

Board of Directors, Children's Theater of Dallas; Deacon, Royal Lane Baptist Church; and the St. Marks Boy Scouts. Through these organizations, Sue touched the lives of countless individuals.

A devoted mother of three, Sue also consistently showed her love for God and others. She delicately balanced the rigors of professional life with the demands of caring for their family; yet, she still made time for friends.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to a lady who faithfully served her community with dedication and integrity. Sue Sarilyn Washington will be sorely missed in North Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALS REGISTRY ACT OF 2007

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the introduction of The ALS Registry Act of 2007 by my colleague ELIOT ENGEL of New York and myself. A similar bill introduced in the 109th Congress, H.R. 4033, garnered the support of 215 of our colleagues, nearly 50 percent of the members of the House of Representatives. Today, we are joined by 80 additional original cosponsors in this effort.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a fatal, progressive, neurodegenerative disease affecting motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Approximately 5,600 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, each year. It is estimated that as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease. The average life expectancy for a person with ALS is 2 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis. There is no known cure for ALS.

There is currently no single national patient registry which collects and stores information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS in existence in the United States. The establishment of a national registry will help identify the occurrence and frequency of ALS and other motor neuron disorders and collect data which is badly needed for ALS research, disease management and the development of standards of care in order to significantly enhance the nation's efforts to find a treatment and cure for ALS.

All diseases bring hardships on those afflicted, but ALS is particularly cruel in the quickness of the onset, the severity of the symptoms and the fatal nature of the condition. The provisions in our bill creating a nationwide registry for persons afflicted with ALS are important steps forward in strengthening the efforts to understand, treat and one day eradicate this terrible disease. I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor the ALS Registry Act and I am proud to join my friend Mr. ENGEL in bringing forward this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall votes 337 through 341 held on Thursday, May 10, 2007, beginning with Rollcall 337.

Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have cast the following votes on H.R. 2082: to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes. On passage Passed by recorded vote: 225–197 (rollcall No. 341). I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, had I been present for the motion to recommit with instructions, rollcall No. 340, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, had I been present for the Schiff amendment rollcall No. 339, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, had I been present for the Rogers (MI) amendment rollcall No. 338, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, had I been present for the Hoekstra amendment rollcall No. 337, I would have voted "no."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOYCE HOLLAND

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Joyce Holland, a registered nurse, who is a distinguished and devoted professional in her field.

In 1992, Joyce earned her associates degree in Nursing. She later joined the nursing staff of Boulder City Hospital as a registered nurse/medical decision support coordinator in 2000. Joyce served as RN/MDS Coordinator for 6 years before retiring in 2006. After a brief retirement, Joyce returned to Boulder City Hospital in 2007 as the long term care director, the position she holds today. Throughout her career at Boulder City Hospital, Joyce's high degree of professionalism and enduring compassion have earned her the respect of her colleagues and have made her invaluable to her patients.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Joyce Holland. Her passion and her love of nursing have improved the lives of countless patients in Las Vegas. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALS REGISTRY ACT OF 2007

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to reintroduce the ALS Registry Act of 2007 with my

good friend, LEE TERRY of Nebraska. We are proud to have the support of over 80 other bipartisan members of Congress today as original co-sponsors of this important legislation.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. While the great baseball player, Lou Gehrig, put a national face on ALS over 65 years ago, my own family was personally affected when my grandmother, Dora Engel, was diagnosed with the fatal disease and passed away when she was only in her 50s. Unfortunately, families across the Nation face the challenges and experience the suffering associated with ALS every single day. 5,600 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS each year, and it is estimated that as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time. The average life expectancy for a person with ALS is two to five years from the time of diagnosis. The causes of ALS are not well understood and there is no known cure. We must provide hope to change this tragedy today.

Surprisingly, a single national patient registry which collects and stores information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS does not currently exist in the United States today. The legislation I am re-introducing with Congressman TERRY, would build on a fiscal year 2006 Congressional appropriation which directed the Centers for Disease Control to evaluate the science to guide the creation of a national ALS Registry. The Engel/Terry legislation will create an ALS registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and will aid in the search for a cure to this devastating disease. The registry will collect data concerning: the incidence and prevalence of ALS in the United States; the environmental and occupational factors that may contribute to the disease; the age, race or ethnicity, gender and family history of individuals diagnosed; and other information essential to the study of ALS. The information gained from the ALS registry will also strengthen a disease clearinghouse's ability to put patients in contact with scientists conducting clinical trials and scientists studying the environmental and genetic causes of ALS.

We need to provide our Nation's researchers and clinicians with the tools and information they need to make progress in the fight against ALS. The data made available by a national registry will potentially allow scientists to identify causes of the disease, and maybe even lead to the discovery of new treatment, a cure for ALS, or even a way to prevent the disease in the first place. This is good public policy.

The establishment of a registry will bring new hope to thousands of patients and their families that ALS will no longer be a death sentence. I strongly urge the swift consideration and passage of the ALS Registry Act of 2007.

RECOGNIZING JEREMY ALLEN PATANIA FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremy Allen Patania, a

very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 857, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeremy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Jeremy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremy Allen Patania for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2206, the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Act." This legislation includes the important funding that has already passed this chamber to provide resources for servicemen and women, for military and veterans' health care, and for valuable programs like LIHEAP and SCHIP.

This bill ensures accountability. H.R. 2206 provides 3 months of funding for the war in Iraq but requires the president to report back to Congress about whether certain goals are met before the rest of the funds will be released by subsequent legislation.

It is time for the president to listen to the American people and support this reasonable legislation to help bring an end to this war.

STUDENT LOAN SUNSHINE ACT

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the most important goal of the Student Loan Sunshine Act is to protect students and parents and help them receive the most affordable loan possible. With that in mind, I would like to mention that recently, a number of my colleagues and I sent a letter to Secretary Spellings regarding the urgent need to reopen the national student loan database for students and parents to receive low interest consolidation loans before the rates are changed on July 1st.

Although, we fully support new and better safeguards to protect student privacy which many student loan companies advocate, it is crucial that both students and lenders have safe and secure access to this information.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH A. DART, PRESIDENT OF MASSACHUSETTS BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a good friend and tremendous labor leader, Joseph A. Dart. Joe has dedicated his life to improving the lives of working men and women throughout Massachusetts.

Joining Local 257 Painter & Allied Trades in 1974, Joe's hard work and leadership skills propelled his rise through the ranks. In 1980, Joe became a Business Agent and the following year advanced to Business Manager. By 1985, Joe held the position of President of the Pioneer Valley Building Trades Council. Joe's ability to advance his union and provide the fellow members of his trade with employment exemplifies the characteristics in which all members of the Building Trades should strive.

Between 1994 and 1996, Joe added three new positions to his impressive list of accomplishments, all of which he holds to this day. In 1994, Joe became President of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council, an organization which is comprised of 72 local unions and 10 Local Building Trades Councils representing 75,000 construction trades men and women in Massachusetts. In 1995, Joe became Co-Chair of the Labor-Management Construction Safety Alliance, where he succeeded in passing the OSHA 10-Hour Law requiring all construction workers on public projects to be trained in safety. In 1996, Joe became the Executive Vice President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

Throughout his career in the Building Trades, Joe has been an advocate for workers rights and fought to provide his fellow brothers and sisters of labor with fair wages and skilled training. Joe has negotiated dozens of Project Labor Agreements to guarantee good wages, hours, and working conditions on massive construction sites. These agreements have also guaranteed employers access to a skilled workforce and eliminated labor relations problems. In 1988, Joe was instrumental in defeating a ballot question, which was intended to remove Prevailing Wage Laws in the state of Massachusetts. Ten years later, Joe was essential in the passage of an amendment to the Massachusetts Payment of Wages Law, which increased penalties on employers who willfully and intentionally violated payment rights of employees.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join with Joe's family, friends and brothers and sisters of labor to thank him for his incredible dedication and commitment to the fight for workers' rights and service to the American Labor Movement. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Joe's distinguished career and wishing him good health and success in all his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE LICHNER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Suzanne Lichner, a licensed practical nurse, who is a distinguished and devoted professional in her field.

Prior to joining the nursing staff at Boulder City Hospital, Suzanne worked as an LPN in home health care and hospice care. Suzanne began her career at Boulder City Hospital in 2000 with the Skilled Nursing Facility, where she quickly demonstrated her ability, talent, dedication, and compassion towards her patients. During the past 7 years, Suzanne's strengths as a health care professional have earned her the respect of her peers and colleagues. In 2006, Suzanne transferred to the Medical/ Surgical Unit at Boulder City Hospital, where she serves as a medical surgical nurse.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Suzanne Lichner. Her passion and her love of nursing have improved the lives of countless patients in Las Vegas. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF SIGNATURE LEARNING CENTER

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Signature Learning Center in Evansville for being recognized as one of the top charter schools in the nation by the Center for Education Reform (CER). The Center is one of only 53 schools to receive the National Charter School of the Year Award and was selected based on student achievement, satisfaction of parents, and its policies and programs.

The Signature Learning Center has approximately 275 students with an average class size of 20. Its students excel academically with 100 percent enrollment in advanced college preparatory courses and 100 percent graduation rate. For these reasons and others, the school was listed by Newsweek as one of the top 100 High Schools in the nation in 2006.

Signature Learning Center joins nearly 4,000 charter schools nationwide in educating over 1 million American children.

Children are our nation's greatest resource. The quality of education they receive has a direct impact on the strength of our economy, the safety of our communities, and the ability of our nation to compete in the world. The Signature Learning Center is providing children in southern Indiana with the tools they need to meet their full potential and make a difference in our world. I am proud to recognize them for their accomplishments today.