

INTRODUCING THE HIGHER
EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce, along with my colleague Representative VERN EHLERS, the "Higher Education Sustainability Act of 2007." This legislation authorizes funding for sustainability programs in American colleges and universities to develop, implement, and evaluate economic, environmental, and social sustainability programs. The legislation also directs the Secretary of Education to convene a summit of higher education experts to showcase best practices in the field of sustainability.

Hundreds of U.S. cities and companies as well as international agencies, including the United Nations and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, are advancing sustainable practices in all arenas. As population growth, urban development and extreme weather incidents place greater stress on ecosystems around the globe; the need for developing innovative approaches to sustainable development becomes critical to our economic competitiveness, environmental health, and the strength of our communities.

The "Higher Education Sustainability Act" would facilitate the development of programs that keep American students on the cutting edge of technology and global competition while benefiting our communities. The legislation also provides funds to establish rigorous benchmarks for evaluating programs, ensuring that sustainability graduates meet industry standards for best practices. With the threat of global warming looming larger every day, we must invest now in the research and human capital needed to address its impacts and sustain our economy and our communities.

IN HONOR OF MIKE TORIGIANI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Mike Torigiani of Buttonwillow, California for receiving the 2007 Agriculturist of the Year Award from the Kern County Fair. His dedication to young participants of 4-H and Future Farmers of America among other activities make Mike Torigiani most deserving of this honor.

Mike Torigiani was born in Kern County in 1943 during World War II. Son of Gino and Olympia Torigiani, Mike attended Buttonwillow Elementary School and graduated from Shafter High School. Immediately following high school, Mr. Torigiani attended Bakersfield College for two years, after which he began his farming career.

Mr. Torigiani formed a partnership with his uncle Oliver entitled O & M Farms. After 3 years of farming in that partnership, he decided to join his father and brother in business. Mr. Torigiani and his brother, Ron Torigiani, own and operate Torigiani Farms, which is a third generation business established in 1970.

Mr. Torigiani has served as President of the Buttonwillow Chamber of Commerce and is an active member of the Buttonwillow Lions Club. In 1975, Mr. Torigiani was named as Buttonwillow's Honorary Mayor. He has served on the Kern County Fair Beef Board for over twenty years and, serving in this capacity, he has enjoyed every moment he has been affiliated with the Junior Livestock at the Kern County Fair. Mr. Torigiani has shown his interest and dedication through countless hours helping young people raise livestock for the Kern County Fair.

Mr. Torigiani married Sandy Bulluomini in 1965 and together they have two sons, Steve, who is an attorney and partner in Young Wooldridge Law Firm, and Jim, who is an entomologist with Western Farm Service. His grandchildren, Tyler and Mia, are the light of his life and he looks forward to sharing the joy and tradition of the Kern County Fair with them.

The leadership and commitment Mr. Torigiani has shown to the Kern County Fair and the Kern County youth has never wavered. He personifies a man of principle and integrity. Mike Torigiani is a role model for all of us and it is with great pride that I congratulate him for receiving this distinguished award and for all that he does for Kern County residents.

2007 SEA OTTER AWARENESS
WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 5th Annual Sea Otter Awareness Week, September 23–29, 2007, sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife. This week-long event provides the opportunity to educate the broader public about sea otters, their natural history, the integral role that sea otters play in the near-shore marine ecosystem, and the conservation issues they are facing.

In the past, the killing of these animals for their fur brought their numbers down to less than 100 by the 1930s. The decline of southern sea otter populations not only has impacts on the species itself, but also affects other marine populations and the surrounding ecosystem. For instance, the demise of sea otters allows their prey sea urchins to proliferate unchecked, which leads to the alarming overgrazing of kelp beds—one of the ocean's nursery grounds for many marine animals. In particular, research shows that the absence of sea otters has a direct link to the sharp decline of kelp along portions of California's coast. Sea otter research also has proven to be an effective method of monitoring toxins and diseases in the marine environment, both of which can affect the health of humans and other wildlife.

The presence of the California sea otter has become an icon of the State's coastal environment and culture, and these charismatic animals bring significant tourism revenue to Californian coastal communities. Protecting them is not only directly advantageous to the otter population, but also fosters indirect benefits on a greater scale.

Groups such as Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Sea Otter, The Otter Project, and The Ocean Conservancy have raised public awareness and helped protect this important species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. Due to these efforts, the southern sea otter population has increased to more than 2,800 animals.

However, these numbers are still significantly less than what is necessary to consider the population stable and their population growth in recent years is slower than expected. Researchers are beginning to identify indirect hazards for sea otters such as non-point source pollution, pathogens, and entrapment in fisheries gear that are causing their population growth to slow. Such realizations support the need for continued research and preventive measures to respond to these issues, while continuing to ward against the direct killings/takings that still occur.

California has taken the first step toward addressing these emerging concerns by signing into law California Assembly Bill 2485, which establishes a State fund for sea otter conservation. This year Californians had the option of donating a portion of their tax returns to sea otter conservation. To date, this has raised \$145,000.

However, this is a federally protected species and the State cannot go it alone. In addition to working with my colleagues to secure Federal funds to support a continued and complete recovery of the population, I am also introducing the Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act today. This bill provides for research and recovery programs for the southern sea otter.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of Defenders of Wildlife and other non-profit environmental organizations, working with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, researchers, fishermen, State and Federal agencies, schools, and many other institutions and individuals, who devote tremendous effort to protect and recover the southern/California sea otter. Sea Otter Awareness Week is just one of their many activities geared towards honoring and saving this species, and I am proud to be associated with this vital work.

NEVER HURT SOMEONE YOU LOVE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, for too many people in this country, love comes with bruises, broken bones, and black eyes. Twenty years ago, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. In the past 20 years, there are programs, education, and funding dedicated to preventing domestic violence, but domestic violence is still a dangerous reality for too many Americans. One in every four women will be a victim of domestic violence during her lifetime. But domestic violence doesn't discriminate—it affects everyone—men, women, and children of every race, ethnicity, religion, and economic status. It affects the workplace, increases health care costs, and spurs even more violence among children who witness it at home. The cost of domestic violence is staggering—over \$5.8 billion each year. Domestic violence happens

during dating and in marriages. Children who witness domestic violence at home do poorly in school, use drugs and alcohol at an early age, and are more likely to engage in violent behavior themselves. Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.

As a former prosecutor and judge, I founded the Congressional Victim Rights Caucus to advocate for crime victims. I sponsored H. Res. 590 to declare October 2007 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. October will raise awareness of the increasing number of abusers who murder their victims and then take their own lives, in addition to the financial strain experienced by domestic violence victims, including loss of employment and loss of housing. In October, thousands of victim advocacy organizations, State coalitions, and community groups will hold events to bring awareness to the violence that affects men, women, and children every single year. Community awareness about domestic violence allows victims to seek help—it creates shelters for domestic violence victims to seek refuge in, holds abusers accountable, and helps children live in nonviolent homes.

In the past, Congress's support of this month has led to an increasing number of local community groups, religious organizations, health care providers, corporations, and media addressing domestic violence in communities.

Congress has been instrumental in increasing the funding for programs located under the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, but there is still a need for further awareness of domestic violence. Let's send a message to domestic violence victims that Congress is their voice. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING 10TH DISTRICT SERVICE
MEN AND WOMEN

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor those who wear the uniform and serve their Nation in the U.S. armed services. We have more than 1.3 million active duty troops stationed throughout the world, and we owe these men and women much for their dedication and service. As a Naval Reserve intelligence officer who just returned from 2 weeks of active duty in August, I would also like to thank those who serve in our military's Reserve forces. More than 800,000 Americans serve in the seven Reserve branches, including the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve.

Several weeks ago, I learned of one individual in my district that demonstrates the strong commitment to community and country that every Reserve enlisted person and officer has.

Tom Baier resides in Libertyville, IL, where the 53-year-old doctor has an orthopedic surgery practice. He serves as a team physician for several local youth sports teams, as well as a teacher for other doctors for arthroscopic ACL reconstruction surgery.

Dr. Baier's son Mike enlisted in the Marine Corps last spring and is currently stationed in Iraq. In part because of his son's service and his specialized surgical knowledge, Dr. Baier joined the Army Reserve's medical corps. On August 9, he was commissioned as a major and will report for training in the coming months.

Like many serving in our Reserve forces, Dr. Baier brings with him an expertise that will be an incredible asset to our military. Our men and women in the military deserve nothing but the finest medical care possible and I am grateful that we have individuals like Dr. Baier to provide that care. For all the men and women serving in the 10th Congressional District, from active duty to Reserve, as well as their families, we are honored by your sacrifices and selfless dedication to the Nation. We are a stronger country because of individuals like Dr. Baier.

HONORING BOB MIZER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bob Mizer on the occasion of his becoming an honorary member of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, VVFD.

Mr. Mizer is a 1964 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. A retired naval officer, he moved to Fairfax County, VA, in 1979 and has been an exemplary model of service within the county ever since.

In July 2000, he took the position of volunteer liaison for the VVFD. The VVFD is a volunteer organization that works in conjunction with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in order to provide the fire department with supplemental staffing, as well as additional units such as an ambulance and engine. VVFD owns and maintains the station and its equipment, while Fairfax County provides 24-hour staffing with paid firefighters and paramedics on three shifts.

Mr. Mizer left his position as volunteer liaison on September 4, 2007, but will continue as president of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Bob Mizer for his years of service and dedication to the VVFD. The events of September 11, 2001 serve as a reminder of the sacrifices our emergency service workers make for us each day. These individuals' continuous efforts on behalf of Fairfax County citizens are paramount to preserving security, law and order throughout our community. Their selfless acts of heroism truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Mizer, and congratulating him on being named an honorary member of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MITCHELL
ROSENTHAL

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the life and work of an outstanding individual whom I feel fortunate to have known. The late Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal of Vauxhall, NJ, passed away suddenly in May at the age of 58.

For people who did not know Dr. Rosenthal, he was part of the small group of founders of the National Head Injury Foundation, now known as the Brain Injury Association of America. Traumatic brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability among young Americans in the United States.

During his renowned life, Dr. Rosenthal was the Chief Operating Officer for Kessler Medical Rehabilitation Research and Education Corporation in West Orange, NJ, and Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

He also served on several committees and boards dedicated to brain injury research and education, including the TBI National Database Center, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and the American Psychological Association. Further, he served as the President of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine in 1992.

Dr. Rosenthal received many awards during his career; he published more than 80 peer-reviewed articles, books, and book chapters, and he delivered more than 200 presentations at major national and international meetings, primarily related to brain injury rehabilitation.

As co-chair of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, I had the privilege of working with Dr. Rosenthal on the issues of TBI education, services and research funding here in Congress.

The brain injury community has lost a great advocate. Dr. Rosenthal will be deeply missed by those who knew him, and by those whose lives he has bettered through his dedication to brain injury research and education.

He leaves a legacy of true leadership, intellectual honesty, and total commitment to others. I would like to offer my condolences to the Rosenthal family, his wife Margaret, and his children Michelle and David.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated community servants like Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, everyone gathered this evening, Mitchell's family and friends, and me in recognizing the late Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal's outstanding service to his community.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL ROTORFEST

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Eleventh Annual Rotorfest