

HONORING LYNNE AND BERNIE BUTCHER OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the special efforts of Lynne and Bernie Butcher to restore and revitalize the Tallman Hotel, one of the most historically significant—but long neglected—structures in Lake County, California.

The original Tallman Hotel was built in the 1870s as a stage stop in the town of Upper Lake by Lake County pioneers Rufus and Mary Tallman. The hotel was part of a fullservice facility consisting of hotel, livery stable and saloon designed to serve passengers traveling to Clear Lake and the nearby hot springs resorts. In 1895, the Hotel burned to the ground but was re-built by Tallman the next year. The Blue Wing Saloon next door was closed and torn down during Prohibition in the early 1920s. The economic fortunes of the Hotel declined and the building was essentially abandoned in 1962.

The Butchers bought the derelict hotel in 2003 and were determined to authentically restore the building to its former glory. Using period photographs as a guide, they also rebuilt the Blue Wing Saloon and Cafe next door. Great care was taken to retain, recondition and reuse original materials and to maintain the essential soul of the old hotel building. In recognition of their success, the Butchers recently received an annual preservation award from the California Heritage Council.

The hotel is now drawing tourists into the county and the cafe is a very popular spot for locals and visitors alike. The Butchers have not only beautifully restored a historically significant building, but the project has also acted as a catalyst in the economic revitalization of the Town of Upper Lake and the entire north shore region of Lake County.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, at this time it is appropriate that we recognize and acknowledge the dynamic work of my friends Lynne and Bernie Butcher in restoring the historic Tallman Hotel. Their efforts have brought a wonderful building back into use, and in doing so they have provided new energy and excitement in northern Lake County.

HONORING THE MABANK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT IN KAUFMAN COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Mabank Independent School District in Kaufman County, Texas for excellence in education.

Education is a fundamental part of the development of our nation's youth. The Texas Education Agency recently released the 2007 annual performance ratings for schools across Texas. It is notable that the Mabank Independent School District was able to maintain

its rating of "recognized"—which is the second-highest possible rating.

Their performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of Superintendent Russell Marshall.

Madam Speaker, as the representative for Kaufman County, I would like to commend the Mabank Independent School District for its continued achievements in education.

HONORING THE GREENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL LADY GATORS SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greenwood High School Lady Gators softball team. The Lady Gators won the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Fast Pitch Softball State Championship on June 9, 2007.

Greenwood High School defeated Ryle High by a score of 4-0 to win their first state title. The victory capped off an amazing season for the Lady Gators. They finished the season with a record of 40-5, equaling the most single season wins in Kentucky High School history.

Success is nothing new to the Greenwood High School softball program. The team has won 339 games since 1995, the fifth most in the state. Also, the Lady Gators have captured seven Fourth Region titles and nine straight District 14 crowns.

I want to congratulate Coach Penny Reece's team for their outstanding achievement. Their hard work and sacrifice has made all of Warren County proud. I look forward to watching Greenwood High School defend their State Championship next season.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER ALLEN CHAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Allen Chan on his retirement from the Police Department in the City of Newark California, after serving 26 exemplary years as a member of the Force.

Officer Chan began his career with the Newark Police Department as a police aide in August 1981 and served in this capacity until his promotion to the rank of police officer in July 1983. He has held many assignments during his tenure, including: patrol officer, explorer advisor, field training officer, traffic officer, homicide detective, acting patrol sergeant, and range master.

He has also been an instructor, teaching several police related classes for over 15 years at Ohlone College and Evergreen Police Academy. He has also taught various subjects for the Newark Police Department's Citizen Police Academy.

Officer Chan is recognized by the court as an expert in accident reconstruction and is a member of the Criminal Evidence Response Team and the High Tech Crime Investigation Association. He has served the Newark Police Association as the president and secretary and the Newark Police Activities League as the Program Director, helping provide a variety of after school educational and recreational activities for the Newark youth.

Officer Chan was most recently assigned to his second term as the School Resource Officer at Newark Memorial High School, where his main responsibility was to ensure the safety of students and staff members.

I join the Newark Police Department, along with Officer Chan's family and friends, in congratulating him for his years of service and devotion to the City of Newark and the community.

HONORING THE CANTON, MARTINS MILL, AND FRUITVALE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN VAN ZANDT COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Canton, Martins Mill, and Fruitvale Independent School Districts in Van Zandt County, Texas for excellence in education.

Education is a fundamental part of the development of our Nation's youth. The Texas Education Agency recently released the 2007 annual performance ratings for schools across Texas. It is notable that the Canton, Martins Mill, and Fruitvale Independent School Districts were able to maintain their rating of "recognized"—which is the second-highest possible rating.

Their performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of Superintendents Jerome Stewart, Todd Schneider, and Bruce Congleton.

Madam Speaker, as the representative for Van Zandt County, I would like to commend the Canton, Martins Mill, and Fruitvale Independent School Districts for their continued achievements in education.

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the State of Texas and the Nation recognizes the need for renewable and clean diesel fuel and other high valued synthetic fuels to meet the needs of the energy consumption in the United States.

The current problem existing with ethanol and other alternative synthetic fuels is that they depend on the weather and crops available to produce ethanol and other additives and cannot meet the current demand that is needed by the United States.

In addition to opening up drilling off the coast of the United States, our nation should determine new ways to address the ever growing demand for energy.

I applaud local businesses in my district who have taken the lead in addressing this issue by introducing technologies for production of bio-diesel products from vegetable oil, animal fat, by-products and waste.

The Southeast Texas region is home to some of the major refineries in the United States. Companies who take waste from these refineries (currently being disposed of in landfills) and old tires and converts them through their technology into non-toxic renewable ultra clean diesel fuel and other high valued synthetic fuels should be commended. This process allows for the taking of the refinery waste, which is an environmental problem, and converting it into a renewable diesel fuel that addresses our energy problem directly.

Congress can help make alternative fuel facilities financially feasible by:

Encouraging low interest private capital financing and investment for alternative fuel and ultra clean diesel facilities

Supporting the use of tax-exempt bond financing for activities associated with the development of alternative fuel projects

Exempting alternative fuel projects from the Bond Cap provisions of the IRS Code

Permitting accelerated depreciation schedules when structuring bond financing for alternative fuel ultra clean diesel facilities

Providing tax credit incentives to investors who purchase bonds to fund alternative fuel ultra clean diesel facilities

Considering a way to assist with funding the upfront start up costs associated with these alternative fuel ultra clean diesel projects, which would include the engineering and developmental research that needs to be performed prior to seeking commercial funding for the project. This could be done in the form of grants or low interest loans.

We need to take a course of action now to encourage these alternative fuel programs or we are just becoming more dependent on foreign oil products and will not grow or have the freedom to expand and meet our public's energy needs in an environmental friendly fashion.

Southeast Texas is the energy capital of our nation. We will continue to lead the nation's energy needs by utilizing off shore drilling, nuclear power and new technologies such as bio-diesel and other alternative fuel programs. It is important we support local government and local businesses to forge ahead for our nation's energy program.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING KAREN ROSS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kelly Ross an exemplary teacher and citizen from my congressional district for being chosen as the Kentucky Education Association's 2007 National Foundation for the Improvement of Education Teacher of the Year in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Kelly is a language arts and journalism teacher at Barren County High School. She is also head of the school's English department. Kelly is a National Board Certified Teacher and past president of the Barren County Teacher's Association.

To receive this honor, Kelly was selected by a committee of former Kentucky Teacher of the Year award winners. The award also automatically nominates her for the National Teacher of the Year award.

The Kentucky selection committee highlighted Kelly's "professional practice in language arts; media and journalism, her advocacy far the profession; her leadership in professional development; her work to provide a learning environment that meets the needs far all students, regardless of differences; and community engagement."

Teaching runs in Kelly's family. Her mother, Frances Steenbergen, is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Barren County High School as well as the President of the Kentucky Education Association. I would also like to recognize her husband, Eddie, and their children, Campbell and Elaine for supporting her career.

It is my great privilege to honor Kelly Ross, before the United States House of Representatives, on being chosen Teacher of the Year in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This achievement is worthy of our appreciation and respect.

RECOGNITION OF TREDWAY CHILDRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EMPLOYEE

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues a noteworthy article about the fine work of Mr. Tredway Childress, a senior restoration specialist and finisher at the House of Representatives, office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Mr. Childress recently led the restoration of the century-old mahogany rostrum in Room 311 of the Cannon House Office Building, home to the House Ways and Means Committee from 1908–1933 and the current home of the Committee on Homeland Security. This magnificent rostrum was originally the centerpiece for debates and deliberations that surrounded the 16th Amendment and the authorization of income taxes in 1913. As a Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I know firsthand that Tredway's handiwork in Room 311 has added dignity and a sense of history to our Committee deliberations. In addition, Mr. Childress has refinished numerous chairs and other furniture in the Capitol, including an original Cannon table 1907 vintage that I use in my Rayburn office.

Tredway was recently profiled by Don Williams, his colleague and mentor at the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute, in Woodshop News, an industry trade magazine. The article pays an important tribute to Mr. Childress. Mr. Williams notes that the restoration of the Cannon building rostrum to its previous grandeur could have only been ac-

complished by "someone with Tredway's remarkable combination of talent, education, craft skill and commitment to preserving past treasures."

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Childress for his outstanding service to the House of Representatives over the past 7 years and thank him for his dedication to make the furniture in my office, and many others', look more capturing than its original state. His commitment to preserving important symbols of our Nation's history will be greatly appreciated for many years.

[From Woodshop News, August 2007]

GIVING THE NATION'S CAPITOL A WINNING FINISH

TREDWAY CHILDRESS ATTRIBUTES HIS SKILLS TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WOOD FINISHING

(By Jennifer Hicks)

Tredway Childress is the iconic example of a woodworker meeting his maximum potential. Currently employed by the U.S. Congress, he is a senior restoration specialist and finisher for the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. He is part of a team that oversees all finishing and is the caretaker to over 2,000 historic items associated with Congress and past leaders, and is also regarded as a collaborator with the Smithsonian Institution at the U.S. Capitol.

A woodworker and furniture maker in earlier years, Childress, 62, said he reached a point where he wanted to perfect his restoration skills, particularly wood finishing.

"I have always worked with furniture; built, sold and finished it. The finishing part was always the hardest—the more I did it the more I didn't understand it," said Childress.

In 1998 he moved to the Midwest for the sole purpose of attending the National Institute of Wood Finishing at Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount, Minn. To this day Childress credits instructor Mitchell Kohanek, a wood finisher of nearly 30 years, for giving him the knowledge he needed to become a professional finisher. He is now confident he is capable of getting any job he wants in the field.

Kohanek offers short-term workshops, but his nine-month diploma program is the only certified wood finishing education program in the United States. It teaches students about wood technology; selection and application of finishes; application of dyes, stains, glazes and toners; color matching; spray finishing; basic and advanced finishing; spot repair of wood, leather, and vinyl, and last but not least, refinishing and restoration. Childress raves about how the program taught him the gamut of problem-solving techniques, such as how to deal with "orange peel" results and to prevent them from happening in the first place.

A year after Childress graduated in 1998, Kohanek informed him that the Capitol was looking for a finisher to hire onto their crew of tradesmen. After a year's background screening, Childress was hired and has been there ever since.

Recently, he was the lead wood finisher during the restoration of a historic Cannon Building flame mahogany rostrum, which housed the Ways and Means Committee as early as 1907. The original drafts for the Constitution's 16th Amendment and laws enacting the income tax were almost certainly drafted at this rostrum. It doesn't get much more historic than that.

This project allowed Childress to collaborate with Don Williams, senior furniture conservator of the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute and another of his mentors. The two first met during one of Williams' frequent visits to Dakota where