

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WALTER SENKOW FOR UNPARALLELED YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO CHILDREN THROUGHOUT DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join family, friends and community leaders in extending my thanks and appreciation to Walter Senkow as he celebrates retirement after unparalleled years of public service to children throughout Delaware County, PA.

Here in Congress, we often have occasion to pay tribute to the work of great men and women and comment on the impact they have had on us. It is fitting to recall that few have a more important calling than those who have made a lifetime commitment on behalf of the education of our children. In a career that has spanned 44 years of school-board service, Mr. Senkow has involved himself in the education of young people at nearly every level.

Mr. Senkow, a retired Marine who served during World War II, is a man for whom public service blended seamlessly into the fabric of his life. His leadership in education has led to significant improvements that will continue to make a difference in the lives of students for years to come. Among his singular achievements at the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) were serving as board president since 1983 and guidance of the project which consolidated DCIU Education Service Center into the Morton, PA, location.

Educator, administrator, advocate, and community leader, Walt Senkow has dedicated a lifetime of commitment to Delaware County, PA, 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 would all aspire.

Mr. Speaker, Walt Senkow 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. On the occasion of his retirement, we thank him for his dedicated service and wish him all the best for the future.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the goals and ideals of National Entrepreneurship Week. As you are well aware, businesses today face global competition at an unprecedented level. Outsourcing, off-shor-

ing, and supply-chaining have opened new avenues to maximizing profit, but also pose dangers to local companies and their employees. The impact can be felt all over the country. It is important that we recognize the critical role entrepreneurship plays in sustaining an innovation driven economy.

The lifestyle and economic success we enjoy as a Nation are in large part the result of successfully leveraged technologies by some of our most creative thinkers in commerce. Our natural advantages as an economic superpower are waning, and we must commit to maintaining our leadership role in the global economy. This means continued support of 7(a) small business loans, modernizing and making permanent the tax credits for research and development, and adequately funding the Small Business Administration. We must also recognize the need for educating our next generation of innovators. Along with teaching math, science, and engineering skills, teaching entrepreneurship to the next generation of leaders is one of the best investments we can make in our economic future.

Entrepreneurship programs and research offer the knowledge to grow pioneering ventures that provide jobs and contribute to development. A systemic improvement in these areas also makes for better informed policy makers, investors, and support organizations that can better create an environment to foster innovation and entrepreneurial success.

America has prospered when it has led, particularly in the fields of business and science. I believe we are at a "Sputnik" moment, and need to rise to the challenge of new and changing global landscape. It is vital that we do so with creativity and imagination.

MINIMUM WAGE AND THE ESTATE TAX

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the House Republican Majority defeated a Democratic effort to increase the minimum wage. The current federal minimum wage, \$5.15 per hour, has not been increased since 1997. Consequently, inflation has eaten away at its purchasing power to the point that, adjusted for inflation, the minimum wage is now the weakest it has been in 50 years. This is not acceptable.

Energy prices are on the rise. The cost of college is skyrocketing. In Western New York, middle class families are working harder yet falling farther behind. The least this Congress can do is to update the minimum wage to a more just level, and to ensure that no American who works full time has to live in poverty. It should be a goal of this great Nation to guarantee as much. Yet last week we were denied the opportunity to vote on legislation to do just that. The House Republican Majority's

vote to block an increase in the minimum wage for millions of Americans, stood in stark contrast to a vote cast just minutes afterward, to give away millions in tax cuts designated for only the very wealthiest Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I support tax relief for middle class families, small businesses and family farmers. Unfortunately, in today's debate on the estate tax, Democrats, led by Mr. POMEROY, were denied the opportunity to offer our substitute, which would exempt 99.7% of all estates from the estate tax entirely. In my state of New York only 422 estates—that is only one quarter of one percent of all estates in the entire state—would pay any estate tax at all.

The Democratic substitute would have cost far less than H.R. 5638 and is a superior approach in a variety of ways. It would be paid for by closing the gap in uncollected taxes, and would have transferred estate tax revenue tax receipts to shore up the Social Security trust fund. Yet we were denied the opportunity to vote on this Democratic substitute, and as a result the House passed a bill today that will do nothing to help the middle class and will unnecessarily drive up our national debt.

The legislation the House passed last Thursday will slash taxes for multimillionaires while sticking our children and grandchildren with the bill. H.R. 5638 will cost the American people \$762 billion over the first ten years it is in effect. This at a time when, due to the economic decisions of this Administration, we are running huge annual budget deficits and our national debt is at a record high. We are sinking further into debt held by foreign governments such as China and Japan, and future generations of Americans will be paying the interest on this additional \$762 billion in debt for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that in just one day in Congress the American people are able to see the economic priorities of the Republican Majority so clearly. Yet last Thursday a small handful of millionaires got off at a high price to the rest of us, and hardworking men and women took a huge hit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall votes 316, 317, and 318 taken on June 22.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on No. 316 (the motion to recommit H.R. 4890), "aye" on No. 317 (final passage of H.R. 4890), and "aye" on No. 318 (final passage of H. Res. 323).

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO JAIME FABEY, ELIZABETH TOPHAM, SALIL GABALE AND BRIAN BECK ON THEIR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE IN ASSISTING THE HURRICANE VICTIMS ALONG THE GULF COAST

### HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous honor and privilege for me to rise to honor four young members of the AmeriCorps Program for their heroic assistance to the individuals devastated by hurricanes along the Gulf Coast. The National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program, under AmeriCorps, is a full-time, teamwork-encouraging, non-profit organization comprised of individuals ages 18–24 who strive to serve the community at large, wherever assistance is needed. These four individuals, who so patriotically aided the residents of the Gulf Coast area, reside in the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

AmeriCorps was founded in 1994, through the enactment of the National Community Service Trust Act. Members of the NCCC are required to serve for a minimum of ten months at a time, and are Red Cross-trained and certified in CPR, first-aid, and mass care. More than 1,600 NCCC members have extended their relief efforts to residents of the Gulf Coast region since September 2005, and have amassed approximately 600,000 hours of service—a truly commendable effort.

Jaime Fabey, an NCCC Team Leader, led a group of ten Corps members on two disaster relief mission-projects along the Gulf Coast. In partnership with the First Baptist Church of New Orleans, Jaime and her team, for two months helped save 16 homes as well as the personal items of many families whose homes were unsalvageable. Elizabeth Topham and her teammates spent their first assignment helping with the construction of the Salvation Army's largest outreach center in New Orleans, which aided more than 12,000 local residents. Salil Gabale and teammates worked to repair a warehouse that belonged to a non-profit organization named the Green Project, located in Covington, LA. Brian Beck offered his support through carrying out damage assessments and recruiting for volunteers. Brian and his team are currently building houses for hurricane disaster victims in Slidell, Louisiana.

As the Vice-Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, I have seen first-hand the positive effects of the NCCC. These four young members have no doubt played a large role in upholding the excellent reputation of this organization.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have within my district four remarkably heroic and brave members of the NCCC. Our Nation owes Jaime Fabey, Elizabeth Topham, Salil Gabale and Brian Beck and the rest of the NCCC volunteers our most sincere gratitude for their services. We are most certainly a safer country because of their outstanding efforts. Again, I have the great privilege of representing these special individuals and honoring them for their selfless service to those who needed it the most during a time of national crisis.

HONORING BROOKSIDE ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Brookside Engine Company No. 1 in the Mendham Township Fire Department and the Mendham Township Police Department, in the Township of Mendham, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent. On July 4, 2006, the good citizens of Mendham Township will celebrate two historic occasions with a special festivities and a parade: the 90th anniversary of Brookside Engine Company No. 1, and the 50th anniversary of the Mendham Township Police Department.

Brookside Engine Company No. 1 was founded on January 16, 1916, with 20 devoted charter members. During the ensuing 90 years, Brookside Engine Company No. 1, composed entirely of volunteers, has been dutifully serving the community and surrounding towns.

Today, Brookside Engine Company No. 1 is led by Fire Chief Sam Tolley, who presides over a membership of 45 regular volunteers and a junior division of more than 12 members between 16 and 18 years of age.

The Mendham Township Police Department was officially established on March 12, 1956. During its 50 years of existence, the department has employed a total of seven chiefs, a testament to its sterling reputation.

In 1994, Thomas J. Costanza was promoted to chief, a position he holds today. To support him, the department has 15 full-time officers. These courageous police officers continue to serve their community with integrity and honor, providing safety and protection to the residents of Mendham Township.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers of Brookside Engine Company No. 1 on 90 years of rich history, and the officers of the Mendham Township Police Department for 50 years of commendable service.

RECOGNIZING AN ARTICLE BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN, SPIRITUAL LEADER OF CONGREGATION BETH CHAVERIM IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article written by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, VA. The article by Rabbi Zoberman reads as follows:

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's successful first official visit recently to the United States was an expected formality between the leaders of two close and long-standing allies. It was also an essential opportunity for the Israeli Prime Minister to extend the intimate bond between his predecessor Ariel Sharon and President Bush, which Sharon learned to carefully cultivate, to his own budding relationship with a mighty and necessary friend.

Olmert, a skilled politician who has been moving away from a somewhat abrasive demeanor, did find the right words of gratitude, deference and shared sentiment. In his granted appearance as a special guest before a joint session of Congress, he received no less than 17 standing ovations reflecting America's genuine sympathy for the Jewish state which transcends those who happen to be in power on either side at a given time.

In fact, the vital alliance born of common values and interest between the senior and junior partners, has assumed a heightened relevancy following 9/11 with the complex war on terrorism and the costly thrust to bring democracy's freedoms to the Middle East and beyond. Who more than the ever beleaguered State of Israel has experienced what terrorizing onslaught on innocent civilians and a cherished way of life is all about?

The President gave his approving nod to the Prime Minister's unilateral plan of the "realignment" (the latest term) of Israel's future borders in the absence of a peace partner. The Palestinian Hamas-led government even rejects Israel's right to exist and is locked in a deadly struggle of a civil war nature with Fatah over running the Palestinian Authority. When will the Palestinians stop the tragic cycle of never missing an opportunity to miss an opportunity? Olmert voiced support for the seemingly moribund Road Map which Bush welcomed, as the President reiterated his embrace of Israel's determination to hold onto its large settlement blocks on the West Bank while relinquishing control over sparsely populated territory to allow for the creation of a Palestinian state.

The Prime Minister, a former Mayor of challenge-laden Jerusalem, is yet to be tested in Israel's hot political crucible in his country's top position. It is doubtless that he was given an extraordinary historic opportunity to affect Israel's destiny and fully implement the vision of Sharon who was so suddenly incapacitated at the height of his popularity and on the threshold of fateful decisions having accomplished the controversial Gaza disengagement. But likely the highlight of Olmert's visit to the capital of the world's only remaining superpower was the stern warning he poignantly delivered concerning the impending threat from Iran, and his revelation that the terror sponsoring radical Muslim regime ghoulishly calling for Israel's elimination while denying the Holocaust is almost within reach, closer than anticipated of developing a nuclear capability.

One wonders if the Prime Minister personally presented the priceless gift of supporting intelligence reports, thus nailing the unavoidable response that the United States and the West are saddled with at this very hour. The risks of hesitant inaction though far outweighs those of resolute action, sending a powerful message that tyrannical blackmail is unacceptable and that the resolve of free nations to prevail is unshakeable. An ambiguous response invites further aggression with rising costs. Iran's mullahs' genocidal design on Israel, with Europe as a potential target as well while seeking hegemony in a critical region, ought to alarm us enough. What should however be clear is that Israel's only option is to survive, it simply can not afford to absorb a first nuclear strike. Have we not internalized by now History's painful lessons, are we doomed to forever repeat the past? I pray not.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, was born to Polish Holocaust survivors in Chu, Kazakhstan, in 1945 and raised in Haifa, Israel.