

Spindle's honor at MidAmerica Nazarene, highlighting many of the personal qualities which made him a popular and effective administrator. I commend him to you, Mr. Speaker, and to our colleagues in the House of Representatives.

[From the Olathe News, Apr. 24, 2005]

SPINDLE PREPS FOR HIS 'TRANSITION'
(By Arley Hoskin)

Leaders don't retire, they transition. And that's the way MidAmerica Nazarene University president Richard Spindle views his departure in May. The community gathered Thursday at the university's Cook Center to celebrate Spindle's transition. As leaders in the community spoke of Spindle during the gathering, it became clear that Spindle had both their respect and admiration. "We've been fortunate here to have a leader like Dr. Spindle," Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland said. In Spindle's honor, Copeland deemed the day "Richard Spindle celebration day."

MNU experienced extraordinary growth during Spindle's 15 years as president. But the focus of the evening was not on MNU's all-time high enrollment, the development of Cook Center, the ground breaking for the new dormitory or the plans for a new cultural arts center.

When people spoke of Spindle, they spoke not just of a man with many accomplishments, they spoke of a friend. "Some people you feel good about and relate to," said Ron Wimmer, Olathe school district superintendent. Spindle was that kind of man, Wimmer said, and he also brought credibility to the university.

Many of the school districts new employees graduate from MNU, but Spindle contributed more to the community than a pool of employees.

Wimmer enjoyed his presence at the Olathe Chamber of Commerce meetings and Spindle is someone whom Wimmer considers a friend. Wimmer is not alone.

A video shown during the celebration was filled with accolades from faculty, staff and alum. Spindle is the kind of leader who knows students by their first names, MNU alum Bryan Beaver said. Others agreed. "I really did not expect to be able to call the president a friend. I feel like I can say that," said Allison Bartholomew a 2002 graduate.

Students were not the only ones who noticed Spindle's caring personality. A person's handshake says a lot and Spindle's spoke of confidence and care. Frank Devocelle, CEO of Olathe Medical Center recalled the first time that Spindle shook his hand. Both men extended their right hands, and Spindle reached out and cupped Devocelle's hand with his left hand. "It left (me) with a feeling of warmth, a feeling of caring and a feeling of concern for others," Devocelle said.

Spindle was known for his concern for others. "He was a role model of servant leadership," said MNU chaplain Randy Beckum. "Not by power, (but) by integrity."

Spindle took pride in beautifying the campus—he not only helped developed plans for campus renovations, but participated in some of those ventures.

Alumni president Jill Kenney remembers planting trees along Mur-Len Road with Spindle and his wife, Billy. It was cold and the trees were puny she said, but the Spindle's had a vision.

The trees were just part of the Spindle's vision. Spindle developed a 100-year plan during his time as president and he was able to see the two new dorms, and the Cook Center and Bell Family Arena built.

More importantly he saw the lives of students change. "These 25 years have been filled with joyous opportunities," Spindle said. The students were always his main con-

cern, said academic dean Frank Moore. He was the same man inside the office as he was outside, Moore added.

Billy, who shared her husband's passion for students, was also honored at the celebration. Billy served on the women's auxiliary and generated more than \$150,000 worth of scholarships through the sale of birthday cakes and the MNU country store, now MNU mercantile and diner. Billy also is known for leading by example. "She is a part of everything, heart and soul," said Kathy Smith, who served with Billy on the women's auxiliary.

The Spindles plan to move to Brazil in August where Richard Spindle will serve as a consultant for Brazilian Nazarene College.

COSTS REDUCED IN HALL ULTRA-DEEP AND UNCONVENTIONAL ONSHORE NATURAL GAS PROGRAM

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I know you share my concern about the need to increase domestic natural gas supply—the cleanest of the fossil fuels. One sure way to do that is by developing the technologies that are necessary to produce our 1400 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable natural gas.

As the original sponsor, I want to commend Chairman BARTON, Chairman DREIER and Chairman BOEHLERT for their hard work to develop my ultra-deepwater and unconventional natural gas research and development provision that was passed by the House last week. It was a challenge to reconcile the different versions of the provisions that were reported from the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Science Committee. This natural gas research and development provision will increase domestic natural gas supply and lower the cost of energy to consumers.

The Science Committee, on which I am proud to serve, passed its provisions for the comprehensive energy bill in early February. Those provisions included a program in ultra-deepwater and unconventional onshore natural gas supply R&D that tracked the language in the conference agreement on H.R. 6 in the previous Congress. The provisions funded this program through \$1.5 billion in mandatory spending over 10 years. In the last Congress much good work was done to improve this legislation. That good work was reflected in the legislation reported from the Science Committee and I appreciate the hard work.

Several weeks later, the Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I am also pleased to serve, reported its version of the energy legislation which included a similar provision for the ultra-deepwater and unconventional onshore natural gas research and development program that complied with the \$500 million ten year mandatory spending limit contained in the House Budget Resolution. However, this provision was also problematic because the score in the first year was \$100 million.

The House Rules Committee was responsible for reconciling the differences between various energy provisions reported by several House Committees prior to consideration on the floor of the House of Representatives, as well as to ensure that the final version of com-

prehensive energy legislation complied with the House Budget Resolution. The ultra-deepwater and unconventional onshore research and development provisions that were sent to the floor and passed by the House are a skillful combination of the work of the Science and the Energy and Commerce Committees. The combined provisions provide the opportunity for implementation of a robust program of research and development, which the DOE Energy Information Administration says would both increase supply and pay for itself in the form of increased royalties, to help develop new technologies to find and produce more of our domestic gas.

It is my understanding that the gas supply R&D provision that was passed by the House was scored by the Congressional Budget Office at \$500 million over 10 years or \$1 billion less than the provision passed by the Science Committee. I believe that the return to America consumers—according to EIA, a rapid technology scenario could save up to \$7 billion in the year 2025 alone—is worth a \$50 million per year investment over 10 years. This provision would establish a rapid technology scenario for natural gas production in this country. It is responsive to both budget constraints and is good public policy.

I also commend the Chairman and Chairman POMBO and Chairman NUSSLE for their hard work to ensure that mandatory funding was made available for these vital natural gas supply research and development provisions and other measures in the bill. There are three other provisions in the energy bill that were also granted \$500 million in mandatory spending by the Budget Resolution. The energy savings performance contracts will improve the energy efficiency of federal buildings and help mitigate the environmental consequences of power generation. The domestic offshore energy reinvestment program will provide funds to Coastal Energy States from federal oil and gas royalties. The electric reliability standards enforcement measure will improve the reliability of the Nation's electricity transmission system. Each of these provisions addresses specific problems associated with energy production and consumption. And each, for different reasons, need to be funded outside of the appropriation process. I thank the Chairman for his time.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CORAL REEF AND COASTAL MARINE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2005

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Coral Reef and Coastal Marine Conservation Act of 2005. This bill will credit qualified developing nations for each dollar spent on a comprehensive reef preservation or management program designed to protect these unique ecosystems from degradation. This bill builds on the model of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, expanding it to include coral reefs.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ALCEE HASTINGS) for being the lead co-sponsor of this bill. This very same bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 382–32 on October 16, 2001.

It is said that coral reefs are the rainforests of the ocean. Although they occupy less than one-quarter of 1 percent of the marine environment, coral reefs are home to more than one-quarter of all known marine fish species.

Coral reefs are among the most biologically rich ecosystems on Earth. About 4,000 species of fish and 800 species of reef-building corals have already been identified. However, scientists have barely begun to catalogue the total number of species found within these habitats. Their scientific value cannot be underestimated. Yet, they are disappearing at an alarming rate.

According to a 1998 study conducted by the United Nations and various international environmental organizations, 58 percent of the world's reefs are potentially threatened by human activity. These activities include coastal development, overfishing, marine pollution, and runoff from inland deforestation and farming.

More than one-quarter of the world's reefs are at risk. Predictions made in 1992 were that 10 to 20 years from now, another 30 percent of the world's coral reefs could be effectively destroyed, adding to the 10 percent that already were destroyed.

While these numbers sound alarmist, figures today show that they are conservative. Most Caribbean and South Pacific mangroves have disappeared, while India, Southeast Asia, and West Africa have each lost about one-half of their mangroves.

Almost a half a billion people, 8 percent of the world's population, live within 100 kilometers of a coral reef. A decline in the health of coral reefs has implications for the lives of millions of people who depend upon them. Coral Reefs are the basis of subsistence for the local-market fisheries in 100 countries, providing the protein for more than one billion people worldwide.

The burden of foreign debt falls especially hard on the smallest nations, such as island nations in the Caribbean and Pacific. With few natural resources, these nations often resort to harvesting or otherwise exploiting coral reefs and other marine habitats to earn hard currency to service foreign debt. At least 40 countries lack any marine protected areas for their coral reef systems.

This legislation will make available resources for environmental stewardship that would otherwise be the lowest priority in a developing country. It will reduce debt by investing locally in programs that will strengthen indigenous economies by creating long-term management policies that will preserve the natural resources upon which local commerce is based.

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act has set a path for debt-for-nature swaps, and the United States has an important role to play in assisting in the protection of the world's natural resources. This bill extends the support from forests to the oceans, and critical countries like Jamaica, Belize, Dominican Republic, the Philippines, and Thailand could benefit from this legislation.

Under President Bush's Enterprise for the Americas Act, the United States sponsored many debt-for-nature swaps to protect rainforests. It is now time to expand these successful programs to cover critical coral reef habitats.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WENDY MCCUISTON, SMITHSON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Wendy McCuiston, Smithson Valley High School Teacher of the Year.

Wendy McCuiston holds a B.A. from New Mexico State University at Las Cruces, and a Master's degree from Texas A&M University. She has had an outstanding career in education, with more than 27 years of teaching experience.

Ms. McCuiston teaches 9th through 12th grade Family and Consumer Science at Smithson Valley High School in the Comal Independent School District. She is committed to teaching her students the practical skills that will stand them in good stead in later life.

She has distinguished herself as a warm and supportive presence in the classroom. Asked about her teaching philosophy, she summarizes it this way: "Treat people with respect, let them know you value them as an individual, and most of all show them you care."

Wendy McCuiston is an outstanding teacher, and her career has been filled with countless accomplishments, of which this award is only the most recent. She is a credit and a blessing to her community, and I am proud to have the opportunity to honor her here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes Nos. 133–145, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On Nos. 133–139, "aye"; on No. 140, "nay"; on Nos. 141–142, "no"; on No. 143, "nay"; on No. 144, "aye"; on No. 145, "aye".

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF THE PLAINVILLE CHAPTER, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to several World War II veterans in my district.

These heroic men, through their sacrifice and bravery, literally helped save the world from tyranny. They left their homes and families behind to fight on distant shores, and they returned home to help make this country the most successful democracy the world has ever seen. In many cases, they left as boys and returned as men, with a sense of pride for what they had accomplished, but also with painful memories of those who never made it home.

On Sunday May 1st in Plainville, the newly elected Commander and Officers of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5 Memorial of Wrentham will pay tribute to 11 of these men. They are: Owen W. Emery Sr, Alvin L. Berman, Caster Salemi, Charles Quinn, Army; Donald J. Calvey; Edmund F. Stoddard, Donald R. Flynn, Evan Gilmore, Joseph Goff, William Fermano, and Father Valentine Chepeleff.

This year, of course, marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. And this recognition ceremony represents just a small token of the great gratitude we owe these veterans.

I look forward to participating in this important ceremony. I know that all of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives join me in paying tribute to these extraordinary men and their families.

REMOVING NAME AS CO-SPONSOR
ON H.R. 513

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I have always supported meaningful efforts to curtail the increasing influence of money in the political process, and I will continue to do so. As our existing campaign reform laws continue to evolve in the real world, I find myself with a growing discomfort that H.R. 513, the 527 Reform Act of 2005, though altruistic in principle, may actually limit voices too dramatically without offering other alternatives as it attempts to rein in the disproportionate effect of large contributions. Because of these misgivings, I am at this time removing my name as a co-sponsor of this legislation. I reserve a final decision on whether I would sponsor H.R. 513 in the future or eventually support its passage to a later date.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the week of April 25th through the 29th, I was unable to make it to the House Floor to vote because I was unintentionally detained in the African nation of Togo. I have traveled to Africa on numerous occasions in the past, both as an election observer and as a human rights ombudsman and advocate. Most recently, I was in Nigeria (in April, 2003) during the momentous election which underlined that nation's continual transition to democracy. Many Members of the CBC, including myself, attended, and we were more than pleased to see that the outcome was just, and that popular, fair elections instead of a violent military coup decided who would run the government. Africa is a continent that is very near and dear to my heart, and is an area of the world that is too often overlooked and ignored.

The recent presidential election that took place in Togo was the first election the country has witnessed in the last 38 years. As an invited election observer, I viewed with cautious