

The congressional district I represent would not be such a wonderful place without organizations such as this one, many of which are inspired by the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary. Most notably, the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary takes a keen interest in enriching the lives of young people. By sponsoring participants in Missouri Girls State and contributing to programs like Sikeston's Teacher Appreciation Week and the YMCA, the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary makes a profound investment in our future leaders. Neither does the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary forget those who served, supporting efforts at the Missouri Veterans Home, the John J. Pershing Veterans Hospital, the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery, and conducting an annual drive to benefit local disabled veterans. There are so many other ways in which the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary lends its support to our community, they are too numerous to list today.

Ultimately, the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary embodies the virtues of service. They are an active organization which is well-known throughout the region for its year-in, year-out commitment to the care, enrichment and betterment of the Sikeston community.

As a way of recognizing and honoring the important contributions of the Sikeston American Legion Auxiliary, I am proud to commend them for 80 years of philanthropy in the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri and to wish them all the best as they continue to endeavor in the charitable service of our community.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RETIREMENT OF ALETTE LUNDEBERG

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the contributions and well-deserved retirement of Ms. Alette Lundeberg. Alette has served the County of Santa Clara for 23 years, and has worked tirelessly for decades as an advocate for poor and indigent peoples, founding numerous programs for the underserved population in the community. Alette has been a leading figure on welfare and refugee issues at the local, state, and national levels.

Alette Lundeberg began demonstrating her leadership ability through teaching in the 1970s as an instructor at San Jose State University and De Anza College in Cupertino. She taught a graduate-level social science course focusing on public service. In addition to teaching, Alette worked as the Community School Director for the Sunnyvale Elementary School District, where she established city-wide community education programs for women.

From 1977 to 1979, Alette worked in the County Executive's Office of Santa Clara as an Associate Management Analyst. She investigated and mediated complaints of discrimination, analyzed legislation, and prepared funding proposals.

In the 1980s, Alette started working with the Social Services Agency's Refugee program. She was responsible for the \$16 million dollar annual budget and managed 130 staff mem-

bers while collaborating with local counties and states on legislation issues.

In the late 1990s, Alette was appointed as Administrator of Benefit Services for the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency. She has been responsible for the Agency's Employment Support Initiative, which has been the planning arena for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids, a welfare program that assists California families through services and cash aid. Aside from working as the Administrator of Benefit Services, Alette has also been a Board Member for numerous local community groups including the San Jose Development Corporation, Planned Parenthood of Santa Clara County, and Asian Americans for Community Involvement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor this wonderful role model and mentor: Alette was my teacher on women's issues. Alette has spent countless years enriching the community through her leadership and dedication. Alette Lundeberg's work has been inspirational to many in the community and I offer her my best wishes for her much deserved retirement and thank her once again for her work serving the people of Santa Clara County.

HONORING GEORGE E. STEPP

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George E. Stepp for 38 years of dedicated service to the youth of Fairfax, VA.

Mr. Stepp began his career in 1969 as a social studies teacher with Fairfax County Public Schools. He quickly and eagerly made the transition to the administrative side when he was promoted to become assistant principal at Falls Church High School. Mr. Stepp went on to serve as principal at West Springfield High School for 6 years and Lake Braddock Secondary School for 3 years. In 1989, he became the superintendent of schools for area IV in the Fairfax County Public School system. He served in this position until he retired to become superintendent of schools for the city of Fairfax.

Over his career, Mr. Stepp has demonstrated an interest in his students, a desire to help them succeed, and the ability to put these aspirations into policies that create positive tangible outcomes. All students, faculty and parents who have been through one of his school's have expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the tireless work he has undertaken on their behalf.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. George E. Stepp for all of his accomplishments. His legacy of success is found in each and every student who has traveled through his halls, taken his tests, and is now a contributing member of our community. While he will be greatly missed, his retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding George for these past accomplishments and in wishing him continued success in the years to come.

HONORING ARIZONA'S WILD HORSES

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Arizona's wild horses living in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

The residents of the State of Arizona deeply value these magnificent wild horses.

These beautiful wild horses are truly the "Living Symbols of the West," as described by the Wild Horse and Burro Act passed by Congress in 1971 to protect the wild horses of the United States.

The Rim Country wild horses date back to mounts brought by Father Eusebio Kino, who began his 1653 mission to eastern Arizona by setting out from the lands of my constituency in southern Arizona and traveling across our State northeast to the "borders of the lands of the Apacheria which border on New Mexico."

These original Spanish horses are the great ancestors of the Mogollon Rim country wild horses. They were the mighty Andalusian war horse, whose origins go back more than 28,000 years to the original Iberian horse; the magnificent Spanish Barb; and the graceful and fluid Spanish Jennet, the mount of many of the great kings of Europe; and the strong bloodlines of these original horses appear almost unchanged in our Rim wild horses 400 years later.

Our Arizona Rim wild horses are the direct descendants of the Spanish horses prized by the conquistadors so highly that the foals were carried in hammocks to protect their legs until they were old enough to travel on the forced marches; and prized by the early cattlemen for their endurance and heart and were the very mounts of the U.S. Cavalry as they rode to protect and expand the American west.

The Arizona Rim Country wild horses living in Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests are a most precious natural resource to be preserved for our children and grandchildren who will be able to see them for generations to come.

THE PGA OF AMERICA/DISABLED SPORTS USA MILITARY GOLF PROGRAM

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an excellent new project to improve the lives of American soldiers who were wounded serving our country: the Disabled Sports USA Military Golf Program. The Wounded Warrior Project, Disabled Sports USA, America Supports You and the PGA of America have created a new program that aims to help rehabilitate veterans severely wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. By instructing these wounded warriors how to play golf, the PGA and Disabled Sports USA teaches our disabled veterans a fulfilling recreation pursuit.

These organizations provide invaluable services to our veterans. Wounded Warriors

offer programs nationwide that offer our severely injured soldiers opportunities to rebuild their lives.

Disabled Sports USA, established in 1967 by disabled Vietnam veterans to serve the war injured, has expanded to provide rehabilitative sports programs to anyone with a permanent disability.

America Supports You was launched in November, 2004, by the Department of Defense, and built a network of supporters that writes letters, sends care packages and helps the wounded when they return home.

And the PGA, America's largest working sports organization, comprised of 28,000 men and women dedicated to growing, teaching and managing the game of golf, has throughout its 91-year history provided instruction and equipment to the military and employment opportunities to veterans.

I am proud to recognize these four organizations that are doing so much to aid our honored veterans. I hope my fellow members of Congress share my passion for the Military Golf Program. The program, and its purpose of giving back to those who so nobly served our country, is worthy of our praise.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, February 5th, the Department of Defense made a request for the resources and flexibility required to successfully prosecute the Global War on Terror. For 3½ months Congress has failed in this fundamental, constitutional responsibility. Today, I am pleased to finally support H.R. 2206, the FY 2007 Iraq and Afghanistan War Supplemental Appropriations bill. I believe this legislation strikes the right balance of unfettered access to resources by our military and the establishment of guiding benchmarks for the new Iraqi government. In addition, I applaud the inclusion of disaster relief funding for Greensburg, Kansas, and an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

I want to thank Chairman OBEY and Ranking Member LEWIS for their hard work on this legislation. Putting aside political grandstanding and maneuvering, we have finally come together to produce legislation that provides our soldiers with the funding they need, while providing the flexibility our commanders in Iraq require—showing the commitment of this Congress to success in Iraq and the broader War on Terror.

Our Soldiers and Marines are in desperate need of funding for essential procurement items, operations and maintenance, and military paychecks and benefits. Among other things, this legislation will fuel our trucks, feed our soldiers, provide imminent danger pay, and arm them against our nation's enemies. This funding comes without unrealistic and dangerous strings that could have placed lives of our servicemen and women in jeopardy.

This Congress is finally showing its commitment to success in the Global War on Terror.

We must never forget that this war was started by Muslim extremists and has been waged against the United States and its citizens since the 1970s. However, almost every skirmish and battle prior to the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 found the United States on the defensive and on the losing side. Does this House remember the killing of 241 Marines in Beirut in 1983? The U.S. Embassy bombing in Lisbon in 1986? The first World Trade Center bombing in 1993? The Khobar Towers bombing in 1996? The bombing of our U.S. Embassies in Africa in 1998? Or the bombing of the USS *Cole* in 2000? Our ignorance of these events culminated in the attacks on September 11th, 2001. Each one of these was a battle in this war we now face. I hope this House finally understands we cannot win this war on the defensive.

The terrorists took the fight to us for decades; now we must take the fight to the terrorists. I do not want this war. But rest assured—this war will happen regardless of our presence in Iraq or Afghanistan. The question is, "Does this fight happen on the streets of Baghdad or the streets of New York City or Wichita, Kansas?" We must take the fight to the enemy. We must stay on the offense. Fortunately, this legislation now allows the United States to stay on the offensive in this global struggle.

In addition to providing critical funding for our military, this legislation provides \$40 million of disaster relief funding for Greensburg, Kansas, which was completely destroyed during a recent tornado. The most devastating natural disaster to strike Kansas in years, Greensburg is a city without schools, businesses, or houses. However, the people of Greensburg have a passion and vision to rebuild their town, and I am pleased that this Congress is committing the resources required to begin that process.

Mr. Speaker, I want to personally thank Chairman OBEY and Ranking Member LEWIS for working with me and the Kansas delegation to include this funding for Greensburg. The tornado took away so much from this community, but it did not take away the Kansan spirit of big dreams and hard work. Greensburg will be rebuilt, and the funding provided here today will help make that happen.

Not only do the people of Greensburg receive support in this legislation, but the workers in Wichita and around the country will receive a well-deserved pay raise. I stand in support of raising the Federal minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour in conjunction with providing associated tax relief for small businesses.

However, when dealing with the minimum wage, it is imperative that small businesses be provided with associated tax relief. When small and family-owned businesses are forced to shoulder increased costs, they have no choice but to hire fewer workers, reduce current worker benefits, and pass along the costs to consumers in the form of higher prices. Therefore, providing associated tax relief will allow the workers we intend to help keep their jobs. I applaud this bill for providing the minimum wage increase with the associated tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is facing great challenges from fighting the Global War on Terror to rebuilding communities devastated by natural disasters. By working together in a bipartisan approach, Congress can do the right

thing. This Iraq and Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations bill provides our troops the resources they need, helps rebuild Greensburg, and gives a well-deserved raise to \$5.6 million people. For that, I am pleased to offer my support.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN EDWARD HARDMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Edward Hardeman and The Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) Unit at Centennial High School in Las Vegas, NV for being named the 2007 Navy League Most Outstanding Unit in the nation.

Captain Hardeman oversees 215 cadets along with Senior Chief Tom Borders and Petty Officer Gail Johnson. The Naval JROTC Unit is in its sixth year at Centennial High School which received 7th overall in the nation at the NJROTC National Drill, Physical Fitness, and Academics Championships in Florida this past April. They were also awarded the Captain Jim Harvey Best School Sportsmanship/Spirit Award for the third time in four years; a feat no other school in the nation has ever accomplished.

Centennial High School's Naval JROTC Unit has been awarded the 2007 Navy League Most Outstanding (Best) Unit in the nation by the National Navy League, and is only the second unit in the nation to have been unanimously selected for this honor. The NJROTC program has 625 units throughout the world, including schools in Japan, Guam, and Spain.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Captain Edward Hardeman and the Naval JROTC Unit at Centennial High School for their tremendous achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I took a leave of absence on June 6, 2007, as I was in my district on personal business. The following list describes how I would have voted had I been in attendance today.

Suspension bills: "Yea," H.R. 1051, National STEM Scholarship Database Act; "Yea," H.R. 2559, Higher Education Act Extension Act of 2007; "Yea," H. Res. 421, honoring the trailblazing accomplishments of the "Mercury 13" women, whose efforts in the early 1960s demonstrated the capabilities of American women to undertake the human exploration of space; "Yea," H. Res. 446, honoring the life and accomplishments of Astronaut Walter Marty Schirra and expressing condolences on his passing; "Yea," H.R. 1467, 10,000 Trained by 2010 Act; "Yea," H.R. 1716, Green Energy Education Act of 2007; "Yea," H.R. 632, H-Prize Act of 2007; "Yea," H.R. 964, Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act; "Yea," H.R. 2560, Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2007.