

worker who can work across the hall to work across the globe. One of the main reasons businesses still want to locate in America is because we have well-educated workers. Because of this need for well-educated workers to keep our country competitive, we can't allow—or afford—people to drop out and not reach their full potential.

I am therefore introducing the Every Student Counts Act to bring meaningful accountability to high schools for America's dropout crisis. The legislation builds on the National Governors Association's Graduation Rate Compact, which was signed by all 50 of the Nation's governors in 2005. It would ensure that schools are held accountable for graduating students by creating a single, accurate, and consistent measurement for reporting and accountability of high school graduation rates. The Every Student Counts Act would require high schools to increase their graduation rates by meeting annual, research-based benchmarks with the long-term goal of reaching a 90 percent graduation rate. The bill would also require the disaggregation of graduation data by subgroup to ensure that schools are held accountable for increasing the graduation rate for all of our students. Finally, the bill would give schools credit for graduating students who need extra time by allowing students who graduate in 5 years to count toward a school's successful graduation rates.

It is my hope that with this bill, we can make great strides toward graduating more of America's students and preparing them to succeed in college and in life. I would like to thank RUBÉN HINOJOSA, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness and an original cosponsor of this bill, for his support. I encourage my colleagues to become cosponsors of this critical legislation and hope that we will see it become law during the 110th Congress.

HONORING O.L. RAULERSON

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the life achievements of O.L. Raulerson, the first Floridian to be elected sheriff in two Florida counties. Mr. Raulerson, who passed this Sunday at the age of 65, devoted his life to serving central Florida communities.

His law enforcement career began with the Florida Highway Patrol, where he served as a State trooper. He later moved to the Highlands County Sheriff's Office, where he first served as sheriff from 1970 to 1977.

Mr. Raulerson transferred to the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office and after 6 years of service was appointed sheriff of Okeechobee County in 1986. In 1988 he was officially elected sheriff and faithfully served the community for over 10 years.

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Mr. Raulerson's family and to the Florida communities which have lost a much loved and respected leader.

THE PLUG-IN HYBRID
OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2007

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, the goals of achieving energy independence and reducing our global warming pollution cannot be adequately addressed without a transformation in our transportation sector. This sector lies at the nexus of the twin problems of our energy dependence and global warming. Two-thirds of the oil we consume every day goes into the transportation sector. After Congress mandated a doubling of fuel economy standards from 13.5 to 27.5 miles per gallon, our dependence on foreign oil went from 46.5% in 1977 to 27% in 1985. But since then our fuel economy standards have been stuck in neutral or even reverse and our dependence on imported oil has climbed to 60%.

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) have the potential. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles represent a technology that can significantly address these problems. While the transportation sector is powered mostly by oil, the nation-wide electricity grid is only 3% petroleum-fueled according to the Energy Information Administration. Wide use of PHEVs can help transfer petroleum-intensive driving miles to nearly petroleum-free electricity. According to the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, if the cars, trucks and SUVs on the road were replaced by PHEVs, 84% could be powered using existing electrical generation infrastructure. This same paper found that replacing our Light-Duty Fleet with plug-in hybrids could reduce our oil consumption by 6.5 million barrels per day and our emission of heat-trapping gasses by 27%.

PHEV technology is beginning to become available and some automakers have produced prototypes and are beginning to announce long-term plans to manufacture plug-in hybrids. However, technology already exists making it possible to convert the roughly 1 million hybrid vehicles that will be on the road this year into plug-in hybrids, capable of getting 150 miles per gallon. This conversion would allow existing hybrids to begin traveling between 20 and 60 miles on a single charge, while using very little gasoline.

With initial conversion costs ranging from \$6,000 to \$9,500 depending on the size of the battery, the "Plug-in Hybrid Opportunity Act of 2007" would provide consumers with a vital tax incentive of 35% of the cost of conversion, cap the potential credit at \$4,000 and expire after 3 years. It is essential that these conversions be included under the plug-in hybrid tax credit, after meeting all the appropriate safety and environmental testing certifications, so that we can begin reducing our dependence on foreign oil and global warming pollution by realizing the benefits of plug-in hybrids now.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
SERVICE BY THE ELDON INN

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an establishment that has provided excellent service to the community of Roaring Spring for a century. Built during the early 20th century, the Eldon Inn embodied the visions of industrial pioneers D.M. Bare, A.L. Garver, William Eldon, and Edwin Bobb. Now serving the community as a public library, the Eldon Inn maintains its distinguished reputation as a center of the community.

In 1907, the paper industry of Roaring Spring began to thrive and a few businessmen began the construction of a modern hotel aimed at accommodating people from all walks of life, needing a place to stay in the budding community. Shortly thereafter the Inn established itself as a provider of safe and comfortable lodgings for everyone from the traveling businessmen and overnight guests, to long-term tenants awaiting opportunities as permanent residents.

The Eldon Inn possessed a unique quality that infused the building into the hearts of the community. The Inn's spacious interior was well suited for Rotary Club gatherings, sales meetings, Scout troops, wedding receptions, school reunions, and even as the town social and business center.

For 59 years, the Eldon Inn upheld its fine reputation as a first-rate establishment. In 1966, the Inn served the community in a new way as the Roaring Spring Public Library. The Public Library sought to expand its holdings and felt that the Eldon Inn would be an ideal location to further its mission of providing centers for learning to the community.

I would like to take this moment to recognize The Eldon Inn for its 100 years of service to the community, its renowned reputation, and future achievements to come. May the community of Roaring Spring always have such a force of good in its backyard.

IN MEMORY OF AUSTIN WHETSELL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, during the past week the Midlands of South Carolina was in mourning due to the tragic drowning of Austin Whetsell. On Sunday, July 8, the following tribute was placed in the service program at Lexington Presbyterian Church with the service conducted by Dr. David Sinclair:

Austin Pierce Whetsell, born April 1, 1992 died while on a missions trip with his church in Zihuatanejo, Mexico on Sunday, July 1, 2007. Austin was the beloved son of Walter G. Jr. and Kimberly Taylor Whetsell, and the devoted elder brother of Taylor, Trace and Emma Whetsell of Lexington. He was a loving son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin and friend. Austin was an alumnus of Heritage Christian Academy and had just finished his

first year of home school. He was a diligent student who consistently made straight A's and had recently won Second Place for Biology in a school Science Fair. Although he was an avid reader, Austin also enjoyed being outside boating, swimming and fishing with his family and friends.

His great enjoyment of sports began at an early age. He was an avid Gamecocks fan and enjoyed playing baseball, tennis and basketball. Most recently, Austin was selected as

an All-Star with the Lexington Dixie Majors. His zeal for doing his best and winning never overshadowed his respect for his opponents and having a godly attitude on the field.

Austin was also an apprentice to his father in his political consulting business and was instrumental in implementing various aspects of the family's direct mail business. Austin's life's goal was to live for God and glorify him. This devotion to his family and friends, as well as his commitment to serve in his church gave

evidence to his conviction that his life belonged to God. In preparing for this, his first missions trip, Austin had taken Spanish at the Midlands Home School Resource Center. He wrote that his reasons for going on this trip were to serve the Lord, and to show others what it means to truly be a Christian.

He finished well and his life gives testimony to Missionary Jim Elliot's quotation ". . . he is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."