

HONORING ROBERT KERRICK

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to a remarkable individual from my home district. Robert Kerrick, principal of Hancock County High School, is retiring this spring, bringing his distinguished 30 year career as an educator to a close.

Before becoming principal, Mr. Kerrick completed a 14 year tenure as a teacher and one year as an assistant principal in the Hancock County school system. During his 15 years as principal, Hancock County High School has been a consistent recipient of academic and athletic honors including CATS Top 10 and Blue Ribbon School distinctions along with numerous state and regional championships in men's and women's team sports. In 2003, Mr. Kerrick received the prestigious Dawson Orman Award from the Kentucky Association of Secondary School Principals, naming him Kentucky's most outstanding high school principal.

I applaud Robert Kerrick's accomplishments in public education, an occupation of great responsibility and ever greater reward, motivating young people to recognize and develop their talents and abilities. On behalf of so many in Hancock County, I would like to express my profound appreciation for his service and inspiration to the countless men and women who have benefited from his generosity and vision.

It is my great privilege to recognize Robert Kerrick today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his many achievements as an educator. His unique dedication to the development and well-being of young people and the communities they now serve make him an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and respect.

SOCIAL SECURITY PERSONAL SAVINGS GUARANTEE AND PROSPERITY ACT OF 2005

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce new legislation that will ensure Social Security lives up to its promise for all Americans, now and in the future. My legislation, the Social Security Personal Savings Guarantee and Prosperity Act of 2005, will give all workers access to a more prosperous retirement through the establishment of personal savings accounts within the current Social Security system. This voluntary proposal maintains a strong safety net guaranteeing that workers would receive at least as much as Social Security promises under current law, without changing survivors' or disability benefits. Furthermore, this plan achieves full and permanent solvency for Social Security, and reduces debt and payroll taxes over the long term.

Mr. Speaker, the 2005 Social Security Trustees Report tells us that beginning in 2017, Social Security will begin to pay out more in ben-

efits than it receives in tax revenues. Then, in 2041, the Social Security Trust Fund will be exhausted. All analysts point to changing demographics as the primary factor driving Social Security into a deeper hole every year. In 1950, there were 16 workers supporting each retiree. Now, with the number of workers supporting each recipient projected to fall from 3.3 today to 2.3 in 2025, the mission is very clear: we must act now to strengthen and sustain Social Security.

By establishing personal accounts within the Social Security system, we can give every American worker the choice of building a nest egg for his or her retirement. With personal retirement accounts, every worker will become a laborer and a capitalist earning a much higher rate of return on their payroll tax dollars than the current system can currently offer them. Furthermore, I firmly believe that there is no better way to bridge the wealth gap and decentralize the concentration of wealth in America than to adopt personal accounts like the ones I am proposing.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation not only gives workers a better deal for their retirement, but it is also a blueprint for permanent solvency for Social Security, long-term debt reduction and payroll tax relief for all American workers. This plan works to help control the growth rate of government spending and make sure the short-term Social Security surpluses are devoted to strengthening Social Security instead of other spending. Most importantly, this plan gives every worker the chance to have real wealth and become an owner in our free enterprise system.

THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and remember the 90th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the mass killings and forced exile of countless Armenians in the final days of the Ottoman Empire. The suffering that befell the Armenian people in 1915 is a tragedy for all humanity, which the world should not forget.

In the years since, descendants of Armenian immigrants have clung to their identity and have prospered across this nation and throughout the world. The United States is fortunate to be home to an organized and active Armenian community, whose members contribute and participate in every aspect of civic life.

By properly recognizing the atrocities committed in 1915, we honor America's historic leadership and remind the world of the democratic and humanitarian values on which our country is founded. In this period of heightened international conflicts, this message is most timely.

The United States must never allow crimes against humanity to pass without remembrance and condemnation. As U.S. efforts to aid victims of genocide continue, it is imperative that we pay tribute to the memory of others who have suffered and to never forget the past.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2005

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, my name was placed on H.R. 525, the "Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005" by mistake, and even though House rules at this point prohibit my removal as a cosponsor, I want to make clear without a shadow of a doubt that I do not support H.R. 525.

I believe access to health care is a basic human right and H.R. 525 in its present form does nothing to make that right a reality. The House voted on Associated Health Plans twice in the 108th Congress and I voted against it both times. If this bill comes to House Floor for a vote again in its present form, I will oppose it.

Although I understand the demands and challenges that small business owners face with regard to providing affordable, comprehensive health care for their employees, H.R. 525 is not the answer.

The answer is putting people before profit in our health care system.

CONGRATULATING THE DEL VALLE HIGH SCHOOL CONQUISTADORS ON WINNING THE TEXAS CLASS 4A SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. SILVESTER REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 16, a group of outstanding young men from my district in El Paso, Texas, won the boys Class 4A Texas high school soccer championship. The Conquistadores of Del Valle High School played against some of the best high school talent in the country, defeating the Aledo Bearcats 3-2.

I would like to congratulate the Conquistadors—Ivan Grajeda, Julian Barbosa, Erick Solis, Irving Gallardo, Robert Macias, Elias Gutierrez, Abelardo Valles, David Camarena, Javier Ruvalcaba, Oscar Herrera, Daniel Lopez, Alberto Rivera, Adrian Muñoz, Juan Rodriguez, Walter Villalobos, Jose Escarcega, Nazael Reynosa, Diego Armando Ruiz, Charles Gonzalez, Alberto Moreno, Hector Picazo, and Alex Villalobos—on their tremendous achievement. The team is coached by Bruce A. Reichman and Oswaldo Vasquez.

The Del Valle Conquistadors displayed a commitment to working together toward a common goal during their state championship season. They won with a remarkable combination of skill, endurance, and teamwork.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of a season, these young men have helped instill a great sense of pride in their school and the entire community. El Paso is truly proud of its champions. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Del Valle High School Conquistadors on their victory.