

Mr. Denkins has worked for the people of Alabama in various capacities for most of his life. Over his career, he has served in the United States Army Reserves; has been the Minister of First Baptist Church of Williams in Jacksonville, Alabama; has worked as a therapist for the Calhoun-Cleburne County Mental Health Board; and worked as a Human Resource Specialist for the Westinghouse Anniston Chemical-Demilitarization Project.

Prior to joining my office in 2003, Mr. Denkins also served as an Executive Assistant for former Third District Congressman Glen Browder. From 2003 to 2007, he has served as Field Representative, Deputy District Director, and District Director and has been a dedicated and non-partisan public servant.

Lamar has done an incredible job for the people of the Third District and he will certainly be missed here in this office, and across East Alabama.

Lamar, on behalf of the citizens of Alabama's Third Congressional District, thank you for your service to our State. We wish you all the best in your retirement.

TRIBUTE TO HIDALGO EARLY
COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hidalgo Early College High School, in Hidalgo, TX, for achieving the highest ranking in the State of Texas among the Best High Schools In America by U.S. News and World Report.

Hidalgo Early College High School has consistently worked to provide crucial tools for educational success for its 810 students, more than half of whom come from families that have never finished high school, and these students have overcome tremendous barriers thanks to the leadership of their school, their parents, and teachers. One of the many tools for success the school offers is the chance to earn up to 60 college hours at no cost by the time the students reach their senior year, which gives them the opportunity to obtain both a high school diploma and associates degree upon graduation. This was made possible by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

It is also due to the strong leadership displayed by Eduardo Cancino, superintendent of Hidalgo ISD, and by Edward Blaha, principal of Hidalgo Early College High School, that the school has outperformed its peers at the local, state, and national level. I am also proud of the support for the community that the local school board and the administrators and teachers have shown for Hidalgo Early College High School. It is because of their collective effort in providing the best education possible for the students, that Hidalgo

Early College High School has rightfully earned its rank as one of the best high schools in America.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Hidalgo Early College High School for achieving the highest ranking in the State of Texas among the Best High Schools In America by U.S. News and World Report, and I thank you for this time.

MARKING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY:
THE PLIGHT OF AYMAN NOUR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, December 10, the United States joins the world in celebration of Human Rights Day, remembering the historic occasion when the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document affirms the elementary rights that belong to all humankind.

Nearly six decades after the adoption of this critical Declaration, and 46 years after I joined the first Freedom Rides to uphold civil and human rights for all citizens of the United States, there are still many people around the globe struggling to gain the rights that we as Americans hold dear.

The plight of one man, Ayman Nour, is emblematic of the myriad injustices that continue to afflict our fellow citizens of the world today. Nour, a parliamentarian and a leading voice for democracy in Egypt, was arrested and jailed in 2005 after his candidacy in the country's first open presidential election. He was charged with forgery, but his imprisonment is widely understood as a political move by the Egyptian government to crack down on the opposition. The illegitimate nature of the charges against him, along with Nour's serious health concerns, including heart problems and diabetes, are grounds for his immediate release. This week, however, Nour enters the third year of his 5-year sentence with little reason for optimism. His latest appeal was rejected earlier this year after the state-sponsored Egyptian media launched a smear campaign against him.

Nour is not the only victim of this crack-down. Judges, journalists, ethnic and religious minorities, civil society and human rights activists, and everyday citizens have all been targeted. Nour and countless others fighting for their fundamental freedoms continue to look to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an ideal, not as a reality. For the millions who have suffered greatly, Nour's release would symbolize a recommitment to the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as cited in the Declaration's Preamble.

On this Human Rights Day, in the spirit of cooperation between nations, I urge the Egyptian government to release Ayman Nour, and to uphold its stated commitment to civil and human rights.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN SKIEF

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one of Philadelphia's great educators, my fellow West Philadelphian, John Skief. We lost John this past Saturday and he is deeply missed.

John Skief was a true Renaissance man. In his youth, he was a member of the All City

Dance Ensemble. He was also a gymnast, a cross-country runner, and a soccer player. He set city and state high jump records in high school and college. A born activist, Skief joined the NAACP youth council at age 14 and participated in many civil rights demonstrations under the leadership of his mentor, Cecil B. Moore.

Skief has been a constant advocate of African-American history and community control of education. After receiving his degree in education from Cheyney State College in 1971, Skief began his teaching career in the Philadelphia Public School System. He was a leader in the High School restructuring program. At West Philadelphia High School, Mr. Skief was the founder and coordinator of the Community Development Charter. He taught a 3-credit in-service course for the Philadelphia School District, entitled "African and African American Contributions to Science and Technology." He was also the Founder and Chief Administrative Officer of Harambee Institute of Science and Technology Charter School in West Philadelphia and was the founding President of the Pennsylvania Alliance of Charter Schools.

Mr. Skief was a noted filmmaker, providing video footage of his travels throughout the Caribbean and Africa for use in classes and on television. He has written articles on education in numerous publications and continues to educate and culturally enrich African Americans. He produced community Kwanzaa Celebrations annually since 1974 and produced lectures with noted Black authors and historians. John Skief produced the African American Festival for the Robin Hood Dell East concerts and served as production manager for the Philadelphia Kwanzaa Expo and African American Parade and Festival. In 1985 he organized the Respect Yourself Youth Self-Esteem Program in Philadelphia.

Madam Speaker, John Skief is survived by his wife, Tonya, and four children, Masai, Terrell, Kimberly, and Kalima and was predeceased by another child. We will all miss him very much. I ask that all my colleagues join me in honoring him today.

THE PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Theodore Roosevelt said: "No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his well-being, to risk his body, to risk his life, in a great cause." The Patriot Guard Riders are a group of motorcyclists who pay tribute to those who have died serving our country. Their mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen soldiers upholding President Roosevelt's belief that brave soldiers who gave the utmost sacrifice for their country deserve respect and reverence during their final tribute.

Each mission has two objectives, to show sincere respect for America's fallen heroes, their families, and their communities; and to shield the mourning family and their friends from interruptions created by any protestor or group of protestors. In 2 short years, the Patriot Guard Riders has become a 501(c)(3) charity, comprised of more than 140,000 volunteers across the country that take off from

work and use their own funds for gas and whatever else is needed to attend missions.

The Guard is activated each time the military reports the death of a soldier in Iraq. This nationwide organization of volunteers is very efficient. State Captains send out e-mails to members in the city where the soldier will be buried, and everyone jumps into action. They ensure that streets along the funeral procession are lined with American flags. Each mission is accomplished through legal and non-violent means. If protestors are present and become loud, the Patriot Guard Riders form a flag line, turn their backs on protesters, and will even drown the sound of the protestors by singing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

One involved Patriot biker, Rich "Boomer" Ford, a former Navy SEAL who served in Vietnam is the State Captain for the Texas Patriot Guard Riders. He is the man in charge of the "missions". If you ask Boomer why he rides, he will tell you that he remembers the lack of respect received when returning home from Vietnam. He wants to make sure that doesn't happen to these brave men and women. Boomer feels that each "mission" recognizes and honors the hard work our soldiers are doing for us overseas. These men and women like Boomer, who volunteer their time to help guard our nation's heroes should be forever remembered for their honor and dignity.

I commend the Patriot Guard Riders for riding for our soldiers whose lives were given in pursuit of a great cause, American freedom. I am proud to recognize these angels on bikes with hearts bigger than Texas. They show their respect for our troops, their families, and our community in an honorable way, one funeral at a time. They make a difference and represent all that is right and good in America. And that's just the way it is.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING DONNY BEACHY FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Donny Beachy showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and

Whereas, Donny Beachy was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Donny Beachy always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the green; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Donny Beachy on winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

TRIBUTE TO TONY HESS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and heroism of Tony

Hess. A 23-year-old volunteer firefighter from Kanawha County West Virginia, Hess raced into a burning house last month to save the life of two year old Alyssa Abner.

Hess didn't plan on being a hero on November 23. A business major at West Virginia State University, he was just answering an early morning emergency call; but when he arrived first on the scene he headed directly to a second story bedroom. The smoke was so dense that he had to break a window in order to find Alyssa trapped inside.

After rescuing her from the fire, Tony rode with her all the way to the hospital. I am happy to report that little Alyssa is in an improving condition at a Cincinnati hospital.

Madam Speaker, I join the chorus of West Virginians thankful for Tony's courage and service. Volunteer firefighters are true heroes who sacrifice for the right reasons. In Tony's own words, "I'm not doing it for the publicity or lights or sirens," he said. "I just want to be a fireman."

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF DAVID J. WILLIAMS AS CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT OF SANOFI PASTEUR AND HIS CON- TRIBUTIONS TO THE VACCINE INDUSTRY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize David J. Williams of Scranton, PA, for his lifetime accomplishments and his extraordinary contributions to the vaccine industry in the United States.

On January 16, 2008, after 30 years of service, David J. Williams will retire as the chairman, president and chief executive officer of Sanofi Pasteur.

Mr. Williams, born in Scranton, PA, received his accounting degree from the University of Scranton in 1973 and joined Connaught Laboratories in 1978 as the manager of financial services.

As a member of the executive team, Mr. Williams distinguished himself as a leader willing to make courageous decisions to build the vaccine industry, and he was named chief operating officer of Connaught Laboratories in 1989.

Mr. Williams successfully steered the company through several mergers and acquisitions. As an organization that began with just 100 employees and sales of just over \$5 million in 1978, Connaught eventually merged with today's sanofi pasteur, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer with 11,000 employees and more than \$4 billion in sales in 2007.

Under Mr. Williams' guidance, more than a billion doses of Sanofi Pasteur's lifesaving vaccines were administered to more than 500 million people around the world each year, representing more than 25% of the global vaccine market.

Mr. Williams encouraged innovation and he has been at the forefront of the development of many of the world's vaccines, including the

world's first licensed conjugate and combination vaccines, vaccines to protect against meningitis and Haemophilus influenza type B, and most recently, a vaccine to combat avian influenza.

Mr. Williams recognized his company's ability to address current and future public health needs by investing in a robust research and development program and an ambitious production plan for pandemic preparedness in the event that a public health emergency strikes the United States.

Mr. Williams has been a visionary in the vaccine industry, building the domestic infrastructure necessary to protect millions of Americans from deadly diseases and showing a commitment to vaccines that goes beyond his own company to the broader industry and to public health around the world.

Mr. Williams, in his dedication to the larger immunization community, created the Vaccine Policy Committee of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and is a founding member of the Partnership for Prevention, a leading organization of public and private sector representatives who focus on preventative health care policies.

Mr. Williams served as the first liaison member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which sets immunization policy in the United States.

Mr. Williams also served on the board of directors of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and on the Board of Regents of the University of Scranton. He is also one of the founding Board Members of the Medical Education Development Consortium.

Mr. Williams cultivated a culture of community involvement at sanofi pasteur and demonstrated a commitment to philanthropy through the company's contributions to United Way and donations of vaccines through UNICEF, the Global Alliance for Vaccines Immunization, GAVI, the World Health Organization's Global Polio Eradication Initiative and various humanitarian relief efforts.

Mr. Williams has been committed to the economic growth and development of Northeastern Pennsylvania and to expanding the campus in Swiftwater to maintain a domestic manufacturing base for many vaccines, including influenza. Under his guidance, sanofi pasteur grew to become the largest private employer in Monroe County and a purchaser of over \$145 million in goods and services from Pennsylvania-based vendors.

It has been a pleasure working with Dave over the years as his company expanded not only in Monroe County, but also in Scranton, his hometown. He has made an enormous contribution to his community, and on behalf of all my constituents, I would like to express my gratitude.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Williams for his distinguished career and extraordinary leadership as chairman, president and chief executive officer of sanofi pasteur and for his tireless efforts toward the advancement of immunizations and the eradication of vaccine preventable diseases.