

4 hours of sunlight a week. All communication with his family has been severely restricted and according to Yarai Reyes, his wife, he has been fed rotten food, refused all medical care and has been kept in a cell with no electricity.

When Mr. Hernández participated in a hunger strike to protest the deplorable prison conditions, he was transferred to another prison over 400 miles away from his family and loved ones. In this prison, he languishes in a rat and insect infected dungeon which he shares with common prisoners, many of which are considered dangerous and unstable. Mr. Hernández is routinely beaten and denied access to the outside world.

Madam Speaker, on April 30, 2007, the PEN American Center, which works to advance literature, defend free expression, and to foster international literary fellowship, named Mr. Hernández the recipient of its 2007 PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award honoring international literary figures that have been imprisoned or persecuted for defending the basic human right of expression. Let me be clear, Mr. Hernández is confined in an infernal dungeon for reporting truth instead of the mandated lies of the dictatorship in Cuba.

My colleagues, it is unconscionable and condemnable that just miles from our shores, a grotesque gangster regime keeps thousands behind bars simply for supporting freedom and democracy. I ask all members of this great Congress to demand with one, united, voice, the immediate release of Normando Hernández Gonzalez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

#### EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE CITIZENS OF GREENSBURG, KANSAS

SPEECH OF

#### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sympathy of the citizens of Greensburg, Kansas. On May 4, 2007 a devastating tornado ripped through the community and destroyed 95 percent of the town. Ten lives were lost and 1,500 people were directly affected by this deadly terror. Greensburg was a quiet and charming town surrounded by pasture land lush and fertile. This town was preserved by generations of hardworking people who valued what they had and worked to keep it.

In the heartland, people know what it means to be a good neighbor. After this deadly tornado ripped through the community, there were countless examples, of strength, compassion and perseverance, traits we often see in Kansans. As people sifted through the shambles and rumble of what had been, at one time, their homes and personal belongings, wheat trucks and regular old four wheel drive pick-ups from neighboring towns drove in to lend a hand and a shoulder of comfort. It is heartwarming to witness how Kansans have come together in response to the Greensburg tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, my heart and prayers go out to all the citizens in Greensburg. Progress is being made and being made daily. They are picking up the pieces of their lives from what

was left from this horrible force of nature and are moving forward. The people of Greensburg obviously have tough days ahead, but I know with the resilient spirit they have demonstrated, they are up to the challenge and they will not be alone in overcoming it.

#### IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT GRADUATES OF PARAMUS' D.A.R.E. PROGRAM AT EAST BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Paramus Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of East Brook Middle School. More than 140 students are participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program at East Brook Middle School, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Pankti Acharya, Omar Al-Rashdan, Danielle Ambrose, Elias Atie, Benjamin Audi, Amanda Aydin, Joseph Bacich, Matthew Barbara, Timothy Barkho, Adam Basner, Brianna Behrens, Christopher Billera, Lindsay Braverman, Vince Calupad, Eric Carminio, Tyler Casamenti, Alexa Cascione, Jessica Chakonis, Winnie Chau, Hae Chang Cheong, Daniel Choi, Emily Colasante, Matthew Criscione, Erica Cruz, Nicolas Datz, Dean Delucia, Michael DeSimone, Lillian Do, Timothy Dungan, Jeremiah Emmenue, Shannon English, Veronique Falkovich, Kenny Frohnapfel, Gia Fuerte, Cayla Gao, Kaitlyn Garcia, Miny Ge, Eric Giannantonio, Harlee Glock, Zoe Gnecco, Keisuke Goto, Tance Gozukucuk, Nicholas Gramuglia, Daniel Grisanti, Rebekah Guidroz, Aris Gungormez, Leila Hassak, Sabrina Helm, Erik Helstrom, Adriana Hemans, Kellie Heom, Darius House, Phillip Huffman, Yoon Jeong Hwang, Jaime Iacono, Suguru Ikeda, Alen Jo, Laila Jouejati, Erica Kato, Ji Soo Kim, Ah Young Kim, Victor Kim, Alexandra Kipp, Caroline Kordell, Theodore Koutros, Karen Kouyoumdjian, Anna Kuriakose, Richard Labarbiera, Kevin Lannigan, Stephanie Lasprilla, Paul Lawton, Sarah Lee, Jun Oh Lee, Monica Lehner, Andrew Licini, John Lukert, Aysia Luna, Melissa Lynch, Fabio Macias, Yu Maruyama, David Medvitz, Samuel Melendez, Paul Meyer, Matthew Miller, Koji Minoda, Edwin Montalvo, Bryan Mosquera, Heather Murphy, Stephen Oregon, Timothy Oechsner, Kevin Oh, Yula Oh, Daichi Omori, Rasha Orfali, Pamela Ospina, Abigail Ovadia, Kyrstie Pagunsan, Sylvia Pak, Michael Paladino, Thomas Palestina, Michelle Park, Dean Park, Mona Park, Sungho Park, Alex-

andra Pascual, Michael Passarelli, Kinjal Patel, Mitesh Patel, Gina Pecchinenda, Justin Peter, Kishen Pujara, Alejandra Ramirez, Elizabeth Reyes, Julia Reynolds, Colin Richardson, Jerry Rickelmann, III, Kathryn Roque, Gina Ruzhansky, Victoria Savastano, Stephen Scheideler, Gianna Scimeca, Bryan Shin, Olivia Sluka, Dominick Smith, Zachary Smith, Regina Smith, Alexis Stella, Rose Velli, Danielle Villa, Chelsea Virga, Thomas V. onborstel, Corinne Weinzierl, Alison Wolfer, Cindy Wu, Hosun Yoo, Andrew Yoon, Geena Yum, Ariana Zarour, Colette Zarour.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 22, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for six rollcall votes on that day.

Had I been present I would have voted: "no" on rollcall 390 on agreeing to the Price of Georgia amendment No. 9; "no" on rollcall 391 on agreeing to the Doolittle of California amendment No. 19; "no" on rollcall 392 on agreeing to the Hensarling of Texas amendment No. 30; "no" on rollcall 393 on agreeing to the Neugebauer of Texas amendment; "yea" on rollcall 394 on agreeing to the Neugebauer of Texas amendment No. 4; "no" on rollcall 395 on motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 1427.

#### IN MEMORY OF DR. BENEDICT K. ZOBRIST

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Dr. Benedict K. Zobrist, the former director of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library.

Dr. Zobrist was born in Moline, Illinois, on August 21, 1921, son of Benedict and Lila A. Colson Zobrist. He graduated from Moline High School in 1939 and went on to attend Augustana College, but left his studies to join the United States Army in 1942. After serving in World War II and upon discharge from active duty, he returned to complete his college studies. It was at Augustana College that he met Donna Anderson, his future wife. Benedict graduated in 1946 with a bachelor's degree in history and began graduate school at Stanford University. However, he returned to the Midwest to be closer to Donna and on October 23, 1948, they were united in marriage.

Dr. Zobrist resumed his studies at Northwestern University, earning both a master's degree (1948) and a doctor of philosophy degree (1953) in history. After completing his education, Dr. Zobrist joined the staff of Augustana College, where he became a full-time faculty member in 1960. In 1962, he won a Fulbright Fellowship and studied at Tunghai University in Taichung, Taiwan. He also pursued advanced studies at the East Asia Institute at Columbia University in New York in 1962–63.

Dr. Zobrist moved to Missouri in 1969 to join the staff of the Truman Library in Independence; he became director shortly thereafter. He worked diligently to expand the collections of the library, traveling from coast to coast to meet with members of the Truman administration, as well as other significant figures of that period. Zobrist expanded the work of the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, the not-for-profit foundation associated with the library. He went on to charter a course for the expansion of the Institute's education efforts and its support of the library's operations within the National Archive system. Dr. Zobrist was most proud of instituting "Truman Week", a week long annual celebration held around President Truman's May 8th birthday.

Dr. Zobrist maintained his affiliation with the United States Army as a reservist, and retired as lieutenant colonel. He spent many summers on active duty with the Office of the Chief of Military History in Washington, DC.; he also served as a faculty member at the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, and the Army Intelligence School, Fort Bragg.

Madam Speaker, I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to Donna Anderson Zobrist and their three sons: Karl, Mark, and Erik.

#### CONGRATULATING SHANA KHADER

#### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDI

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 23, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Shana Khader of Occidental College. Ms. Khader is a teaching student and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Khader and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE INCOME-DEPENDENT EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

#### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 23, 2007*

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing of the Income-Dependent Education Assistance (IDEA) Act of 2007. This legislation would provide a new consolidation option for federal Stafford student loan borrowers with an improved repayment schedule through direct IRS collection of payments, along with other new protections for borrowers and taxpayers.

I believe that the IDEA Act will address the oft-overlooked side of federal student loan assistance: repayment. For over four decades, most of the discussion regarding federal student loans has primarily focused on making ever-increasing amounts of money available to students to keep up with the rising costs of college tuition.

However, providing students with larger loans to attend college leads to another, more complex challenge after graduation. How should students be expected to repay these taxpayer-funded loans? This is an area that has received relatively little attention until recently. With students graduating with ever-increasing debt loads, averaging over \$18,000 this year and projected to continue to rise, students are finding it increasingly difficult to make loan payments on time and in full.

Unfortunately, little has been done by way of providing more flexible repayment options for borrowers after graduation. Traditionally it has been expected that the borrower will pay the amortized loan over a standard period, usually 10 years, with the same repayment amount on day one as on the last day. However, this model of repayment fails to take into account that students often face periods of significant unemployment or underemployment during the first years after leaving college.

As of now, for the most part, the only options available to borrowers are to request a period of forbearance or slip into default, which is bad for both borrower and taxpayers. We simply cannot keep providing more and more money for education if graduates then enter the workforce saddled with payments they can't afford.

While there have been some attempts to provide more diverse repayment options, such as the income-contingent loan repayment program available through Direct Lending that has been in existence for over a decade, borrowers have failed to adopt them, usually due to a lack of information or current program limitations. The bottom line is that Congress needs to develop better repayment alternatives for federal student loan borrowers, especially as students continue to take out larger and larger loans in coming years.

I believe the IDEA Act does just that. This legislation would allow any Stafford loan borrower the ability to consolidate into a direct IDEA loan with a repayment schedule that corresponds to the borrower's income once in repayment. This new schedule requires regular payments; however, it ensures that such payments reflect the borrowers' capacity to repay under their current income status. This feature would be particularly useful for those pursuing lower-income, public-service careers. It also would help relieve some of the stress that borrowers face during periods of unemployment or underemployment following graduation.

Another critical component of this legislation is the direct collection of payments from the borrower through IRS withholdings. By incorporating the IRS directly as the collection entity, the borrower's income is automatically calculated into the repayment system and reduces the odds of fraud or abuse on the part of the borrower or the collection agency. Furthermore, direct IRS collection would simplify the process for borrowers and reduce their paperwork burden as the agency would already have the necessary information on file and in place for processing the payment amounts and schedules. Finally, the IDEA Act stipulates

that borrowers that go into default and have exhausted all relief from the loan holder would automatically be consolidated into IDEA loans in order to help them get their payments back on track and avoid costly defaults. Thus the taxpayers' investment will be protected from the damaging effects of borrower default, which currently affects 5.1 percent of federal student loans each year.

Madam Speaker, the IDEA Act is an innovative solution to the growing problem of unmanageable debt loads for students. Students would be able to borrow what they need, up to the current Stafford limits, and later consolidate into IDEA loans knowing that their repayment amounts will be within their income levels and ability to pay. On the other hand, taxpayers can count on those loans being repaid as they are collected through the IRS. This is a responsible approach to a serious and growing problem for student loan borrowers.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND JOE BAMBERG

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 23, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to recognize and remember an inspirational leader in our community, Reverend Joe Bamberg. Brother Joe left us Monday morning, May 21, at the age of 91. Brother Joe was a selfless leader who will sorely be missed by his family, congregation and community. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Mary, his wife of 63 years, as well as his three children, one grandchild, two great-grandchildren, and his sister.

In his early years, Brother Joe served as a pastor in his native Alabama hometown and as an Army chaplain during World War II. However, beginning in 1947, Brother Joe became the pastor of First Baptist Church of Milton, where he served for 60 faithful years. Reverend David Spencer, who is the current pastor of First Baptist Church, credits Brother Joe for the constant growth of the congregation, saying "He was such a worker, a tireless person. He got out and found people, won people for the Lord, and built up this church."

Brother Joe not only worked to strengthen his own congregation, but also reached out and led efforts to begin five other churches in the community. The purpose of his ministry was simply to lead others to Christianity, regardless of whom they were and which church they attended.

Brother Joe's humility was one of his greatest qualities. As a pastor, he intentionally put others before himself. To account for his character, his wife, Mary said her husband made sure to stand at the same level as his congregation during the service. No matter the circumstance, "Joe never took a day off and he refused many pay raise offers."

In 1980, Brother Joe graciously stepped down from the pulpit; however, he continued to serve as pastor emeritus. Persistent in his work, he continued to assist his community through visiting and preaching at local hospitals and nursing homes.

Brother Joe was truly a servant to the Milton community. Reverend Spencer most accurately describes the great significance of