

CONGRATULATING ST. GERMAINE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THEIR
SELECTION AS A NATIONAL
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Germaine Catholic School of Oak Lawn, Illinois as they are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a prime example of excellence in education.

Since the establishment of St. Germaine Parish by Fr. Walter Sheridan in 1962, education has been a priority for this community. With the diligent support of the Sisters of the Presentation, the parish school opened in 1964 and began a tradition of exceptional education in not only academics but also the teachings of faith.

In the years since its founding, St. Germaine has consistently been noted for its achievement in bringing quality education to its students. On October 2, 2007, St. Germaine was designated a national Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings.

This distinguished award, given to those schools that are either academically superior or have demonstrated dramatic gains in student achievement, was presented to only 287 schools throughout the country. This award places St. Germaine in the top 10 percent of our Nation's schools.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend St. Germaine Catholic School on this extraordinary achievement. I am proud to have in my district a school that does so much to produce the educated and moral citizens who will lead our Nation in the future.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.R.
760, THE "FILIPINO VETERANS
EQUITY ACT OF 2007"

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep support for H.R. 760, the "Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007."

The treatment of Filipinos who fought with the United States Armed Forces in World War II is a dark chapter in American history. The Philippines became a United States possession after Spain ceded it as part of the treaty ending the Spanish-American War in 1898. In 1934, Congress created a 10-year time frame for independence through the "Philippine Independence Act." However, since the Philippines remained a colonial possession until 1946 the United States retained the right to call upon military forces organized by the Philippine Government into the United States Armed Forces.

On July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a military order that brought the Philippine Commonwealth Forces under the control of the United States Armed Forces during World War II. These men bravely fought with our own troops during the war, and

many perished or suffered severe wounds from the battles in the Western Pacific Theater. After the surrender of Japan, Congress required the Philippine Forces to continue their service. Many helped occupy lands, many oversaw military operations, and many made the ultimate sacrifice to secure our victory in World War II. Yet, when wartime service ended formally in 1946 they did not receive the same benefits and the same treatment as other American soldiers.

Yet, for all their heroic and courageous actions, Congress passed the "Recession Act" in February 1946, to the objection of many, including General MacArthur. This essentially denied Filipino Veterans any of the benefits that their American comrades in arms received; including full access to veterans' health care, service-connected disability compensation, non-service connected disability compensation, dependent indemnity compensation, death pension, and full burial benefits. No other group of veterans has been systematically denied these benefits.

Congress has the opportunity to right this wrong. H.R. 760 restores the benefits these brave warriors were denied. This legislation has been introduced since 1992. However, time is running out. In September 2000, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimated that the number of surviving Filipino Veterans is 59,889. However, by 2010, VA estimates that their population will dwindle to just 20,000, because of their advanced age.

Many argue that paying for Filipino veterans is not something Congress should undertake, because they are not U.S. citizens, and that the PAYGO offsets takes money away from Americans. However, such a statement fails to recognize that Filipino veterans served not merely as allies, but as U.S. forces. It fails to recognize that the United States made the same promise to provide for these veterans' needs as it does to any other person who serves in uniform; a promise that we have, up to now, failed to uphold.

Congress must act now for the sake of justice and to show that we Americans truly appreciate the sacrifice these men made. Let us remember the heroism of these veterans by honoring their service and fulfilling our commitments to them. I urge the House to consider and pass this important measure.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
ACT OF 2007—VETO MES-
SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we must help ensure our communities are protected during times of severe flooding that can lead to loss of life and destroyed homes and businesses. This summer we have witnessed devastating floods all across America, including in central and eastern Kansas. Thousands of my constituents lost their homes and their businesses, many of which have not yet fully recovered.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (H.R. 1495) authorizes many new

projects that will afford our communities protection from catastrophic flooding for generations to come. It will also help ensure that existing flood control structures are properly cared for so our economy can continue thriving in areas currently protected from floods. We must prepare for the future rather than merely respond to disasters after they occur. Prevention is much better than responding to a natural disaster, especially when loss of life occurs.

A WRDA bill has not been enacted for the past 7 years, which helps explain why the price tag is so significant. While I would have preferred to see a less expensive authorization bill, I believe it is time we move forward with many of the needed flood control projects included in H.R. 1495.

Having witnessed the severe flooding in my district this year, I am reminded of the critical need for flood prevention that saves lives and protects communities. I have seen first-hand what a flooded community looks like when adequate flood control is not provided. And I have seen how well Corps of Engineers levees have worked to keep high floodwaters out of homes and businesses.

This is why I support overriding the President's veto. I would have preferred for a compromise to be reached with the Administration; but in this instance, we need to move forward without further delay in the process. Protecting our homes and businesses from flood waters is a bi-partisan priority that trumps Washington politics.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on November 6, 2007, I was unable to be present for two rollcall votes due to technological complications with my vote notification system.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes: roll No. 1044—"nay," and roll No. 1045—"aye."

CELEBRATING PHILADELPHIA-
MONTGOMERY CHRISTIAN ACAD-
EMY'S VETERANS HISTORY
PROJECT PARTICIPATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Philadelphia-Montgomery Christian Academy in Springfield Township, PA on their outstanding participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Students and teachers have contributed their time and skills to preserving the remarkable experiences of our war veterans from all service branches, from World War I to the present day Iraq War, as well as the civilians who supported them. I am privileged to represent these students and teachers in Congress.

The Veterans History Project preserves the legacy of those who have served through the

establishment of a permanent national collection, housed in the Library of Congress, of videotaped and recorded interviews, written memoirs, and wartime letters, diaries, and photographs. Stories and materials are available to anyone visiting the Library. In addition, a Web page is created for each veteran who contributes an interview.

As our Nation's World War II and Korean Veterans grow older, it is critical that we record their stories. Their experiences offer a priceless window into their dedication and love of country. As the daughter of a Korean War veteran, this effort has special personal meaning for me. We have much to learn from those who have served our Nation, and I wholeheartedly support this important project.

On this Veterans Day, November 12, 2007, I am proud to recognize Philadelphia-Montgomery Christian Academy's Veterans History Project participation at a special event, Preserving Their Stories: A Salute to Veterans History Project Volunteers, at the Hiway Theatre in Jenkintown. This special celebration will bring together Americans, both young and old, with veterans of all ages, to honor their common service to their fellow citizens and country.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the Veterans History Project participants for their contributions to capturing the experiences of war veterans, thus honoring the lives and contributions of these extraordinary Americans.

ANSWERING THE CALL IN THE
WAKE OF TROPICAL STORM NOEL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to seek my colleagues' help with the humanitarian crisis in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, and the Bahamas, whose devastation many have compared to Hurricane Katrina.

Last week, Tropical Storm Noel became the deadliest storm of the 2007 hurricane season, responsible for at least 140 deaths throughout the Caribbean. Flooding and mudslides caused by the heavy rainfall led to the displacement of more than 80,000 people and isolated small towns and villages in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, and the Bahamas.

The track of this deadly storm brought back those poignant reflections of how helpless we felt when Katrina hit, how frustrated we were at not being able to help, and the lessons we learned from that storm. Yet now a new storm has come with the same intensity and devastation and we have a chance to do something about it.

Our Government is beginning to respond. This past weekend, three U.S. Coast Guard helicopters began conducting search and rescue operations and assisted with aerial assessments of affected areas to determine needs. The Defense Department has sent helicopters and personnel to the Dominican Republic and Peace Corps volunteers in the country have been dispatched to affected areas to help.

In all, the United States Government has contributed over \$350,000 directly to the Do-

minican Government, \$200,000 to the Pan American Health Organization and \$100,000 to Catholic Relief Services, CRS, and World Vision for the local water, shelter materials, and other emergency relief supplies. Our Government has also provided, through U.S. Agency for International Development and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, an additional \$500,000 for emergency relief supplies, water, sanitation, and hygiene support, and other emergency relief activities.

Yet more help is needed. The U.N. reports that 40 percent of the water distribution system and 60 percent of the country's 122 aqueducts have been damaged. Public shelters and medical facilities are reaching their maximum capacity, while sanitation conditions are deteriorating and relief supplies are quickly running out.

It's true that we can't fly the helicopters and we can't distribute the water. But there are a lot of other ways in which we can help. We here in Congress can make sure that our Government does not stray from these initial commitments and that bureaucratic red tape does not impede the transportation of supplies to the areas hardest hit. We can also appeal to constituents in our own home districts to give to the local charities that are involved in this effort, like the Red Cross or Catholic Charities.

We must not forget that our country's strength lies not just in size of our military, but also in the depth of our compassion. Whatever people can give—from hard cash to canned goods to clothes—will help lift and restore the lives of the victims of this terrible tragedy. Any effort will go a long way to relieving the suffering that continues to be felt by our friends and neighbors.

CELEBRATING THE PEAK CENTER'S
VETERANS HISTORY
PROJECT PARTICIPATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Peak Center in Lansdale, PA on their outstanding participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Community volunteers have contributed their time and skills to preserving the remarkable experiences of our war veterans from all service branches, from World War I to the present day Iraq War, as well as the civilians who supported them. I am privileged to represent these volunteers and staff in Congress.

The Veterans History Project preserves the legacy of those who have served through the establishment of a permanent national collection, housed in the Library of Congress, of videotaped and recorded interviews, written memoirs, and wartime letters, diaries, and photographs. Stories and materials are available to anyone visiting the Library. In addition, a Web page is created for each veteran who contributes an interview.

As our Nation's World War II and Korean veterans grow older, it is critical that we record their stories. Their experiences offer a priceless window into their dedication and love of country. As the daughter of a Korean War veteran, this effort has special personal meaning

for me. We have much to learn from those who have served our Nation, and I wholeheartedly support this important project.

On this Veterans Day, November 12, 2007, I am proud to recognize the Peak Center's Veterans History Project participation at a special event, Preserving Their Stories: A Salute to Veterans History Project Volunteers, at the Hiway Theatre in Jenkintown. This special celebration will bring together Americans, both young and older, with veterans of all ages, to honor their common service to their fellow citizens and country.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the Veterans History Project participants for their contributions to capturing the experiences of war veterans, thus honoring the lives and contributions of these extraordinary Americans.

CONGRATULATING JAMES HILL ON
RECEIVING THE FRENCH LEGION
OF HONOR

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Hill, an 83-year-old service veteran from Elora, Tennessee. When Napoleon Bonaparte created the French Legion of Honor in 1802 to recognize service to the Nation of France, he could not have imagined that the newly formed United States of America would come to the rescue of his then empire nearly one and a half centuries after its creation.

Yesterday, President Nicolas Sarkozy of France came to Washington to present the distinguished French Legion of Honor to six American veterans from the Second World War to honor and thank them for their sacrifice in the liberation of France from Nazi Germany. I am pleased to know that James Hill was among them.

It was June 6th, 1944 that the battle of Normandy began, bringing James and other members of the Army's 116th Infantry unit to Omaha Beach for one of the defining moments of the War, and our Nation's history. James was wounded in the battle and spent three months in a British hospital, only to return from his injuries to fight in the Battle of the Bulge.

While the loss of life on all sides was immense, our Country will forever remember the Second World War as a defining point in our history. Before the War, the American military machine was not what it is today, but we stood together as a Nation nonetheless, with the Allied powers around the world, to fight for the freedom of our neighbors and ourselves. I could not be prouder of what men and women of courage like James Hill have done for our Country, or more pleased to see that James was awarded this prestigious honor.

I would like to ask my colleagues today to join me in recognizing James Hill for what he did to defend the people of France, the United States and freedom across the globe.