

Massachusetts. She worked for seventeen years at Sears where she manufactured shears. Married to Hugo Johnson in 1921, she and her husband were blessed with four children, nineteen grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren. She has proudly seen all of her children married and make lives of their own. Married for forty-two years, the happiest events in Elsie's life were her wedding day and the birth of her first daughter.

Elsie moved to Hernando County with her daughter and says that her favorite part of the county is the nice and friendly people who live there. Today Elsie says that she enjoys her crochet work and doing her housework. Passing on the wisdom of her years, Elsie says that her advice to young people today is to "work for what you have and don't expect it to be given to you and to develop higher values."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Elsie Johnson for reaching her 101st birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING AN AMERICAN GIANT, CONGRESSMAN JOHN D. DINGELL, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, certainly I would like to associate myself with the previous remarks of congratulations, admiration, and appreciation expressed by numerous members of this House about our esteemed and revered colleague, Congressman JOHN DINGELL of Michigan. It is my opinion that wisdom is the invaluable contribution which Chairman DINGELL continues to offer our deliberations; it is wisdom, gained from years of hard work, experience and keen analytical observations. At a time of relentless public policy turmoil and frequent partisan confrontations, this institution needs well-anchored, seasoned, counseling to blend with the know-how and energy of the fresh and the young. JOHN DINGELL's fifty-year life investment in the House of Representatives continually produces a dividend for all Americans.

LETTER TO CONGRESS FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF FORMER SENATOR PAUL TSONGAS

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, throughout his distinguished career, our former colleague, Senator Paul Tsongas, worked tirelessly to ensure that our environment and our nation's natural treasures would be preserved for future generations of Americans. He was particularly proud of his leadership in the Senate that led to the original designation of approximately 18 million acres of land in Alaska, including the Arctic Coastal Plain, as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Nothing better demonstrates the importance of the idea of generational responsibility for which he fought

so stridently than the statement below from his three daughters—Ashley, Katina and Molly. Senator Tsongas understood that he had a duty to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for his daughters, and this Congress must understand that it has a charge to continue to preserve this unspoiled wilderness for future generations.

Since its establishment 25 years ago, the threat to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has never been greater, but so is the support of American families for keeping drilling away from this magnificent pristine ecological gem. This statement of the Tsongas family is eloquent testimony to the fact that the wilderness values of our wildlife refuge system are eternal, whereas the energy value of a few oil wells will always be fleeting.

Letter to Congress from the daughters of former Senator Paul Tsongas:

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We are writing to express our hope that you will vote to keep any authority for oil and gas drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge out of the budget reconciliation bill. Our father, Sen. Paul Tsongas, believed the most valuable opportunity afforded to any member of Congress is the opportunity to make this country and this world a better place for future generations. The principle of generational responsibility was both grand and personal—he fought for America's children and for us, his three daughters and his future grandchildren and great-grandchildren. For this reason, he cosponsored the legislation to establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge with the expectation that it would not only be his enduring gift to us but also Congress's legacy to America's future generations. In doing so, he entrusted us with the responsibility to ensure that this unique natural resource remains protected, not just for a few decades, but for generations to come.

In the years after he left the Senate, our father would cite the creation of this magnificent wild arctic sanctuary as one of the accomplishments he was most proud of in his life. We know that he would be fighting for its preservation today. As his daughters and as Americans, we treasure the gift he gave us and the responsibility it carries. We take this responsibility very seriously and hope that you do as well.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF KOREAN-AMERICAN DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 487, supporting the goals and ideals of Korean-American Day. This important resolution also recognizes the 103rd anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States.

In January 1903 the first Korean immigrants came to the United States. Since then, Korean-Americans have raised families, participated in their communities, and contributed to the economy.

I am proud to represent the thousands of Korean-Americans living in my congressional district. These hard-working individuals have started numerous businesses which help to strengthen the economy of New York City.

Our nation's diversity is one of its greatest strengths, and I am pleased that this resolution honors the achievements of this vibrant community.

TRIBUTE TO OLGA DEFELIPPO

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with both great pride and sadness that I remember Mrs. Olga DeFelippo, a distinguished, life-long member of the Bay Ridge, Brooklyn community, a tireless advocate for the developmentally disabled, and an exemplary American, who recently passed away on November 3rd at the age of 88.

Today, I honor her memory as a selfless defender for those who could not defend themselves. As a mother of a developmentally disabled child herself, whom no school would accept, she understood personally how children with no voice of their own suffered injustice at the hands of a society that did not comprehend their plight.

This emboldened her to undertake a righteous crusade to render justice and dignity to the thousands of others like her son. She organized other parents and founded the Guild for Exceptional Children, an organization that today still works to help people reach their maximum potential and help families cope with the responsibility of caring for disabled family members at home. With the support of numerous elected and civic leaders in New York State, she lobbied exhaustively, and successfully, for legislation that guaranteed children with developmental disabilities the same right to an education as all other children, and to bring these human beings out of institutions and return them to the comfort of real homes, where they would be surrounded by those who could love and care for them.

Joining the ranks of our Nation's great reformers like Dorothea Dix, Mrs. DeFelippo's efforts to restore dignity to those, less able than we, cannot and will not be forgotten. Olga departed leaving behind her three children, Joseph, Vivienne, and Noel, and her two grandchildren Michael and Peter. However, while we mourn her loss, we as a Nation should smile proudly at her life and her deeds, for there is no greater credit to her accomplishments than having left this Nation and our world better than she had found it.

PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, the good news is that this Congress is at long last attempting to address the looming crisis in our nation's pension system. The bad news is that the best available evidence suggests that today's optimistically entitled Pension Protection Act doesn't achieve its stated objective.

Pension rules are complex. But in my view, the goals of pension policy are really pretty

simple. First, we must protect taxpayers from an S&L style bailout of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). And second, we must shore up the long term viability of the pension benefits promised our workers.

The PBGC today faces a current deficit of about \$23 billion, with additional liabilities estimated at up to \$100 billion. However, rather than closing that gap, H.R. 2830 actually increases the PBGC's deficit by \$9 billion over the next 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

Mr. Speaker, I simply cannot support pension legislation that puts taxpayers in greater jeopardy than they already face today.

With respect to pension security, we would do well to recall the Hippocratic admonition to "First, Do No Harm". Congressional action that results in companies terminating or freezing or failing to establish defined benefit plans in the first place hurts precisely the same workers we say we are trying to help. Yet that's precisely what this bill does.

A recent survey of the Committee on Investment of Employee Benefit Assets (CIEBA), an organization representing Chief Investment Officers from the nation's largest corporations, found that 60% of pension plans would be frozen or terminated if this legislation becomes law. The CIEBA goes on to warn that HR 2830 would "have long term consequences for current and future workers, with the potential to damage the retirement security of millions of Americans."

If we are not effectively securing the earned pension benefits of our workers, then what are we doing here today?

Mr. Speaker, I have a final objection to today's proceedings regarding the inability of our side to offer a Democratic substitute. If we had been allowed a substitute, this House would have had an opportunity to debate a range of critical issues not adequately addressed by the underlying bill—including the inappropriate use of the PBGC as a dumping ground for underfunded pensions run by companies seeking a competitive advantage in the marketplace, the right of older workers not to face age discrimination under federal pension rules and the ability of all workers to receive disinterested investment advice for their company sponsored defined contribution plans. Because the majority has abused its procedural power to block our alternative, these and other important issues that ought to be receiving our careful attention will not see the light of this day.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of the millions of hardworking Americans counting on their hard-earned pension benefits to support themselves and their families in retirement, this Congress has an obligation to pass meaningful pension reform.

However, I cannot and I will not support pension legislation that further imperils the taxpayers and workers real pension reform is supposed to serve.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 2830, and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA PRESIDENT
MOLLY C. BROAD

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Molly Corbett Broad, President of the University of North Carolina, who will retire from the University at the end of this month following more than eight years of dedicated service to the students, faculty and staff of the University, and to the people of North Carolina.

During President Broad's tenure, the University of North Carolina has begun its journey as a model 21st-century institution. Under her guiding hand, North Carolina voters approved in 2000 the largest revenue bond issue for higher education in the history of this nation. Funds from the "bond campaign" are transforming the sixteen constituent campuses of the University through the construction of modern student housing, innovative classrooms, state-of-the-art laboratories and world-class facilities. Bond funds have also enabled UNC-TV to completely digitize its broadcasts and provided the North Carolina Arboretum a remarkable opportunity to make significant investments in its infrastructure and physical plant. During this same period, external grant support to the University has nearly doubled, surpassing \$1 billion annually. All of these improvements will enable UNC to sustain its position as one of the premier university systems in the world.

In addition, President Broad has propelled North Carolina to the forefront of public higher education in the use of information technologies across all facets of University life. Her keen vision and recognition of the power of information technology to transform education and the economy of our nation and the world is widely acknowledged. Whether seeking her perspective on the academic usefulness of peer-to-peer technologies, the virtues of online and blended learning in support of access and teacher preparation, or the promise and potential of "open source" applications, CEOs of major U.S. corporations, international institutions of higher education, governments and not-for-profit organizations across the globe look to President Broad for sage advice and foresight.

During President Broad's tenure, UNC has also emerged as a national leader in ensuring access to quality higher education, especially among lower-income and first-to-college families. Over the past eight years, the number of North Carolina high school graduates going on to a two-year or four-year college has steadily increased. As a result, North Carolina now has one of the highest college-going rates in the country, and it is still climbing. One of the keys to this success has been the development—in partnership with the K-12 and community college systems—of CFNC.org, a one-stop web-based resource that enables students and their families to learn how to "prepare, apply and pay for college." Developed during the Broad administration, CFNC.org has become a national model in enabling colleges and universities to provide readily available, quality information to students and families about how to pay for a college education—filling a need

that the Congress and the public have indicated is so necessary.

Another major development that must be credited to President Broad is the development and growth of North Carolina's Need-Based Financial Aid Program. The North Carolina General Assembly has come to understand that as the college-going rate increases, more North Carolina students will come from circumstances that require financial assistance to make college possible. With legislative support, this need-based program has grown exponentially over the past several years and now provides nearly \$60 million to needy North Carolina students.

President Broad has also positioned the University squarely in the middle of North Carolina's economic revitalization. As the North Carolina economy transitions from historical industries such as tobacco, textiles and furniture to 21st-century industries like biotechnology, information technology and nanotechnology, President Broad has stressed that the University must and will play a key role in that transition. From the development on several campuses of biotechnology workforce training and research facilities to the emerging "biopolis" in Kannapolis, President Broad has guided the University to the forefront of efforts to re-energize the state's economy and prepare a brighter future for North Carolinians across the state.

She has taken other steps to ensure that our children receive the education they will need in order to be prepared to enter the 21st-century job market. Under President Broad's guidance, the University is on track to increase its certification of K-12 teachers by more than 60 percent over five years. In addition, during the Broad years the University has surged forward in its collaborations with K-12 schools to produce the highest qualified teachers and administrators through such programs as NC TEACH, the North Carolina Mathematics and Science Education Network, and the North Carolina Principal Fellows Program.

President Broad also has been a leader at the national and international levels, chairing or serving on the boards of such diverse organizations as the University Coalition for Advanced Internet Development (Internet2), the International Council on Distance Education, the Council on Competitiveness, and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. She co-chaired the study group that produced the Business-Higher Education Forum report, "Building a Nation of Learners," which has contributed greatly to the important national discussion about the skills our college graduates need to be competitive workers and effective citizens in our 21st-century global society.

We are fortunate that President Broad's retirement from the University does not mean she is retiring from professional life. She will assume a position at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government, and we fully expect her to continue to contribute to the advancement of higher education in North Carolina and beyond for many years to come. We are very pleased, however, that she will have more time to spend with her devoted husband and partner, Bob Broad, and her wonderful children and two grandchildren.

In closing, I want to cite several observations made by others about President Broad's service to the state and University over the past 8½ years. Shortly after announcing her