

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHRIS SMITH, HAYS CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the exhaustive contributions of Chris Smith, Hays Consolidated High School Teacher of the Year.

Chris began his career as a youth minister, and soon teaching became a passion. As a Math teacher, he surprised his coworkers by successfully pairing Special Education students with honors students to work on joint projects in the computer lab. Many of his students improved as much as 15 points on the Math TAKS over the last 2 years.

Yet for Chris Smith, the true judgment of his accomplishments is self-imposed. He strives to be a classroom entertainer, a friend, a father figure, and sometimes a teacher as well. His greatest asset is to positively change the course of another person's life.

Chris demonstrates to his students that they are each special and important. He endeavors to mold his students into adults that enjoy life, love to laugh, and will create a positive impact on one another.

It is my privilege to acknowledge Chris Smith, the Hays Consolidated School Teacher of the Year. Chris's passion and love of teaching sets a shining example for all in his community.

RECOGNIZING THE JIMMY STEWART MUSEUM OF INDIANA, PA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize with great pride the Jimmy Stewart Museum of Indiana, Pennsylvania, in honor of the 10th anniversary of its opening. Honoring the life of a motion picture icon and American patriot, the Jimmy Stewart Museum preserves all aspects of Indiana, Pennsylvania's favorite son.

While most Americans remember Jimmy Stewart as idealistic Jefferson Smith in Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, watching him go toe-to-toe with Katherine Hepburn in The Philadelphia Story, and welcoming George Bailey into their homes every year at Christmas to find out why exactly It's A Wonderful Life, the people of Indiana proudly remember him as a good neighbor and citizen dedicated to his beloved hometown where his family resided for generations.

It is for this reason they came together to develop the Jimmy Stewart Museum which became a community effort in every sense of the words. While modesty initially shied Jimmy Stewart himself away from the idea of such a project, he came to understand the economic benefits the museum could produce for the area. With the creation of the Jimmy Stewart Foundation in 1994 the project catapulted into action with local volunteers, financial backers, and even a local architect who designed the

facility pro-bono. Not only would the museum improve the economy of the community, it would improve the morale and incorporate a spirit of generosity to everyone who became involved with the museum and its efforts.

The Jimmy Stewart Museum, located directly across from the site of his father's hardware store, opened to the public on May 20, 1995, Stewart's 87th birthday. Since then it has welcomed tens of thousands of visitors from all over the world to view an extensive collection of personal, local, and film industry memorabilia. Included in the collection is the Oscar awarded to Stewart for his Best Actor performance in The Philadelphia Story, as well as particular emphasis on his service to his country during WWII where he served as a bomber pilot in the European Theater and retired with the rank of brigadier general.

While the contributions of Jimmy Stewart to both community and the arts are undeniably deserved, the recognition for those who had the foresight and determination to preserve the memory of such an extraordinary life must not go unnoticed. Notable supporters Nick and Nina Clooney and comedian Rich Little generously donate their time to assist in the efforts of keeping the museum at its best. The museum is a true testament to the character of Indiana and I am proud of the devotion the town has shown towards their favorite son and subsequently to each other in the creation of this museum.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Jimmy Stewart Museum on its 10th Anniversary and offer my genuine best wishes for many prosperous years to come.

IN HONOR OF SANFORD WALKE, PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Sanford Walke of Hernando Beach, FL. A chief engineer in the Army during World War II, Mr. Walke received the Purple Heart for his heroic actions in battle.

Mr. Walke was in the Army from November 1942 through November 1945, serving during World War II in the European Theatre. Assigned to the 398th Bomb Group—8th Air Force, Mr. Walke was a chief engineer on a B17.

On a flight to Germany on July 8, 1944, Mr. Walke's plane was shot down over France. The last one to jump out of the plane, Mr. Walke's parachute had a missing panel that made him fall to the ground faster than would normally occur. Ironically, the parachute malfunction saved his life because the enemy on the ground was shooting at him the entire time, but was unable to accurately target his fall.

Mr. Walke was taken as a prisoner of war and held in a German prison camp. Months later, he and 2,000 other POW's walked for 75 days and 500 miles on a forced march before he was able to escape with another British soldier. They were hiding in a barn in a German village when British tanks rolled in and took over the town. The British took care of him from there until he was able to reunite with Americans.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like Sanford Walke should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Walke with his long-overdue Purple Heart. He is truly one of America's greatest generation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JANET CAROL PATTERSON, WALLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Janet Carol Patterson, Wallace Middle School Teacher of the Year.

From a young age, Janet expressed the desire to work with young people, helping out with youth groups at her church. Her interest stemmed from a desire to have a positive influence on the lives of the children in her community.

Janet sees her greatest accomplishments through the successes of her students. She is proud to offer inspiration each year, encouraging her students to believe in themselves and always do their best.

Janet Carol Patterson has taught Language Arts in the Hays CISD school district for 24 years. Among her numerous contributions and accomplishments, she values the relationships she has developed with her students the most. She has been described as "a teacher who leaves an imprint on her students' hearts," and a "second mom." Janet greets her students at the door with a handshake, and endeavors to open their hearts, as well as their minds.

I am honored to acknowledge Janet Carol Patterson, Wallace Middle School Teacher of the year. Her hard work and dedication enrich the lives of everyone in her community.

THE PENSION FAIRNESS AND FULL DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce "The Pension Fairness and Full Disclosure Act," legislation to end the gross discrepancies between the way the retirement packages of a company's rank and file employees and top-executives are treated.

Executive compensation packages often provide lavish golden parachutes that are hidden from employees, shareholders, and regulators. Employees are told the company has little choice but to cut their pay and benefits, while being kept in the dark about the fortunes that companies shower on executives who have presided over the company's failure.

In fact, extensive executive packages are often increased at the very same time their employees' pensions are cut. As employees are asked to give back benefits they have

earned, executives are often padding their own retirement packages. The executives who make the critical decisions to save or scrap employee pension plan rarely share the pain of their decisions—but are perversely rewarded for cutting company liabilities to their workers.

My legislation brings greater equity to the private pension system by requiring full disclosure of executive compensation packages to employees, and by linking the benefits in executive compensation plans to those of the rank-and-file for whom these executives bear responsibility.

A 2003 Executive Excess report by United for a Fair Economy found that the median pay for executives at the 30 companies with the most underfunded pension plans in 2002 was \$5.9 million, or 59 percent higher than the median pay for executives at the typical large company. These 30 companies had a combined \$131 billion pension deficit in 2002, but paid their executives a combined \$352 million.

While the underfunding threatened employee pensions, 19 of these executives saw their pay rise, and 10 saw their pay more than double in 2002. The executive pensions themselves are exorbitant. A review of 2004 proxy statements from 500 large companies by Corporate Library for the New York Times revealed that 113 chief executives could expect retirement benefits of more than \$1 million per year. At least 31 would see \$2 million or more per year. A list of some of the more recent and well-publicized outrages on how executive plans and rank-and-file plans are treated is attached to this letter.

“The Pension Fairness and Full Disclosure Act” makes overdue changes in pension law to end these grotesque disparities in the way the retirement security of employees and executives are treated.

Corporations that file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and shift unfunded pension liabilities to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), or convert their traditional pension plans to cash balance plans in a way that does not protect older workers, would not be permitted to increase executive deferred compensation for directors and officers for a 5-year period without incurring a 100 percent excise tax.

Corporations with underfunded rank-and-file pension plans would be prohibited from providing any funding for executive pension plans unless and until their rank-and-file plans are at least 75% funded.

Corporations would have to disclose the full value of their executive compensation plans when they move to terminate the plans in bankruptcy or make amendments to the plan to freeze benefits or reduce future accruals.

For far too long, some companies have irresponsibly rewarded their executives while unfairly cutting or eliminating their employees' pensions. I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting and passing “The Pension Fairness and Full Disclosure Act.”

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF MRS. JOSEPHINE POSHARD, TEACHER, AT CARTERVILLE, COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 IN CARTERVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and retirement of Mrs. Josephine (Jo) Poshard, third grade teacher at the Carterville Community Unit School District No. 5, in Carterville, Illinois.

Mrs. Poshard has devoted 32 years to educating the youth of Southern Illinois, serving as a teacher, cheerleading sponsor, choral director and yearbook sponsor. She has been the third grade teacher at the Carterville Community Unit School District No. 5 for the past 20 years. During that time, in addition to her devoted education of the students in her classroom, Mrs. Poshard has served on numerous committees and in many capacities. One of her most significant extra-curricular contributions has been as Team Leader of the Math School Improvement Plan. Through her leadership, the school has consistently excelled on the Illinois Standard Achievement Test.

Mrs. Poshard graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with University Honors. While at Southern Illinois University, she was asked to join Alpha Lambda Delta, a national society that honors academic achievement.

Mrs. Poshard began her teaching career at Thompsonville High School in Thompsonville, Illinois. She taught four sections of English as well as Journalism, Girls' Physical Education and she was the Cheerleading sponsor.

After 3 years at St. Elmo Junior High School and a year as a substitute teacher in several community schools, Mrs. Poshard accepted a position as first grade teacher at the New Simpson Hill School District at Tunnel Hill. While at New Simpson Hill, Mrs. Poshard earned certification for Gifted and Talented students and implemented the Gifted program at her school. With this new program, she was teaching gifted students in grades four through eight while also teaching first grade.

In 1984, Mrs. Poshard brought her years of experience and dedication to Carterville Community Unit School District No. 5, in Carterville, Illinois, as a third grade teacher. She has served that community by guiding, molding and enriching the lives of the boys and girls entrusted to her care from 1984 until her retirement this year.

Mrs. Poshard has demonstrated her dedication to her chosen profession of teaching in numerous ways. She has consistently devoted an average of 50 to 60 hours a week to her job, refusing to be absent unless she was extremely ill. She applies the same expectation of excellence to herself that she does to her students. The real measure of Mrs. Poshard's success lies in the accomplishments of her students. Even though she is retiring at the end of this school year, Mrs. Poshard's influence will live on in the lives of the over 1,000 students she has taught over 32 years.

Mrs. Poshard is married to one of our former colleagues, the Honorable Glenn Poshard, and lives in Murphysboro, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Mrs. Josephine Poshard for her years of dedicated service to education and to wish her the very best in the future.

SUPPORT TAIWAN'S INCLUSION INTO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Taiwan's application for observer status as a “Health Entity” for next week's annual World Health Organization (WHO) Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, and to respectfully encourage other international organizations to more actively engage Taiwan in their activities.

Even though Taiwan was a founding member of WHO, every May, for the past eight years, when the World Health Assembly meets to consider the acceptance of new members to the WHO, it systematically denies Taiwan access to the global health organization. Even with last year's support from the United States and Japan, Taiwan—among the leaders in Asia in important health indicators, such as life expectancy and infant mortality—was once again rejected.

Regardless of the fact that the World Health Assembly has routinely allowed observers to participate in the activities of the Organization, including the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the Holy See, and even the Palestine Liberation Organization; regardless of the fact that Taiwan's population of almost 23,000,000 people is greater than that of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the member states already in the World Health Organization; regardless of the fact that Taiwan has repeatedly expressed a willingness to assist financially and technically in international aid and health activities supported by the WHO; and, regardless of the fact that direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is beneficial for all parts of the world, especially today with the great potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis, and malaria, our European Union colleagues continue to shortsightedly side with China and exclude Taiwan.

Unfortunately, this political and diplomatic dance has had a real world cost in terms of Taiwanese lives lost during outbreaks of life threatening diseases, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the enterovirus epidemic in 1998. The SARS and avian influenza outbreaks should remind all of us that disease knows no boundaries and reinforce the importance of allowing all people access to the World Health Organization. As the pace of globalization quickens, the spread of infectious disease will only accelerate.

Not only will the Taiwanese benefit from membership in the WHO through engagement with the international community in the common pursuit of raising the quality of public health and providing for the welfare of its citizens, but so will their neighbors throughout