

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the National Science Foundation Scholars Program Act to support students who wish to be scientists, technicians, engineers, and mathematicians.

Although not every student in America needs to become a scientist, technician, engineer, or a mathematician, those who are headed that way need our support for what they contribute to the long term economic health of our nation. This merit-based financial support gives consideration to financial need and to the goal of supporting underrepresented groups as defined in the Equality in Science and Engineering Act.

The United States needs to improve our technical and scientific workforce for the success of our nation in the unfolding global knowledge economy. Although we still educate many foreign students in our graduate science, technology, and engineering, and mathematics departments across the nation, we no longer keep these talented, well-trained individuals here; they want to return to their home.

We must create and retain our highly-skilled, well-trained scientific and technical work force here rather than be dependent on work abroad.

Increases in tuition at colleges and universities in the United States have outpaced inflation for the past two decades. The increases are especially large at public 4-year colleges. The NSF Scholars program would serve as a real inducement to students who would augment our highly-skilled, highly technical work force.

As we move to a global knowledge economy, Juan Enriquez gives us warning for the future of our nation: "In a borderless world . . . those who do not educate . . . and keep their citizens . . . will lose most intellectual wars."

I hope we choose instead to educate our citizens and maintain our strength and competitiveness through the NSF Scholars Program Act.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF COALINGA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Coalinga on the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

The birth of the city of Coalinga dates back to the late 1800s, when the mining industry was booming in developing communities across the country. Rich in oil and flourishing in production, the city established several major oil production supplies. With the expansion of the industry, Coalinga oil workers embarked on a campaign to enhance workers

rights, improve working conditions for oil producers and create a better community for fellow community members. A glorious and monumental day for Coalinga came on April 3, 1906, when the small town was incorporated into Fresno County.

Still, the city of Coalinga encountered other obstacles, such as a severe economic decline in 1909. After the economic setback, residents struggled to obtain rights to clean and reliable water supply. Due to the lack of flowing surface water and highly mineralized ground water, water in the city of Coalinga was deemed unsafe for drinking. It was not until 1972 that the State water system granted the city of Coalinga its first delivery of San Luis Canal water.

On May 2, 1983, a 6.7 magnitude earthquake struck the small community, which virtually destroyed what took almost a century to build. Fortunately, this catastrophe did not deter the strong community; residents and businesses locked arms and carried on to rebuild their city, to rebuild their home.

Despite the perils that the city of Coalinga experienced, there were many successes that ushered further advancement. At one point in time, Coalinga paid approximately one-fourth of the entire tax burdens for Fresno County. The city prides itself in being the birthplace for the award-winning A&W Root Beer formula, home of the first junior high school in Fresno County and West Hills Community College. Today, the city ranks as one of the most independent communities in the San Joaquin Valley and champions itself in providing residents with a competent municipal library system, recreation and parks system, water supply and hospital systems.

The history of this city further demonstrates that it is only by embracing the importance of community, cooperation and shared vision can such success be achieved. I am honored to stand and shine a spotlight on the city of Coalinga, as they celebrate a century of pride and progress.

IN HONOR OF ADRIENNE JONES

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Adrienne Jones, who was awarded the 2006 New Castle County Delaware Chamber of Commerce's William V. Roth, Jr. Citizenship Award. The late Senator Roth would have been extremely proud to see the award which bears his name go to such a deserving individual.

Adrienne has been described by her guidance counselor at A.I. DuPont High School in Wilmington, Delaware as "scholarly, mature, focused and friendly." Senator Roth conducted his business in a focused manner but always went about it in a friendly way. This is why he was able to do so much for so many people across our great nation.

Adrienne has exhibited an excellent academic record in her high school studies. She possesses an outstanding work ethic and selected a quite rigorous college-preparatory curriculum including three advanced placement courses and eleven honors level courses. She

also committed to the study of two foreign languages, Spanish and Latin. By the time she graduates, Adrienne will have completed seven years of foreign language study.

While maintaining a full study schedule, Adrienne finds significant time to contribute to her community. Senator Roth was well known in Delaware for his tireless work on behalf of his constituents. Adrienne has earned this award by dedicating herself to community organizations such as the A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children, the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, and the Delaware Community Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Board.

I congratulate and thank Adrienne for all she has contributed to the State of Delaware. She is an exemplary citizen and a proud American. Senator Roth would have been extremely pleased with the work Adrienne has done to help her fellow Delawareans, just as I am today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LILIAM LUJAN HICKEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Liliam Lujan Hickey who through her extensive and diversified experiences, has established herself as a successful small business owner, effective motivator, and professional, specifically in the Hispanic-American community. Through her ardent desire to serve others, she has been personally and extensively involved in promoting educational programs in Las Vegas, as well as the entire state of Nevada. She will be honored on April 19th, at the formal dedication of Liliam Lujan Hickey Elementary School, which was named in her honor.

In the business world, Liliam has truly made a name for herself. She is owner and chief executive officer of Lujan development, a property management firm. In 1980, she formed L H System International, a business consulting and sales company with customized training for professionals.

Although born in Havana, Cuba, Liliam has resided in Las Vegas, Nevada for over thirty-six years. As a resident of Nevada, her list of achievements and volunteer service is impressive. Liliam established Career Day for high school students, which has awarded over \$300,000 in scholarships to hundreds of needy Hispanic students. She also served as cofounder and president of the Classroom on Wheels, a program which has facilitated educational, medical, and dental services to disadvantaged preschool children.

Liliam was director for the Congressional Award Council of Nevada and co-chaired the Southern Nevada BEST Coalition, a non-profit organization working towards a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle in Las Vegas schools and communities. She also served as chairperson of the Urban Emphasis Committee for the Boy Scouts of America.

She is co-founder, past president, and board member of the Latin Chamber of Commerce. She was one of only two professionals selected from Nevada to attend the White House Hispanic Leadership Reception held by

President and Mrs. Clinton. Hispanic leaders throughout the United States were invited to attend this reception.

The Governor of Nevada appointed Liliam to serve on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday commission. She also served on the Job Training Coordinating Council and the United States Governor's Workforce Development Board. She is an active member of the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce and the Clark County Fair Advisory Council.

Her efforts for the State of Nevada have been recognized through numerous awards. She received the Outstanding Hispanic Award from the Latin Chamber of Commerce. Liliam was named as one of the Women of Achievement in Government and Politics by the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. She was also identified by the Nevada 125th Anniversary Commission as one of the women who have played a significant role in making Nevada what it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Liliam Lujan Hickey on the floor of the House today. She is an outstanding example of service and hard work not only to the Hispanic-American community but to all southern Nevadans.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION REVISING THE NUMBER OF AS- SOCIAE JUDGES OF THE SUPE- RIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, it has become necessary to introduce a bill that is necessary for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to function as Congress intended. Federal law requires that judges of the Superior Court and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Article I Courts, to be nominated by the President and approved by the Senate. This bill, which is the companion bill to S. 2068 introduced by Senator SUSAN COLLINS, will increase the number of Superior Court judges by 3 to 61 in order to allow the Superior Court to function at the 58 judge level approved by Congress. However, after the establishment of the new Family Court Division, the Superior Court was temporarily increased by three in order to assist the transition because Congress wanted to assure a full complement of family court judges. However, no permanent authorization reflecting the changes was approved. Consequently, as judges have retired or otherwise moved on, the President has continued to make nominations to fill each judge's seat. With no authorization for the necessary number of authorized judges, an unintended anomaly has resulted in Presidential nominations but no actual vacancies because the court is short three judges. Because as many as nearly 2 years occur after the Senate approval, lawyers are increasingly unwilling to give up their practices to apply for judgeships on the Superior Court, the trial court of jurisdiction for all criminal and civil matters in the District of Columbia. The 15–18 month pipeline for confirming new judges has presented the court with some serious concerns. With such a long waiting period, private and solo

practitioners, for example, who are among the best qualified, are significantly deterred, and the court loses judicial talent that would otherwise be available.

The present anomaly has forced the Superior Court to use senior or retired judges inappropriately. Because they are retired, senior judges take on particular cases or a full calendar temporarily, for up to a year. However, inasmuch as confirmed active or permanent judges often cannot be immediately seated, there is no judge to maintain the court's 2 calendars, one for criminal court and the other for temporary restraining orders and warrants. Consequently, several senior judges have taken on this indispensable duty since 2003. While senior judges, of course, take on cases, they do so at their discretion. It should never be the case that senior judges perform an important regular and vital function of the court for years at a time.

I ask that this bill be approved to remedy this problem in the D.C. court system that results entirely from congressional action.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRES- SIONAL TEACHER AWARD PRO- GRAM ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Congressional Teacher Award Program Act, establishing the Congressional Teacher Award.

This is a moment for Congress to raise the level of respect for teaching across the nation. Although we cannot legislate that the nation respect teachers for all the hard work that they do day in and day out for the future of our nation, Congress can use its leadership to take a role in the cultural change required at this time.

This act creates a bi-partisan, bi-cameral Task Force to determine a nonprofit entity to establish and operate the Congressional Teacher Award. This award would be given each academic year to highly-qualified, hard-working teachers who change the lives of students in each congressional district of the United States, including the district of a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to Congress. As funds raised by the nonprofit entity allow, awardees would also receive a scholarship to attend a professional development opportunity of their choosing.

The teachers receiving the award must be certified, have been teaching for 5 consecutive years in a public or private school elementary or secondary school, and demonstrate a commitment of service to his or her school, maintain high standards for students, and incorporate multiculturalism, technology, interdisciplinary studies, student relevance, and current issues in lessons, classroom activities, and special presentations. An application with letters of recommendation would be required.

Each Member of Congress would get to celebrate a teacher in his or her district each year. This continued focus on excellent teaching will work to raise the level of respect for teaching in America. Henry Booker Adams said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

Congress does have influence; people and nations take their lead from us, and it is time that we lead the celebration of those who helped us reach this professional level—our teachers.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEONARD HALL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leonard Hall of Armona, California who will be celebrating his 100th birthday on April 24, 2006.

Mr. Hall was born in 1906 to parents Clarence R. Leonard and Ida Mae Hall. Leonard learned at a young age the daily routine of life on a farm. When he was in his early twenties, Leonard began farming on his own. Soon his business grew to include a dairy and he also raised and sold cattle. Mr. Hall successfully ran his business for about 80 years.

Leonard Hall once stated, "I think everyone should give back something to the community where they lived. How else are we going to keep our memories alive?" These were not words without substance—Mr. Hall is a great advocate for his hometown and has financially supported several important projects within Kings County.

In remembrance of his wife Katherine, he gave financial support to the Burris Park Museum in Hanford. The museum recognized the gracious gift by dedicating the new wing of the museum in her name. The Hanford Carnegie Museum also benefited from Mr. Hall's generous donations. With his help the institution was able to install a new foundation and also introduce the original Beacon Oil office as an historical exhibit.

Perhaps the most poignant of his contributions is the funding he provided to help restore the Grangeville Church, which is known as the first church of Kings County. For Mr. Hall, the renovation was not just for the purpose of historical preservation but it was a way for him to honor the memory of his parents, who were wed there at the turn of the century.

Leonard Hall's generosity is his way of saying thank you for all the wonderful memories. During this momentous occasion of Leonard Hall's 100th birthday, I would like to wish to him and his family all the best. I would also like to extend, on behalf of the residents of Kings County, heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for Mr. Hall's generosity that has helped preserve the past for the generations of the future.

IN HONOR OF DONALD R. KIRTLEY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Donald Kirtley, who was awarded the 2006 New Castle County Delaware Chamber of Commerce's Wallace M. Johnson Community Service Award. Over the past 7 decades, Don