

HONORING HOLLIS BRASHEAR

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hollis Brashear and his 14 years of outstanding service as Trustee to the Dallas Independent School District. His commitment to the students of Dallas ISD is to be commended. During his many years on the Board of Trustees, Hollis Brashear served as Chairman to multiple committees, vice-president and president.

Mr. Brashear has always had a special connection to Dallas ISD and the students, as he was a graduate of Dallas ISD's Lincoln High School. He then went on to earn his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Prairie View A&M University and his master's from Oklahoma State University.

In addition to his academic accomplishments, Hollis Brashear went on to serve a notable 21 years in the military where he was awarded two bronze stars during the Vietnam War.

Through his military service and outstanding academic and professional credentials, Hollis Brashear led the way towards improvement and change at Dallas ISD. His dignified dedication to the children, teachers, parents and administrators has made an immeasurable impact on the lives of Dallas ISD students.

I commend Mr. Brashear on his 14 years of exceptional service and wish him all the best on his retirement in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am writing to notify you that I was absent on the evening of June 19, 2006 for votes. The reason for my absence was that the flight from Charleston, SC, was delayed due to a severe storm over the Washington, DC, area. I had no control over this issue and I did not arrive into Washington DC until late in the evening of June 19, 2006.

Regarding the votes that I missed, please see below for the way that I would have voted had I been present:

Vote No. 288—Declaring that the United States will prevail in the Global War on Terror, the struggle to protect freedom from the terrorist adversary—“aye”;

Vote No. 289—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmitt, Texas, as the Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office—“aye”;

Vote No. 290—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6029 Broadmoor Street in Mission, Kansas, as the Larry Winn, Jr. Post Office Building—“aye”; and

Vote No. 291—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Young Sports Week should be established—“aye.”

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS ARE KEY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS IN THE CARIBBEAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the necessity of worldwide cooperation in the battle against HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean. Today, the Caribbean nations rank only second to sub-Saharan Africa in prevalence of the HIV virus. However, some countries in the region also have some of the highest per capita incomes among developing countries, which make these countries ineligible for foreign assistance.

I would like to submit an article for the RECORD from the June 13th issue of CaribNews entitled CARICOM's Need for Universal Access in HIV/AIDS Fight. In this article, author Tony Best describes the dilemma that many Caribbean countries face when attempting to secure aid for HIV/AIDS programs while possessing high per capita income, thus disqualifying them as priority recipients.

The article is based on an address made by CARICOM's lead spokesman on health, Dr. Denzil Douglas' address to a special United Nations High Level meeting on HIV/AIDS. In this address, Dr. Douglas expressed his concern on behalf of the Caribbean community about the criteria established by the international donor community regarding financial support for programs to reduce HIV/AIDS in the region. The main criterion of concern is that the international donor community will not grant middle income nations, such as those in the Caribbean, to collect grants for HIV/AIDS programs. Instead, these countries must apply for loans if they wish to obtain some support. Furthermore, the only way that a middle income country can become eligible for aid is if their HIV prevalence rate rises above five percent.

Dr. Douglas opined that this requirement of five percent prevalence rate will only hinder in a successful fight against HIV/AIDS due to the fact that the time wasted in waiting for the five percent mark to be recorded will allow the disease to advance so far that the economic and social costs may be unbearable at that point. For the moment, some countries in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and other groups such as the Clinton Foundation and Global Fund have provided some aid to these countries. However, this aid has only resulted in the expansion of retroviral coverage for already infected persons.

Thus, the Caribbean region still lags behind in any progress in prevention of HIV incidence. The area has not been able to decrease the number of new cases of HIV, and so CARICOM feels that a social system based on an integrated network of services such as prevention, diagnosis and treatment can provide the best medium for prevailing in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The global community is a vital player in helping create this visionary system of social services. By agreeing to provide aid despite of per capita income, international authorities can further strengthen the partnerships they have with the Caribbean nations and be of utmost benefit in the defeat of HIV/AIDS, not just in

the Caribbean, but worldwide. After all, a united effort will prove to be much more successful than minor individual efforts striving towards a common goal.

[From the Carib News, June 13, 2006]

CARICOM'S NEED FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS IN HIV/AIDS FIGHT

(By Tony Best)

Dr. Denzil Douglas, CARICOM's lead spokesman on Health, has called on the international community to make it easier for middle-income Caribbean nations to boost the level of care provided to victims of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

In an address to a special United Nations High Level meeting on HIV/AIDS and in a session with Carib News Editorial Board on Monday morning Dr. Douglas, St. Kitts-Nevis' Prime Minister appealed for a new that would enable donor agencies and institutions to provide help to the region hard hit by HIV/AIDS virus. Many of the countries, he said, were being forced to bear the brunt of the financial burden of providing care to HIV sufferers and information to the general public about the dangers of the disease.

“We are concerned about the criteria established by the international donor community with regard to access to financing for fighting HIV/AIDS,” he told Carib news editors and community leaders, including Yvonne Graham, Brooklyn Borough President, Michael Flanigan, Citibank Community Relations Director, and Leyland Hazelwood, an international business executive.

“One of the important criteria is that it (international donor community) will not allow middle income countries to have grants,” he pointed out. “Rather, you have to go through the process of loans. Also unless the prevalence rates get beyond five per cent, you are not going to be able to access the financing that is required.”

The trouble is that although the Caribbean region may have some of the highest per capita incomes among developing countries, the countries collectively are second only to subSahara Africa when it comes to the prevalence of the HIV virus. But their rates of infection are below the five per cent threshold. Hence they are ineligible for assistance.

“I made the point to the General Assembly of the United Nations that if we are going to wait until we get to five per cent, what is the point,” he said. “It is almost foolhardy to wait until the disease has reached a certain level in the population to give us the required assistance. We need the assistance now so that we don't reach there.”

Dr. Douglas, himself a physician, said that if the countries were forced to wait until the five per cent mark was recorded, then they would be faced with unthinkable economic and social consequences.

“If we wait for that stage with our small populations in the region, it can have very, very serious setbacks in the development of the Caribbean, especially in view of the gains we have recorded in the last few years,” he asserted.

The Prime Minister pointed out that several Caribbean countries, especially those in the OECS, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, were receiving help from Brazil in the form of free medication for HIV sufferers while the Clinton Foundation and Global Fund had “come on board with assistance.”

As a result, states had been able to slow down the growth in the incidence of the virus, cut the number of deaths and slash mother to child transmission of the virus. “More still remains to be done and must be done,” he said.

Caricom nations are aiming for “harmonized international partnership” that

would result in an acceleration of care during the next 15 years.

Dr. Douglas' appeals to the international community were designed to "sustain the harmonized partnership" and expand care and the dissemination of information, he explained.

"By 2010, we are hoping that our health and social system would form the basis of an improved and integrated network of services, from prevention, diagnosis and treatment to care and support," he added. "The main issue is how we can we sustain the services that we have put in place to prevent and manage the disease. That is a concern."

A major hurdle in the Caribbean centers on "the issue of prevention," he pointed out. "We have not been able to scale back the number of new cases that are occurring in the Caribbean region," he said. "While we have been able to manage those who have the disease in terms of providing the necessary anti-retroviral drugs we have not succeeded on the issue of prevention. We believe that if we are to scale back the prevalence we must be able to prevent its spread."

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS FROM WEST PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL'S ACADEMY OF AUTOMOTIVE AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING FOR THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE TOUR DE SOL

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Philadelphia High School's Academy for Automotive and Mechanical Engineering for winning their second Tour de Sol Championship.

The National 2006 Tour de Sol, a nationwide competition, allows students and entrepreneurs to showcase their efforts to design vehicles that approach zero climate change emissions and reduce oil use. The Tour de Sol highlights the largest innovations in alternative-energy technology and advanced fuel vehicles, showcasing the future of the clean-energy and transportation industries. The cars are put through rigorous tests to assess emissions, fuel economy, and other technical standards.

The Tour de Sol provides a key platform for vehicle manufacturers, students, and entrepreneurs to demonstrate future designs and current products that aim to reduce oil use and climate change emissions to near zero. This year, over 50 teams from all over the world participated in the Tour de Sol Championship, which began in 1989. The competition aims to inspire students and businesses to design, build, showcase, and use concept vehicles that push the envelope and work toward the ultimate goal of the event.

The winner of the coveted "Student Hybrid and Alternative Fuel Division" was awarded to one of the only high school teams to enter the competition, West Philadelphia High School's Academy for Automotive and Mechanical Engineering, for their Hybrid biodiesel electric car called The Attack. The team beat university and private teams from around the country for developing a vehicle that demonstrates high energy efficiency. The Attack ran the equivalent of 50 miles per gallon of gasoline.

I salute the students, faculty and team sponsors who worked tirelessly over the past 2 years to construct a hybrid vehicle that efficiently uses gas to create a cleaner environment. I applaud their efforts and congratulate them on a winning design that makes all Philadelphians proud.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RENEWABLE FUELS AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROMOTION ACT

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleague EARL POMEROY of North Dakota and I are introducing the Renewable Fuels and Energy Independence Promotion Act. We are joined by a bipartisan group of original co-sponsors, a complete list of which follows this statement.

Rising fuel prices have again focused the public's attention on our nation's energy situation. Gas is at or near \$3 a gallon across the country. We are importing over 60% of the oil we use, and this number is expected to grow to over 70% by 2025. In addition to our own increased domestic demand for energy, there is instability in oil-producing areas of the world, and demand for petroleum from China and India will continue to apply upward pressures on the price of oil.

Perhaps the one point in the energy debate that garners agreement from both sides of the aisle is that federal policy should strive to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. And though there may be ideological differences about how to achieve this end, there is broad, bipartisan consensus that domestically produced renewable fuels must play an integral role in a plan to promote energy independence.

Consistent with this common sense premise, we are introducing the Renewable Fuels and Energy Independence Promotion Act. This legislation will provide a permanent extension of the Tax Code's primary renewable fuels tax incentives for ethanol and biodiesel. The idea is to provide a single legislative vehicle for members to show their support of renewable tax incentives and to support a policy that sees a public good in reducing our dependence on foreign oil by boosting our energy independence.

If renewable fuels are to displace significant amounts of petroleum as transportation fuel, we must take bold, aggressive steps to achieve this end. History has demonstrated that the federal ethanol tax incentive has accomplished exactly what it is designed to do—promote the production and use of alcohol fuels. The numbers don't lie:

According to the Renewable Fuels Association, the United States produced 175 gallons of alcohol fuels in the year 1980. Today, we have an industry with a 4.817 billion gallon production capacity, and another 2.122 billion gallons of production capacity is currently under construction.

These numbers prove the tax incentive is working. Previous Congresses and Presidents—both Republican and Democrat—have recognized the benefits from replacing petroleum products with domestically produced re-

newable fuels. Long-term, consistent, and bipartisan support of ethanol tax incentives have yielded positive results that are helping reduce our dependence on foreign oil. As production increases and new technologies—such as cellulosic ethanol production—are perfected, renewable fuels will play an even greater role in our economy. History has shown us that the tax incentive works, and a long-term commitment to a federal policy that supports renewable fuels will help provide stability and promote growth for those working to expand the use of ethanol in the United States.

Congress should also strongly support efforts to promote biodiesel. Biodiesel is a clean-burning, renewable fuel that can be produced from a variety of feedstocks, including soybeans. It can be blended with diesel fuel and burned in conventional diesel engines without modification to the engine.

From a policy perspective, biodiesel shares many of the positive characteristics of ethanol. It is environmentally friendly and produced from renewable sources. Its production helps promote economic growth and opportunities in value-added agriculture. And most importantly, expanded use of biodiesel will help make America more energy independent by displacing petroleum products with a renewable fuel source.

Though there are distinct differences between biodiesel and ethanol, the situation facing the biodiesel industry today resembles the challenges facing ethanol industry upon its inception. I think we can replicate ethanol's success with biodiesel. If federal policy can increase demand and spur the development of the infrastructure required to utilize biodiesel, the nation as a whole will reap the benefits.

The current tax incentive took effect in 2005, and is currently set to expire after 2008. And though things are going well for the industry, and the market is beginning to embrace the fuel, there is more work that must be done. Federal policy should create an atmosphere that rewards entrepreneurs for investing their time and resources to build the production facilities and distribution systems needed to bring biodiesel to market. Providing certainty to the markets and to the industry will help further this progress, and federal policy can help provide this certainty through a long-term extension of the biodiesel tax incentive.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting a strong federal commitment to the development of renewable fuels.

Original Cosponsors, Renewable Fuels and Energy Independence Promotion Act: Pomery, Nussle, Peterson, Shimkus, Terry, Boswell, Osborne, Emanuel, Moran (KS), Salazar, Moore (KS), and Herseth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on June 19, 2006 on the House floor. I take responsibility to vote very seriously and would like my intentions included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 289 for H.R. 5540, which designates the facility of the United States Postal