

In 1983, TELACU established the LINC TELACU Education Foundation. For 23 years, the foundation has partnered with corporate donors, private individuals, and a vast network of colleges and universities, providing the driving force behind one of the most effective national institutions ever to impact the educational needs of the Latino community.

In conceiving the foundation, TELACU discovered that while financial assistance is vital for college students to achieve academic success, other factors are also important. Students who are the first in their families ever to attend college often lack the support system necessary to achieve their dream. Socio-economic factors, family responsibilities, cultural identity and financial stress create very real conflicting challenges to academic life.

The LINC TELACU Education Foundation has accepted this challenge head on, combining important financial assistance with highly effective programs that ensure college completion. The foundation supports 600 college students and serves 2,000 elementary, middle and high school students and veterans each year. The success of this extraordinary foundation is best summarized by the numbers: Its scholar retention and college graduation rates are an astounding 100 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I join today with community leaders throughout my State in expressing our Nation's gratitude to TELACU and the LINC TELACU Education Foundation for believing in the dream of higher education for America's next generation of pioneers and helping to make it possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, on May 22, 2006, I missed rollcall vote No. 177 on S. 1235, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act, and rollcall vote No. 178 on H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act. I was unable to vote because I was participating in a House Agriculture Subcommittee field hearing and post-hearing meetings with automobile industry executives in Rochester, MI, on the role that industry can play in promoting renewable energy technology in the United States. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yea" on S. 1235 and "yea" on H.R. 3858.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 173: On ordering the previous question. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 174: On agreeing to H. Res. 821, the rule providing for consideration H.R. 5385. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 175: On the Blumenauer amendment to

H.R. 5385. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 176: On final passage of H.R. 5385. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 168, the Chabot-Andrews amendment to the Interior and Environment Appropriations, though I intended to vote aye, I accidentally voted nay. The Chabot-Andrews amendment would prohibit the Forest Service from building more roads for private timber in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. The timber program in the Tongass costs taxpayers approximately \$40 million each year. I have long been a supporter of reforming the road building program in the Tongass, and have supported this amendment in the past. I am pleased that the amendment ultimately passed, and I sincerely regret that I accidentally voted against it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 22, 2006, I was unable to be present, to vote on the motions to suspend the rules and pass as amended S. 1235 the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (rollcall No. 177) and H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (rollcall No. 178). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

COAL-TO-LIQUIDS TRANSPORTATION FUELS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, for decades this Nation has been researching, debating, drafting, and redrafting national energy policy. Unfortunately, the long gas lines of the 1970's that motivated the kind of original thought needed to end our dependency on foreign oil slipped from our memories as supplies increased and prices dropped. Today, we are punished with oil prices floating in the range of \$75 a barrel, record prices at the pump, and an unstable world market for the foreseeable future.

At the same time, according to the Department of Energy, \$35-\$45 a barrel oil is attainable from a source within our borders. It is our most abundant domestic energy resource—coal. With technology that has been around for decades, coal can be liquefied and turned into a liquid fuel, and eventually sold for approximately half of what we are paying now per barrel.

The true value of coal is misunderstood and many ignore its potential to free us from foreign oil at our own peril. We risk stepping into the same trap that has caught so many promising energy policy advances by the ankle for decades.

Research has brought us a long, long way from the days of smokestacks and gray skies. True, there remain many less efficient, older generation power plants in this Nation, but largely because, while the Government draped oil companies in rich tax advantages, it devoted mere dribbles of money to providing incentives for clean burning coal plants.

Thirty years of government and private-sector research and development has created a product, according to the Department of Energy, that is cleaner than required under EPA Tier II fuel standards. And with this Nation's refinery capacity operating on all cylinders, these fuels would fit right into our energy mix as they would require very little additional processing. Coal-to-liquids can curb our appetite for foreign fuel.

Disturbingly, however, for all of our Nation's pride in our competitiveness and innovation, we stand behind a number of other countries in liquefying coal to end our foreign oil dependence.

For instance, these fuels represent about one-third of the consumption in South Africa, which began its production and use in the 1950's using the Fischer-Tropsch process developed during the 1920's by two German researchers. China, India, and Indonesia, recognizing the problems of relying on foreign sources of oil, are all aggressively pursuing coal liquefaction as key components of their energy production. For the U.S., our continued myopia about coal liquefaction is particularly numb-headed, since coal is our most abundant natural energy resource.

In order to catch up to the rest of the world, a position to which the U.S. is unaccustomed, we must invest in our future and Congress began to travel down this road with the reauthorization of the Nation's surface transportation laws last year by including two new excise tax credits aimed at promoting the use of alternative transportation fuels, including liquid fuel derived from coal.

While a helpful first step, due to the restrictive nature of the existing tax credit, I am pleased to join my colleague JOHN SHIMKUS and others in introducing legislation aimed at helping far-sighted firms better afford their foray into coal liquefaction. Our bill would reduce some of the risk that these firms and their investors take as they try to lead our Nation into a new energy frontier.

Simply put, our legislation would extend until 2020 the 50 cents per gallon tax credit for liquid fuel derived from coal that is set to expire in 2009. The legislation does not address other alternative transportation fuels, just coal-to-liquids.

The aim is to provide a level of predictability for a number of years to those willing to put money into coal-to-liquids production. It would help to smooth out some of the ups and downs associated with fluctuating oil prices and the gamble investors make in the financing of these high-tech energy ventures.

Unfortunately, while other governments have been footing the bill for this kind of research and development for decades, our Government has been "playing footsie" with Big Oil. In comparison to the big tax giveaways enjoyed by the oil industry, precious

few U.S. budgetary resources have been devoted over the years to cutting-edge coal technologies. This is mind-boggling policy, given coal's abundance on our own shores.

The United States will never drill its way out of our oil dependency. But using proven, coal-to-liquid technology and American initiative, we could revolutionize our way to a new energy era. This bill helps to level out Federal tax policy that has long been tilted against the public in favor of rich oil companies.

VERMONT WOMAN WINS NATIONAL HONOR FOR HELPING WOMEN IN BUSINESS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for almost two decades Janet Bullard has been the program manager and office manager for the Vermont Commission on Women. Her tireless and inspired work for the Commission, work done for the betterment of the conditions in which women in the State of Vermont live and for the expansion of opportunities available to women, has recently been recognized by a signal honor.

On April 12 in Washington, DC, Janet Bullard was recognized by the Small Business Administration as the National Women in Business Champion of the Year. The competition for this award was nationwide. Janet first won the Vermont State award, then the New England Regional Award, and finally prevailed over a group of remarkably qualified women nationally. The SBA's award is bestowed on a person who has been an advocate for the women-owned business community, who has expanded the business and financial opportunities for women, and who has helped strengthen the role played by business owners in the community.

Janet, a resident of Chelsea, Vermont, has worked for the Vermont Commission of Women for 19 years, almost half of its existence. Established in 1964 by Governor Phil Hoff, the Commission has been an advocate for women and their rights and opportunities for 42 years. It consistently, and with great success, has been the primary advocate in the State of Vermont for the economic, social and political equality of women.

Janet Bullard has championed the rights of women, opened new doors for women, helped bring women together so that they can learn and strategize and about how to succeed in an economic world formerly dominated almost exclusively by men. And her involvement is concrete and financial as well: she has helped women get loans so they can establish businesses. In addition, for the last 10 years she has also worked to get funding for Vermont domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

Society changes more through dedicated work than through speeches, more by enduring commitments than by public appearances. For 19 years, Janet Bullard has worked tirelessly—a labor of love—to improve the status and business opportunities of women in the State of Vermont. Her dedication, and her remarkable ability to get things done, has left its mark on generations of women in our State.

I want to call particular attention to her work with Vermont's community action agencies, her unceasing effort to develop ways to help women start businesses with the aid of micro-loans. She has helped, time and again, leverage State and independent organization funds, and Federal funds, to help women—and especially low-income women—get a start in business.

Here is how Wendy Love, Executive Director of the Vermont Commission on Women described Janet's work the other day: "Janet has an outstanding history with the Commission for almost 20 years, and has shown great dedication to the Commission and to helping women. She has really been a major voice for women's economic opportunity in Vermont. Every time we talk about doing something, she is five steps ahead. Janet has been a glue, helping bind together the folks who work at the community action agencies in micro-business development, and the people who work for the Federal Government at the Small Business Development Center."

We in Vermont are delighted with the honor bestowed upon Janet Bullard: It is richly deserved.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during Friday's rollcall votes on H.R. 5385, the 2007 Military Construction, Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted against the Blumenauer Amendment (rollcall No. 175) and in favor of final passage (rollcall No. 176).

HONORING GARRISON CSM GARY DAVIS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Garrison Command Sergeant Major Gary Davis of Fort Knox, Kentucky, retiring June 2 after more than 33 years of military service.

A native of Spokane, Washington, Garrison CSM Davis first enlisted in 1972, completing a 6 year tenure with the Washington State National Guard. After a brief assignment with the Montana State National Guard, he joined the Active Army in May 1980, attending unit training at the United States Army Armor Center at Fort Knox.

Prior to his current assignment at Fort Knox, Garrison CSM Davis served as an instructor at the United States Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, TX; and completed numerous other assignments leading soldier divisions in Kentucky, Georgia, Arkansas, Hawaii, Louisiana and Germany.

During his time at Fort Knox, Garrison CSM Davis's leadership inspired officers and civilians to be good neighbors, making Fort Knox

and its surrounding communities a better place to live and work. In this capacity, he oversaw critical improvements to the Garrison, including the modernizing of residential facilities, enhancing the quality of life of Fort Knox soldiers and their families.

Garrison CSM Davis was a tireless advocate of Fort Knox's military value and future viability in the months leading up to last year's Base Realignment and Closure consideration. Because of his efforts, Fort Knox remains open, adapting to a new mission as a vital multi-functional home to operational army forces and various administrative commands.

Garrison CSM Davis's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit Award, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, United Nations Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism and the Superior Unit Award.

It is my great privilege to recognize Garrison Command Sergeant Major Gary Davis today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his lifelong example of leadership and service. I would like to thank him personally for his exemplary stewardship at Fort Knox during a time of war and administrative transition. His unique achievements and dedication to the men and women of the U.S. Army make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and respect.

HONORING THE CANYON HIGH SCHOOL COWBOY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, before the Santa Clarita Valley school term ends this year, I wish to recognize the coaches and athletes of the Canyon High School's football program for their outstanding performance during the 2005 high school football season. Canyon High School's varsity football team completed their season by defeating cross-town rival Hart High School with a score of 21-13 to clinch the CIF—California Interscholastic Federation—Southern Section Division II title. Canyon High School finished its season with an impressive record of 13-1.

MaxPreps, a California-based national high school sports information Web site, lauded Canyon High School's football program. MaxPreps recently ranked Canyon High School's football program as the 14th best in the Nation. This ranking was achieved amongst a field of over 15,000 schools nationwide. MaxPreps presented head coach Harry Welch with a trophy engraved: "2005 MaxPreps Tour of Champions, presented by the Army National Guard to Canyon High School Head Coach Harry Welch." Only 10 such trophies were presented nationally.

Th California Interscholastic Federation also bestowed individual honors upon various members of the team. Honors include, but are not limited to, All Section First-team Defense—Tyler Hawkins, Garrett Leary, All Section Second Team Defense—J.J. DiLuigi, Richard Wirthlin, Division II Offensive Players of the Year—Austin Civita, J.J. DiLuigi, Division II Defensive Players of the Year—Matt