

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 land fills) 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 for the profession; her leadership in professional development; her work to provide a learning environment that meets the needs for 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

Williams teaches chemistry-intense courses in restoration and finishing with longtime friend and colleague Kohanek.

Childress returns to Dakota almost every summer for additional advance course work, and for years he and Williams had been looking for just the right in-depth project to blend their skills and experiences.

"The reclamation of the Cannon 311 rostrum's previous grandeur could have only been accomplished by someone with Tredway's remarkable combination of talent, education, craft skill and commitment to preserving past treasures," Williams said. "There aren't many of us around who can carefully remove a disfiguring top coat and leave behind the beautiful old shellac finish underneath, then blend it all back in with a French polish that almost literally glows in the dark without looking cheesy. But Tredway did it."

His work on Capitol Hill also includes refinishing all chairs on the floor of the House of Representatives. On this project, Childress and his crew took off the existing coating and brought it back to its original shellac. They also decided to replace the gold painted molding with gilded molding, as had been done originally.

"Going through Mitch's school, I really had the knowledge and know how to do what needed to be done instead of just looking at it and saying, 'Let's put another coat on it,'" Childress said. "By studying and knowing the chemistry behind what needed to be done and understanding what you could and could not do, and making the chemistry work in our favor instead of stripping it . . . you just don't get out of a weekend class."

Childress is one of Kohanek's many students who went into restoration and conservation. Other graduates have found ways to make a living from finishing new wood or by becoming furniture service technicians who repair wood on location.

"There are so many opportunities for custom wood finishers because wood finishing is still to this day considered a mystic trade when it really is a blend of art and science," said Kohanek. "Once one understands how those two facets work together, you can use inexpensive wood and create an expensive look, or make expensive wood look even more beautiful. You also know how to repair and restore it."

Kohanek emphasizes that his certification program makes graduates valued wood finishing employees off the bat, and enables them to go immediately into their own business if they choose that direction. Like Childress, the best graduates of the NIWF are setting the standards of what should be expected of a wood finisher as they apply to any wood finishing facility, he concluded.

HONORING THE JOHNSON CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church in Malakoff, TX, as they celebrate more than a century of worship.

The Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church has a very storied past. It was first organized in a creek bottom on Abe Johnson's Farm in 1897 and has experienced many changes in more than a century of existence.

Six months after its inception, the congregation constructed their first permanent structure.

Oak planks nailed to blocks were used as benches and lighting was provided by kerosene lanterns. The Church would move to a new location on a nearby farm in 1915 and continue to meet in that location until 1926. In that year the congregation was forced to divide due to the threat of flooding as well as poorly constructed roads, which made travel to the church difficult. The remaining members stayed until 1938, when they moved to their present location. In 1944 and then again in 1968, the church was destroyed by inclement weather; however, after each misfortune the congregation was able to band together and rebuild.

Today, the Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church continues to worship and serve the community of Malakoff. In September of 2005, the congregation saw another milestone when they appointed the Reverend Cynthia Cole as their first female pastor.

Madam Speaker, as the representative of Malakoff, TX, it is my honor to congratulate the Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church for its more than one hundred years of existence as a place of worship.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO YAFFA DAHAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend Yaffa Dahan, who passed away on July 26th, 2007.

Yaffa Dahan was born December 29th, 1954, in Morocco. Shortly after her birth, she moved to a small town in Israel where she was raised. In a large family with nine brothers and sisters, she was brought up in traditional Jewish culture where music, love, and laughter were an integral part of her home. At age 20, she married David Dahan and moved to Las Vegas to start a family and a new chapter in their lives together.

Yaffa was a spiritual woman with an amazing personality, grace, intelligence and a sincere love for her family, friends, and our community. Yaffa was dedicated to education and eventually learned five languages, including Hebrew, Yiddish, French, Arabic, and English. She then went on to earn her MBA in business management and a Ph.D. in administrative healthcare. She then became a registered nurse, which she practiced for 28 years, touching the lives of many in southern Nevada. She was also a member of the Honors Society in Nursing at UNLV, and recently was honored as an outstanding alumna. She was a dedicated member of the Jewish community, being active in AIPAC and the Jewish Federation in Nevada.

Through all of these accomplishments, what strikes me most is the great number of people whose lives she touched. Her obituary, posted online through a local newspaper, gave an opportunity for well-wishers to leave comments. She received comments from former employees stating how she was a favorite manager who was admired for her talents as well as her passion. Included in these postings were comments from her local Rabbi, from family in Israel, and from friends from California to Wisconsin to North Carolina and many places in

between. She was truly an incredible woman who will be remembered by all.

Madam Speaker, I am sincerely proud to honor and celebrate the life of Yaffa Dahan. I would like to take this time to give my deepest condolences to Yaffa's family and friends.

INDIAN HELICOPTERS FOR BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I was deeply disturbed to read a recently released report, by European Union non-governmental organizations, entitled Indian Helicopters for Burma: making a mockery of embargoes? The report provided details on India's negotiations with Burma's military junta since late 2006 and focused on the transfer of Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) to Burma's military. India, the world's largest democracy, has increasingly spurned democracy supporters in Burma in favor of increased cooperation with Burma's military regime, even providing Burma's ruling generals with tanks, aircraft, artillery guns, radar, small arms, and the ALH. Absent any external enemy, Burma's military rulers have employed these arms and military equipment against its ethnic minority civilian population, resulting in the destruction of more than 3,000 villages, the use of forced labor, and the rape and murder of thousands of ethnic minority civilians.

Even more appalling than the increased military cooperation and sales between the Government of India and Burma's military regime is evidence that the transfer of military hardware risks violating both European Union and U.S. arms restrictions in place against Burma's military regime. Parts and technologies vital to the manufacture of the ALH were provided by several European companies and two American companies, Aitech Systems, Ltd. and Lord Corporation. It is essential that our government immediately investigate whether or not the inclusion of American parts and technologies in the production of India's ALHs and the potential impending transfer of the ALHs from the Government of India to Burma's brutal military generals violate U.S. export control regulations and the U.S. arms embargo on Burma.

The brutality of Burma's generals towards its own people continues to increase. It is obvious to all familiar with the regime's use of forced labor, its systematic use of rape as a weapon of war, its destruction of villages and livelihoods in its efforts to ethnically cleanse Burma of all its ethnic minorities, that the purchase of these military helicopters is for one purpose and one purpose only—strengthening and increasing military attacks against ethnic minority civilians. Already humanitarian aid groups operating in Eastern Burma have noticed a number of areas in which helicopter landing pads are appearing, a sight very new to the landscape of ethnic minority territory. These landing pads will give Burmese generals the ability to transport soldiers quickly and easily into areas where civilians are fleeing. The ethnic minorities fear that the regime plans to increase its attacks against them.

The U.S. government must take immediate steps to implement the recommendations outlined in the newly released report, including,