

School system. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Geoffrey Steffens for his service to our Nation and wishing him the best in a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 6, 2007, I could not be present for rollcall votes 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, and 439 because I was attending my daughter's high school graduation.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

"No" on rollcall 431, H. Res. 435—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 2446, Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 432, H.R. 1716—Green Energy Education Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 433, H.R. 632—To authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish monetary prizes for achievements in overcoming scientific and technical barriers associated with hydrogen energy;

"No" on rollcall 434, H.R. 964—Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 435, H.R. 2446—Kirk Amendment;

"No" on rollcall 436, H.R. 2446—Kucinich Amendment;

"Yes" on rollcall 437, H.R. 2446—Motion to Recommit with Instructions Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

"Yes" on rollcall 438, H.R. 2446—Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

"No" on rollcall 439, H.R. 2560—Human Cloning Prohibition Act.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE CENTER ON HALSTED

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the opening of the Center on Halsted, a new gay and lesbian community center at 3656 N. Halsted, in the heart of the northside of the Fifth District. This new facility will give the surrounding community a state of the art building for youth services, mental health services and community/cultural programming and more.

The Center on Halsted has actually served Chicago's gay and lesbian community for more than three decades. Unfortunately, though, they had to make do with temporary facilities for a number of years. Today, the community has a place to call home.

This grand opening has been a long time in coming, with planning dating back to 2001. I am proud to have worked closely with the leadership at the Center on Halsted, Mayor Daley, Alderman Tunney, and many other local leaders to make the dream of a new center a reality.

The Center on Halsted focuses their programming into three areas: mental health,

youth and community outreach, and cultural programming. One of the center's goals is to provide role models for young members of the gay and lesbian community.

The three-story facility is a proud home for a proud community, and the end product is almost as remarkable as the hard work of all the people who made it happen. The roof deck, computer lab, theater facilities, Whole Foods, café, and more will make the Center on Halsted a welcoming location for its neighbors and an engine for economic development on the northside of Chicago.

Madam Speaker, I am thrilled that the Center on Halsted has opened its doors. I want to congratulate everyone involved on a job well done, and I know the center will be an important part of Chicago for a long time to come.

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ALBERT J. SIMONE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of a distinguished academic who I am privileged to call my friend, Dr. Albert J. Simone. Dr. Simone has served as the president of Rochester Institute of Technology since September 1, 1992, and during that time I have had the pleasure of working with him as he advanced the university's reputation as a leading career-oriented institution. He is retiring his post this year, and his vision and leadership will be sorely missed.

Before taking the helm at RIT, Dr. Simone served as president of the University of Hawaii System and chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He also taught at several well-respected institutions for higher education, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, University of Cincinnati, and the University of Hawaii. But his achievements go far beyond administration and instruction.

Dr. Simone has authored countless publications, including books and journal articles on the application of mathematics, statistics, and computers to economics and business. He is a founding editor of *Decision Sciences* and is a past president and fellow of the Institute of Decision Sciences. And, although he is retiring, he will continue to make contributions to academia as he is currently in the process of collecting data for a book he will be writing on higher education.

A true trailblazer, Dr. Simone was the first American university president to officially visit North Korea, Vietnam, and Vladivostok when these regions were closed to the United States except for cultural and educational exchange. He oversaw the launch of three Ph.D. programs at RIT in the areas of microsystems engineering, computing and information sciences, and color science. And, under his stewardship, six bachelor's degree programs have been added to the university's offerings, including programs in information technology, software engineering, chemistry and polymer chemistry, biochemistry, advertising and public relations, and new media publishing. These

new programs represent the university's understanding of the needs of the community outside of it, and help distinguish the city of Rochester as a center for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Simone led RIT's largest capital campaign, raising \$310 million which enabled the university to add over 210 new scholarships, name three colleges, add seven new endowed professorships, build nine new campus facilities, add \$90 million in new applied research initiatives, and add \$34 to the RIT endowment. This capital campaign enhanced RIT's reputation, made college education more accessible for more students, and gave students and faculty better resources to pursue their academic endeavors.

Thanks to Dr. Simone and the programs he has cultivated at RIT, the university has become a strong partner in regional economic development efforts. His endeavors have consistently reflected his belief that the "'R' in RIT means something." Aside from creating academic programs at the university to address the business needs of the Rochester and the surrounding region, Dr. Simone served as chairman of the board of the Greater Rochester Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the boards of the Rochester Business Alliance, the Center for Government Research, and the Finger Lakes Partnership for the WIRED initiative. His involvement in these and countless other community organizations has benefited not only the organizations themselves, but also the university and its students by establishing important networking opportunities and using the knowledge from those relationships to inform the direction of the university.

Dr. Simone has been recognized by several organizations throughout western New York and the Nation for his outstanding leadership and community involvement. He was the recipient of the Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award from Partners for Livable Communities—2006, the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County Racial Justice Award—2005, the Rochester International Council International Citizen Award—2004, the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals President's Award—2001, and the Rochester Business Alliance Civic Medal among many, many others.

RIT and the community surrounding it owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Simone, and I am honored today to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his service. His legacy will live on at RIT, and I look forward to seeing the university continue to flourish. I wish Dr. Simone and his wife Carolie, their four children, and five grandchildren the best during his retirement.

HONORING THE 32ND ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 32nd Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT, communities, their families, and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current week-

long celebration. This year Capital Pride culminates with the Pride Parade on June 9th and "The Main Event," a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol, June 10th.

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community.

This year's theme, "Together we can, Together we will," holds special meaning for the citizens of the District of Columbia and its GLBT community in particular. Washingtonians live in distinct diverse neighborhoods such as Colonial Village to the North, Fort Drum to the South, Northeast Boundary to the East, and Spring Valley to the West. Together we can unite in our quest for all the rights guaranteed U.S. citizens by the Constitution.

In 1994 the District of Columbia lost the first vote it ever won on the floor of the House of Representatives, the delegate vote in the Committee of the Whole. The Republicans retracted the District's vote when they assumed control of the House and this right was re-established under Speaker NANCY PELOSI. Our city of 550,000 residents, 10 percent more residents than the entire State of Wyoming, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States subject to Taxation Without Representation. Our Nation's Capital is entitled full voting rights in the House and the Senate. On April 19, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1905, The District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007. The measure is now before the Senate and is an important milestone on DC's road to full and equal representation.

This one success is a reminder of the pending legislation that the 110th Congress must pass: The Clarification of Federal Employment Protections Act, The Early Treatment for HIV Act, The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, The Responsible Education About Life Act, The Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, and The Uniting American Families Act.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming the celebrants attending the 32nd Annual Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that U.S. citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

RECOGNIZING LIUNA LOCAL 777

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to commemorate a significant milestone and to commend the leadership of the Laborers International Union of North America, LIUNA, Local 777 and its International Union, for their unyielding dedication to fight for the rights of working Americans.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the county workers in Riverside County joining LIUNA Local 777.

Thanks to the profound efforts and devotion of the original organizing committee and sub-

sequent rank and file leaders, Local 777 has become a powerful, dynamic, and active organization committed to improving the quality of life for workers.

Local 777 continues to grow today. From its humble roots of 57 founding members working for the City of Indio in 1993, Local 777 boasts a current membership of nearly 9,000.

LIUNA's membership, which includes workers in the health sector, construction, mail handlers, school employees, higher education employees, and more, have had a positive impact on the community in Riverside, and throughout the whole state of California.

The organization has remained dedicated to their mission of ensuring hard-working Americans are given fair wages, good benefits, a safe work environment, and a chance to fulfill the American dream.

Besides protecting worker's rights, LIUNA also is very active in communities throughout California. The organization sponsors informative training, education, and safety programs that benefit all citizens.

It is with great pride that I recognize the Laborers International Union Local 777 of Riverside County. On this important anniversary, we rise to thank them for all they do to protect working American families.

TRIBUTE TO MONUMENTS MEN AND WOMEN OF WORLD WAR II

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on this 63rd anniversary of D-day, I am proud to pay tribute to the men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives program, MFAA, under the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the United States Armed Forces for their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and other priceless artifacts in Europe and Asia during and following World War II.

That is why I am proud to be a sponsor of H. Con. Res. 48, which provides much needed recognition to the "Monuments Men and Women" who did so much to preserve many of the world's great cultural treasures.

Without their dedication and service, many more of the world's artistic and historic treasures would have been destroyed or lost forever amidst the chaos and destruction of World War II.

I wish to give special thanks and appreciation to the "Monuments Men" for establishing the precedent of protecting cultural property in the event of armed conflict, and by setting a standard not just for one country, but for people of all nations to acknowledge and uphold.

In 1943, the United States Government established the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas to promote and coordinate the protection and salvage of works of art and cultural and historical monuments and records in countries occupied by Allied armies during World War II. The chairman of the Commission was Supreme Court Associate Justice Owen J. Roberts.

In connection with the establishment of the Roberts Commission, the Monuments, Fine

Arts, and Archives program, MFAA, was established under the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the United States Armed Forces.

The Roberts Commission and the MFAA provide an example for other countries, working in conjunction with the United States, to develop similar programs. More than 100 foreign MFAA personnel, representing at least 17 countries, contributed to this international effort.

The MFAA was comprised of both men and women, commissioned officers and civilians, who were appointed or volunteered to serve as representatives of the Roberts Commission and as the official guardians of some of the world's greatest artistic and cultural treasures.

Members of the MFAA, called the "Monuments Men," often joined frontline military forces and some even lost their lives in combat during World War II. For years following the Allied victory in World War II, members of the MFAA worked tirelessly to locate, identify, catalogue, restore, and repatriate priceless works of art and irreplaceable cultural artifacts, including masterpieces by Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rembrandt and Vermeer, that had been stolen or sequestered by the Axis powers.

The heroic actions of the MFAA in saving priceless works of art and irreplaceable cultural artifacts for future generations cannot be overstated. It set a moral precedent and established standards, practices, and procedures for the preservation, protection, and restitution of artistic and cultural treasures in future armed conflicts.

Members of the MFAA went on to become renowned directors and curators of preeminent international cultural institutions, including the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Toledo Museum of Art, and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, as well as professors at institutions of higher education, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, New York University, Williams College, and Columbia University.

Other members of the MFAA were founders, presidents, and members of associations, such as the New York City Ballet, the American Association of Museums, the American Association of Museum Directors, the Archaeological Institute of America, the Society of Architectural Historians, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as respected artists, architects, musicians, and archivists.

Madam Speaker, it bears repeating that the heroic actions of the MFAA in saving priceless works of art and irreplaceable cultural artifacts for future generations cannot be overstated. It established the standards, practices, and procedures for the preservation, protection, and saved for the world artistic and cultural treasures of inestimable value.

I salute the "Monuments Men and Women," who by their example provide further proof of why we call theirs the "Greatest Generation."

MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mental Health