

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF THE WOLVES

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the National Association of the Wolves and its members for all of their work in the community.

The National Association of the Wolves was founded approximately seventy-five years ago by a group of Italian-American businessmen in New Castle, Pennsylvania. With over 400 members in 14 States (12 in Western Pennsylvania and 2 in Eastern Ohio), the Wolves promotes higher education among high school students by awarding college scholarships. Over the years, the National Association of the Wolves has raised over \$6.1 million for 2,537 students. In addition to providing scholarships, the Wolves have established endowments at colleges and universities across Western Pennsylvania.

The National Association of the Wolves will hold their national convention August 18 and 19, 2006 at the Avalon Inn in Warren, Ohio.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Association of the Wolves. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated group like the National Association of the Wolves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my missed votes of yesterday June 12, 2006. Unfortunately, due to maintenance problems with numerous airplanes I was not able to arrive into Washington, DC until the votes had already closed. Had I been here for rollcall votes 521, 522, 523, 524, and 525 I would have voted aye on all 5 votes.

Mr. Speaker, for far too long the Nation of China has had a record of abusive and abhorrent human rights violations. I am pleased that H. Res. 608, H. Res. 804, and H. Res. 794 were brought to the House floor to bring attention to the continued religious persecution and to remember the horrible events in Tiananmen Square. We must continue to hold China accountable for its actions and these resolutions were a step in the right direction.

I am also glad that H. Con. Res. 338 was brought to the floor again calling on the nations of the Western Hemisphere to work together in combating Islamist terrorist organizations. Terrorism will never be an issue on which we can rest and we must ensure that all nations are working together to secure our borders and our nations against terrorist activities.

Again, I am sorry I was unable to be here for the votes on June 12, 2006, but I hope this explanation adequately conveys my support for these 5 votes.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORNELIA DE LANGE SYNDROME FOUNDATION

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation on its 25th anniversary of Reaching Out, Providing Help and Giving Hope to children and their families across the country.

The CdLS Foundation is an outstanding organization that has been serving people and families living with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome since 1981. Their national headquarters is located in the Fifth District of Connecticut, which I represent. The Foundation is a non-profit, family-support organization that works to promote early and accurate diagnosis of CdLS, advance research into the causes of the condition, and assist those with CdLS throughout their lives. Their efforts impact the lives of people throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, CdLS is a congenital condition, which means it is present from birth. It impacts on virtually all of a person's being. Physical and mental manifestations of CdLS may include: missing limbs or fingers; severe reflux; feeding difficulties; cleft palate; eye problems; hearing loss; seizures; and behavioral issues. Overall, cognitive and physical development is slowed, and delays in speech and communication are even more pronounced.

The foundation celebrated a medical and scientific breakthrough in April 2004 when a research team led by scientists at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia identified a gene on chromosome 5 that, when mutated, causes CdLS. NIH recently made a substantial grant to support continued research designed to help families and scientists alike understand the cause of CdLS and improve care for people living with this diagnosis.

As a result of this discovery, we now know that CdLS affects approximately 1 in 10,000 live births, and it is thought to be present in as many as 20,000 children who have not been diagnosed. The foundation faces a significant challenge as it attempts to reach out to families who have a child with CdLS, especially those with more mild cases. Interventions and strategies for managing the syndrome and caring for these children can only be utilized once the presence of the syndrome has been confirmed.

In order to raise the visibility of the syndrome, the foundation distributes publications to families and medical professionals, and hosts meetings and conferences where researchers and families can meet to exchange information. The foundation also acts as a facilitator between families and the medical community, utilizing the expertise of its Clinical Advisory Board, a team of more than 40 clinical and education professionals who act as on-call advisors.

Once a family understands that their child has been touched by the syndrome, the foundation relies on its strong volunteer network to support children and families affected by CdLS, as well as educate local community members, government officials, and media about the syndrome. Most of these volunteers

are family members of someone living with CdLS.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that an organization with such integrity and willingness to help their fellow citizens has called Avon, CT its home. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation for its tremendous efforts.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. TOMMY CROOKS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, doctors of optometry from around the Nation will convene in Las Vegas, NV, June 22–26 for the American Optometric Association's 109th annual convention. On Saturday, June 24, they will elect Dr. Tommy Crooks as the association's 85th president.

Doctors of optometry are the Nation's largest eye care profession, serving patients in nearly 6,500 communities across the country, in more than 3,500 of these communities; they are the only eye doctors. The American Optometric Association is the professional society for optometrists nationwide and has more than 34,000 members. Dr. Crooks will lead the association on its mission to improve eye and vision care in the United States.

Dr. Crooks is a resident of Birmingham, AL. He is a native son, a 1975 graduate of the University of Alabama and a 1979 graduate of the University of Alabama's School of Optometry who has practiced optometry in our State for 27 years. He is currently president and CEO of Eyecare Associates, Inc., in Birmingham, AL, a group practice consisting of 19 locations and 33 doctors.

Dr. Crooks has been a leader in his profession at the State, regional and national levels. He has been a member of the Alabama Optometric Association since 1979, serving as president in 1990. In 1985, the Alabama Optometric Association named Dr. Crooks Alabama Optometrist of the Year. He is also a past president of the Southern Council of Optometrists and the Birmingham Area Optometric Society and in 1990 was named University of Alabama-Birmingham Alumnus of the Year.

At the national level, Dr. Crooks has been a member of American Optometric Association, AOA, since 1979, and has served in the association's volunteer structure since 1989. He was elected to the AOA Board of Trustees in 1999 and was re-elected in 2002.

Dr. Tommy Crooks has built a distinguished record of service and leadership in his profession and in his community. I am confident that he will have a very successful term as president of the American Optometric Association. I join his wife Kaye and their two sons, his friends and colleagues in congratulating him on this achievement and wishing him good luck and good health.