

U.S. military preparedness and our national security. Congress has every right, and in fact every obligation, to hold President Bush and Iraq's political leadership accountable for their lack of results and complete lack of urgency while U.S. troops patrol in the midst of an Iraqi civil war.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 2206 and I urge my colleagues—especially my Republican colleagues—to take this appropriate and tempered step towards protecting our troops while demanding political accountability from President Bush and his Iraqi counterparts.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA BERKOWITZ

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and pay tribute to an esteemed member of my community, Sylvia Berkowitz as she celebrates her 100th birthday on May 30th.

I know that her love and kindness have been an inspiration to her family and friends. Her dedication to her family—as a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and recently a great-great-grandmother—is to be revered.

Throughout the last century, Sylvia has not only dedicated her energies and remarkable abilities to her family but also to others. I applaud her work in volunteering for numerous charitable organizations including helping those struggling with Leukemia, Multiple Sclerosis and other incapacitating diseases.

On behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, it is my privilege to congratulate Sylvia Berkowitz on this momentous occasion. You are a true inspiration and a wonderful human being. I wish you continued success, good health, and happiness in the years ahead.

AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 634, the American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act. This bipartisan legislation commemorates those veterans who have sacrificed so much to secure our freedom by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in their honor.

The funding generated from the sale of these coins will be used to help build a memorial to disabled veterans on the grounds surrounding the U.S. Capitol. This memorial, which will sit within full view of the Capitol, will serve to remind us of those young men and women who put their lives on the line each day in defense of this great Nation.

Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit Walter Reed to meet some of the brave men and women that we seek to honor here

today. I will never forget the faces of those warriors who proved that they would stop at nothing to fulfill the mission that this Nation has laid before them.

Our military veterans have served honorably around the world, in many of the most hostile and dangerous conditions known to man. Whether it is in the fields of Europe, the jungles of Southeast Asia, or the deserts of the Middle East, the selfless actions of these men and women helps to preserve the liberty that we hold so dear.

These soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who voluntarily heeded the call to serve our Nation in combat, truly embody all that is great within our society. They have shown courage and valor, consistently performing with distinction on foreign battlefields. These honorable Americans have given us all that they have to offer. It is now time for us to show them how much we appreciate their great sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING KEELIN BROUGHAN ON THE 2006 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHING

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Keelin Broughan on winning the 2006 Presidential Award of Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

Ms. Broughan is a kindergarten teacher at Paul Revere Elementary School in Chicago. I often say that we need to start teaching math and science to our children as early as possible, and it doesn't get much earlier than kindergarten.

Paul Revere Elementary is a Chicago Public School with a very long tradition in the community. Thanks to excellent teachers like Keelin Broughan, students from a variety of backgrounds are able to have access to an outstanding education.

This week, Ms. Broughan will be presented with her award and have an opportunity to meet the President of the United States and her fellow award winners from across the country.

Since 1983, over 3,700 teachers have received Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The effort and ability of these educators will help ensure that our children are ably prepared for the coming years.

Madam Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Keelin Broughan on her outstanding work in the classroom, and I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALIDA DIETRICH BEGINA, ED.D.

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dear friend and out-

standing community member, Dr. Alida Dietrich Begina, who was taken from us all too soon in late April of this year after losing her battle with breast cancer. As a wife, mother, educator, administrator, colleague and friend, Alida gave so much of herself to others and has left an indelible mark on the lives of all of those she touched.

Alida's dedication to education—at every level—was unparalleled. She began her career as an English, Latin, and Spanish teacher in several school systems eventually working her way to administrative positions. She worked in both public school systems as well as alternative education systems, even spending 2 years as an Instructor in English as a Second Language at Indiana Central University in Nicosia, Cyprus. She would end her career as the Superintendent of Hamden Public Schools where she was respected and loved by students, faculty and community members alike. In the 12 years she served in this position, Alida worked diligently to provide Hamden's students with access to the best possible education on which to build their future success. She was a reflection of all that we hope our education leaders will be.

Through all of her efforts Alida became one of the most highly regarded administrators in the State. In addition to serving as the Superintendent for the Hamden Public School system, she served as an adjunct professor at both Sacred Heart University and Southern Connecticut State University, where she taught graduate courses for obtaining superintendents' certification as well as curriculum development and theories of learning for administrator certification. Alida was often looked to by professionals and public policy makers for input—the myriad of honors, awards, and commendations that she earned throughout her career are a testimony to her distinguished reputation as a leader in public education. Perhaps most telling was her selection as the only superintendent in Connecticut to design and write the revised version of the Connecticut Administrator Test that is used for certification of administrators. Indeed, I and my staff often called upon Alida's vast knowledge and experience when faced with challenging choices in public policy concerning education. The loss of her expertise and unique perspective on public education and its impact on our young people will certainly be missed by many.

One of her most invaluable contributions and lasting legacies is her work to establish the Hamden Education Foundation—a nonprofit organization that, since its inception, has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars which has been used to fund innovative student programs and scholarships. In addition to several annual scholarships, funds are used for such programs as the purchase of library books and periodicals for all Hamden public schools as well as mini-grants aimed at encouraging teachers and other certified staff to implement exciting and often long-cherished ideas. The Foundation looks to the community to raise the funds it uses—creating a special bond between the community and its young people. I have no doubt that the Hamden Education Foundation and Alida's vision in which it was created will continue to enrich the lives and education of Hamden students for many years to come.

Dr. Alida Dietrich Begina will long be remembered for her many invaluable contributions to education, both locally and state-wide.

She was a mentor to so many—most notably her two loving daughters, Lauren and Courtney. I stand today to offer my sincerest condolences to her husband, Bill; her daughter, Lauren and her husband Ryan; her daughter Courtney and her husband Daniel; as well as her beloved grandson, Jackson—the inspiration for her two children's books published shortly before her passing. Mere words cannot express the sorrow we all feel at the loss of such an extraordinary woman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 14, 2007, I attended an event in my district announcing a major economic development project and was absent for 3 votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 342, "yea" on rollcall 343, and "yea" on rollcall 344.

HONORING SONIA GUTIERREZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on May 18, 2007, the Latino and immigrant communities of the Greater Washington Region will gather to celebrate with Ms. Sonia Gutierrez her 35 years of selfless dedication to the larger community and to the Carlos Rosario International School.

Sonia Gutierrez was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico. She received a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and a Masters Degree in Adult Education specializing in Supervision and Administration of Adult Education Programs.

Ms. Gutierrez, is the CEO & Founder of the Carlos Rosario International Career Center and Public Charter School, and has spent 35 years as a principal, counselor, advocate, and organizer to more than 60,000 adult immigrant students.

Ms. Gutierrez began her career in the District of Columbia Public Schools in May 1972 as a counselor in the Program for English Instruction to Latin Americans (PEILA). There she began her mission: to provide holistic education to adult immigrants with little formal education in their native countries, enabling them to succeed by addressing their social and academic needs.

In October 1972, Ms. Gutierrez became the Director of PEILA and transformed the small, under-funded English as a Second Language (ESL) program into a comprehensive adult education program. In 1974, the Office of Right to Read of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare designated it as one of the best literacy programs in the Nation. As PEILA outgrew its facility, Ms. Gutierrez began a 2-year effort to secure a school building for the program. In 1978 she was successful in relocating the program to the old Gordon Junior High School in Georgetown; PEILA then merged with the old Americanization School with an initial enrollment of 800.

Sonia Gutierrez has made a tremendous impact on the Washington, DC region and on the field of adult education. She has had a direct impact on the lives of over 60,000 people in the last 35 years. Many thousands more have benefited as the adult education model she developed has proliferated across the globe. The students served by the Carlos Rosario International School have been given the chance to achieve their dreams because of her belief in them and their potential, and her passionate leadership of the school.

Ms. Gutierrez has triumphed over great adversity in leading the school to be the thriving model it is today. Today, it is arguably the most recognized school in the District of Columbia Public School System. Under her leadership it was recognized as a national model for adult education by the United States Department of Education. She has helped other schools replicate the model across the Nation as well as in Korea and Germany. When many adult schools were closed by the District of Columbia in 1996, she pushed on, ignored suggestions to retire, and reestablished the Carlos Rosario International School.

Sonia Gutierrez is a civil rights activist, a leader and visionary. She is a fierce defender and advocate for urban school systems and the families who attend them. Sonia has been a model of leadership. Her commitment to fairness, excellence, and compassion has inspired many to make a difference in this world.

It is for this perseverance, passion, visionary leadership, and the immeasurable impact on the lives touched by her work that we recognize Ms. Sonia Gutierrez' 35 years of service to the community.

BREAST CANCER ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, as we return from Mother's Day weekend, I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for H.R.1157, the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act, and urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

This weekend we honored our mothers and grandmothers and the immense contributions they have made in our lives. As we celebrate these women, we should also take the opportunity to renew our focus and efforts on an issue that affects far too many women in the United States: breast cancer.

There are more than three million women currently living with breast cancer, and each year tens of thousands of women die from the disease. While we have made important progress in treatments and research, we still do not know what causes breast cancer or how to prevent it. And the alarming nature of these uncertainties is compounded by the fact breast cancer rates are on the rise. A woman in the United States has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer in her lifetime—this risk was only 1 in 11 in 1975.

While it is generally believed the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, scientific evidence about the extent of its role is minimal. Studies have ex-

plored the effect of isolated environmental factors such as diet, pesticides and electromagnetic fields, but in most cases there is no conclusive evidence, and they cannot be translated into real ways in which women can better protect themselves.

The Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act will create a competitive, peer-reviewed research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. Less than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors, and there are many understudied factors suspected to play a role that could be valuable in understanding the causes of breast cancer. H.R. 1157 will start a collaborative, comprehensive and national strategy to study these issues.

I proudly stand in support of the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act. I hope you will join me in cosponsoring this important, bipartisan investment in breast cancer research.

CONGRATULATING BROWARD COUNTY ANNUAL SENIOR HALL OF FAME HONOREES

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, today in Tamarac, Florida, 11 outstanding Broward elders will be honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame Breakfast. These 11 seniors being honored have volunteered in their communities and have contributed countless hours to helping others. Their outstanding character and compassion have truly set them apart. Those being honored are Dr. Kamala Anadam, Lucille D'Orso, Ron English, Elizabeth "Betty" Mate, Evelyn Miller, Pearl Monchek, Commissioner Allegra Webb Murphy, Sister Germana Sala, Charles Singer, Eleanor Sobel, and Willie Mae Williams.

Dr. Kamala Anadam of Weston, a former professor of Child Development in India, has been participating in the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Project since 1998. She personally coordinated the Project in her congregation, overseeing 22 volunteers and visiting frail homebound elderly in their homes. Dr. Anadam is a Member of the Fort Lauderdale Branch of America Association of University Women, a member of the Broward County Chapter of the United Nations of U.S.A., and a Member of the Advisory Committee of Senior Volunteer Services, Inc.

Lucille D'Orso of Lauderdale Lakes, a retired hairdresser, has been volunteering for the Foster Grandparents Program for over 32 years and has spent a majority of her time at several Broward County elementary schools, including Pinewood Elementary in North Lauderdale for 10 years, Northside Elementary in Fort Lauderdale for 15 years, Oriole Elementary in Lauderdale Lakes, and Larkdale Elementary in Fort Lauderdale.

Ron English of Fort Lauderdale has a passion for caring for the marginalized and less fortunate members of the community, leading to the creation of ground-breaking institutions such as AmFar (American Foundation for AIDS Research), the Sunshine Cathedral Foundation, and SunServe, the world's first