

Smith, Jacob Spellman, Joseph Walker II, Moses Webb, Jr., and Ji Wright.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the Bengals on their championship and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

FREEDOM FOR VICTOR ROLANDO ARROYO CARMONA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Victor Rolando Arroyo Carmona, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Arroyo Carmona is an independent journalist in a country oppressed by a regime that mandates official propaganda and prohibits news of the truth. He believes in writing and speaking the truth about the monstrous regime and that Cuba should and will be free from the totalitarian nightmare that is the Castro dictatorship. Because he believes in freedom for the Cuban people and because he actively and peacefully advocates for change, Mr. Arroyo Carmona has been repeatedly harassed and incarcerated by the tyrant's machinery.

According to Human Rights Watch, Mr. Arroyo Carmona has been detained numerous times for his pro-democracy activism. In January 1995, he was beaten and jailed for 9 days after organizing a ceremony commemorating the birth of Jose Marti. In January 2000, he was charged with "hoarding" and "sentenced" to 18 months in the hellish totalitarian gulag for organizing a toy drive and distributing toys to needy Cuban children. He served 6 months of his sentence before being released only to be severely beaten on three separate occasions in October of that same year.

Subsequently, on March 18, 2003, as part of the dictator's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy advocates, Mr. Arroyo Carmona was arrested because of his belief in liberty over repression. In a sham trial, he was "sentenced" on trumped-up charges that he "undermined national independence and territorial integrity" to 26 years in the condemnable totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Arroyo Carmona has bravely participated in hunger strikes to protest the abhorrent conditions in the gulag and the depraved treatment of fellow political prisoners. Tragically, his daily struggle and suffering in an infernal roach infested gulag with hardly any contact with the outside world is not enough for the Cuban dictatorship, a regime of gangsters, by gangsters, and for gangsters, run by a gangster in chief. According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Arroyo is subjected to constant humiliation, physical torture and threats that he will never leave prison alive.

Mr. Arroyo Carmona is just one of the many heroes of the peaceful pro-democracy opposition on that oppressed island. Despite incessant harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom and democracy are inalienable rights of the Cuban people.

Madam Speaker, it remains categorically offensive that men and women who demand freedom from tyranny are locked in the dungeons of monsters. Here, under the dome that

represents representative democracy, we must demand the liberation of all who suffer in the darkness of totalitarianism. My colleagues we must demand the immediate release of Victor Rolando Arroyo Carmona and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNION MEMORIAL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan. On Sunday, January 28, the Union Memorial A.M.E. will be celebrating her 139th Anniversary.

Since the church's original dedication in 1868, the first African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Twin Cities of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph has stood as a symbol of faith, hope, and compassion for the citizens of Berrien County and the surrounding area. Its 139 years of commitment have had a tremendous impact on its congregation as well as the greater community.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has had a proud history since starting in the home of Steven Busby in 1868. This small Christian assembly back then was known as the "House of Praise." The area was home to two A.M.E. churches in the 1890s, and in 1901 the church in Benton Harbor was destroyed by a fire. The church was rebuilt and in 1929 the Benton Harbor and St. Joseph churches united under the name Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1969 the church moved to its current location at Empire and Crystal A venues.

In its 139 year history, the church has never wavered from the ministry of saving lost souls, preaching the gospel, feeding the hungry, helping the homeless, and reaching out and renewing the spirit of folks in need. I want to commend the members of Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal on their anniversary and on their commitment in the future to serving the greater community.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL ANDEREGG

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my constituents who has dedicated more than thirty years of his life to serving our justice system, Marquette County and the entire Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Honorable Michael Anderegg began his service to the Upper Peninsula in 1972 as a Staff Attorney for Upper Peninsula Legal Services. After a two-year stint with Upper Peninsula Legal Services, Judge Anderegg went on to become Assistant Prosecutor and Chief Assistant Prosecutor of Marquette County. In seeking his first elected office, Michael Anderegg was chosen as Marquette County Probate Judge in 1977.

Twenty years later, Michigan eliminated the Probate Court and Judge Anderegg became the Presiding Judge of the Family Division of the Marquette County Circuit Court. Judge Anderegg has become a national leader in developing new approaches to the closely linked problems of substance abuse, juvenile delinquency and repeat offenders.

In Marquette, Judge Anderegg has been one of the driving forces behind Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE. WEAVE stands for Willingness to Explore Approaches that Validate and Embrace youth. Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE is a unique program that is working in Marquette to improve the quality of alcohol and drug treatment services available to youth who are in the justice system. Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE's cross-disciplinary approach pulls together varied partners from recovery and treatment centers, the Marquette Area Public Schools, law enforcement, the juvenile justice system and other cornerstones of the Marquette community to assist youthful offenders to become a contributing adult in our society. Together, through Project WEAVE, these institutions identify, assist, encourage and reclaim children struggling at home, in schools and in our communities.

Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE's successes have become a model for other juvenile delinquency systems around the country. As Judge Anderegg and the Project WEAVE staff joke: "What happens in Alaska stays in Alaska and what happens in San Antonio stays in San Antonio, but what happens in Marquette is disseminated across the nation!"

The Michigan legal community, indeed legal professionals across the country, have benefited immensely from Judge Anderegg's sharp intellect, vast knowledge and wealth of experience. A graduate of Harvard College and the University of Michigan Law School, Judge Anderegg has served on Michigan Supreme Court Committees on: Juvenile Court Rules; Family Division Rules; and the Probate Court Academic Advisory Benchbook. He has lectured extensively, addressing the Michigan Supreme Court's Michigan Judicial Institute; the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Section; and the Colorado Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention Council, to name only a few of the prominent organizations that have benefited from his insights. In 2001, he received the President's Award for meritorious service as a trustee of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Judge Anderegg spends a great deal of personal time traveling across the country in order to share his insights. The Project WEAVE staff estimate that he has easily traveled 150,000 miles in his quest to learn more, share more and improve America's juvenile justice system.

In many pursuits and professions it is often easy to accept the status quo and to resist new thinking. It is rare to find individuals who constantly challenge pre-conceived notions and basic assumptions in order to perfect more effective solutions to long standing problems. An outspoken advocate for bold, new approaches to solving juvenile delinquency, Judge Michael Anderegg is one of those rare individuals who embraces change.

Madam Speaker, Judge Anderegg has accomplished much in his thirty years of service. His parents, Robert and Anita were proud that he was elected a judge at the relatively young age of thirty. During his early years on the

bench, his parents were known to refer to him as "boy judge." Clearly, Madam Speaker, Robert and Anita's "boy judge" has come a long way and his parents have given Marquette County, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and, indeed, the nation, a judge who is a national leader in reclaiming young lives.

As Judge Anderegg himself has noted, "The money we spend now on locating and providing the best possible treatment is money we will not need to spend later on prosecuting and incarcerating adult criminals. The financial and social costs of substance abuse are enormous, but they are avoidable." No truer words have ever been spoken.

This weekend, the people of Marquette come together to honor Judge Michael Anderegg. During this momentous occasion, I would ask the entire U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Judge Michael Anderegg and in wishing him, his wife, Cheryl, and their children all the best for many years to come.

CLEAN ENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6, the CLEAN Energy Act, which will end federal welfare for big oil companies and redirect billions of dollars towards investments in a cleaner, more secure energy future.

Less than two weeks into the 110th Congress, Democrats have already delivered real progress for American families by passing the six measures outlined in the 100 Hours Agenda with time to spare. The CLEAN Energy Act (H.R. 6) is one of these priorities. As a co-sponsor of H.R. 6, I was proud to vote for the bill when it passed the House 264–163 on January 18, 2007 with the support of 36 Republican members.

Over the past several years, U.S. taxpayer subsidies to oil companies have increased at a time of record-high energy prices for American consumers and record profits for oil companies. In 2006, the five largest oil companies operating in the U.S. received \$97 billion in profits—five times their earnings in 2002. In this economic environment, the oil companies themselves have said most federal supports are unnecessary.

The new Congress is ushering in new priorities. H.R. 6 repeals \$13 billion in subsidies that should never have been granted during a time of war and spiraling federal budget deficits. Specifically, the measure requires large oil companies that were awarded royalty-free federal drilling leases in 1998 and 1999 to pay their fair share or lose eligibility for future federal leases. It would also close loopholes and end giveaways for big oil in the tax code and in the 2005 Energy bill. In keeping with the Democrats' pledge to take America in a new direction, H.R. 6 reinvests these billions into a Strategic Renewable Energy Reserve that will be used to fund clean, renewable energy technologies such as home-grown biofuels.

H.R. 6 is an important first step in reducing America's dependence on oil. In this new era of global terror and global warming, energy

security is national security. Only by pursuing a bold new direction on energy policy will America achieve our three, interdependent goals of national security, economic strength and environmental protection. With an abundance of renewable energy sources in our backyard and clean energy technology companies across the state, Minnesota stands to reap more than its share of benefits from a new national push for clean energy.

One year ago, in his State of the Union Address, President Bush promised to end our oil addiction. Today, the new Democratic majority is helping the President make good on that promise and working to create a more secure and prosperous future for the next generation of Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make the following rollcall vote on January 19, 2007:

H.R. 475, The House Page Board Revision Act (Rollcall vote 42). On the motion to pass the bill, had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

H. RES. 51—HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the hallmark of Catholic schools is their ability to provide students with a well-rounded education. By focusing on academic excellence based on strong morals, Catholic schools consistently graduate ethical scholars.

I strongly support H. Res. 51 because it recognizes this distinguished ability of Catholic schools. New Jersey's fifth district is proud to be the home of numerous Catholic schools which are overseen by the dioceses of Newark, Metuchen and Paterson.

As we commend Catholic schools through this resolution and during next week's Catholic Schools Week, I would be remiss if I did not highlight the excellent administrators, teachers, parents, and students who make up the New Jersey Catholic School system. It is their dedication to their mission that has cultivated a lasting and celebrated program.

New Jersey's strong tradition of Catholic education can be traced back to the late eighteenth century when larger metropolitan areas started to erect schools which were supervised and supported by church authorities. Now, over 200 years later, Catholic schools can be found all over New Jersey, educating future leaders to serve their fellow statesmen and those who live far beyond our state line.

New Jersey Catholic Schools operate under the motto: "Learning to love. Loving to learn." This maxim pinpoints the consistent successful record of Catholic education: instilling a re-

spect and concern for others while simultaneously sparking a genuine curiosity and thirst for knowledge.

It is with these things in mind that I wholeheartedly support House Resolution 51 and look forward to hearing of the continued successes of the Catholic school system, in New Jersey and all over the world.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAL RIPKEN, JR.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a man who led by example not only on the field but continues to lead off the field as well. Cal Ripken Jr., a son of Maryland who is known to many as Baseball's "Iron Man", was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame on January 9, 2007. He garnered 98.53% of the votes—the third highest total in Major League Baseball history.

Calvin Edwin Ripken, Jr. was born in Havre de Grace, Maryland on August 24, 1960. He has dedicated his entire baseball career playing for the Baltimore Orioles organization and contributing to life in Maryland.

Cal made his debut for the Orioles in August of 1981. He quickly impressed baseball fans and professionals alike with his play at the shortstop position, and was honored for his play by being named the American League's Rookie of the Year in 1982. His continuing excellence on the field led to many additional awards throughout his career. Cal was named the American League's Most Valuable Player in 1983 and 1991. He was a 19-time American League All-Star, winning Most Valuable Player awards in the 1991 and 2001 All-Star games. However, none of his career accomplishments matches his consecutive games played record, previously held by Lou Gehrig at 2,130 games. Cal broke the long-standing record on September 6, 1995, eventually playing 2,632 consecutive games, a record for which he was nicknamed "Baseball's Iron Man".

Cal Ripken, Jr. retired from professional baseball on October 6, 2001, but that was not the end of the Iron Man's service to baseball or Maryland. He has been an active member of the local community throughout his career and beyond. In 2001, Cal and other members of the Ripken family began the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, which is dedicated to providing access to baseball and softball camps for underprivileged youth. He continued to support baseball in the community when he built a stadium in Aberdeen, MD, for the Aberdeen IronBirds, the Single-A affiliate of the Orioles, of which he is a part owner.

He is known as the "Iron Man" because of his dedication to the Baltimore Orioles and to baseball due to his consecutive games streak record. However, his efforts on and off the field for the Baltimore area, the state of Maryland, and fans of baseball everywhere are what really make him the "Iron Man" to all. Just as he could be counted on to show up every day on the field to play for the Orioles, he is counted on by the people of the Baltimore area and Maryland to show up off the