

course of her education, and has proven that she has become a military leader, ready to take her place in the service of our Nation. The people of Guam are proud of Dianna's achievements and grateful for her service to our country. We commend her for her accomplishments and extend our best wishes to her as she begins her military career.

NO OIL PRODUCING AND EXPORTING CARTELS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. I strongly oppose oil-producing and exporting cartels setting artificial limits on the production of oil. Infamous cartels, such as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC, have manipulated the supply of oil and helped worldwide gasoline prices soar. This harmful collaboration to limit oil production has led to hardships for the American economy.

Unfortunately, Democratic leaders have brought a misguided bill to the House floor this week to supposedly bring an end to cartels such as OPEC. While I support the dismantling of cartels that manipulate oil production, I have serious concerns about negative consequences the United States would face if this bill were enacted.

I rise to oppose H.R. 2264 because of the impact it would have on our national security, trade security and energy security.

If the United States should bring an antitrust lawsuit against an OPEC member country, restrictions could be placed on our ability to station and activate troops in the Middle East. We rely on cooperation from countries that are members of cartels for assistance in the global war on terror. We should carefully consider what retaliatory actions or restrictions these countries could place on the United States if we were to pursue actions authorized in H.R. 2264.

These foreign governments could also levy trade sanctions against American products and businesses or choose to employ another oil embargo like the one that occurred in 1973. By cutting off oil supplies, they could cause gasoline price increases for American consumers. Americans do not want higher gas prices, which is the direction H.R. 2264 could take us.

The Democratic leadership should have waited until the Government Accountability Office is able to study the likelihood of retaliatory actions against the United States and any negative impact those actions would yield if H.R. 2264 became law. American security is not something we should treat glibly.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 2264. The uncertain impact this bill could have on America's national security, energy security and economic security is not worth risking for hasty passage of a bill that will yield no short-term benefits for the American people.

OPPOSITION TO SENATE IMMIGRATION BILL

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to the irresponsible immigration bill being considered in the Senate. As I travel around the big first congressional district in Kansas, the number one issue Kansans want to talk about is immigration. Across my home State and across the Nation, illegal immigration affects all aspects of life in our communities. Schools must deal with educating growing numbers of students who speak little or no English. Hospital emergency rooms grow even more crowded. Law enforcement work overtime to keep neighborhoods safe.

While our immigration process is broken and needs dramatic overhaul, the legislation currently being debated in the Senate is not the answer. The Senate proposal is public policy at its worst. I oppose the Senate legislation. As I have said since this debate began, the first priority must be to restore the integrity of our borders. Without secure borders, the laws dealing with citizenship and worker permits are irrelevant.

In addition to protecting the border, we also need a fair and efficient immigration agency that encourages compliance with our laws so that those who wish to come to the United States legally are able to do so in a timely and appropriate manner.

I am more than willing to work with my colleagues to craft legislation that truly will address this country's immigration issue, but the compromise legislation pending in the Senate only exacerbates the problem.

HONORING EDWARD LEWIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and career of Ed Lewis. Today Ed is being honored by the Greater New Haven, Connecticut Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for his many decades of leadership in the fight for civil rights, equality and social justice in our country.

Ed is currently the Vice President of Franchise Relations for the Charlotte Bobcats in the National Basketball Association (NBA). In that role he develops relationships with state and local governments on behalf of that organization, and also ensures diversity in the Bobcats' business partnerships.

Ed brings a wealth of professional experience to his current position, having served as a leader in the cable television industry for many years. Before joining the Bobcats' organization, he was the Vice President of Corporate Affairs for BET (Black Entertainment Television) on Jazz: The Jazz Channel. Ed also served with distinction at Telecommunications, Inc. (TCI); District Cablevision, Inc.; and District Cable Advertising. His service with BET networks goes back to 1993, when he

served in roles related to network operations, consumer affairs and marketing. Ed received his B.A. from Howard University, and his M.A. from Occidental College. He was a National Urban Fellow, Ford Foundation Fellow and Associate Administrator for procurement for the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Throughout his career, Ed has been active in professional and community groups, and maintains various leadership roles within those organizations. He is on the Board of Directors at Theater Charlotte; WTVI Public Television; and the Bobby Phills Foundation. Ed serves on the advisory boards of the Mint Museum as well as the Mint Museum of Craft and Design. Furthermore, he is a member of the Charlotte Rotary, as well as 100 Black Men of Charlotte.

I have known Ed for many years and I salute his unwavering commitment to young people. He is an inspirational role model to young African American boys and teenagers, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

Ed's dedication to creating a more just and equitable society has had a positive impact on countless lives within and beyond the African American community. On this very special day, I join the friends, family and colleagues of Ed Lewis in thanking and saluting him for his profound contributions to his community, our country and our world.

A TRIBUTE TO SAN MATEO COUNTY JOBS FOR YOUTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize a remarkable program for young people in my home district in California, the San Mateo County Jobs for Youth program will celebrate a quarter century of success on May 31, 2007.

This nonprofit program, founded and facilitated by my good friend Al Teglia, serves youth ages 14 to 21 regardless of background, socio-economic status, or risk level, at no cost to them or to employers. Youth learn to master job applications, prepare for interviews and create resumes; they then receive job or internship leads to help further their ambitions. Last year, nearly 2,000 young people were served in its five offices located throughout San Mateo County.

Madam Speaker, when so many bemoan the lack of effective programs to address the importance of giving young people a step up the ladder of employment, the Jobs for Youth program facilitates wonderful opportunities through its job development and referral program for youth.

The celebration scheduled for May 31 will focus on several specific examples of success. Gilead Sciences in Foster City will be honored at the event with a special business recognition, and Daly City will be presented the fourth annual Mary Louise Paskevich Award in memory of her 20-year Jobs for Youth participation. Both entities actively support the program by hiring program graduates and helping youth around the county. Bill Somerville of Philanthropic Ventures Foundation will also be acknowledged. He donated the "seed money" to Al Teglia to start up Jobs for Youth, which was initially called Summer

Jobs for Youth until 2000, when it became a year-round program.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the good work and success of San Mateo County Jobs for Youth as they celebrate 25 years of helping young people begin their productive lives of employment.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE MINING ACCIDENT IN NOVOKUZNETSK, RUSSIA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences over the terrible mining accident that took place earlier today near the Russian city of Novokuznetsk in Siberia. According to news reports, as many as 38 people may have been killed and still others injured in a methane gas explosion at the Yubileynaya coal mine. This is a terrible and sad accident.

Words alone cannot adequately convey my sympathy over this tragic accident. Coal mining is a difficult and dangerous job often done by the economically disadvantaged and accidents such as these only make that challenging way of life harder. Indeed, we Americans are, unfortunately, no stranger to mining accidents.

Just this morning the Helsinki Commission held a hearing on Russia. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those Russians affected by this tragedy and we hope that those who remain trapped are recovered soon and alive.

TRIBUTE TO SUNEIL IYER, SECOND PLACE WINNER IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sunil Iyer, a seventh grade student at Indian Trail Junior High School in Olathe, Kansas, who recently finished in second place at the 2007 National Geography Bee.

Suneil, who received a \$15,000 college scholarship prize award, qualified for the national bee by winning the Kansas National Geographic Bee for the second year in a row. Like his family, friends and neighbors, I am very proud of Suneil, and welcome this opportunity to share news of his success with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I include with this statement two recent articles from the local press regarding Suneil Iyer's success: an article from the Kansas City Star that was published prior to the national bee, and an article from today's Olathe Daily News summarizing the results of that competition.

[From The Kansas City Star, May 18, 2007]

THREE-PEAT NOT ON GEOGRAPHY WHIZ'S MAP: INDIAN TRAIL STUDENT PLACED FOURTH IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE LAST YEAR

(By Martha Zirschky)

Suneil Iyer has always loved animals, his mother says. The Indian Trail eighth-grader is intrigued by the wildlife in Antarctica and says he'd love to travel there.

A year ago, Suneil Iyer missed a question on the "Somers Islands"—aka Bermuda—at the National Geographic Bee finals in Washington, D.C. and was eliminated.

Many would find consolation in being the youngest finalist and still finishing fourth on the national stage. But not Suneil, now a 12-year-old Indian Trail Junior High seventh-grader who's again qualified for next week's final round.

If he places in the top three and wins scholarships worth \$25,000, \$15,000 or \$10,000, he would be ineligible to return again in 2008. That's his goal.

"I want to win and get it over with," he said.

Suneil qualified for the national bee by winning the Kansas National Geographic Bee for the second-straight year. Next Tuesday, he'll be one of 55 fourth- to eighth-graders who advanced from an original field of 5 million contestants to compete in the national preliminaries. Tuesday's top 10 winners will move on to Wednesday's finals with Alex Trebek, the Jeopardy host, serving as moderator.

Suneil will join geography bee winners from the 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, United States Territories and Department of Defense Dependents schools. His trip and that of his seventh-grade social studies teacher, Jill King, are being paid for by National Geographic.

Contestants can miss one question, Suneil said, and still stay in the running. Miss again and you're eliminated. Suneil made it to question 95 last year before his second miss.

The questions are both oral and written, and contestants have 12 seconds to answer, Suneil said. Both physical and cultural geography are fair game.

His goal, of course, is the \$25,000 college scholarship. Second or third would be an improvement over last year. The main thing, he says, is to win and not have to return to the pressure mill of a national contest.

Suneil has a large support system of family, friends and school community.

"This is a nice cooperative community," his mother, Lila, said. "It is a great community in which to raise kids."

Suneil's father, Ramakrishnan, is his main tutor, but he's also mentored by Eswar, an older brother. Although Suneil beat his brother last year at the state bee to win the trip to nationals, Eswar remains one of his biggest fans.

At Indian Trail, students even help Suneil by researching geography questions and putting them on cards for Suneil to study.

"The school supports Suneil with its 'Suneil, did you know?' (program)," Assistant Principal Margo Twaddle said.

Twaddle dispels the notion that Suneil is a one-trick pony. He's been the school spelling bee champ, participated in the Science Olympiad, been to math camp and played on a recreational softball team.

His career goals include becoming a pilot or marine biologist, or—not surprisingly—a geographer. He won his first geography bee when he was in fourth grade and began drawing animals at age three.

"As a little guy, he was always interested in animals, real or fictional," his mother said.

Suneil's father travels extensively and occasionally the family accompanies him, as

they did on a "trip of a lifetime" to the Galapagos Islands. The best part, Suneil said, was the islands' animal inhabitants, such as the iguana and giant tortoise.

On Suneil's dream itinerary? Egypt for the antiquities, he says, and Antarctica for the wildlife.

But first, there's a trip to Washington D.C.

[From the Olathe News, May 24, 2007]

OLATHE BOY PLACES SECOND IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE

(By Arley Hoskin)

Olathe residents do not have to travel far to find a geography whiz.

Indian Trail Junior High School seventh-grader Suneil Iyer demonstrated his talent Wednesday with a second-place finish at the 2007 National Geography Bee.

"We are so proud of him," said Suneil's mother, Linda Iyer. Suneil traveled to Washington, D.C., with his parents, Linda and Ram Iyer, and his ninth-grade brother, Eswar, on Monday. The preliminary rounds started Tuesday.

The top 10 students competed in the final round Wednesday. Suneil competed in the bee for the first time last year when he placed fourth. He said he wanted to do better this year and is happy with second place.

"I wanted to get first, but I still thought second was pretty good," Suneil said.

Suneil received a \$15,000 college scholarship for his finish.

Suneil stumbled when judges asked him to name "a city that is divided by a river of the same name that was the imperial capital of Vietnam for more than a century."

"I just guessed," Suneil said.

Suneil did not guess the correct answer: Hue.

Caitlin Snaring, a 14-year-old home school student from Washington, placed first and received a \$25,000 college scholarship. Third place, and a \$10,000 college scholarship, went to Mark Arildsen, a 13-year-old Tennessee student. Linda Iyer said Suneil gained more than geographical knowledge and college money during the competition.

"The connections with the kids that he's made have been really wonderful," she said. "The kids here are all just really interested in this geography thing. They were just having a ball here." After Tuesday's rounds, the students gathered for a barbecue and games. Suneil said he enjoyed the recreational activities the bee planned for the students.

"They were fun," he said.

Ram Iyer said he thinks Suneil continues to show his peers in Olathe that geography is fun.

"His school was very excited that he was going," Ram Iyer said. "This has made a lot of other students think about if they want to try the geography bee."

Students age 10 to 14 can compete in the national bee, but this will be 12-year-old Suneil's last year. Students who place first, second or third cannot compete again.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL RYAN A. BISHOP, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the State of Texas and of our Nation.

Corporal Ryan A. Bishop was a United States Army soldier and a true American hero who gallantly and selflessly gave his life for