of teaching, scholarship and service to the Santa Clara University School of Law.

Professor Berg has served as a Professor of Law at the Santa Clara University School of Law for 31 years. Throughout his tenure, Professor Berg has dedicated himself to serving the public and working for social justice. He was chair of the Santa Clara University School of Law Public Interest and Social Justice Endowment, which funds financial assistance programs for volunteers and attorneys working in public interest and social justice fields. Last year alone, the Endowment provided \$66,750 in summer grants for 23 students working as volunteers with public interest and social justice programs, and \$17,000 in Income Supplement Grants for attorneys working with similar organizations.

Professor Berg also has served on the board of directors of several public interest organizations, and has been active in international issues, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. He has been the director of the Singapore-Bangkok summer law program since 1984 and is active in dispute resolution organizations such as the American Arbitration Association and Asia Pacific Organization for Mediation.

Prior to coming to Santa Clara University School of Law, Professor Berg earned his B.A. in Economics from the University of Michigan in 1965, and received his J.D. from the University of Michigan School of Law in 1968. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from law school, was inducted into the Order of the Coif and served on the Editorial Board of the Michigan Law Review.

After earning his J.D., Professor Berg was an Associate in Law at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Boalt Hall, a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow in Poverty Law, and Staff Counsel and Economic Development Specialist, at the National Housing and Economic Development Law Center in Berkeley, California. He also published an article in the San Diego Law Review on a major class action case, *Zahn v. International Paper* in 1974, and a short article on Prisoners' Rights and Jail Conditions in the *et al Magazine* in 1970.

On a personal level, I played a key role in helping Richard to marry his wonderful wife of many years, Mare, and we meet every year at the SCCS graduation to enjoy the past and plot the future of our wonderful law school as well as our wonderful country.

As an alumna of the Law School, it is an honor to recognize Professor Berg's contributions to the legal community and the Santa Clara University School of Law. Professor Berg instilled in thousands of students an awareness of social justice, and inspired countless attorneys to dedicate their careers to making "Equal Justice Under Law" a reality.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY CENTERS ESTABLISHMENT ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Emergency Centers Establishment Act. Many of us share the belief that the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina was disorganized and inadequate. FEMA was far too slow to arrive, and evacuees were left stranded in massive shelters with egregious standard of living violations. Victims of the storm are now spread all over the country, costing the government \$11 million per day just to house only a portion of evacuees in hotels. Tens of thousands are still living in inadequate shelters and even tents—months after the storm—with little assurances for their safety and security.

These two problems—increasing the availability of temporary housing in times of national emergencies and improving training and preparedness for national emergencies—must be resolved to ensure that the humanitarian catastrophe that occurred in the gulf coast and continues to happen today will never occur again.

I come to the floor today to introduce the National Emergency Centers Establishment Act. My bill establishes no fewer than six National Emergency Centers spread throughout the United States. The Centers would be used, first and foremost, to provide temporary housing, medical and humanitarian assistance, including education, for individuals and families displaced due to an emergency. The Cen-

ters would also serve as a centralized location for the training and coordination of first responders in the instance of an emergency. In turn, the Centers will improve the coordination of preparedness, response and recovery efforts between government, private, not-for-profit entities and faith-based organizations.

The National Emergency Centers would be located on military bases, with a preference wherever possible for those installations closed during the most recent BRAC round. I am proposing these sites because the necessary infrastructure to house, feed, educate and care for evacuees over an extended period of time is already in place, thus limiting the cost and time needed to construct these facilities.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation was not prepared for the disastrous hurricanes that struck the gulf coast last month. The establishment of National Emergency Centers will go a long way to ensuring that our response to national emergencies are not as disastrous as the disasters that created the emergencies in the first place.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the House Leadership to bring this legislation to the floor for its swift consideration.

TRIBUTE TO ROSETTA JAMES

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize one North Alabama's most compassionate citizens, Mrs. Rosetta James. Mrs. James, who is celebrating her 80th birthday in Huntsville, Alabama has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for all individuals in our community.

Mrs. James was born in Akron, Alabama. After 27 years in the State of New York, she returned to her home State in 1973, and has spent the last 32 years serving in various community, church, and civic roles.

Among her many accomplishments, Mrs. James has served her community and her State as the Alabama Democratic Conference Chairperson from 1992 to 1996. Additionally, she was appointed by Governor Fob James as the first volunteer Deputy Registrar in Madison County, has served on the Huntsville City Schools Advisory Council, the Family Service Center Board, and has volunteered with the Madison County Board of Volunteers and Corrections, the NAACP, and many more.

Furthermore Mr. Speaker, Mrs. James continues her extraordinary work throughout the community today. Currently, she volunteers at two community schools to help children learn to read. Mrs. James also continues to inspire others to take an active role in the community. In addition, she works to organize voter registration drives and absentee ballots for people who cannot go to the polls.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. James has had a tremendous positive impact on our community in Huntsville. On October 21st, Mrs. James' family and friends are gathering to celebrate her 80th birthday with a surprise party. I rise, on behalf of everyone in North Alabama to thank her for everything she has done for the area and to wish her a happy and healthy 80th year.

THE 9/11 COMMISSION FINAL REPORT ONE YEAR LATER

HON. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mrs. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to enter the following into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT ONE YEAR LATER

A CITIZENS' RESPONSE: DID THE COMMISSION
GET IT RIGHT?

*A Congressional Briefing Convened on the First
Anniversary of the Release of the 9/11 Commission Report, Friday, July 22, 2005*

EXCERPTS FROM THE TESTIMONY

Opening Remarks

Rep. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Last year, we got the final report, an extensive, prosaically impressive report, but as some of us sat down to read it, the errors and omissions immediately jumped out at us. How was it that it took over an hour after the first transponder went off before planes were scrambled to meet the threat, all of them too late? What happened to those reports that surfaced within months of September 11th stating that seven or more of the alleged hijackers had come forward and claimed they were victims of stolen identities and were alive and well, living in Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Tunisia? Why did the Commission choose not even to address this? What about Osama bin Laden and his role in the Mujahedin backed by the CIA in the 1980s to fight the Soviets? The Commission didn't go there . . . We cannot afford to shy away from inconvenient truths. Many of you may find what you hear today to be inconvenient information. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but times of challenge and controversy. I encourage you to engage with the issues that are raised. If you don't agree or don't like what you hear, challenge it. I believe that we should take in what every reasonable person has to say, to inform our decisions, because that is the best way to find the truth. In our pursuit of the truth, I encourage you to emulate the courage and the determination of the September 11th families in their struggle to know what really happened.

9/11 Families Report

Ms. LORIE VAN AUKEN: A thorough and definitive investigation by the Commission . . . would have subpoenaed for the information it required and examined the plethora of information that other citizens and groups responsibly provided. . . it would have reported all of its findings with its redactions blacked out and submitted to the American people. In essence, the Commission could have produced a final product where the resulting conclusions and recommendations could be trusted. Instead, at the end of the day, what we got were some statements that truly insulted the intelligence of the American people, violated our loved ones' memories, and might end up hurting us one day soon.

One such statement was that 9/11 was a failure of imagination: a failure of whose imagination? What exactly does that mean? When you have a CIA Director with his hair on fire, a system blinking red, 52 FAA warnings, an August 6, 2001 PDB entitled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in the United States," leads on several 9/11 hijackers . . . warnings from many foreign governments, a