

Company. He later joined the law firm of Bradley Arant Rose & White, where he became a partner. He then joined the firm formerly known as Lange, Simpson, Robinson & Somerville and was a partner for over 35 years before retiring in 2004.

John Grenier's true passion was politics, a passion that changed the course of Alabama politics. He began his political career as chairman of the Jefferson County Young Republicans. In this capacity, he organized a political rally in Birmingham in 1960 for Richard Nixon.

John Grenier organized the modern day Alabama Republican Party and served as the state chairman in 1962. He joined the Goldwater for President Campaign and organized the delegates to the Republican National Convention in San Francisco. John Grenier was the Southern Regional Director for the campaign when Senator Goldwater swept many of the southern states, including Alabama, in his bid for President.

In 1966, Mr. Grenier was the Republican nominee against Democratic U.S. Senator John Sparkman. Even though he lost that race, John fared better than most previous Republicans in what was then a heavily Democratic state.

In 1986, John served as the campaign manager for Guy Hunt's successful bid to become the first Republican governor of Alabama since Reconstruction. He served as Governor Hunt's chief of staff and later managed Governor Hunt's successful bid for reelection.

Madam Speaker, John Grenier was a political leader, strategist and visionary. He loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife, Stella Kontos Grenier; his son, John Beaulieu Grenier; his daughter-in-law, Joy Grenier; his sister, Rosemary Grenier Rivet; his four grandchildren, John Beaulieu Grenier, Jr., Dorothy Monnish Grenier, Evans Barlow Grenier, and Carolyn Youmans Grenier; as well as countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING LINK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Link Elementary School of Elk Grove Village, Illinois, for being named a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School for the 2006–2007 school year. Principal Barbara Schremser, Link faculty, students and parents—you should be very proud of this remarkable accomplishment.

At a time in our Nation's history when the efficacy of our education system is often questioned, it is a great comfort to see a school that truly commits itself to finding ways to teach our children and provide hope for our Nation's future.

The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Award is a distinction given to the public schools throughout the country whose students score within the top 10 percent on state assessments. This year, of the more

than 97,000 public schools in the United States, just 287 schools were recognized with this distinct honor.

In the State of Illinois, 19 schools were members of this elite group. The Blue Ribbon School Award recognizes what we all know: the Link faculty and staff are some of the best and brightest in the Nation.

With the motto "to think, to learn, to achieve and to care," Link has shown steady academic progress and achieved exceptionally high test scores. In awarding the 2006–2007 Blue Ribbon School Award, the U.S. Department of Education recognized Link's success in helping students consistently achieve at very high levels, as well as its continued commitment to narrowing the achievement gap.

As we strive to educate our current generation of children and prepare our nation's future leaders, Link Elementary School stands out as a shining example of scholastic and institutional excellence.

I am proud to represent Link Elementary School in the United States Congress and I look forward to their continued achievements.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues please join me in congratulating the talented students and dedicated faculty and staff of Link Elementary School for receiving the Blue Ribbon School Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, on November 7, 2007, I missed four votes. Had I been present that evening, I would have voted as follows:

"No" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 3685, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)—vote No. 1056.

"Yea" on final passage of H.R. 3685, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)—vote No. 1057.

"Yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 236, Recognizing the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino—vote No. 1058

"Yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 801: Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3688) to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement—vote No. 1059.

RECOGNIZES THE GERMAN AMERICAN CLUB OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Ms. GINNEY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, the Fifth District of Florida that I represent is made up of people from around the United States and the world. With perfect weather, low taxes and friendly residents, it is one of the fastest growing areas of the country. As you might expect, one of the

cultural groups that have flocked to Florida for the last several generations are German Americans, many from my former State of New York. On Sunday, November 18, 2007, the German American Club of Spring Hill, Florida will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a dinner and dance extravaganza.

The club, founded in 1982, was organized by Friedel Rohn, along with Christa and Fritz Neumann. The first social meeting was held at the home of Friedel Rohn in January 1982 with 10 people present. The first "official" meeting was held in June 1982 with 22 members present. Today there are nearly 300 members and the club is still growing strong.

The first officers installed were Friedel Rohn as president, Margarethe Grabert as vice-president, Norman Armonat as treasurer and Ruth Hughes as secretary. By March of 1983, the membership had increased to 60 members. The club began hosting many functions and socials throughout the year, including its own Oktoberfest. As the years passed, more dances and social events were added to the calendar and the membership continued to increase.

In 1992, when the club celebrated its 10th anniversary, the club had grown to over 170 members. In 2002, the club's 20th anniversary was celebrated with a membership that had increased to over 235. Today the 25th anniversary will feature 285 members, with room to grow for the future. Having attended several of their club functions, I can tell you that German American Club members stayed true to their roots and know how to cook a delicious schnitzel and dance to a great polka tune.

Madam Speaker, over the past 25 years the German American Club of Spring Hill has worked to uphold the German culture, spirit, tradition and heritage. The club's members and officers have made Spring Hill and Hernando County a true home to German Americans from around the world, and are to be commended for their commitment and dedication. With the continued support of their membership and officers, I look forward to help the club celebrate their next 25 years.

INTRODUCING THE AIRPORT SECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, last week, we learned that more than 30 illegal aliens gained access to the most sensitive areas at O'Hare Airport.

Without valid Social Security numbers, illegal aliens were given official badges to access the tarmac and the airplanes.

This is not the first time. It's happened before at airports around the country.

The Congress must set Federal standards for those who seek access to an airport's most sensitive areas.

You should be a U.S. national or legal permanent resident.

You should possess a valid Social Security number that actually belongs to you.

You should have that Social Security number verified through the E-Verify employer verification system.

And you should get your access badge from the Transportation Security Administration—not some rusty old van in the parking lot.

Today, I am introducing the Airport Security Enhancement Act of 2007 to make these standards the law of the land.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this critical national security effort.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, on November 8, 2007, I was absent from the House. Had I been present that day, I would have voted as follows:

“Yea” on final passage of H.R. 3688, the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement—vote No. 1060.

“Yea” on agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 806, Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3222, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—vote No. 1063.

“Yea” on agreeing to the Conference Report for H.R. 3222, Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—vote No. 1064.

“Yea” on Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 802, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3355) to ensure the availability and affordability of homeowners’ insurance coverage for catastrophic events—vote No. 1066.

“Yea” on the Motion to Instruct Conference regarding H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2008—vote No. 1067.

“Yea” on Representative KLEIN of Florida Amendment No. 17 to H.R. 3355, the Homeowners’ Defense Act of 2007—vote No. 1068.

“No” on the following Amendments: Representative ROSKAM’s Amendments 6 and 13, Representative MANULLO’s Amendment and Mr. SHAYS’ Amendment to H.R. 3355, the Homeowners’ Defense Act of 2007—votes No. 1069, 1070, 1071, and 1072.

“No” on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions H.R. 3355, the Homeowners’ Defense Act of 2007—vote No. 1073.

“Yea” on final passage of H.R. 3355, the Homeowners’ Defense Act of 2007—vote No. 1074.

“Yea” on Agreeing to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3043, Making appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—vote No. 1075.

SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007

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SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, far too often this country does too little to keep people out of the revolving door of our prison system. Rather than taking steps that will provide long-term, rehabilitative solutions that will lower recidivism rates, Congress has adopted short-term fixes like stricter sentencing standards that keep prisoners in prison longer and bring them back more frequently. Study after study has shown that this approach does not work, and yet we continue to build new prisons and fill them beyond capacity.

That is why I support H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007, which provides a new direction for our criminal justice system, one that focuses on helping prisoners turn their lives around and become contributing members of society. Specifically, H.R. 1593 allocates \$110 million to support a variety of prisoner re-entry programs which include mentorship, housing, drug treatment, education and job training. All of these programs are designed to assist former inmates as they transition back into society and provide the support they need to keep them from returning to prison.

I support this bill because it will begin to reverse the misguided policy of instituting harsher laws that create longer mandatory sentences for crimes. This country sends more and more people to prison every year. A 2006 Justice Department report found that a record 7 million people, 1 in every 32 U.S. adults, were behind bars, on probation, or on parole last year. These statistics are especially troubling because not only does time spent in jail affect the prisoner; it also creates a vicious cycle that has a detrimental impact on their families. Research shows that children of incarcerated parents are three to six times more likely to exhibit violent or serious delinquent behavior than other children.

While, I believe strongly in securing appropriate prison sentences for people who break our laws, I also feel that it is important that we do everything we can to ensure that, when people get out of prison, they enter our communities as productive members of society. H.R. 1593 makes an important step toward changing our country’s outlook on crime and punishment. I would like to thank my friend and colleague DANNY DAVIS for his tenacity and hard work on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent Tuesday

afternoon, November 13, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the four votes which occurred Tuesday evening:

I would have voted “aye” on H.R. 3315, roll-call vote No. 1082.

I would have voted “aye” on H.R. 1593, roll-call vote No. 1083.

I would have voted “aye” on H.R. 3403, roll-call vote No. 1084.

I would have voted “aye” on H.R. 3461, roll-call vote No. 1085.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, on November 9, 2007, I was absent from the House. Had I been present that day, I would have voted as follows:

“Yea” on agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 809, providing for the consideration of H.R. 3996, Temporary Tax Relief Act—vote No. 1078.

“Yea” on final passage of H.R. 3996, the Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007—vote No. 1081.

SUPPORTING WORLD DIABETES DAY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today is World Diabetes day.

Diabetes is a serious, chronic disease afflicting over 20 million Americans. As the vice-chair of the Diabetes Caucus, I have had the opportunity to meet many people who must deal with the hardships and stress of living with diabetes 24/7. They have taught me what it means to “go-low” while participating in sports, to wake twice during the night to check blood sugar levels, and suffer from seizures. This is no way for anyone, especially children, to live.

Over the years, advances in medicine and technology have allowed patients to better manage their disease, but more work must be done in order to find a cure.

It is essential that Congress continue to support groundbreaking research at the NIH. We must also fight for federally funded stem-cell research, the greatest potential for finding a cure.

In honor of World Diabetes Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in the effort to help the millions who suffer from diabetes.