

Several groups have attempted to reach a solution to the computational complications involved in gravitational wave detection, leaving most researchers predicting that this elusive discovery would be incremental, through an arduous series of small improvements. UTB scientists, however, have contradicted this belief with their out-of-the-box thinking and relentless perseverance.

Despite a lack of equipment and economic resources, UTB scientists utilized the least sophisticated computer systems and relied on their stellar ingenuity to achieve a revolutionary breakthrough, the sort that comes along between every 10–50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in applauding a group of intellectuals whose vision and brilliance are truly ahead of their time. These south Texans have inspired us today and changed the way our world will see the future.

THANK YOU HERRERA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the Fifth Grade students of Herrera Elementary which is in my Congressional District for coming to visit us last week on their class field trip.

They came to Washington on their Fifth Grade class trip to learn about our Government and the history of our country. During their 5-day visit, they managed to visit Mt. Vernon and learn about George Washington and what it was like during the colonial era.

They toured several museums in the Smithsonian. The Museum of American History, the Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of the American Indian were all favorites of the students.

On their last full day in Washington, I met with the students of Herrera Elementary during their lunch break. No one knew that one of their most memorable experiences was yet to come.

On our way to the Capitol steps to take a picture, an ABC news crew approached us to ask us if we knew the words to the national anthem. The students and I sang the national anthem on the Capitol steps and the students made it onto ABC's *Nightline*.

The Students of Herrera Elementary did a great job when they sang the national anthem. They knew all the words and did not miss a note. This was also impressive because the news story on the national anthem stemmed from the controversy over a Spanish version of the national anthem.

Almost all the students from Herrera Elementary are Hispanic and all of them sang the national anthem perfectly in English. They proved that patriotism lives in people of all ages and all nationalities.

Again, I thank Principal Hector Rodriguez and the teachers and parents of Herrera Elementary for making the 5th Grade class trip possible. I especially thank the 5th Grade students for visiting our office and making their visit memorable by singing the national anthem on the steps of the Capitol.

THE BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) and the three million women living with breast cancer in the country today and urge all my colleagues to push for passage of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act (H.R. 2231) by the end of this year.

The bill authorizes \$30 million a year for five years to establish multi-institutional, multidisciplinary centers. The centers would include institutions with different areas of expertise working together to look at different aspects of the issue. Furthermore, this bill would create a new mechanism for environmental health research, and provide a unique process by which up to eight research centers are developed to study environmental factors and their impact on breast cancer. Modeled after the DOD Breast Cancer Research Program, which has been so successful, it would include consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process.

This federal commitment is critical for the overall, national strategy and the long-term research investments needed to discover the environmental causes of breast cancer, so that we can prevent it, treat it more effectively, and cure it. It is generally believed that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, but the extent of that role is not understood. More research needs to be done to determine the impact of the environment on breast cancer, which has been under-studied in the past.

Fewer than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors; however, there is little consensus in the scientific community on how the environment impacts breast cancer. Studies have explored the effect of isolated environmental factors such as diet, pesticides, and electromagnetic fields, but in most cases there is no conclusive evidence. Furthermore, there are many other factors that are suspected to play a role but have not been fully studied. These could provide valuable in understanding the causes of breast cancer and could lead to prevention strategies.

We need to enact this bill this year, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and bring it to the House Floor for a vote.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I introduced the following amendment to H.R. 5293 on May 17, 2006 and made the following statement afterward.

Page 22, after line 12, insert the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) In addition to sums authorized by subsections (a) and (b) to be appropriated, there are authorized to be appropriated to pay expenses for fuel used to carry out parts B and C—

“(1) for fiscal year 2007, \$26,800,000 multiplied by the average price of a barrel of oil for 2006 as reported by the Energy Information Administration, divided by the average price of a barrel of oil as reported by the Energy Information Administration for 2005;

“(2) for fiscal year 2008, the amount authorized for 2007 for fuel multiplied by the average price of a barrel of oil for 2007 as reported by the Energy Information Administration, divided by the average price of a barrel of oil as reported by the Energy Information Administration for 2006;

“(3) for fiscal year 2009, the amount authorized for 2008 for fuel multiplied by the average price of a barrel of oil for 2008 as reported by the Energy Information Administration, divided by the average price of a barrel of oil as reported by the Energy Information Administration for 2007;

“(4) for fiscal year 2010, the amount authorized for 2009 for fuel multiplied by the average price of a barrel of oil for 2009 as reported by the Energy Information Administration, divided by the average price of a barrel of oil as reported by the Energy Information Administration for 2008.; and

“(5) for fiscal year 2011, the amount authorized for 2010 for fuel multiplied by the average price of a barrel of oil for 2010 as reported by the Energy Information Administration, divided by the average price of a barrel of oil as reported by the Energy Information Administration for 2009.”

On May 17, 2006, I introduced an amendment in the House Education and the Workforce Committee, of which I am a member, to H.R. 5293, the Senior Independence Act. The bill reauthorizes the Older Americans Act. My amendment would help provide relief for Administrations on Aging and thousands of volunteers nationwide from being squeezed by the rising cost of gas. It provides a non-binding formula for calculating annual increases in fuel costs for the three Older Americans Act programs that are the most heavily dependent on transportation. These programs include the in-home nutrition services, the congregate nutrition services, and the supportive services that provide rides to doctor's appointments, trips to the grocery store and to senior centers, among other services. Sadly, the amendment was defeated along party lines by a vote of 23–21.

It is plain to see why these programs have been so successful and so important to seniors. As Americans age, the mobility decreases. Consistent with the intent of the Older Americans Act, these services help seniors maintain independence, dignity and health. In FY2003, the Supportive Services gave almost 36 million rides and provided 20 million hours of personal care, homemaker and chore services. In that same year, 248 million meals were served. Fifty-seven percent were provided in the home with the remainder in group settings. Each meal required transportation.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the price of gas the week ending on Christmas of the year 2000 was one dollar, sixty cents. The price for the week of May 15, 2006 was three dollars, fifteen cents. In other words, since the Older Americans Act was last reauthorized, gas prices have doubled.

We know that when the elements of our lives on which we rely go up in the price, the effect is highly regressive. Those with lower incomes pay a higher percentage of their income for the essentials of life than their

high-income counterparts. The effect is particularly pronounced when we consider people with fixed incomes like seniors. Almost a third of America's aged are low-income.

High gas prices also affect the programs like the meal and transportation services.

First, programs have to cut back services. For example, in testimony before the Senate Special Committee on Aging last June, Donna Harvey, the executive Director of the Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging in Iowa told of having to eliminate transportation services "for all 'non-essential' trips such as family visits, general shopping, trips to the workplace, and other social activities" because of rising fuel costs.

Second, as with so many other provisions in the Older Americans Act, the meal and supportive services programs are heavily dependent on volunteers. Many of the drivers are called the "young-old"—those who are independently mobile but are still on a senior's fixed income. A significant portion of these volunteers get reimbursed based on rates that precede the gas price hikes because the Administrations on Aging can't afford to keep pace. It is easy to see why we are losing drivers. They are taking the brunt of the gas price increases and are forced to curtail their generosity.

Finally, as those seniors living at the financial margins who cannot afford the inflated cost of gas lose their independence, they rely more heavily on services like those provided by the Administrations on Aging through the Older Americans Act.

At the same time that prices have gone up, funding has gone down. Supportive services has not even been flat funded since FY02, going down six million dollars. The same is true for congregate meals—their funding has decreased by five million dollars since FY02. And funding for home delivered meals has increased by only five million dollars, failing to come close to keeping pace with inflation.

We must do what we can to make sure our mothers, fathers, siblings and grandparents are not losing the services they need to help them lead independent, dignified, healthy lives because of gas prices. My amendment holds harmless from rising gasoline prices the congregate and in-home nutrition services as well as the supportive services. It does this by authorizing a yearly adjustment to the fuel component of their budgets. If the price of crude oil rises year after year, then the agencies' fuel budgets will rise a proportionate amount. If oil prices fall, fuel budgets fall in step as well. I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

HONORING TOP COPS AWARDEES DETECTIVE BRIAN FENNELLY & DETECTIVE ROBERT ZIELINSKI

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to congratulate and honor two outstanding police officers, detectives Brian Fennelly and Robert Zielinski for the recognition they received last week by the National Association of Police Officers (NAPO).

On May 12, 2006 Detectives Fennelly and Zielinski, officers with the Morton Grove Police Department, were awarded NAPO's "Top Cops" award for their heroic service in the line of duty. On January 21, 2005, with the assistance of Chicago Police Sergeant Richard J. Plotke (also awarded a Top Cops honor) the

officers tracked down two suspects who had forcefully entered a home in Morton Grove and held hostage, robbed and brutalized the woman residing at that property.

While attempting to serve a warrant at the suspects' apartment, all three officers came under heavy gunfire. Despite the violent onslaught, and injuries sustained during the suspects' violent attack, the three officers relied on their skills and training to successfully disarm and render the assailants harmless.

By successfully tracking down those dangerous criminals, putting themselves in the line of fire and ultimately disarming the assailants, Detectives Brian Fennelly and Robert Zielinski (and Sergeant Plotke) prevented the serious threat posed to their fellow law enforcement professionals and to the entire community. Their heroic demonstration of bravery, team work and public service certainly makes them Top Cops in my book and in the eyes of their peers.

On behalf of the entire 9th Congressional District and along with Morton Grove's Police Chief, Paul Tasch, Jr. and Mayor, Richard Krier, I want to commend and thank our Top Cops Detective Brian Fennelly and Detective Robert Zielinski for their heroic service to our community. I urge all members of the House to recognize their outstanding service and the service of all public safety and law enforcement personnel throughout the country.

HONORING REVEREND PERRY SANDERS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Perry Sanders, a devoted and faithful servant to his God, his church, and his community in Lafayette, Louisiana.

On May 14th, Reverend Sanders gave his last sermon at the First Baptist Church in Lafayette. The day marked the culmination of his 47 years of service to the congregation. Born in South Carolina, Reverend Sanders came to First Baptist in 1959. Following graduation from college and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Reverend Sanders pastored at several churches in Louisiana before coming to the First Baptist Church in Lafayette. As a young preacher, he made it clear from the beginning that a segregated South would not stop him from preaching to "anybody and everybody" who came to listen. As a result, Lafayette became home to the first Southern white Baptist church to be racially integrated.

During his tenure at First Baptist, Sanders led the church to establish a media ministry that would set the pace for Southern Baptists. The power of the cassette tape was harnessed in the early seventies and his messages have encouraged many in even the most remote parts of the earth. First Baptist was selected as one of the "Great Churches" in a broadcast series in the mid eighties.

Reverend Perry Sanders led First Baptist through remarkable growth, especially considering its location in the Acadian culture with its strong Catholic traditions. From a congregation of a few hundred and a budget of about \$70,000 per year, First Baptist has grown and

now averages more than one thousand worshippers each weekend and owns buildings on six city blocks. Additionally, several hundred thousand dollars a year is given to missions outside the Lafayette community.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation would benefit greatly if we all dedicated our lives to the service Reverend Perry Sanders has exemplified throughout his career. It is with this in mind that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him today.

IN MEMORY OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER ERIC W. TOTTEN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Chief Warrant Officer Eric W. Totten, an American hero who lost his life in defense of liberty and freedom. He made the ultimate sacrifice so that others might know freedom, and I am humbled by his bravery and selflessness.

Chief Warrant Officer Eric Totten was killed on May 5, 2006 when his CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed in Kunar Province, Afghanistan while conducting combat operations. Chief Warrant Officer is survived by his stepmother, Tommie Totten.

Chief Warrant Officer Totten was assigned to Company B, the 3rd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, and 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. During his service to our Nation, he exemplified the skill, commitment, and passion of a true patriot for freedom's reign. Chief Warrant Officer Totten died accomplishing the task he loved the most—serving his country.

Chief Warrant Officer Totten leaves behind a legacy marked by courage, integrity, and character. May God bless all those he loved, and may I convey to them my sincerest condolences and the gratitude of the American people.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, this budget resolution that we are now debating is being sold as a deficit-reduction measure, but that is false advertising. This budget resolution does contain spending cuts—ones that hit lower-income families particularly hard. But those spending cuts pale beside the companion tax reconciliation measure that the President just signed into law. Together, those budget actions add to the deficit; they don't reduce it.