EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LEON J. SYLVESTER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, community leaders, and colleagues in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Leon J. Sylvester as he celebrates his retirement after 43 years of dedicated service as an educator and administrator in the Shelton Public School System.

I have often spoken of our Nation's need for talented, creative educators ready to help our children learn and grow. Leon Sylvester has been just that kind of educator and administrator. In a career that has spanned five decades, Mr. Sylvester has involved himself in the education of young people at nearly every level. The Shelton community—especially its young people—has benefited from his unparalleled service.

Beginning his career as an elementary school teacher, Mr. Sylvester also served as a Social Studies teacher and Guidance Counselor before becoming the Director of Career, Vocational and Educational Training. In each of these positions, he helped to prepare young people for their futures by providing them with the fundamental tools they would need to succeed. He spent the first three decades of his career developing a distinguished reputation as an innovative educator and progressive administrator, which resulted in his elevation to Superintendent of Schools.

In his 14 years as Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Sylvester's leadership has led to significant improvements in both the physical school buildings as well as the programs offered by the school system. He founded the Student Mentoring Program and participates as a mentor, instituted the Alternative Education Program, and began an early reading intervention program for at risk students in the primary grades. During his tenure he also established the long range school facilities and capital improvement plan, oversaw the addition of media centers in Shelton's elementary schools, as well as the construction of a new intermediate school. His many contributions have created an enriched learning environment for all of Shelton's children—a legacy that will continue to make a difference in the lives of students for years to come.

In addition to his years of service to the Shelton Public School system, Mr. Sylvester has also been deeply involved in the community. He has held a seat on the City's Planning and Zoning Commission for nearly 20 years, serving as Chair for 6 years. He has had an integral role as a corporator for such organizations as the Hewitt Management Corporation, the Birmingham Group, Griffin Hospital, and the Shelton Boys & Girls Club—all organizations that have had a positive impact on the community. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the Valley Instructional Network for Education, as the Education Chair for the Valley United Way, and has been involved with the Valley Substance Abuse Action Council. Through all of these efforts, Mr. Sylvester has demonstrated a unique and consummate dedication to public service. I have no doubt that he will continue in these efforts even after his retirement.

Educator, administrator, advocate, and community leader, Leon Sylvester has dedicated a lifetime of commitment to the City of Shelton and its residents. He has left an indelible mark—a model of all that a community member should be and an example to which we should all aspire. I am proud to rise today to join his wife, Barbara, children, grandchildren, family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating Leon J. Sylvester as he celebrates his retirement. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO PERCY GREEN II, CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Percy Green II who was among those outstanding Americans recently celebrated in the ''Voices of Civil Rights'' exhibit at the Library of Congress. It featured oral histories and photographs taken during the Voices of Civil Rights bus tour, which began in Washington, DC, on August 3, 2004. This 70-day tour through 22 states and 30 cities followed part of the route of the 1961 Freedom Rides to Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Green is a great St. Louisan who has earned a place in our Nation's history for his role in the fight to end racial discrimination. In an interview with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Mr. Green said: ''I realized that poor people and less fortunate people were not poor and less fortunate by choice. When I was able to realize there was such a thing that was called the white power structure, and it had a face and it was tangible, then of course, that was when I felt that it needed to be targeted.''

In the early 1960s, Mr. Green was one of the few working class members of CORE, the Congress of Racial Equality. He was then an aircraft electrician—which he learned by correspondence—at the McDonnell-Douglas Corporation. He took it upon himself to help other African Americans find decent jobs and so he founded the Action Council to Improve Opportunities for Negroes (ACTION). ACTION targeted local St. Louis corporations and government bodies to expose job discrimination and demand better jobs for minorities. In numerous acts of civil disobedience they marched, sat-in, protested, disrupted and lobbied for a fair share of America's promise. Many St. Louisans still remember that organization's first public demonstration when Mr. Green and a white man climbed up a leg of the St. Louis Gateway Arch while it was under construction. ACTION served as the central organization for desegregating working class jobs well into the 1980s.

The list of actions taken by Mr. Green on behalf of his fellow citizens is long indeed. Even today, at age 69, he remains deeply committed to ending injustice and protecting human rights. His great courage, personal sacrifice and vision have earned Percy Green national recognition and praise.

Mr. Speaker. I am honored to recognize Mr. Percy Green II before the U.S. House of Representatives for his lifetime achievements in the civil rights movement. He is among my heroes and I am proud to salute him for his many lasting contributions to both our community, and to the Nation.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy:

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express some concerns that I have with the Ford amendment. I support the concept of promoting production of fuel efficient vehicles and encouraging the creation of U.S. jobs. But there are some issues that should be clarified as the bill proceeds to conference. I understand it is Congressman FORD's intention that any manufacturer producing vehicles in the United States would be eligible for funds under this program. That is encouraging and that intention needs to be made clear in the final statutory language in conference.

There are other terms that need additional clarification as well. What is meant by an ''efficient hybrid'' and an ''advanced diesel vehicle''? If we are going to subsidize production, we should incentivize only the most efficient vehicles that reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

In addition, I am concerned that the consumer incentives provided by this legislation are to be provided by the manufacturer. I am not sure how that would work logistically. The mechanism for distributing the incentives should be further refined.

And finally, before we enact this provision into law, we need an opinion from the Office of the United States Trade Representative as to whether it is consistent with our international obligations under the World Trade Organization and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

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