

from the latter position with the distinguished honor of having become the longest-serving warden in the State of Georgia.

However, retirement from his job within the prison system did not slow Bob down. Four years following his retirement he launched his first mayoral campaign and won. He also never wavered in his commitment to the Leesburg Shrine Club, the Peace Officers Association of Georgia, or the many other political and public service organizations in the state.

In addition to being a great leader, Bob is a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a member and past Layleader of Leesburg United Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, people like Bob make my job easy, and it is my privilege to honor this man today for his dedication to Leesburg, to its citizens, to the Second Congressional District, and to the betterment of his state and Nation.

MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION  
DIGITAL AND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITY OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 694, the Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2007. Before I go any further, I want to take this time to personally thank my colleague, RANDY FORBES of Virginia, for his longtime support and hard work on this bill.

This bipartisan bill seeks to improve technology instruction and enhance the communication network systems of minority serving institutions, many of which are located in poor, rural and isolated areas. Further, this important legislation seeks to deal with systemic disenfranchisement within minority communities by providing a means for partnership between MSIs and K-12 schools through teacher education, including the provision of preservice teacher training and in-service professional development. Under this legislation, MSIs are given an opportunity to further focus on disparities in access to quality higher education opportunities and the communities they serve.

Mr. Speaker, as public schools scramble to open for the fall term, principals and superintendents are frustrated by the stress of not having qualified math and science teachers. Just last week, the New York Times published an article entitled: Schools Scramble for Teachers Because of Spreading Turnover, and reported how tough it is to find good qualified teachers to teach science and math in low income neighborhoods. My bill, H.R. 694, will help to produce a new generation of world-class teachers of science and, mathematics and engineers.

Minority Serving Institutions play a unique role in the education of our diverse American workforce. According to a July 2005 House Committee on Science report, 21 percent of all college degrees and certificates awarded to African American, American Indian and Hispanic students are conferred by Minority Serving Institutions. Minority Serving Institutions also help underrepresented students succeed

in all disciplines, science, mathematics, and engineering in particular. For example, of African-Americans earning bachelor's degrees in science, math, engineering or the technology field in 1996, 31 percent received them at an HBCU. Similarly, Hispanic-Serving Institutions produced 20 percent of science, math, engineering or technology bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics in 1996.

Minority Serving Institutions have special skills in serving their communities, which include large numbers of low-income or first generation college students. In fact, I am a graduate of North Carolina A&T, as are many of my colleagues here today in support of this bill are graduates of HBCUs and MSIs. Unlike other, larger institutions of higher education, MSIs typically have small or nonexistent endowments and few wealthy alumni. As a result, the ability to purchase and pay for the upkeep of the technology that will prepare these students for the workforce is especially challenging for many MSI.

Developing an educated and technologically literate workforce is an important part of our efforts to compete in an increasingly technology and information-based, global economy. Whether technology should be used in schools is no longer the issue. Rather, the current emphasis is on ensuring that technology is available and used effectively to create new opportunities.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 694, the Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act.

In closing, I want to especially thank the higher education community who over the past 8 years have tirelessly worked to make this bill become a reality. Specifically, I want to thank Dr. Michael L. Lomax of the United Negro College Fund, Lezli Baskerville of the National Association of Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, Antonio Flores of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Gerald E. Gipp of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, the Telecommunications Industry Association, Alcatel Lucent, and the many other advocates who have worked on this issue.

IN HONOR OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEVA THEATER IN ROCHESTER, NY

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2007*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of my district's true treasures: The Geva Theater. For the past 35 years, the Geva Theater has been providing world-class theatrical performances to the Rochester area, as well as arts-related workshops and educational programs. From its humble beginnings of lunch-time performances in the Rochester Business Institute building, to its current two-stage home in the renovated Naval Armory, the Geva Theater has maintained a stellar reputation for creative and artistic excellence.

The Geva Theater was established in 1972 by William Sheldon and Cynthia Mason Sheldon. The theater was housed in the Rochester Business Institute. Their first performances

were a series of lunch-time plays in the fall of 1973. In 1982, Geva found a permanent home when the theater purchased and renovated Rochester's historic Naval Armory. Today, the Geva Theater Center is the home to the Elaine P. Wilson Mainstage, which produces seven shows each season and holds 552 patrons, and the Ron and Donna Fielding Nextstage, which houses a two-show season as well as Geva's other educational and interactive programs.

Theaters like Geva are increasingly important in light of studies that show the positive economic impact of arts in the community. "Arts and Economic Prosperity III", a study recently released by Americans for the Arts, found that the nonprofit arts and culture industry in the U.S. generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year. The arts industry creates quality jobs, generates billions in household income, and in local, state and Federal tax revenues.

Furthermore, studies like Critical Links: Learning in the Arts and Student Academic and Social Development have proved that arts education increases students' cognitive development, motivates and inspires discipline, enhances confidence and inventiveness, and hones communication and problem-solving skills.

There is no greater example of the benefits of arts organizations for local communities than the Geva Theater, which draws over 174,000 patrons annually—more than 16,000 of whom are students. The Big Theater for Little People program allows thousands of students to experience original live professional theater. For each of these performances, Geva also provides workshops for teachers and accompanying study guides to enhance the learning experience. Artists also engage in question and answer sessions with students and are available to travel to schools to continue the dialogue. This type of interactive program has helped provide Rochester-area students with unique and well-rounded arts education experience.

Through its wide variety of educational, outreach and literary programs, including Big Theater for Little People, the Geva Theater truly accomplishes its goals of enriching and deepening the theater-going experience for its audience; providing access and affordable theater to the Rochester community; developing new plays and playwrights; and nurturing the audiences and artists of the next generation. And by recruiting talented actors, directors, designers, and writers at the forefront of American performing arts from all across the country, Geva ensures that it provides its audience with the highest quality performance.

However, given all of the contributions that the Geva Theater has given the Rochester community, perhaps nothing is more impressive than the atmosphere and energy that characterize each show that graces their historic building. From meeting friends at the Geva Café, to the personable confines of the theaters themselves, it is an experience that has thrilled a generation. As Geva moves in to their next 35 years, it warms my heart to know that more generations will be privileged to enjoy the same.

EXPRESSING THANKS TO THE  
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION  
BATTALION 18

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2007*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my welcome home greetings to the men and women of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 18 as they return from their deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. On Saturday, these sailors and their families will gather at Sacramento's Naval Operational Support Center for a homecoming celebration and I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their service.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 18, often called NMCB 18, is made up of 14 detachments of naval reserve units from across the northwestern United States. For NMCB 18's nearly 500 members, their 9-month tour in Iraq meant time away from their families and loved ones, often at great personal sacrifice.

The battalion's motto, "We are Strong, Mighty and True; Genuine, Solid and Able to Do" summed up their mission while in Iraq. Their assignment was to build the necessary infrastructure to support forward based Marines in the Al Anbar Province. This included building hundreds of South West Asian huts to shelter over 3,500 Marines, laying 5,000 cubic yards of concrete and hauling over 33,000 cubic yards of material.

Among many things, their combined efforts helped establish nineteen combat outposts, construct eleven culvert crossings and complete 4 water wells. Across Iraq's Al Anbar Province these Seabees have installed wooden floors in Marines' tents, added air conditioning units and installed shower and bathroom trailers. Their work has made life a little bit easier for the Marines on the front lines. Each time the dedicated sailors of NMCB 18 were asked to complete a project, it was likely to be completed under the scheduled time and without a safety incident. In fact, NMCB 18 had the lowest number of safety incidents of any of the previous 6 battalions that preceded them.

Unfortunately, the realities of war hit home to the sailors of NMCB 18 on October 25, 2006 when they lost one of their own. Petty Officer 2nd Class Chuck Komppa of Belgrade, Montana died from enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Komppa was traveling between cities in order to assess the living conditions of our Marines when his convoy came under attack. I ask that all of my colleagues extend their heartfelt sympathies and sincere gratitude to his wife Delisa and their 2 children.

In a true feat of the determination, teamwork and ingenuity that characterized their time in Iraq, the sailors of NMCB 18 built a Morale, Welfare, and Recreation hut in less than 24 hours for the service men and women at Al Asad Air Base. This facility now serves as a place for rest and relaxation and allows servicemembers to call home in the privacy they deserve. Appropriately, the MWR hut was dedicated in the memory of Petty Officer Komppa.

These sailors did their job away from the safety of the more protected parts of Iraq and

by all accounts their mission was a success. In reviewing his battalion's time in Iraq NMCB Commander Dan Gould said he had nothing but "seam-bursting pride" for his sailors.

Madam Speaker, all of these sailors left their families and loved ones and placed their lives on the line for others. We owe these true citizen soldiers our thanks and gratitude. It is an honor for me to represent such fine men and women in Congress. Once again, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking them for their service. Welcome home.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DIANE  
WHITAKER

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Diane Whitaker for greatly enriching the community of Southern Nevada by serving as an exemplary role model and business-woman.

A resident of Las Vegas since 1976, Diane personifies the value of hard work. Coming from humble beginnings as a stay at home mother struggling to support her five children with her disabled husband, Diane re-entered the work force as a part time typist at the Ensign Federal Credit Union. Her determination and strong work ethic soon propelled her into a full time position at the company. Her ambition and talent was recognized and she worked her way up the corporate ladder as a teller, bookkeeper, marketing manager, human resource manager, and chief operations officer to eventually become the CEO of Ensign Federal Credit Union in 1998, a position which she has held ever since.

Diane's accomplishments as a professional are bolstered by her contributions to the Las Vegas community. She serves as a member of the local Boy Scouts of America Roundtable, and has sponsored local music festivals through Ensign Federal Credit Union.

Diane's ability to overcome the obstacles women face in the workplace while rising to the position of CEO, along with her community efforts and commitment to her family, make her an example of the realization of the American dream, coming from humble beginnings to achieve great things.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Diane Whitaker. Her contributions to our rapidly growing economy will continue to benefit our community. I wish her continued success in her career and future.

CONGRATULATING MR. JOSHUA  
BORGS MILLER

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents Mr. Joshua Borgsmiller of Elizabeth, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. His outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integ-

ity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young man.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Mr. Borgsmiller to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Borgsmiller and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

A SENIOR AMERICAN CEO GETS  
THE PRIORITIES RIGHT

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2007*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, David D'Allesandro was a very successful CEO of one of America's leading financial institutions, the John Hancock Company. Mr. D'Allesandro consistently demonstrated during his tenure as the leader of this important corporation that social responsibility and successful activity in the private sector are fully compatible. In the Boston Globe on September 3rd, he published an article that exemplifies the thoughtful and constructive approach he brought.

Madam Speaker, I believe that the most important thing we can do domestically is to demonstrate that understanding and support of a prosperous private sector is not only consistent with support for a vigorous and well funded public sector, but in fact benefits from such an approach. As he says, "If we are going to be globally competitive and continue to attain record profits in this ever-evolving competitive globalization, that same corporate America has to 'cough up' and take more financial responsibility for our greatest asset: our children and their education."

Noting the great wealth that is being created by pools of private capital America, he asks pointedly, "If there is that much money running around, why does the National Education Association report that we are facing a potential nationwide teacher shortage with more than a million teachers retiring in the near future and the need for more than 2 million teachers in the next decade? . . . Among the reasons for this turnover is inadequate pay compared to other professions with the same training requirements."

Madam Speaker, David D'Allesandro is asserting a point that other corporate leaders must understand in their own interests and in the interests of a more equitable society. I ask that this very thoughtful article be printed here because it makes such an important contribution to our national debate.

(By David D'Allesandro)

ECONOMY THRIVES, BUT SCHOOLS GO BEGGING  
Starting tomorrow, traffic in and around every major city including Boston will once again be congested due mainly to two seasonal phenomena: school buses packed with