

and dedicated woman who has worked to foster and continue our Nation's founding principle—that all men and women are created equal.

THE CLEAN WATER STATE
REVOLVING LOAN FUND

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it was brought to my attention that on last Friday—during the customary exchange between Majority Leader HOYER and Minority Whip BLUNT—the gentleman from Missouri had some questions regarding the “substantive” nature of my subcommittee’s business on last Friday.

As the recently elected Chairwoman of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, I have come to the floor to address the gentleman’s inquiries.

From the onset, I want to make it clear to the gentleman from Missouri that I empathize with his disgruntlement over our current work schedule.

However, I also want the gentleman to understand that I will not sit idly by and allow the escalation of the gentleman’s disgruntlement to come at the expense of my subcommittee and the good work of the committee members.

The Water Resources Subcommittee has the broadest agenda of any of the Transportation Subcommittees, covering Corps of Engineers’ projects and authorities, EPA’s Clean Water and Superfund Programs, Brownfields, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Saint Lawrence Seaway, and programs carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Last Friday, with a standing room only crowd, the Subcommittee returned to some of the unfinished work of the previous, Republican-led Congress—particularly, reauthorization of the highly popular Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund program.

This is the same program that, despite bipartisan efforts, was blocked from floor consideration by Republican leadership last Congress due to various objections to certain wage provisions.

The Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund program is a powerful partnership between EPA and the States. It allows States the flexibility to provide funding for projects that will address their highest-priority water quality needs.

The program allows Federal, State, and local agencies to leverage limited dollars. Moreover, loans for such water infrastructure projects also tend to stimulate local economies by encouraging commercial development and construction and creating good paying jobs.

As a result of this, the Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee will be moving forward on a pro-environment and pro-infrastructure agenda.

Over the coming weeks my subcommittee will be introducing legislation aimed at reauthorizing a series of long overdue Clean Water Act program provisions and water infrastructure bills aimed at restoring and maintaining confidence in our Nation’s water resources.

Regrettably, over the past six years the current Administration has presided over the slow, but steady, dismantling of the public’s confidence in our water resources. Inadequate budgets, the easing of regulatory safeguards, and misguided priorities have brought about a dramatic reversal in national water quality trends.

We have not enacted a Water Resources Development Act since this President has been in office. This is ridiculous!

Adequate investment in our Nation’s drinking water infrastructure has also been woefully neglected. Two years ago the EPA conducted a survey of the needs of public water systems. The survey estimates that public water systems need to invest \$276 billion on drinking water infrastructure improvements over twenty years to comply with drinking water regulations and to ensure safe water.

Without a renewed commitment towards investment from all parties, in less than a generation, the U.S. could lose much of the gains made possible by the Clean Water Act.

State and local governments can not tackle these enormous challenges alone. The Federal Government must be a willing and able partner and the time to act is now. The Federal Government must renew its commitment to ensure the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of our Nation’s water supply.

We owe future generations no less.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act of 2007.

Make no mistake; H.R. 5 is a bad bill which does not live up to its title. In fact, this legislation provides no assistance to help future and current students attend college. Instead of helping increase attendance, this legislation seeks to reduce interest rates for those making payments on their student loans. This is a worthy goal. But this legislation accomplishes this by taxing private lenders, ultimately reducing the number of lenders willing to participate in the student loan program.

H.R. 5 provides a short-term reduction in interest rates for students who received federally guaranteed subsidized loans while they were attending college. In order to pay for this required rate reduction, this legislation forces private lenders to reduce their rates below market value. Additionally, this legislation doubles the tax imposed on these lenders by increasing the lender origination fee from .05 percent to 1 percent.

Over the course of this debate we have heard stories from Members of Congress about how the ability to go to school greatly added to their quality of life. I agree wholeheartedly that there are numerous benefits to attending college. However, not one of those Members of Congress would have had greater access to college if H.R. 5 had been in effect when they were undergraduates, because this bill does nothing for aspiring students.

Finally, I think it is important to note that we have a very competitive private marketplace

providing student loans. When the government places mandates reducing their ability to compete—we all lose by driving competitors out of the marketplace. H.R. 5 directly targets the Federal family education Loan industry, dealing a devastating blow to the industry that has helped millions of students go to college.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation and work toward a bill that will actually help college students realize their goals of furthering their education.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MICKEY
PEABODY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Mickey Peabody for her many years of service and leadership to the City of Oakdale and the community of Stanislaus County. On January 19th, friends and colleagues will hold an event to express sincere gratitude and to congratulate Mickey as she receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to her history of great community involvement, Mickey will be thanked for her years of devotion to the Stanislaus County Commission for Women, Childcare Planning Council, Mental Health Board, Commission on Aging, Citizens Against Substance Abuse, Oakdale Fights Back, and the California Senior Legislature—along with many other agencies and commissions.

In addition to this Lifetime Achievement Award, Mickey has received awards that include Outstanding Woman of the Year, Outstanding Senior Citizen, and Woman of Distinction. Additionally, Mickey has earned a leadership award from the California Public Health Consortium and the National Center for Small Communities.

Mickey has a past filled with great instances of charity and compassion, and she will undoubtedly continue this same community devotion in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Mickey Peabody for her many years of service and philanthropy. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing her many years of continued happiness and success.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE HAPPY HOOLIGANS

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, on January 16, I joined the Happy Hooligans and the North Dakota Air National Guard in celebrating their 60th Anniversary. This unit—the 119th Fighting Wing, now rechristened the 119th Wing—has served our nation for the better part of the last century, and their dedicated commitment to our Nation’s defense will only continue in the coming years.

I can remember being at the Capitol on September 11th and one year later, being at

the Pentagon to recognize those pilots from the 119th Fighter Wing, who were flying vigil that day and in fact, did the first fly-over of the Pentagon after the attack. These moments will forever be part of the Hooligans' history.

This unit demonstrated time and again a commitment to excellence in flying fighter aircraft. The William Tell competition, which pits the top fighter units from across the country, was won by the 119th three times. The unit won the Hughes Achievement Award for air defense twice. It only makes sense to provide such a skilled and decorated unit a mission for the new century consistent with the evolution of the United States Air Force.

We know about our two new missions—the C-21s and the Predators—but what we don't yet know is how exactly the Hooligans will make their next entry into the history books with those aircraft. Ultimately, the 119th is about the people that make it up and those people have a record of accomplishment and great service to our Nation.

The 119th changes its mission, but brings with it an enviable record for flying safety. The unit was awarded the Flight Safety Trophy four times in the past seven years. Since 1990, the "Happy Hooligans" have flown more than 70,000 hours in F-16 aircraft without an accident from dozens of locations around the world, in a variety of weather conditions, during daylight and nighttime hours. That achievement coupled with hours of accident free flying in F-4 fighters and flight hours in F-101 fighter aircraft is one of the best safety records in U.S. Air Force history.

The pilots and other personnel in Fargo today who have stood up to terrorists and stood for freedom to protect the United States are remarkable heroes and their stories will ring true for many years in our hearts and our history books.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcalls numbers 44, 45, and 46, on January 22, I am not recorded.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each vote.

A TRIBUTE TO JON SAMUELS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, when our constituents think of the House of Representatives, they think of the 435 elected Congressmen and women. Yet each of us is acutely aware that much of what we do or say simply wouldn't happen without our hard-working staff—the men and women who choose this way to serve their country, and, oh yes, toil to make us look good.

I rise today to pay tribute to Jonathan Samuels who has worked with me and for me from the earliest days of my first Congressional race, beginning in 1997 until today. It is with

great pride, even motherly pride, that I see him move on to a key position in the office of Majority Whip JIM CLYBURN.

In the early fall of 1997, I literally recruited Jon Samuels off the street in my home town of Evanston, Illinois. He and I were walking together in a student-led march against violence that started at the High School and ended in downtown Evanston, a few blocks from my campaign office. He told me that he had recently graduated from college and talked about the work he was doing with the youth in our community. I learned he was experienced outdoors man and led young people on challenging wilderness experiences.

By the time we reached our destination, I knew that I had to have Jon on my team. I clung to him during the speeches and then took him directly to my office to sign him up as an organizer in the Campaign School I was creating. The Campaign School was to be made up of seventeen young people from around the country who wanted to learn to become political professionals by working the Congressional campaign of a progressive Democratic woman. In exchange for providing excellent training, they would work for a stipend and organize a sufficient number of volunteers and identify enough voters that would elect me to Congress.

The plan worked, in large part, because Jon Samuels was a star. There wasn't anything he couldn't do in that first campaign, and there was no way I could go to Washington without him. For the next 8 years, Jon worked by my side as Legislative Assistant, Legislative Director, and then as Deputy Chief of Staff/Communications Director. Along with my amazing Chief of Staff, Cathy Hurwit, Jon has been the brains behind Team Schakowsky.

As good as he was when he started, Jon has only gotten better. I have watched him grow into one of the most capable, dedicated, strategic, focused, wise-beyond-his-years young men I have ever encountered. I have relied on him to handle the most complicated issues and situations, deal with the media, constituents and outside groups, with other members and their staffs.

But even more than for all of his extraordinary talents and skills, I appreciate and love Jon Samuels for his heart. Working in my office was never just a job for Jon. He believes in our shared progressive vision. He believed our team could make a difference. And I always knew he believed in me, and that has been and continues to be a source of inspiration.

Jon is now like family to me. I feel privileged to say that because Jon is fiercely loyal to his family. He even calls his Grandmother every single day!

And so, Madam Speaker, I rise to say on the record, Thank you, Jon Samuels. Thank you for your service to the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, for your continuing contributions to our country, for sticking with me for over 9 years, and for your love and friendship. You will always be part of Team Schakowsky.

RETIREMENT OF SUSAN K. KERN,
DIRECTOR OF THE UNIONDALE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated and spirited community leader from the 4th Congressional District, Director of the Uniondale Public Library Susan K. Kern. Susan K. Kern began her library career 40 years ago in her hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts after receiving her Master's degree in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts.

Susan spent time working in public libraries in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey before relocating to Long Island, New York in 1981.

In 1986, Susan became the Director of Uniondale Public Library. She remained in that position for over 20 years. During her tenure at the Uniondale Public Library Susan was a major factor in several projects and programs that are still in existence today. She was responsible for installing the library's first elevator in 1987, coordinating the removal of dangerous asbestos in 1992 to keep the community safe and healthy.

The major project of her Uniondale Public Library career has been the Building Expansion and Renovation project. Beginning in 2003, this renovation took nearly 3 years to complete, ending with a Grand Reopening Celebration on January 8, 2006. This project has doubled the size of the library and has enabled the facility to offer more services and materials for the community.

In addition to the great projects Susan has completed, she is also responsible for many programs for the community. Susan has initiated many art exhibits, classes for both children and adults, and countless cultural programs for community members of all ages.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding guidance provided by Susan K. Kern, and the remarkable accomplishments she has made along the way. Together with her family and friends, I applaud Susan for her dedication and service to the community. I wish her continued success, and am honored to have her as a member of my district.

HONORING JERRY ZREMSKI ON
HIS INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT
OF THE NATIONAL PRESS
CLUB

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Jerry Zremski, newly inaugurated president of the National Press Club and new Washington Bureau Chief of the Buffalo News. Jerry has worked for the Buffalo News for 27 years, and we are privileged to have such a reputable journalist covering our city.

Jerry joined the Washington bureau of the Buffalo News in 1989. From presidential elections and the Buffalo waterfront to the Western