

Christopher is a sophomore at the State University of New York (SUNY) Institute of Technology, where he is majoring in Health Services Management. He also serves as a Senator for SUNY Student Government.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize this young man serving my district. As the father of two teenagers, I recognize the importance of organizations like DeMolay that encourage young people to get involved in their communities. I thank Christopher for his commitment, and would once again like to congratulate him on his election to the position of State Master Councilor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, due to the tragic death of my grandmother, Sarah "Big Mamma" Morris, I was unable to vote during the week of July 16–July 20.

Had I been present I would have voted in favor of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. The new Democratic-led Congress is determined to reverse the Republican pattern of disinvestment. Democrats have produced a bill that makes college more affordable, helps raise the achievement levels of America's students, expands access to health care for the uninsured and invests in the skills of America's workers and in community services.

In addition, I would have voted against the Kline amendment to the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. This amendment is another Republican farce designed to hurt those who need help most. The Kline amendment would increase funds to the Office of Labor Management Standards, an office that has enjoyed 33 percent increase in resources over the past four years and sacrifice funding to the International Labor Affairs Bureau. This bureau oversees child labor standards abroad to make sure that other countries are not using children to undercut American manufacturing. The sponsor claims that it will help rank and file workers from so-called union abuses, but in reality, those who support this amendment are the same opponents of a minimum wage increase. This amendment does not protect the American worker and I would have voted "no".

I would have also been a part of the 310 votes for the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. The bipartisan Energy and Water bill invests \$3 billion—\$1 billion more than the President's request—to research global warming and work on new technologies and renewable energy. I hope that it's sister bill, the Water Resources Development Act Reauthorization, will soon become law so that we can continue to improve the water infrastructure in this nation.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES;
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services; and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chairwoman, I rise in support of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill (H.R. 3043). This legislation makes important investments in education, health care and vital scientific research.

"Last November, voters around the country called for a change in direction and this bill epitomizes the differences in priorities between the old Republican-led Congress and the new Congress. In the past five years, even as the cost of attending college skyrocketed, the previous Congress raised the maximum Pell Grant by only \$300. We said we could do better, and today we are increasing the Pell Grant by \$390, more in one year than the Republican-led Congress did in five years. President Bush submitted a budget this year to freeze funding for child care and cut funding to Head Start by \$100 million. We said we could do better, and today we are increasing both Child Care Block Grants and Head Start by \$75 million each.

"Since the inception of No Child Left Behind, it has been underfunded by more than \$55 billion, and this year the President's budget proposal fell \$14.7 billion short of full funding. We said we could do better, and today we are reversing that trend and increasing the appropriation for No Child Left Behind by \$2 billion, including a \$1.5 billion increase for Title I. As we work to reauthorize that bill this year, I hope that we will continue this positive trend and commit to mandatory funding of primary and secondary education.

"I am also pleased that today, for the first time since fiscal year 2005, we are increasing funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In 1975, Congress passed IDEA to ensure that all students with disabilities receive a free, appropriate public education. At that time, Congress made a pledge to states—the federal government would pay 40% of the costs to educate special needs students. We have never met that commitment, and in the past several years, the Congress has actually failed to increase funding for IDEA at all. This year, the President proposed a cut in these funds. Today, we are increasing IDEA funding by \$509 million. While this is an excellent start, we must continue to work towards keeping our promise to states and fully funding IDEA. With that in mind, I urge my colleagues to join me to pass the EDUCATE Act, which creates a mandatory, fiscally responsible path to fully fund IDEA by 2015. Students and states have waited more than 30 years for Congress to fulfill its pledge, and we have a responsibility to do so.

"I am also pleased that in this bill today, we are increasing funding for many important education programs, including school counseling, afterschool programs, Even Start, Teacher training, education technology, and advanced placement. By strengthening these priorities, and putting the focus back on education at all levels, we are opening doors to students and increasing our ability as a nation to harness the energy, intelligence and ambition of our young people and keep our country in the forefront of discovery and innovation.

"The bill also addresses the fact that, in recent years, the nation's health scientists have faced shrinking laboratory budgets and dwindling research grants. Important investments need to be made today to reverse those trends. The House focuses an additional \$1 billion to fund the National Institutes of Health to accelerate research discoveries that can treat and cure many diseases.

"In spite of the all of the positives that this bill will accomplish, I am concerned about what some might consider superficially attractive but ultimately counterproductive cuts to administrative accounts at the Department of Education and elsewhere. Federal employees work hard to deliver valuable services to our nation everyday and simply can't do their jobs without the minimum amount of resources necessary. This legislation includes roughly \$175 million in funding cuts to federal employee salaries and resources. I'll be working in conference to ensure that our dedicated civil servants have the resources they need to continue providing their valuable services.

Madam Chairwoman, I am pleased to support this legislation which makes the critical investments needed to address the health, education and economic challenges we face."

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. FRANK BATTLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to Mr. Frank Battle. Mr. Battle served the Federal Government for 35 years prior to his retirement on April 3, 2007.

Frank's distinguished career began in 1973 as a Management Intern at the Department of Defense. His natural ability to navigate the complexities of government management and years of experience propelled him to senior management positions at the Department of Justice, the Voice of America, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Labor Relations Board.

I would like to thank Mr. Battle for his decades of service to the United States, and wish him the best of luck in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSLYVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, July 19, 2007 my vote

on the Amendment by Mr. CAMP of Michigan to H.R. 3043, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008 (rollcall vote 675) was recorded as a 'no' vote when I intended to cast a 'yes' vote. I wish to clarify on the record my support for seniors in Pennsylvania and across the Nation to access Medicare Advantage plans.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross as it celebrates its 90th birthday.

For ninety years the Prince William Red Cross has provided valuable and noble service to members of our armed forces and those in need. The Prince William Chapter has two locations, both in Manassas and Occoquan, and has a rich history of faithfully serving their community. As a result, they were recognized this year as Prince William County's oldest non-profit organization.

The birth of Prince William County's Red Cross can be traced all the way back to President Woodrow Wilson, who signed the organization's charter on July 24, 1917. Their charge was to support the war effort during World War I and their initial campaign raised over \$2,600 for the war fund. At this time, they also began a service aiding the troops overseas by mailing out care packages that included hand-knit afghans, comfort kits, homemade jams, etc. The Prince William Chapter continues this tradition today as one of their many services. They have sent our troops in Iraq numerous packages containing the soldiers' favorite foods, athletic equipment, CD players and correspondence from home. This has all been done in an effort to aid our individual soldiers and military in every possible way.

The Red Cross has recently assumed another mission: aiding their community in preparing, responding and recovering from both manmade and natural disasters. Last year over 477 Prince William County residents suffered losses during home fires. As has become commonplace over the past ninety years, the Prince William Red Cross was there to support them and provide relief in their time of need.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross for its ninety years of remarkable and devoted service to its community and to our nation. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the Prince William Red Cross on this distinguished achievement and in wishing them many more years of continued success.

THE COURAGE TO CARE: A TRIBUTE TO THE HEROIC ACTS OF SIR NICHOLAS WINTON

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable and heroic acts of Sir Nicholas Winton, who personally and by his own initiative saved the lives of 669 Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and brought them across Hitler's Germany to his native Great Britain. He is an immensely compelling symbol of how the caring of one man can truly make a difference while confronting evil on a personal level. Sir Winton said it best himself in a letter he wrote in 1939, ". . . There is a difference between passive goodness and active goodness. The latter is, in my opinion, the giving of one's time and energy in the alleviation of pain and suffering. It entails going out, finding and helping those who are suffering and in danger and not merely in leading an exemplary life, in a purely passive way of doing no wrong."

Nicholas Winton was guided by intuition and character. He understood the upcoming danger and realized the importance of acting fast. Having made many business trips to Germany in previous years, Winton saw Jews being arrested, harassed and beaten. Thousands of Jews fled to as-yet unoccupied Czechoslovakia, especially to Prague. Many settled into refugee camps in appalling conditions in the midst of winter. Near Prague Winton visited the freezing refugee camps. His visit deeply affected him and he felt the need for taking action.

He gathered information from parents who wanted their children out and then pleaded to countries all over the world to take them in. He also personally raised the funds to pay for the operation and continued his important struggle even though no countries except Sweden and the United Kingdom were willing to take the children in. Further, the media refused to deal with the tragedy about to unfold. The first 20 of "Winton's children" left Prague of March 14, 1939 and Hitler's troops overran all of Czechoslovakia the very next day. By the time World War II broke out on September 1, 1939, the rescue effort had transported 669 children out of the country.

I commend Nicholas Winton for his courage, compassion and foresight, for his willingness to stand up for what he believed was right in the face of indifference and to accept responsibility for being his brother's keeper. He has shown remarkable leadership, courage and ability of taking action when facing evil. Being a humble man who kept quiet about his heroic achievements for over 50 years, and without aspirations of being called a hero, he truly has shown complete selflessness and devotion to others. I also congratulate Sir Nicholas' small group of volunteers who helped him, not only for saving hundreds of lives but also for saving our faith in humanity.

As time goes by, the values for which Sir Nicholas Winton fought have increasingly penetrated the consciousness of the world. The children, grandchildren and great-grand children of those he saved will go on to establish a world where human rights and decency are the priorities of civilized society. This is the

meaning of Winton's legacy to us and the meaning of our struggle for human rights around the world.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAPLEWOOD, MINNESOTA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Maplewood, Minnesota's 50th anniversary.

While the city was incorporated 50 years ago, the more complete history of Maplewood began more than 150 years ago. According to the Maplewood Area Historical Society, Maplewood's original residents were members of a Dakota tribe who were drawn to the lush land, lakes and wetlands.

In 1850, a group of families including the Bells, Caseys, Conlins, and the Vincents moved from Saint Paul to settle along an old Indian trail which is now Hazelwood Street in Maplewood. In 1858, this area became part of New Canada Township.

Nearly 30 years later, a town site was planned at the junction of the Wisconsin Central Railroad line and the Saint Paul and Duluth Railroad that was to "rival Saint Paul." In 1886, Mr. William Dawson and his wife, Mary, platted out this village that they called Gladstone in honor of Mr. William Gladstone, a popular British statesman. For a time, the little village thrived and employed 1,000 workers. However, this area suffered from a series of setbacks such as a fire which destroyed a major business, and which ultimately led to less activity in the area.

One business which was very successful, was a stagecoach line that ran along what is now Edgerton Street. The line began in 1856 and cost \$10 for a trip from Saint Paul to Duluth. The line remained in service until the first railroad was built to Duluth in 1870.

After World War II, the housing boom began as veterans took advantage of the GI Bill's home loan guaranty. Developments sprung up around Wakefield Lake people continued to be attracted to the area. Residents soon came together to seek improved services including sewer, water and better roads.

On February 26, 1957, in a vote of 5 to 1 New Canada Township officially incorporated into the Village of Maplewood. Upon hearing the new name Mr. Warren Berger went out to his backyard and traced a maple leaf that became the village logo. By the 1970's, the Village of Maplewood became the City of Maplewood and adopted the Council-Manager form of government which it continues today.

Today, Maplewood is home to many major businesses and hospitals as well as the widely known 3M Corporation headquarters. The people of Maplewood are proud of their parks and open spaces. Maplewood has become a leader in land conservation by protecting open spaces and planting rainwater gardens to help improve water quality.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the rich history of Maplewood, Minnesota and the events celebrating it, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing Maplewood's 50th anniversary.