

CONGRATULATING ALBERT PUJOLS ON BEING NAMED THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER FOR THE NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE 2005 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SEASON

SPEECH OF

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 626 introduced by my distinguished colleague from Missouri. This resolution will recognize the efforts and achievements of the 2005 National League Most Valuable Player, the legendary St. Louis Cardinals infielder, Albert Pujols.

The professional career and life pursuits of Albert Pujols exemplify nothing short of perseverance, skill, and integrity. His statistics for the first 5 years of his career rank amongst the best in baseball history with a .332 career batting average, 201 home runs and 621 RBI's. Pujols is distinguished as being the only player to have a batting average higher than .300—and to have hit over 30 home runs—and to have driven in over 100 runs in each of his first 5 seasons. He was recipient of the 2001 Rookie of the Year Award for the National League, 2003 National League batting champion, and the Most Valuable Player of the 2004 National League Championship Series. Pujols throughout his athletic career has demonstrated the highest level of sportsmanship and showmanship—earning him the Most Valuable Player of the 2005 National League Championship Series.

In an exceptional 2005 campaign Pujols established career highs in walks and stolen bases. With 41 home runs and 16 stolen bases, he became just the second Cardinal to finish with at least 40 home runs and 15 stolen bases in a single season, after Rogers Hornsby in 1922. Pujols finished second in the National League with a .330 batting average—hitting his 200th career homer along with a grand slam. Additionally, but not understated, Pujols finished with 117 RBI's, 97 walks, and a career low 38 doubles caused by nagging injuries.

Cardinals' fans were given even more ammunition to celebrate in 2005, because Albert Pujols' Most Valuable Player recognition marks the first time that the Cardinals have had both a Most Valuable Player and Cy Young award winner-pitcher, Chris Carpenter in the same year.

Pujols' characteristics and accomplishments are not limited to his accolades on the field. Off the field Pujols and his wife, Deidre, have three children: Isabella, A.J. Alberto Jr., and their newest addition Sophia. Both Pujols and his wife are generous and active supporters of community issues and in 2005 established the Pujols Family Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to the "love, care and development of people with Down Syndrome and also reaches out to impoverished families in the Dominican Republic."

Recently Pujols became the third fastest player in major league history to reach 25 home runs in a season and was on pace to hit a record breaking 82 home runs—before an oblique injury—which would have surpassed the single-season home run record of 73 home runs held by Barry Bonds.

Albert Pujols has become a role model and an inspiration to his fans, and others, through his many outstanding achievements. I congratulate him on his 2005 successes both on and off the field, and we all wish him a speedy recovery and a quick return from his present injuries. He is truly a modern American hero and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING DR. ALLAN ROSENFELD

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Allan Rosenfield on his 20th anniversary as Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.

As Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health and professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Rosenfield is a true giant in the fields of population, reproductive rights, health policy and human rights.

Throughout his career, he has fought against the global gag rule; worked around the world on issues of family planning and maternal and children's health, and been recognized as a pioneer for his work on maternal mortality.

During his distinguished career, one common denominator is found throughout his work—he embraces the needs of the people least likely to receive care. Dr. Rosenfield is a man who sees need and steps up to the plate to enact change.

Dr. Rosenfield is an extraordinary man whose courage and dedication have inspired all who know him. Among his many admirable traits, there is one I am particularly happy to share with him—his strong belief in the power of humankind kind to change the world for the better.

I am honored to not only know Dr. Rosenfield, the highly respected and dedicated academic, but to call him my good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the tremendous career of Dr. Allan Rosenfield and to congratulate him on his 20th year as Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health.

TRIBUTE TO TARA ELIZABETH CONNER, MISS USA 2006

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tara Elizabeth Connor, a native of Russell Springs, Kentucky, who was recently crowned Miss USA 2006.

The entire Bluegrass State celebrated on April 21, when Tara not only captured the Miss USA title but also became the first Kentuckian in the pageant's 54-year history to do so. Although she is only 20 years old, Tara showed remarkable composure during the week-long Miss USA competition, which culminated in the nationally televised pageant on NBC.

A 2004 graduate of Russell County High School, Tara was able to realize her dream of becoming Miss USA through the tried and true formula of hard work, determination and pure talent that has marked generations of accomplished Kentuckians. As the reigning Miss USA, Tara intends to use her celebrity platform to raise awareness about breast cancer. I have no doubt that she will perform her newfound responsibilities with the same mix of energy and enthusiasm that she used to capture the Miss USA title.

While millions of Americans now know her as a "beauty" queen, those that know Tara best see her for what she really is—a down-to-earth Kentucky girl who is dedicated to her family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Tara Connor on her honor as Miss USA 2006. Tara has made all of Kentucky proud, and I wish her the very best as she pursues her bright future.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS H.R. 5441

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I supported the Fiscal Year 2007 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill (H.R. 5441). The bill provided \$33.1 billion for our Nation's homeland security. These funds will help our Federal, State and local first responders react to both natural disasters and terrorist events. Yet, funds appropriated in this bill represent only a 5 percent increase from the funds we appropriated last year and do not fully meet the homeland security needs of our country. Even though I supported the bill, I believe that we can and we should do more.

I am disappointed that Ranking Member OBEY's amendment to add \$3.5 billion to the bill for transit security, border security, port security, first responders, and preparedness programs was rejected along party lines by the Homeland Security Appropriations Committee and was prohibited from being offered. These programs are essential to strong and robust hometown security. This indispensable funding would have been easily paid for by rolling back the tax savings that taxpayers with incomes over \$1 million today received under the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts.

I am glad that this bill provides \$19.6 billion for border security. This represents a 9 percent increase from current funding and shows that the House takes seriously the challenges we face in securing our Nation's borders. Yet it still falls short of the request made by President Bush.

This bill also includes \$4.2 billion for port and cargo security, which is a 12 percent increase over last year. After the controversy over the D.P. World's attempt to acquire operating control of a number of U.S. ports earlier this year, Congress finally recognized the need to invest in container inspection and radiological detection. This bill also includes increased funding for grants to State and local governments to improve port security. But more needs to be done.

I was troubled that for the third year in a row DHS's rail and transit security grant program was flat funded at \$150 million. This bill

already provided \$200 million for port security and \$4.7 billion for aviation security. That is why I joined my colleagues Mr. CASTLE and Mr. LYNCH in offering an amendment to increase funding for this essential grant program by \$50 million. A clear majority of Congress agreed with us and voted to ensure that rail security received an increase in funding. I am glad to have led this effort to make a small but important step to ensuring that our nation's rail and transit providers have the resources they need to ensure the safety of millions of Americans daily.

I remain troubled that nothing has been done in this bill to significantly reform the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). I have long argued that FEMA should be removed from the Department of Homeland Security and be reestablished as an independent agency that reports directly to the President. Unfortunately, the House again has missed an opportunity to put FEMA on the road to reform. As we begin hurricane season, I cannot forget the destruction and deaths caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It is time to remove FEMA from the Department of Homeland Security, where it never belonged.

Despite the lessons learned in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, this bill also cuts funding for firefighter grants by 17 percent. It also provides \$7 million less than last year for the office of Grants and Training, formerly known as the Office of Domestic Preparedness. Unbelievably, this bill cuts by 65 percent from a DHS program that helps Federal, State, local, and private organizations implement protection strategies and to provide training to State homeland security advisors.

Congress has a duty to provide the American people with the best security possible in the wake of a natural disaster or a terrorist attack. While this bill does not fully provide the funding our Federal, State and local homeland security officials have said they need, it does begin to meet their needs. I will continue to work with my colleague in Congress to ensure that we increase our Nation's investment in our homeland security.

COMMENDING THE LAWRENCE-EAGLE TRIBUNE FOR ITS SERIES ON GAMBLING

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, recently a paper in my district ran a series of columns on the problem of gambling addiction, and its effect on society, and individual families. I commend the Lawrence Eagle Tribune, its editor-in-chief, William Ketter, and the series' author, Denise Jewell, for their hard work and attention to this serious issue.

One piece in the series focused on the federal role in help for gambling addiction—and in some cases, where there is no federal role. Gambling addiction can be as destructive as addiction to alcohol or drugs, and destroys countless families every year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include these articles in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and once again, offer my gratitude to the staff of the Eagle Tribune for their fine work.

[From the Lawrence Eagle Tribune,
June 4, 2006]

GAMBLING SERIES SHOWS VALUE OF PUBLIC SERVICE JOURNALISM (By William B. Ketter)

The gravitational pull of state-sponsored gambling to stave off traditional tax increases, pay for public services and drive economic development has created a split-screen social condition in America: a lucky few people and the hapless many.

Sadly, that is the message that underlies much of the economic as well as cultural conclusions of our three-part Sunday Forum series on the causes, costs and consequences associated with the rapid spread of legal gambling across the country.

The state-by-state study—which concludes with today's installment—was conducted by the Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. News Service, the editorial arm of our parent corporation, under this editor's oversight. It was ambitious, public service journalism that encountered numerous obstacles, including uncooperative casino operators, tribal leaders and state officials.

It was a measure of reporter Denise Jewell's persistence that she got around the roadblocks and produced the first national statistical picture of the canyon between sums gambled and money spent on the prevention and treatment of problem gambling.

Nobody in state or tribal government or the gaming industry wants to say or do anything that might derail the full steam ahead gambling locomotive and the billions of dollars it generates from casinos, racinos, video poker terminals, lotteries and other sanctioned games of chance.

That's an understandable, though myopic, attitude when you consider the primary benefactors are the states that authorize, promote and regulate gambling; and the gaming companies that manage the Indian and commercial casinos. In their universe, frequent gamblers are not only prized, they are essential to success.

"It is like putting Dracula in charge of the blood bank," remarked State Sen. Susan Tucker, D-Andover in the first part of our series. Only the blood is dollars, Tucker points out, "and for the states to get their few hundred million their constituents have to lose a few billion."

A lot of those losses come from problem gamblers, many of whom are already poor and desperately in need of professional help to overcome their addiction. Yet their plight goes unlamented under the logic that gambling is a voluntary act.

Who should care? The federal and state governments. They hold responsibility for the general welfare, and compulsive gambling is a national public health issue—for the same reason drinking, smoking, and drug abuse are treated as public health matters. It is destructive, anti-social behavior. The difference is the latter receive billions for research, prevention and treatment and problem gambling gets a pittance.

In fact, Dr. Howard Shaffer of Andover, director of Harvard University's Addiction Center, identified pathological gambling as a public health problem 4 years ago in a national study, and still nothing has been done to expand federal programs to deal with it. He compares it to government inaction during the early stages of the AIDS crisis.

Ignoring the people who impulsively gamble beyond their means—causing serious financial, criminal, family and psychiatric problems—is a counterproductive approach that social experts predict will cost more over time than the money the states reap from gambling.

To grasp the wide disparity between taxes and treatment you need to reflect on the numbers.

States now receive \$21 billion in taxes from the \$136 billion spent annually on legal gambling in the United States. In turn, they spend only \$36 million on programs to assist problem gamblers. That's less than one-fifth of 1 percent of the profit.

Yes, gambling taxes help finance schools, teachers, fire engines, roads, parks and other core public services. And the infusion of revenue has allowed many states to avoid raising income, sales and property taxes. Even lower them, in some instances.

There are, however, related consequences. Evidence in our series showed problem gamblers commit forgery, credit card fraud and embezzlement at a higher rate than the general population. They also exceed the norm on bankruptcy, homelessness, divorce, substance and spousal abuse, and suicide.

No government or private agency has done a current analysis of the actual social cost of legal gambling. But the now-defunct National Gambling Impact Study Commission pegged the annual toll at \$5 billion 7 years ago. It estimated the cost to society of each addict at \$13,200 per year.

"There are undeniably many millions of problem and pathological gamblers causing severe harm to themselves, their families and many others," concluded the commission after a two-year study. Greater public understanding of this, it added, "is crucial to the health and stability of these families, their communities and many businesses."

The outlook is even darker today. More states have come to rely on gambling revenue to balance their budgets. Those without slot machines at race tracks, including Massachusetts, are talking seriously about adding them. And states without commercial or Indian casinos are seen as fertile possibilities for both.

Congress and state legislatures need to slow down the locomotive, and require that the casinos and the states appropriate serious dollars to research, prevention and treatment of problem gambling. They should also review how they're spending current public health dollars on compulsive behaviors, and appropriate some of that money to addictive gambling. It is growing faster than other social dysfunctions.

There's another thing federal lawmakers can do to do help. The Americans With Disabilities Act should be amended to add compulsive gambling to the list of mental disorders covered by the law. Because it is excluded, addictive gamblers can be denied insurance payments for medical expenses and short-changed on other benefits available to alcohol and drug abusers.

Gambling taxes and money spent to deter compulsive wagering are going in opposite directions on the economic chart. There is little chance the two curves will ever cross, given the acceptance of gambling as an all-American pastime. But the CNHI News Service "Hooked on Gambling" series made a powerful case for narrowing the gap, and bringing the multiplying victims side of this split social screen into sharper focus.

By so doing, it served the purpose of public service journalism—something we need more of in this era of flash news reports that often lack context and meaning.

[From the Lawrence Eagle Tribune,
May 21, 2006]

LEGAL GAMBLING BEGETS MILLIONS OF NEGLECTED ADDICTS (By Denise Jewell)

Twenty-year-old Bryant Northern had the world at his fingertips as a walk-on guard who won a coveted scholarship at basketball powerhouse University of Louisville. He dreamed of deadeye jump shots, March Madness, even a pro career.