

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL 9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to introduce a resolution to establish a National 9-1-1 Education Month.

Forty years ago President Johnson's Commission on Law Enforcement and Justice recommended that a single, nationwide telephone number be established for reporting emergencies—9-1-1. Since then, 9-1-1 has been used by millions of people across the country to quickly and efficiently contact their local fire and police departments, as well as report emergencies in their communities. Over 200 million emergency calls are made each year through 6,000 9-1-1 public safety answering points serving more than 3,000 counties.

As the connection between the eyes and ears of the public and the emergency response system in the U.S., 9-1-1 answering points are often the first to know of emergencies caused by natural disasters to national security threats, making 9-1-1 a vital homeland security asset.

Educating people of all ages and backgrounds about 9-1-1 is crucial to the effectiveness of our emergency response system. It is especially important for vulnerable populations . . . children, the deaf and hard of hearing, and those with limited English skills . . . to understand and feel comfortable with using 9-1-1.

A National 9-1-1 Education Month will encourage the development of public awareness events, advertising to the public, targeted outreach to schools, and training activities for parents and teachers. The deaf and hard of hearing are increasingly using text, video and instant messaging to access 9-1-1 operators. With such an effective and comprehensive emergency network, everyone deserves to learn how to access it.

As co-chairs of the E9-1-1 Caucus, Mr. SHIMKUS and I understand the importance of the 9-1-1 emergency network to the public safety and security of our country and this resolution will help to ensure that all Americans can access these critical services in an emergency. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting a National 9-1-1 Education Month.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Chairman, I wish to voice my support for a very important program to Eastern Washington, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program.

The PILT program is essential for the livelihood of our rural communities in Eastern Washington. Ferry County is 86 percent publicly owned. The PILT funding that Ferry County receives accounts for nearly two thirds of their budget to provide essential services.

The government owns 73 percent of Okanogan County. More impressive is the amount of land owned by the public—over one and a half million acres. According to the Okanogan County Assessor, the loss in property taxes amounts to more than \$4.5 million every year. That's a loss of funding for police, search and rescue, and emergency management.

I could continue to list additional examples since all 12 counties I represent receive funding from this program, but I want to describe the importance from someone who is on the ground and impacted by these decisions, Stevens County Treasurer Sue Harnasch.

She wrote, "The Federal Government has long recognized and accepted that Federal land holdings are a burden on local governments and that funding is necessary to provide services needed to access and use those lands. County taxpayers have been left to fend for themselves, subsidizing public services on Federal land with local property taxes."

Let's stop placing the burden on local communities and start keeping our promise.

HONORING THOMAS JEFFERSON
HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S VARSITY
CREW TEAM

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Men's Varsity Eight Crew team, who represented the United States in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta in England on July 4, 2007.

I had the honor of meeting these tremendous students on May 12, 2007, after they won the Virginia Scholastic Championship, the first of their many victories during their outstanding season. The Thomas Jefferson Colonials' Varsity Eight earned an invitation to the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup after finishing a flawless season with a gold medal at the Scholastic Rowing Association of America National Championships in Camden, New Jersey. The TJ Crew Team also added the prestigious Stotesbury Cup Regatta in Philadelphia to their list of victories after finishing first

among 850 boats from 177 schools in the world's largest high school rowing event.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology was established in 1985 as a Virginia Governor's School for Math, Science and Technology. Thomas Jefferson leads the Nation in SAT scores, National Merit Semifinalists, and advance placement credits earned. This highly selective program serves over 1,800 students from Fairfax and surrounding counties in Northern Virginia. No student is selected on the basis of athletic ability, and no one on the dynastical crew had even rowed before coming to TJ. Despite the State's longest school day and most demanding science and mathematics program, the TJ varsity men's crew practice diligently every afternoon at Sandy Run Regional Park on the Occoquan River.

Even with all their athletic success, the team's eight seniors have a truly impressive academic record with five National Merit Finalists, two Eagle Scouts, and one INTEL Science Fair Semi-Finalist. For their exemplary academic and athletic achievements, I would like to extend my most heartfelt congratulations to Ben Ranard, Dan Muir, Tom DellaFera, Lee Rumpf, Ty Otto, Marcos Carzolio, Christian Klein, Will Zeng, Raja Goel and Colin Haas. These young men are led by the varsity coach Jim Granger and assistant coach Andrew Fiebig.

After concluding a remarkable season in the U.S., the TJ Crew team ventured into international waters this summer to compete for the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at the annual Henley Royal Regatta in Oxfordshire, England. In a championship dominated by British schools, TJ aimed to become America's first public high school to win the international title in over 38 years. The TJ Crew team got off to a strong start in the first round and continued to gain momentum as they upset England's Winchester College to break through to the "elite" eight. Despite their best efforts, TJ's bid for the Princess Elizabeth Cup fell short after a heart-rending defeat to Brentwood College School, the Canadian national champions.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Thomas Jefferson High School Men's Varsity Eight Crew for their remarkable success this season.

RECOGNIZING DELLA E. MOSES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Della E. Moses of Elmo, Missouri. Della celebrated her 99th birthday on July 10, 2007 and it is my privilege to offer her my warmest regards on achieving this important milestone. Della is a fine citizen of Missouri and the Elmo community. It is an honor to represent Della in the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

United States Congress, and I wish her all the best on this birthday and many more in the future.

HONORING AMERICA'S SECOND HARVEST

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate America's Second Harvest of Kentucky's Heartland Food Bank, located in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, for recently celebrating 25 years of charitable service to central and southern central Kentucky.

America's Second Harvest began as a small operation in the basement of Elizabethtown's Christ Episcopal Church in 1982. Founding members struggled at first to raise enough money just to reserve a post office box. Support quickly grew as the community began to understand the mission of the organization.

Over the last 25 years, America's Second Harvest has received and distributed approximately 100 million pounds of donated food and groceries to 170 charity organizations in 35 Kentucky counties.

The food bank now occupies a large warehouse in Elizabethtown, with plans under consideration to extend the facility by another 10,000 square feet. America's Second Harvest representatives are also working to expand the Backpack program, an initiative that offers bags of food to schoolchildren who are likely to go hungry on weekends.

I applaud America's Second Harvest, particularly founders Dot Hansen and Rita Jenkins, for their vision, determination, and continued cooperative efforts to assist those in need.

It is my great privilege to recognize America's Second Harvest today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, on the occasion of their 25th anniversary. Their unique dedication to combat hunger in Kentucky communities makes them an outstanding organization worthy of our collective appreciation and respect.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ROBERT SHAWN JOSLIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering Robert Shawn Joslin, a young man whom I knew well as a volunteer on my political campaigns. I am deeply saddened to learn of his untimely death at the age of 26. Last Saturday, Shawn was murdered at the McDonald's restaurant where he worked.

Shawn was a 2000 Lakewood High School graduate. He played the tuba in the Lakewood High School marching band. He loved sports, especially the Cleveland Cavaliers basketball and the Cleveland Indians baseball teams. He ushered at Indians games at Jacobs Field and got his 2 nieces, Ashley and Alexianna, interested in baseball.

For the last 4 years, he worked at McDonald's. For 2 years he worked at the restaurant in Westlake and for the last 2 years, he worked at the Lakewood McDonald's, closer to his home. He was up for a promotion before he was killed there.

Since his high school years, Shawn was active in civic affairs. He was a tireless campaigner on behalf of myself and other candidates for public office in the Cleveland area. Shawn was always friendly and quick to greet people he knew from the campaigns or from his other activities in sports, music, school, or work. He had a positive attitude and an infectious smile. He had many friends and family members who loved him deeply.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me and Shawn's parents, family members, and many friends in mourning the loss of this positive young man.

HOME OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBLE LENDING

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 526, "Supporting Ownership and Responsible Lending." Home ownership plays an integral role helping this Nation's citizens realize the American Dream.

Now more than ever we must increase the awareness of risky loans to protect present and future homeowners. Home ownership is a vital part of our Nation's economy. It benefits neighborhoods by raising property values and providing economic and social capital.

Nationally, in 2006, a record setting 75,000,000 Americans owned homes. In the 7th District of Illinois, there are 238,000 housing units. Of those 238,000 units 49 percent are owner occupied and 51 percent are renter occupied. Fifty-four percent of those who rent spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing.

The housing boom from 2001 to 2006, lower mortgage rates and increased liquidity in the secondary mortgage market, all led to the growth of sub-prime mortgage industries. These secondary mortgage markets created home ownership opportunities for lower income families, people with little or no credit histories, and families without any access to down payments.

The downside to these newly formed opportunities would be the birth of predatory lending. This occurs when lenders hide the true cost of sub-prime loans from unsophisticated borrowers. These unfair practitioners are the main reason for the sudden wave of foreclosures. Foreclosure, when considering both legal and administrative expenses, would cost the borrower an average of \$7,200.

In Chicago alone, due to the predatory lending practices of various institutions, the rate of foreclosure on sub-prime loans is 19.2 percent; this is up 37 percent from approximately 5 years ago. From my understanding the property value surrounding the foreclosed home is devalued by \$30,000.

This would cause responsible lenders to lose thousand of dollars per foreclosure. An-

other negative aspect of this sudden rise in foreclosures is the costly affects that it has on local government because abandoned homes cost districts tax revenue.

By definition the lost that is suffered by the districts will have a spiraling effect throughout the community, taking funds from education and the economy.

I commend the Hon. ELIJAH CUMMINGS for introducing House Resolution 526, "Supporting Ownership and Responsible Lending." I am a firm supporter for enforcing rules that would prevent persons from falling victim to unfair practices. By enforcing rules to eliminate unfair practices in sub-prime mortgage lending, addressing appraisal and other mortgage fraud, and increasing opportunities for loan counseling, we will raise the awareness of risky loans and protect present and future homeowners.

IRELAND POWER SHARING RESOLUTION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the House recognizes the historic achievement of a power-sharing government in Northern Ireland. After decades of violence, Protestants and Catholics have come together to form a government that fairly represents both sides.

With Ian Paisley as first minister and Martin McGuinness as deputy first minister, this government will be one which both sides can respect and entrust to work toward peaceful resolution of differences.

The joint government and a police force that is admired by both sides will bring an end to the years of "troubles." Nearly 10 years ago when the Good Friday accord was signed it was still doubtful whether the two sides could come to a lasting agreement. Though there were setbacks along the way, the parties were committed to peace and at each opportunity for failure they chose to lay aside their weapons and negotiate.

The people of Northern Ireland will have a bright future if they maintain the present course. Surely, there will be disagreements but there is now a legislative process to work out such differences.

The peace process in Northern Ireland is now a shining example of how peoples in conflict can put aside long-standing grievances and learn to live in peace. Today, we properly honor and offer our support to those who are working to establish a peaceful and unified government.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR HOUSING ACT OF 2007

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Native American Economic