

TRIBUTE TO THE RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE DURANGO HIGH SCHOOL AEROSPACE DESIGN TEAM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate the Durango High School Aerospace Design Team for their recent selection as finalists in the International Space Settlement Design Competition. As one of only eight teams chosen worldwide—and only three from the United States—the Durango High School team represents the best that our public education system has to offer.

The International Space Settlement Design Competition is a serious endeavor, incorporating elements of engineering, logistics, creativity, business sense, and scientific acumen into a grand proposal where the competitors design a future habitat for humans on another planetary body. Students are held to rigorous standards; scientific concepts must be realistic extensions of current technologies and proposals are expected to provide budgetary details as well as specificities on how humans would live in the proposed settlement. The winning results are proposals that one would expect to see decades in the future, and are judged by engineers with expertise in the relevant fields.

As chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee of the House Science and Technology Committee and a co-chair of the House Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Caucus, I have a deep appreciation of what the Durango team has accomplished. I have long advocated the inclusion of a rigorous science program in our public education system and I applaud the results of Durango High School's emphasis on science education. Their success is a consequence of their strong education in the hard sciences and I am sure that these students will help ensure a better future for our Nation.

The Durango High School Aerospace Design Team will soon be competing against the rest of the finalists at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the team on its success so far and to wish them the best of luck in the next and final leg of the competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 350 through 366 on May 16, 2007. I was down in my district attending the funeral of Staff Sgt. Timothy P. Padgett.

I would have voted:

Rollcall vote No. 350, Motion to Adjourn, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 351, Previous Question on Rule for H.R. 1585—National Defense Authorization Act for FY '08, "nay"; rollcall vote

No. 352, Rule providing for H.R. 1585—National Defense Authorization Act for FY '08, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 353, Motion to Adjourn, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 354, Quorum Call, "present"; rollcall vote No. 355, Motion to Rise, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 356, Quorum Call, "present"; rollcall vote No. 357, Motion to Rise, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 358, Quorum Call, "present"; rollcall vote No. 359, Motion to Rise, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 360, Quorum Call, "present"; rollcall vote No. 361, Motion to Rise, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 362, Quorum Call, "present"; rollcall vote No. 363, Motion to Rise, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 364, Andrews Amendment to Defense Authorization to prevent funds authorized in the bill for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan from being obligated or expended to plan a contingency operation in Iran, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 365, DeFazio Amendment to Defense Authorization to clarify that no previously enacted law authorizes military action against Iran, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 366, Woolsey Amendment to Defense Authorization to require the Secretary of Defense to issue a report on the continued use, need, relevance, and cost of weapons systems designed to fight the Cold War and the former Soviet Union, "nay".

INTRODUCING THE PARENTAL CONSENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Parental Consent Act. This bill forbids Federal funds from being used for any universal or mandatory mental health screening of students without the express, written, voluntary, informed consent of their parents or legal guardian. This bill protects the fundamental right of parents to direct and control the upbringing and education of their children.

The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has recommended that the Federal and State governments work toward the implementation of a comprehensive system of mental health screening for all Americans. The commission recommends that universal or mandatory mental health screening first be implemented in public schools as a prelude to expanding it to the general public. However, neither the commission's report nor any related mental health screening proposal requires parental consent before a child is subjected to mental health screening. Federally-funded universal or mandatory mental health screening in schools without parental consent could lead to labeling more children as "ADD" or "hyperactive" and thus force more children to take psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, against their parents' wishes.

Already, too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to Medco Health Solutions, more than 2.2 million children are receiving more than one psychotropic drug at one time. In fact, according to Medco Trends, in 2003, total spending on psychiatric drugs for children exceeded spending on antibiotics or asthma medication.

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some

of the possible side effects include mania, violence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children. Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a Federally-funded mental health screener makes the recommendation.

Universal or mandatory mental health screening could also provide a justification for stigmatizing children from families that support traditional values. Even the authors of mental health diagnosis manuals admit that mental health diagnoses are subjective and based on social constructions. Therefore, it is all too easy for a psychiatrist to label a person's disagreement with the psychiatrist's political beliefs a mental disorder. For example, a Federally-funded school violence prevention program lists "intolerance" as a mental problem that may lead to school violence. Because "intolerance" is often a code word for believing in traditional values, children who share their parents' values could be labeled as having mental problems and a risk of causing violence. If the mandatory mental health screening program applies to adults, everyone who believes in traditional values could have his or her beliefs stigmatized as a sign of a mental disorder. Taxpayer dollars should not support programs that may label those who adhere to traditional values as having a "mental disorder."

Madam Speaker, universal or mandatory mental health screening threatens to undermine parents' right to raise their children as the parents see fit. Forced mental health screening could also endanger the health of children by leading to more children being improperly placed on psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, or stigmatized as "mentally ill" or a risk of causing violence because they adhere to traditional values. Congress has a responsibility to the Nation's parents and children to stop this from happening. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Parental Consent Act.

HONORING THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF ILLINOIS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice congratulations to The Nature Conservancy of Illinois in honor of its 50th Anniversary, and for the outstanding conservation work it has accomplished in Illinois. Since its establishment in 1957, The Nature Conservancy of Illinois has acquired, restored and preserved nearly 80,000 acres of natural lands at 120 sites throughout the entire State for the benefit of Illinois citizens.

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization, with more than 35,000 members in the State of Illinois and nearly one million members around the world working to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. For the past 50 years The Nature Conservancy in Illinois has been an effective, innovative partner in conservation with local, State, and Federal public land management agencies, other conservation not for profit organizations, corporations,

foundations and individual private landowners to create science-based conservation solutions that benefit nature and enhance the well being of people who depend on vital natural resources for their lives and livelihoods.

The Nature Conservancy works to improve river life, water quality and restore aquatic ecosystems through projects along the Illinois River including the preserves at Emiquon and Spunky Bottoms, the Cache River in Southern Illinois and the Mackinaw River in central Illinois. By using the best available science, The Nature Conservancy works to conserve our grasslands, prairies, forests at places like Kankakee Sands, Indian Boundary Prairies, Nachusa Grasslands, Chinquapin, and the Illinois Ozarks.

The Nature Conservancy is a founding member of Chicago Wilderness, a consortium of more than 200 public and private organizations working together to protect, restore, study and manage the natural ecosystems of the Chicago region, contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity, and enrich local residents' quality of life. In addition, The Nature Conservancy has spearheaded and supported various state policy initiatives that made meaningful contributions to Illinois natural resource management including public funding initiatives, and the Volunteer Stewardship Network to help public and private landowners manage their lands by removing invasive species, collecting native seeds, conducting prescribed burns, reducing pollution and managing precious parcels of land and waterways, and assisting with environmental youth education programs.

The Nature Conservancy's Board of Trustees and staff use a non-confrontational and collaborative approach to their work with all sectors of society to achieve meaningful conservation results in Illinois. That is why The Nature Conservancy is a leader in raising awareness of the benefits of nature, conservation and sound environmental practices among Illinois communities, elected officials, and the public at large.

I am proud to recognize the contributions The Nature Conservancy has made to significantly improve Illinois landscape and waterways, and congratulate The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Chapter, for its 50 years of conservation work in the State and applaud their efforts across the United States and around the globe to protect and conserve the biodiversity of the Earth.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH PEZZINI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, Members of the House, I rise today to honor Mr. Joseph Pezzini, a quiet and unassuming man who has become one of the seminal leaders in our Nation's fresh produce industry. The occasion for this recognition is Joe's departure from the chairmanship of the Salinas, California, based Grower Shipper Association. His work as chairman over the course of the past year, particularly around the issues of food safety, has contributed tremendously to the continued health and vitality of the American fresh produce industry.

Joe is a senior officer with Ocean Mist Farms, the leading U.S. producer and shipper of fresh artichokes. Along with a team of highly skilled and dedicated colleagues, Joe helps produce and ship high quality artichokes, lettuce, broccoli, spinach, and a variety of other specialty vegetable crops. All things that the federal government says we should eat more of. If you have ever eaten an artichoke, Joe likely had a hand in putting it on your plate. If you have never eaten an artichoke, then Joe would like to speak with you. But Joe's business acumen only begins his catalogue of achievements.

In 2006, Joe became president of the Grower Shipper Association, which serves as local and regional voice of the California Central Coast's large and dynamic produce industry. His focus was predominantly on local and regional issues. Then, last year on September 14, FDA advised consumers to avoid eating fresh spinach because it had been linked to an outbreak of E. coli. In a matter of minutes, Joe transformed himself from just a Salinas Valley business leader to the national face of the fresh produce industry. As a prominent spinach producer himself whose product remained unlinked to the outbreak and the Grower Shipper Association chairman, Joe became the natural spokesperson for the produce industry. Every major news outlet in the country wanted to speak with a Salinas Valley farmer. Amid all the commotion and frenzy, Joe remained the calm and credible voice, always speaking to realities of farming and his industry's concern for safety whether to a national news anchor or a local beat reporter. In the months since, Joe has taken a leading role in the produce industry's response to the crisis. He helped shape and now chairs the State of California's new leafy green food safety marketing agreement.

Joe's work has not only benefited the producers in my Central California district, but fresh produce farmers across the country. In recognition of his work, The Packer, a leading Produce Industry trade publication, recently honored Joe as its Produce Man of the Year. This honor is clearly well deserved.

Madam Speaker, please allow me to convey to Mr. Pezzini this body's gratitude for his vision, hard work and grace under fire on behalf of fresh produce consumers and producers everywhere.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS P. CORRIGAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Thomas P. Corrigan, the 2007 Fairview Park Citizen of the Year. Tom has been a tireless advocate for Fairview Park, and has devoted hundreds of volunteer hours in service to his neighbors.

Tom has been an active leader in the community for many years, and has been a fantastic influence in the lives of hundreds of Fairview Park youth. He has provided valuable leadership to St. Angela Cub Scout Pack 401, sponsored School to Work programs for Fairview Park High School and Ohio Boys Town, has coordinated numerous fundraising pro-

grams for Fairview Park students, and chaired levy campaigns to ensure that the schools have adequate resources to educate Fairview Park children.

Hardly a person to temper his enthusiasm for his community, Tom has also contributed significant time and resources to Fairview Park's economic prosperity and social growth. For many years Tom served as a board member for the Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the board of the Fairview Municipal Foundation. He has been active with the Business Advisory Council, and has been instrumental in the growth and success of Summerfest. He builds benches and playgrounds, chairs golf outings, and even plays the bagpipes.

His dedication to Northeastern Ohio has been an inspiration to all that know him. In addition to being an invaluable asset to Fairview Park, Tom is a doting father to Elisabeth, Rebecca, and Christopher, as well as a loving husband to Jeanne Ann.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Thomas P. Corrigan as the 2007 Fairview Park Citizen of the Year. His reliability, thoughtfulness and selflessness have been integral to the success of Fairview Park and the development of the city's vibrant personality. May Fairview Park continue to thrive from his efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 350 and 356. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on both.

TRIBUTE TO PRUE AND AMI ROSENTHAL

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Prue and Ami Rosenthal of Ann Arbor, MI. For 30 years the Rosentals have given much to the City of Ann Arbor and its community. Mr. and Mrs. Rosenthal are the 2007 recipients of the Washtenaw County Jewish Federation's Humanitarian Award, the highest honor the Jewish Federation bestows upon recipients.

The Rosentals were married in Massachusetts in 1962 and came to Ann Arbor in 1977. For these 30 years the duo of Prue and Ami have served Ann Arbor's Jewish community. Prue has spread her time and efforts among several organizations, such as a volunteer for the Beth Israel Congregation, Hadassah, the Jewish Federation, as well as serving as president of the Hebrew Day School. Prue is also a student of art history and has devoted herself to the University of Michigan (UM) Museum of Art, currently serving on the National Advisory Board and contributing her talent and knowledge to the creation of the new museum. She has also served on the board of