

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF TEXAS DISTRICT 22
INTERNS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, interns are often overlooked as we all rush around the Capitol, but I believe that Washington, DC, would come to a halt if there were none. The importance of the interns' role cannot be overstated, for they handle many tasks that, while not particularly glamorous, create a much more efficient workplace and allow legislative staffers to concentrate on policies that benefit our constituents and people across the country.

This summer, my office was fortunate enough to have six great interns: Sue Banerjee, Kelly Boss, Omar Farid, Miles Hilder, Jenna Kubecka, and Kelsey McDowell. Each intern performed exceptionally well and deserves much appreciation for their service to the people of Texas' 22nd Congressional District. Their hard work and determination was noticed by everyone in the office, as well as by constituents, and I am proud to have such a talented and competent group of individuals working in my office. I know that the work ethic they have demonstrated this summer will carry them far in life.

These impressive young men and women are certainly poised to do great things and contribute significantly to our country's future. My staff, constituents, and I thank you all for your service and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

July 30, 2007—Rollcall vote 758, I would have voted "yea;" Rollcall vote 759, I would have voted "nay;" Rollcall vote 760, I would have voted "nay;" Rollcall vote 761, I would have voted "nay;" Rollcall vote 762, I would have voted "nay."

July 31, 2007—Rollcall vote 763, I would have voted "yea;" Rollcall vote 764, I would have voted "yea;" Rollcall vote 765, I would have voted "yea."

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON
THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY
CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES, AR-
GENTINA

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con: Res. 188, which condemns the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This attack reduced the 7-story headquarters of the Argentinean Jewish community to rubble and resulted in 85 deaths and 300 wounded. Everyday, Jews around the world face the injustice of anti-Semitism, and many have lost their lives because of bigotry.

This resolution condemns the attacks but also applauds the government of Argentina for increasing the pace of the continuing investigation of this attack. It is important that we support this resolution to encourage Argentina to continue to provide the resources necessary for its judicial system and intelligence agencies to fully investigate the AMIA case and bring those responsible to justice.

When we as individuals or as a government allow intolerance and hatred to fester and flourish, we are faced with terrible consequences. Put simply, intolerance must not be tolerated.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

FARM, NUTRITION, AND
BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, the attached language was inadvertently omitted from H. Rept. 110-256, in regard to Country of Origin Labeling, to H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING FOR MEAT
AGREEMENT

The Committee recognizes that the issue of Country of Origin Labeling for meat has become increasingly contentious. With implementation of the statute enacted in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 looming, the Committee leadership requested that representatives of the various interested parties discuss opportunities to resolve issues of division. These discussions resulted in general agreement on aspects of

the law which could be modified to achieve the goals of: improving marketability of meat products; providing consumers the information they may seek with regard to the origin of meat products; and, doing so in a manner which minimizes the cost of compliance on livestock producers and the meat trade.

During consideration of H.R. 2419, the Committee was presented with a list of items that were agreed upon by the various interested parties. The list included suggestions to improve the statute with regard to issues including product labels, records, and record-keeping.

With regard to product labeling, the Committee adopted amendments to Section 281 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 that would establish four categories of country of origin labels for meat. The legislative language outlining these categories is self-explanatory.

Another area of concern was labeling of ground meat products. The amendment adopted by the Committee provides that the label will include a narrative list of reasonably possible countries from which the product may have been derived.

While the Committee recognizes the interest in providing consumers with information regarding the origin of their meat products, the Committee also recognizes the potential cost associated with complying with any label mandate. As such, the Committee has adopted a grandfather provision to address concerns about the transition.

With regard to requirements for records and recordkeeping, the Committee has adopted provisions that will enable less burdensome verification requirements. Specifically, the Committee has adopted an amendment that will place limits on the authority of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to audit covered entities. To further shield all parties from liability, the amendment limits the records upon which these USDA audits may rely. By limiting these records to those kept as part of a normal business practice, it is the intent of the Committee that retailers and other covered entities will not impose unnecessary or burdensome obligations on their suppliers.

The final item of agreement dealt with the issues of liability and enforcement. The amendment adopted by the Committee will limit the applicability of civil penalties to a covered entity that has not made an effort to comply and continues to willfully violate this section. The Committee specifically intends that violations resulting from a good faith effort to come into compliance shall not be subject to civil penalties.

DR. MOSSMAN NOMINATED AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR OF TEXAS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, knowledge is one of the greatest gifts teachers bestow upon students. They play invaluable roles in nurturing and giving young people 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.

encouragement to grow and develop into productive members of society. We see the fruits of their patience and selfless dedication every day in our children and in ourselves. Building a cohesive relationship between teachers and the administration in charge of managing their school district is essential to extracting the most from our talented educators.

This is why I am honored to recognize Dr. Sandra Mossman's contribution to the Clear Creek Independent School District. She has been nominated to receive the 2007 Superintendent of the Year Award given annually since 1984 by the Texas Association of School Boards in Austin. The award is adjudicated based on several criteria relating to the efficient administration of education in the district and is determined by an elected board of members representing over 4.5 million students. She represents one of 17 regional superintendents around the state who have been acknowledged for their outstanding leadership skills and commitment to education. Dr. Mossman has been an innovative superintendent, pursuing initiatives that diversify the educational experiences of her students. She was instrumental in introducing the Early College in High School track that would allow high school students to take classes at a local college and even receive a 2-year college degree after fulfilling all their requirements. This is just one example of Dr. Mossman's important role in raising the standards of education for our children, and I certainly hope she will be recognized for her efforts at the TASB Convention in late August in Dallas. I am sure she will continue to inspire and lead young people and her colleagues alike to strive for the highest goals when examining education in this country.

As noted historian Henry Adams once said, "A teacher affects eternity; they can never tell where their influence stops." It is a thought that should motivate all of us to follow the shining example Dr. Mossman has set of what it means to be a committed leader in education in Texas.

HONORING HOPE FOR VISION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize an organization which is leading the fight against vision loss. Hope for Vision was founded to assist individuals dealing with the loss of vision, and to raise much needed funding for scientific research on retinal degenerative and other blinding diseases, so that future generations will not have to cope with this tragic issue.

I have the distinct pleasure and honor of being involved in this wonderful organization, and serve as an honorary member of the Board of Advisors. I also am proud to call several integral members of this organization including the Lidsky family, my friends. I have known Carlos and Betty Lidsky for many years and their son, Isaac, an attorney here in Washington, serves as the Chairman and President of Hope for Vision.

At the age of 12, Isaac was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a retinal degenerative dis-

order. However, this did not slow Isaac down. He attended New World School of the Arts in Miami before receiving a bachelor's and law degree from Harvard University. While at Harvard, he met his wife, Dorothy, who has become a passionate advocate for the vision-impaired.

This family has been deeply impacted with degenerative retinal diseases and they have fought to ensure this horrible condition receives the proper attention and research needed to find a cure. Their tenacity and courage in the face of such adversity and heartbreak is commendable. Inspired by their dedication and hard work, we are working towards a cure.

The Lidsky family has always been an outspoken advocate to raise awareness for issues surrounding inherited vision diseases. Vision loss is a problem which affects millions of Americans. More than 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease: 3 million have low vision; 1.1 million are legally blind; and an additional 200,000 are severely visually impaired. However, research efforts into vision loss and blindness have already started to pay dividends. For example, scientists have provided vision to the blind through microchip technologies, and clinical trials have started with pharmaceutical treatments to combat vision loss.

Research grants provided by Hope for Vision are providing our scientists with much needed funding to further progress on these initiatives. An example of this progress is the partnership between Hope for Vision and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, located at the University of Miami in my Congressional District. These two organizations have teamed up to provide the best vision care possible for South Floridians by advancing research and treatment capabilities with two new innovative programs. With the help of the Department of Defense, they have developed the Miami Project for Ophthalmic Innovation to use the remarkable military technological advances to bring new therapies to patients. The goal of this project is to bring together ideas and people from diverse backgrounds to implement research projects aimed at enhancing military ocular health capabilities. It will directly benefit our brave men and women serving in uniform, our veterans, as well as the millions of other Americans who suffer from blinding eye trauma and disease.

Another initiative is the newly-created Center for Hereditary Retinal Diseases at Bascom Palmer, which owes its very existence to Hope for Vision. Its goal is to identify every individual in the state of Florida with an inherited eye disease and to provide them with genetic testing, counseling, and innovative treatments.

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute is recognized as one of the world's finest and most progressive centers for eye care, research and education. This year, U.S. News & World Report's survey rated Bascom Palmer the Number 1 eye hospital in the country. Its dedicated staff provides excellent vision care to more than 200,000 patients annually at their facilities across South Florida.

I am also proud to be a founding member and co-chair of the Congressional Vision Caucus. This organization is a bipartisan coalition dedicated to strengthening and stimulating a national dialogue and policy on vision-related

problems and disabilities. Our responsibility is to raise awareness about the increasing number of Americans at risk for age-related diseases, preserve and protect eyesight, and ensure adequate resources are directed towards the research, prevention and treatment of eye disease.

I have worked together with my colleagues in the South Florida Congressional delegation to ensure that Hope for Vision has the funds necessary to continue their work to discover treatments and cures for degenerative retinal diseases. As the baby boom generation reaches retirement age, vision loss will become an increasingly familiar issue for many American families.

Once again, I would to congratulate Hope for Vision on its successes, and look forward to working with this organization as it continues to address an issue of growing importance.

COMMENDING THE FEMALE SOCCER PLAYERS OF THE NORTH JERSEY ALL-STARS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to New Jersey's 18 newest young ambassadors, the female soccer players of the North Jersey All-Stars. Today, they will set off from JFK Airport in New York for a two-week trip of good will and sportsmanship on the East Coast of Brazil.

While in the coastal cities of Sao Mateus and Jaguare, the team of soccer superstars will play five games with local players, will deliver more than \$15,000 in donated soccer equipment and sportsgear, and will spread a message of friendship to the people of Brazil. While most Americans traveling to Brazil, spend their days and nights in the touristy resorts, like Rio de Janeiro, these girls will be visiting a more remote and isolated, and far less wealthy, region.

These high school-aged soccer players will be accompanied by their manager, David Heitman; trainers, Karen Hartigan and Phil Ross; and a local reporter, Brian Farrell. They will also be traveling with their coach, former professional soccer player, Roberto Ferman. The North Jersey All-Stars are: Zoey Talias of Wyckoff, Anna Rothschild of River Edge, Ashley Walker of Mahwah, Nicolle Sanchez of Lyndhurst, Amanda Soto of Mahwah, Faith Tucker of Rutherford, Lexi Hutton of Basking Ridge, Christy Shedlock of North Haledon, Katy Generelli of Spotswood, Karen Schoepflin of Oakland, Brielle Heitman of Mahwah, Janelle Biagini of Wyckoff, Kelly TenEyck of Mahwah, Brooke Bandazian of Wyckoff, Chelsea Marie Wuesthoff of Ironia, Sarah Royce of Northvale, Catherine Wolff of Wyckoff, Mimi Kocela of Waldwick.

I commend these young women for their dedication to their sport and for their efforts to use that sport to spread a message of good will and sportsmanship overseas.