

lives, by raising the drinking age to 21 across the country.”

Now, there are some that are advocating—lowering the drinking age back to 18. These people are unfortunately choosing what is easy over what is right and what is effective.

It would be easy to allow 18 to 20 year olds to drink, but we would pay for it with lives. The Centers for Disease Control, CDC, looked at 49 high-quality, peer-reviewed studies of places that changed their drinking age and found conclusively that moving the drinking age up to 21 decreases alcohol-involved crash fatalities by 16 percent and lowering it increases fatalities by 10 percent.

New Zealand is a good example of this. In 1999, New Zealand lowered its drinking age from 20 to 18. Not only did the alcohol-involved crash rate increase among 18 and 19 year olds, but also among 15 to 17 year olds. It is absurd to think that this would not happen in the United States were we to take the easy path.

It would be easy to think that teaching young people to drink would increase responsible drinking habits, but what is easy isn't what is true. Most European countries with lower drinking ages have not only higher drinking rates, but higher binge drinking and intoxication rates. Several of these countries, like the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Canada, are considering increasing their drinking ages because the 21 minimum drinking age is so effective.

It would be easy to assume that 18 to 20 year olds could drink safely, but in truth, all underage drinking is unsafe drinking. Brain research shows us that the brain continues to develop into the early twenties. The part that controls reasoning and cognitive ability is the last to mature and thus the most vulnerable to damage. The part of the brain responsible for new memories is noticeably smaller in youth that abuse alcohol. Alcohol use in the teen years also is associated with decreased brain functioning, memory, movement, and attention, and these changes may be permanent.

These and many more reasons are why a host of experts, including the CDC, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, General Accounting Office, Institute of Medicine, Surgeon General, National Institute of Health, and more, support the 21 minimum drinking age.

It is necessary for us as legislators, parents, and responsible citizens to take the hard path and prevent our young people from accessing alcohol—adults facilitate, by selling, giving, providing, or allowing youth access to alcohol, almost all underage drinking. It is necessary to set limits, not open the liquor cabinets. And it is necessary for us as leaders to ignore those who think you can try the same experiment twice and get less fatal results.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMEMORATING WORLD
REFUGEE DAY 2007

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, since 2001, people across the globe have come together on June 20 to show their support for the millions of refugees throughout the world who

have fled their homes for fear of persecution, imprisonment or even murder. On this sixth anniversary of World Refugee Day, we make a solemn pledge to these courageous and resilient people that their plight has not gone unnoticed and they do not stand alone.

In April, I led a congressional delegation to Sudan and saw, first-hand, the effects of one of the worst refugee crises facing our world today. In Darfur, I saw mothers and fathers struggling to provide for their children's most basic needs—necessities we often take for granted, such as food, water, clothing and shelter. I saw people fighting to overcome years of physical and mental abuse so severe that they would rather wander the desert than remain in the torturous environment their homeland had become. And I saw things that made me wonder how the world could stand silent while suffering of this magnitude continued.

With more than 686,000 refugees, Sudan is now ranked as the third largest refugee crisis in the world, according to the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, falling behind Iraq, where sectarian violence has created 1.5 million refugees—1.2 million fled the country in 2006 alone—and Afghanistan with 2.1 million. And it comes as no surprise that Sudan, Iraq and Afghanistan now also rank first, second and eighth, respectively, on the Foreign Policy Index on Failed States, which was released on Tuesday.

When people are forced to flee from their homes, they leave behind more than just material possessions; they often must trade their dignity, self-respect and hopes for the future for their very survival. And it is not just the refugees themselves that suffer. The instability and mortal dangers that create refugee crises threaten the safety and security of entire regions, if not the entire world.

On this World Refugee Day, I am proud to join with the defenders of human rights who are calling on each of us to not only acknowledge the tragedies suffered by refugees across the globe, but who are also challenging us to step up and do something about it.

A TRIBUTE TO CHAMBERLAIN S.
PETERSIDE, PH.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Chamberlain S. Peterside, Ph.D. Chamberlain is the CEO and founder of the New Era Capital Corporation, a New York City-based financial services group. Chamberlain worked previously as a Certified Financial Manager with Merrill Lynch, Global Private Client Group and HSBC Bank in New York City, where he assisted high net-worth clients and institutional investors in developing strategies for managing their portfolio.

Chamberlain graduated with a Ph.D. in Finance and Economics from Friendship University in Moscow. He carries with him more than 15 years of diverse business development, management consulting and financial advisory experience from his work in Africa, Europe and the United States.

Upon graduation, Chamberlain began his career as a business consultant in his own

firm, Value Adding Consulting Group, Inc, with offices located in both Moscow and London. He advised domestic and foreign companies on the intricacies and modalities for expanding their operations in the new markets of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Chamberlain received the “40 Under 40” achievement award in June of 2001 from the Network Journal in New York for outstanding academic, professional and community service accomplishments. He has also served as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Finance and Business Management at ASA Institute of Business Management and Advanced Technology.

Currently, through New Era, Chamberlain is instrumental in developing and financing multi-million dollar telecommunication, hospitality, real estate, and oil and gas industries in Africa. He writes on many economic issues in regard to business development, and has appeared on the CNN program “In the Money,” where he discussed the need for a new approach in regard to economic reform efforts in Africa.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of Chamberlain S. Peterside, Ph.D. for his countless academic and economic accomplishments. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Chamberlain S. Peterside.

IN TRIBUTE TO GERALD WALLACE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an artistic leader and playwright from the Fourth Congressional District, Gerald Wallace. Mr. Wallace was instrumental in diversifying and enriching Milwaukee's artistic offerings by interjecting the voice of Milwaukee's African American artistic community. A prolific playwright, Mr. Wallace created works that reflected the full range of African American experience in this country.

Mr. Wallace fulfilled his childhood dream when he founded the People's Theater. He created a 20-seat theater in a building located in the heart of the African American community through funds raised by providing evening studio performances in private homes. He expanded understanding of and appreciation for African American theater by both the actors and the audience with performances by People's Theater throughout the city and the State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Wallace provided opportunities and mentored anyone interested in performing or learning other aspects of theater operation. He trained novices in speaking, projection, stage movement, and taught them to explore the depths of their characters in order to present a realistic portrayal on stage. Mr. Wallace exposed Milwaukee to the rich traditions of African American theater with the appearance of legendary actress Claudia McNeil, who performed with the People's Theater in James Baldwin's classic play, *The Amen Corner*. Many theater actors and actresses from Milwaukee began acting or honed their skills at the People's Theater. In fact, the founder of Milwaukee's African American Children's Theater had her genesis at the People's Theater.

Mr. Wallace introduced students in Milwaukee Public Schools to theater through performances that involved both music and student participation. After observing his work in the community, Adolph Suppan, the former Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Fine Arts, hired Mr. Wallace to provide community outreach through work with the People's Theater.

In later years, Mr. Wallace expanded his artistic interests by founding and operating a gallery showcasing the works by African American artists. Further, he provided classes to aspiring artists; for example Gullah basket weavers from South Carolina taught classes at his gallery. Mr. Wallace passed away on June 11, 2007; his influence and impact will be sorely missed in Milwaukee.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Gerald Wallace and his contributions to the artistic culture in the Fourth Congressional District.

THE GENERATING RETIREMENT OWNERSHIP THROUGH LONG-TERM HOLDING ACT OF 2007

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I, along with Congressman ARTUR DAVIS and Congressman JOSEPH CROWLEY, introduce today the Generating Retirement Ownership Through Long-Term Holding ("GROWTH") Act of 2007. This important bill gained the bipartisan support of 73 House colleagues in the 109th Congress. We introduce this important legislation in an effort to address one of the issues making it difficult for today's working investors to save for retirement.

Most of our Nation's mutual fund shareholders report that retirement is the primary purpose for which they are saving. More than 31 million American households are saving through taxable mutual funds, either to realize a greater return on their savings, to supplement their employers' retirement plans, or because they do not have access to such plans. Seventy-two percent of fund investors say that their primary goal is to save for retirement. At the same time, almost half about 75 million of 155 million workers—are not offered any form of pension or retirement savings plan at work.

Mutual fund investors are overwhelmingly middle-income Americans investing for the long term. For many of these investors, mutual funds are the low-cost, professionally managed, diversified way in which they are saving on their own for retirement. Currently, investors who buy shares in a mutual fund and hold for the long term find themselves taxed as they go—even though no fund shares were sold and no income was received. This legislation allows mutual fund shareholders to keep more of their own money working for them longer by deferring capital gains taxes until they actually sell their investment. The "GROWTH" Act makes it easier for these individuals to meet their goals and enjoy a secure retirement.

Those investors who opt in advance to leave capital gains generated by the fund manager reinvested in the fund are doing what so many of us want to see—they are holding

for the long term, contributing to national savings, and building up their own retirement nest egg.

The GROWTH Act will encourage Americans to save more and to save for the long term to better prepare for a secure retirement. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort and cosponsor this legislation.

SBA ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, Congressman ALBERT WYNN (D-MD) reached out to my office regarding becoming a co-sponsor of H.R. 2359, The SBA Entrepreneurial Development Programs Act of 2007. While we are unable to list Congressman WYNN as a co-sponsor since H.R. 2359 has already been placed on the Union Calendar, please know I consider Mr. WYNN a strong supporter and a co-sponsor of my legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO GAIL REED-BARNETT, ED.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the work and achievements of Gail Reed-Barnett, Ed.D. Dr. Reed-Barnett was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. From a young age, Gail's parents made certain that she understood the value of an education, a lesson that she would carry with her throughout her life.

Dr. Reed-Barnett's educational priorities are reflected in the academic paths she chose. She received her Bachelor's in Psychology at Medgar Evers College and a Master's in Education at Long Island University. She then went on to receive her Doctorate of Education from Nova Southeastern University with a concentration in Child, Youth and Family Studies.

Dr. Reed-Barnett is currently a secondary school counselor and administrator, in addition to serving as an Administrative Adjunct at Medgar Evers College for the College "Now" Program. She has taken her passion for education and used it to teach young people in her community the love and dedication that ought to be devoted to higher learning.

She is aware of the need for committed and dedicated educators and the importance of parental involvement in helping a child achieve maximum academic success. She has been instrumental in bringing many innovative programs to her school community as it relates to developing the "whole child," and building relationships between children and their families.

Dr. Reed-Barnett believes that true power lies in knowing how our educational and judicial system works and making it "work for us, not against us." This belief has been primary in driving Gail to become an active and visible participant in the Brooklyn community. She is a member of Community Board 17 and also

serves on its Youth Services Planning Committee. She has worked with State Senator, Kevin Parker, on educational issues and policies. She has also presented valuable information to parents, holding various community workshops on the "No Child Left Behind Act."

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of Gail Reed-Barnett, Ed.D, for her tireless efforts to educate and empower the youth of our country.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Gail Reed-Barnett.

IN HONOR OF WEST VIRGINIA DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise on this special day to honor my home among the hills, the great state of West Virginia. It was on June 20, 1863, that West Virginia became the 35th state to enter the Union.

The distinctiveness of West Virginia can be traced to its unique founding, as the only state to have been formed as a direct result of the Civil War, through Presidential proclamation.

In a reaction to Virginia's overrepresentation of eastern planters in the state legislature and complicated further by the swirling political issues of the day, on June 11, 1861, delegates from Virginia's western counties met to nullify Virginia's secession from the Union. Fifty counties (all of present-day West Virginia except for the land that now comprises Mineral, Grant, Lincoln, Mingo, and Summers Counties) constituted the newly formed state and served as the genesis of the vibrant and diverse place we know today as West Virginia.

The Constitution of West Virginia was approved in April of 1862, and in May of 1863, Arthur I. Boreman became our first governor. By June 20, 1863, West Virginia was officially a sovereign state. The sheer beauty of West Virginia now stands in stark and welcome contrast to the ugly conflict from which it was born.

Since its inception, West Virginia has been blessed with a striking landscape, placing it—we West Virginians believe—in a league all its own. The West Virginia state motto—"Montani Semper Liberi—" "Mountaineers are always free," sums up our powerful love of liberty and pays homage to our beautifully rugged lands that have honed our grit and determination, while attracting thousands of visitors each year.

West Virginia has historically been a leader in steel, glass, aluminum, chemical manufacturing, and natural gas industries. Small family farmers continue traditions that have served them for generations, providing, among other goods, some of the world's best apples. And our miners, who have long produced the coal that made our country strong, continue to dig to keep our national economy running.

But, as the old saying goes "nothing endures but change." And we are seeing a change in West Virginia. In fact, West Virginia's foray into new technology has provided new horizons for her residents, opening West Virginia for business while allowing us to remain wild and wonderful.

West Virginia may be 144 years old today, but it is just beginning to blossom. Our future