

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WALTER P. REUTHER'S BIRTH AND THE REDEDICATION OF REUTHER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the 100th anniversary of the birth of a great civic leader, Walter P. Reuther, and the rededication of Reuther Middle School in Rochester Hills, Michigan on October 28, 2007.

Mr. Reuther grew up in Wheeling, West Virginia where he learned the value and practicality of trade unionism. After serving an apprenticeship in tool and die work, he left for Detroit to complete his education and join the automobile industry with both Ford and General Motors. Mr. Reuther became an active member of the United Automobile Workers (UAW), where he eventually became president of the UAW Local 174 and a member of the UAW executive board. In 1946, Mr. Reuther was elected president of the UAW, a position he held until his passing in 1970.

As president of the UAW, Mr. Reuther worked to enhance job security, medical insurance, pensions, and supplemental unemployment benefits for the union members. Mr. Reuther used his position to influence far more than just labor policies. He stood beside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as he delivered his historic "I Have a Dream Speech" and was a strong supporter of the Civil Rights Movement. For all of his contributions Mr. Reuther was named in TIME magazine's list of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century.

Reuther Middle School, part of the Rochester Community School Community, was named in honor of May and Walter Reuther for their service to the school community. Opened in 1973, Reuther Junior High, as it was then named, taught 750 students in grades seven through nine. In 1986, the Rochester Community Schools changed to a middle school philosophy, serving grades six through eight, and changing the name to Reuther Middle School.

In the 2003–2004 school year, the citizens of Rochester Community School District approved a bond measure to renovate Reuther Middle School. On October 28, 2007, Reuther Middle School will be officially rededicated, celebrating not only their 35th school year, but also the 100th anniversary of Mr. Walter P. Reuther's birth.

Madam Speaker, today I commend Reuther Middle School for their continued devotion to the community and their record of excellence. Let the school continue to be a tribute to a great civic and social leader, Mr. Walter P. Reuther.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
ADOLFO "POPO" GONZALEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Sergeant Adolfo "Popo" Gon-

zalez, on his retirement from the Texas Army National Guard, where he served his state and country honorably for the past 39 years.

Mr. Gonzalez was born to Aurelia Lopez Gonzalez and the late Eusebio Bustos Gonzalez in June 17, 1949, in Laredo, Texas. He started working at the family restaurant when he was 12 years old, and then ran a paper route for the Laredo Morning Times. Mr. Gonzalez graduated from J.W. Nixon High School in 1967, and then received his associate degree from Laredo Community College. He joined the Texas National Army National Guard on May 25, 1968, which began the start of his 39 years service in the National Guard. Mr. Gonzalez received his B.S. in Education with a major in English and Spanish from Texas A&M International University.

Mr. Gonzalez is intensely involved in the community as a member of several local and non-profit organizations such as President of LULAC #690, Laredo Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce, Laredo Frontier Days, Webb County Community Action Agency, and the Laredo Veterans Coalition. He also is a member of the Laredo Airport Advisory Board, the Webb County Water Committee, Laredo Evening Lions Club, Santa Isabel Creek Feasibility Study, Non-Commission Officers Club of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas State Teachers Association, and the National Guard Association of Texas.

In addition to his civic involvement with the community, Mr. Gonzalez works as a teacher at United High School, where he has taught oral communications to ESL learners for the past 22 years. When he is not teaching students or working with community organizations, Mr. Gonzalez helps his fellow veterans out as the Laredo Area chair for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, which works with local employers to safeguard the rights of guardsmen and reservists. He was named the Outstanding Volunteer for the State of Texas in recognition of his work with ESGR.

Mr. Gonzalez is a proud father to six children: Adolfo, Jr., Albert, Richard, Annette Marie, Alejandro Jose, and Yvette Magally. He has been married to his wife, Juana Maria Lopez, for the past 25 years.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication and commitment of Master Sergeant Adolfo "Popo" Gonzalez to the City of Laredo in the State of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNINE TUTTLE
RAINBOLT

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to pay special tribute to one of Oklahoma's own, Jeannine Tuttle Rainbolt, who recently lost her life after a long struggle with lung cancer.

I join with all my fellow Oklahomans in mourning the tragic loss of this remarkable woman. Jeannine Tuttle Rainbolt was both deeply admired and sincerely respected by all who knew her. She will forever be remembered for her generosity, leadership, and integrity.

For 57 years, she was dedicated to her husband and best friend, Gene Rainbolt, who will

undoubtedly miss her. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gene and all who mourn the loss of Jeannine.

Jeannine lived a purposeful life focused on enhancing the lives of others. Throughout her career as an educator, she inspired her pupils to vigorously pursue greater levels of personal and academic achievement; and she tirelessly worked to shape youth, into the leaders of the future. Jeannine's example also reached beyond the walls of the classroom. As a passionate and active philanthropist, she was a model member of her community, inspiring countless others to become civically engaged and to join together for the purpose of strengthening local families and communities.

Madam Speaker, it is without question Jeannine was an exceptional woman; however there is one notable quality about her which I find to be most remarkable—her ability to persevere. Throughout her difficult struggle with cancer, she never yielded to despair. Rather she continued to live with hope and grace.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I commemorate the life and legacy of Jeannine Tuttle Rainbolt along with my fellow Oklahomans. Jeannine's legacy of unconditional love, generosity, and leadership will undoubtedly continue to exist in the hearts and minds of all she inspired.

RECOGNIZING THE VISIT OF
MAYOR OF FAMAGUSTA, CY-
PRUS, MR. ALEXIS GALANOS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome Mr. Alexis Galanos, the elected Mayor of Famagusta, Republic of Cyprus to Washington, DC. Mayor Galanos is the only democratically elected and exiled mayor of a population that is primarily constituted of refugees. He was elected Mayor of Famagusta in December of 2006 and has since worked tirelessly to raise humanitarian awareness about Famagusta and its exiled people.

He is here championing the global campaign undertaken by the Citizens of Famagusta for the return of their city in the occupied area of Cyprus which has been a "ghost town" since the 1974 illegal invasion by Turkey.

Famagusta was the main town of the second largest district of Cyprus both in terms of its population and surface area. The cultivation and production of the potato crop, the rich and fertile mainland, the port, tourist and industrial sectors, were the most significant contributors to the city's economic dynamism prior to the 1974.

The development of the tourist industry in the late 1960s and early 1970's had very beneficial effects for the construction industry and moreover, supplied many jobs to the local population, in particular with respect to services related to tourism. A great number of people came to Famagusta on a daily basis, primarily for work. This greatly enhanced the economy of the city and assured a steady rise in its living standards.

Famagusta was the island's most cosmopolitan destination. The construction of a

modern harbor for Famagusta in 1932 was an important factor in the promotion and development of the city and contributed to a surge in its economic activity. The expansion and deepening of the harbor, completed in 1965 solidified Famagusta's position that became dominant in terms of the flow of merchandise coming in and out of the island.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey unlawfully invaded Cyprus, and a few weeks later, on August 14, Turkish military forces in the second phase of the invasion moved further south and bombarded Famagusta relentlessly. Greek Cypriots were forced to flee their homes in fear and terror, never to return again. Turkish forces sealed off the city with barbed wire fences.

45,000 inhabitants of Famagusta became refugees in their own country. They lost their land, their properties, their homes and businesses and many of their own people.

Since the Turkish invasion, religious symbols, churches, monasteries, and cultural heritage of Cyprus have been subject to destruction, looting and vandalism, stolen, and illegally excavated and sold on the black market.

More than 500 Greek Orthodox churches and chapels, 17 monasteries in the occupied area in the north have been pillaged, destroyed, turned into casinos and stables. The ecclesiastical items for these sites—including more than 15,000 portable icons—remain unaccounted for.

Since 2003, with the partial lifting of movement restrictions by the occupation regime, Greek Cypriot displaced persons could visit their homes and properties, but are still denied the right to return and live where they were born and raised.

A large proportion of the properties from which the Greek Cypriot owners were expelled, was unlawfully distributed to and is currently being used by the tens of thousands of illegal settlers from Turkey.

Unprecedented illegal construction is taking place on land which belongs to Greek Cypriots forced to abandon their homes during the invasion by Turkey.

The U.N. General Assembly, the U.N. Security Council and the U.N. Commission of Human Rights, as well as the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and several other international organizations have repeatedly demanded the urgent return of the refugees to their homes in safety. In particular, since 1974, more than 75 resolutions have been adopted by the U.N. Security Council and more than 13 by the U.N. General Assembly, calling *inter alia* for the return of the refugees to their homes and properties. Furthermore, in regards to Famagusta/Varosha area, OP 5 of the the U.N. Security Council resolution 550/1984, *inter alia* states, that it "considers attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible and calls for the transfer of this area to the administration of the United Nations".

These resolutions are being ignored by Turkey, which has refused to comply, and flagrantly continues to violate the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Greek Cypriots, including the freedom of movement and ownership.

The European Court of Human Rights found Turkey guilty of violating relevant articles of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms for refusing to

allow the return of any Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes and denying them access to and use of their property.

In the 1979 High Level Agreement between the then President of the Republic of Cyprus Mr. Kyprianou and the then Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Denktash, it was agreed that "priority will be given to reaching agreement to the resettlement of Varosha under U.N. auspices simultaneously with the beginning of the consideration by the interlocutors of the constitutional and territorial aspects of a comprehensive settlement. After agreement on Varosha has been reached it will be implemented without awaiting the outcome of the discussion on other aspects of the Cyprus problem". Unfortunately, Turkey has not adhered to this agreement in any discussions regarding the return of the refugees.

Expatriated and uprooted Famagustians worked very hard, both in Cyprus and abroad to make a living, they had to start from scratch.

The people of Famagusta, like all other Greek Cypriot refugees, have a burning desire and right to return to their homes.

I commend Mayor Galanos for the extraordinary outreach he has engaged in to bridge the gap between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot divide and work towards a reunified Cyprus and a thriving and bustling Famagusta.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN MICHAEL
ASHLOCK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Michael Ashlock of Liberty, Missouri. Steven is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Steven has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Steven has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Michael Ashlock for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ASSESSMENT ACCURACY AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, as Congress considers the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act this year, have an obligation to listen closely to the students, parents, and educators that we represent to ensure that our efforts result in responsible and pragmatic im-

provements. While we have made great strides in the areas of assessment and accountability over the last five years, this reauthorization provides a critical opportunity to learn from our experiences and fine-tune the law.

One example of a lesson my constituents have learned, and have adamantly shared with me, is that we should be encouraging States to move toward better assessment models. As I have met with educators over the past year, one of the primary concerns that I have heard is that the State assessment fails to provide information of value to educators and administrators. Even more disturbing, it often takes 4 to 6 months before scores are returned to schools, which leaves little or no time for teachers to use the information to address student performance before they advance to the next grade.

However, I believe there is a sensible solution that Congress can adopt to address these concerns and give States more options in assessment design. Today, Representative DAVID WU and I are introducing the bipartisan Assessment Accuracy and Improvement Act of 2007 to give States the option to use adaptive testing as their statewide assessment measuring reading, math, and science to fulfill No Child Left Behind requirements. I believe that this legislation will give States the ability to truly track the academic growth of every child and provide more accurate information to teachers, parents and school administrators through the use of an adaptive test.

For those who may be unfamiliar with adaptive testing, it is a test that changes in response to previously asked questions. For example, if a student answers a question correctly, the test presents a question of increased difficulty. If a student answers incorrectly, the test presents a question of decreased difficulty. As you can see, an adaptive test customizes itself to a student's actual level of performance with a great degree of accuracy.

Giving States the flexibility to use an adaptive test and to ask questions outside of grade level will improve the accuracy of student assessment and enable educators to target appropriate instruction for each child based on performance at, above, or below grade level. In addition, using an adaptive test over time will allow accurate measurement of the performance growth of each individual student.

In my district, nearly a third of school districts currently use their own funds to participate in adaptive testing in addition to the State assessment required by NCLB. Educators and administrators appreciate the diagnostic information it yields and the efficiency that it provides. I believe that school districts nationally are already "speaking with their wallets" by spending scarce resources to voluntarily participate in this testing because it provides valuable information that the State assessment does not. And, although our bill does not require States to adopt adaptive testing, it gives them the freedom to do so should they decide it is a better model for their students and educators.

Madam Speaker, adaptive testing and growth models are the key to putting the "child" back into No Child Left Behind. I hope that our colleagues will join us in this pragmatic and responsible improvement to the law as we work towards a bipartisan reauthorization this year.