

On behalf of the House Agriculture Committee, I extend to Keith our deepest appreciation for his service to American agriculture and wish him great happiness in retirement.

**RECOGNIZING JAYCE H. BERRY  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jayce H. Berry, 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 13, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jayce has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jayce 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 Jayce H. Berry for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other congressional business, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, December 4, 2007. Had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 1123 and "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 1124, 1125, and 1126.

**ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND  
SECURITY ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6, the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007.

Let me congratulate Speaker PELOSI, Chairman DINGELL, and the House Democratic leadership for bringing this legislation to the floor for a new direction for America's energy independence.

Anyone who has filled up a gas tank in the past year knows that gas prices are highly volatile and too high for the average American. Yet while Americans are struggling to make ends meet, oil companies are making record profits. As a former North Carolina small businessman, and a part-time farmer, I believe that it is our duty to find alternatives to what has become a dangerous reliance on foreign oil.

And let me be clear, our Nation has the capability to gain its energy independence. H.R. 6 will move us close to this goal by promoting the use of renewable fuel. This legislation will create a fund, which will be used to extend and expand tax credits for ethanol and biodiesel, extend loan guarantees to farmers to produce renewable energy, and increase the use of flex fuel vehicles.

Today we have the technology to solve our energy crisis growing in our fields. We have the ability to turn soybeans and peanuts, both grown in large numbers in my home State of North Carolina, into biodiesel, and the technology to turn sugarcane and corn into ethanol. What we haven't had up to this point is the leadership to develop the infrastructure needed to facilitate the use of these fuels.

The legislation before us today will begin to do just that. I encourage my colleagues to vote for H.R. 6.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 6, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 1141. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 1141—"yea."

**TRIBUTE TO JIM GRISSO**

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a news professional in my district who has served the people of northern Michigan with distinction. The Publisher of the Gaylord Herald Times, Jim Grisso, will retire at the end of this year after a 47-year career in the newspaper industry, 39 of them at the helm of the Gaylord Herald Times.

As the publisher of the Gaylord Herald Times (the Times), Mr. Grisso has made the newspaper a leader in the industry, garnering nearly 500 awards at the state and national levels since 1968. In 2007, the Herald Times was named the national Newspaper of the Year in its circulation class by the Suburban Newspapers of America, a testament to Mr. Grisso's vision and leadership of the paper.

Under Mr. Grisso's leadership, the Herald Times has been a steadfast advocate of the public's right to know, on occasion resulting in challenges, even lawsuits, against public bodies that violated the Open Meetings Law or failed to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Grisso has always insisted that the newspaper represent the people of Otsego County and reflect the values of the residents of Gaylord: hard work, honesty, tenacity and telling it like it is.

Mr. Grisso's leadership in northern Michigan extends beyond the Times. Mr. Grisso has held several leadership positions with professional associations: Past President, Michigan Press Association; Past President, Michigan Newspapers Industry and Michigan State Chairman, National Newspaper Association.

Over the years, Mr. Grisso has also been a leader in the Gaylord community and used his position at the Times to promote community service within Gaylord. In 1980, Mr. Grisso established the Buergermeister Award, which the Herald Times annually presents to recognize an individual who epitomizes service and dedication to the community. The Buergermeister Award is considered the most prestigious award in Otsego County and, thanks to Mr. Grisso's leadership, it has been used to recognize and encourage community service throughout the county.

Mr. Grisso's commitment to community does not end there. He has donated enormous space in the Gaylord Herald Times in the form of community announcements and in-kind advertising for charitable and nonprofit organizations. While the Gaylord Herald Times has certainly put plenty on his plate, he has donated generously of his personal time through work on many boards and organizations. He co-founded and was the first vice-president of Otsego County Big Brothers organization. He served as President of the Gaylord Rotary Club and the Gaylord High School Athletic Boosters Club. He served on the Boards of the Otsego Memorial Hospital Foundation, the Gaylord/Otsego County Chamber of Commerce, Gaylord Little League, and Alpenfest. He continues to serve today as Otsego County Economic Alliance Executive Committee and is currently Vice President of the University of Michigan Alumni Club of Gaylord.

Over the years, Mr. Grisso has been recognized with numerous awards for his participation in community and civic groups. The Gaylord/Otsego County Chamber of Commerce honored Mr. Grisso with the "You Made It Happen Award" and the Otsego County United Way recognized his service with the "Thanks To You, It Worked For All of Us." He has been named Otsego County Fair Association Citizen of the Year. Mr. Grisso has received the Founder's Award of Appreciation, presented by Alpenfest Committee as a founder and leader in building Gaylord as the Alpine Village. The Otsego County Emergency Medical Service honored him and five other Gaylord Rotarians for raising \$15,000 to purchase defibrillators as a result of a 150-mile walk from Gaylord to Manistique in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Madam Speaker, I have a special relationship with Mr. Grisso. His paper has covered my work since I began serving Michigan's 1st Congressional District in 1992. As might be expected, I have not agreed with every word his paper has written or his angle on every story. However, without a doubt he has endeavored to ensure that the Gaylord Herald Times covers the issues important to the people of northern Michigan and informs and serves them with excellent local journalism. As the Publisher of the Times, he has ensured the Times covers the challenges facing Gaylord and Otsego County. As a leader in his community, he has helped develop solutions to those same challenges.

Today, as he prepares to enter a well deserved retirement I offer him, his wife Sue, his four daughters, four step sons and eight grandchildren all the best for the future. I would ask, Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking Jim Grisso for his service to the Gaylord community, commending him for his many years of exceptional work as a journalist

and newspaperman and congratulating him on his many achievements.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, on December 4, 2007, I missed the following rollcall votes due to illness: rollcall vote No. 1123, H.R. 3998, passage of America's Historical and Natural Legacy Study Act; rollcall vote No. 11124, passage of H.R. 3887, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act; rollcall vote 1125, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2082, the Intelligence Authorization Act; and rollcall vote No. 1126, passage of the Charlie W. Norwood Living Organ Donation Act.

If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 1123, 1124, and 1126, and I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 1125.

HONORING THE 2007 MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION II FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HIGH SCHOOL

### HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, it is a great pleasure and privilege that I offer the following resolution and an accolade of tribute to Head Coach James Reynolds, Jr., the assistant coaches, and the players of Martin Luther King, Jr. High School's boys football team on their stellar season. I am proud to salute this wonderful organization. This organization was honored during a special ceremony on Friday, November 30, 2007 at Cobo Hall where thousands of Detroiters paid tribute to the King Crusade.

Whereas, under the skilled guidance of Head Coach James Reynolds, Jr. and Defensive Coordinator Dale Harvel, Martin Luther King, Jr. High School's boys football team won the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Division II title, defeating Midland Dow High School by the score of 47 to 21 on Friday, November 23, 2007. Detroit King is the first Detroit Public School League (PSL) team to win a State title since the MHSAA started the playoff system in 1975.

Whereas, Coach Reynolds found his calling as the head coach of the King Crusaders football team—a post he has held for 34 years; made many personal sacrifices for the sake of training his teams; gave freely of his time and focused on developing athletes, mentoring young men, and instilling the principles of good sportsmanship; and retired in June of 2007 but returned to King High School to coach football. Under Coach Reynolds's leadership, his teams have posted an impressive record of 250 wins and 106 losses; nine city championships; four regional championships; and three appearances in the State finals. Coach Reynolds is the only Detroit Public

School coach who has led football teams to the Michigan State finals.

Whereas, Defensive Coordinator Harvel, a valuable member of the staff, made personal sacrifices in order to help the players develop their athletic skill, good character and to abide by the principles of good sportsmanship. Mr. Harvel exhibited true team spirit by working in unison with the other coaches for the benefit of the athletes and the best results on the football field.

Whereas, with a balance of excellent scoring and tough defense, Detroit King displayed great poise in setting goals for themselves at the beginning of the season by going out and making their dreams become reality through hard work and commitment. Many of the talents and characteristics they exhibited in reaching this goal will help them in all aspects of their lives.

In special tribute, therefore, this resolution is dedicated to extend the highest commendation to the Martin Luther King, Jr. High School, the coaching staff, and the members of the boys football team for their victorious and first MHSAA Division II Football State Championship. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, and the Congressional Black Caucus, we salute you. May the Congress of the United States, and the Nation, know of our collective pride in your accomplishments and achievements.

CONGRATULATING THE FARMINGTON COMPANY ON ITS 27TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Farmington Company for 27 faithful years of service in the insurance industry. Based in Farmington, Connecticut, this local company has proven hard work is more than a virtue.

In 1980, two Connecticut men, Bob Burke and Brad Collins, recognized that the majority of America—the Nation's lower and middle wage earners were underserved by the insurance community. Understanding the opportunity of meeting the insurance needs of the average American, Bob and Brad moved forward to develop a company founded on the basic principle of "people helping people."

The product of hard work and vision, the Farmington Company has grown to national and industry-wide recognition. As a fledgling enterprise, the two-man operation of the Farmington Company targeted the New York and New England regions. Now, 27 years later, the Farmington Company is still led by Bob Burke, the company president and Brad Collins, the executive vice president. The company employs more than 150 staff members that provide services to thousands of individuals across the United States. The 27-year record of success for the Farmington Company can be attributed to the heart of the operation—the company's dedicated and talented employees. Most notably, it is the hard work and leadership of people like Sales Vice President Doug Mantz, Senior Vice President Carol Rosenblatt, the New England branch president Jay Hershman, regional directors like Ed

Calitri and John Lenihan, director of corporate services Steve Frankel and finance vice president Chris Thaurau that define the success of the Farmington Company.

In the insurance capital of the world—the State of Connecticut—we are proud of companies like the Farmington Company that have long worked to create and expand meaningful insurance opportunities for those who normally couldn't or wouldn't get insurance. A business built on basics, the Farmington Company understands the needs of both employers and employees, and most importantly the needs of the community. As a company defined with success, I would like to also recognize how the Farmington Company gives back to the community. Whether supporting the important work of the Jimmy Fund or participating in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign, the Farmington Company lives up to their motto of "people helping people."

On their 27th anniversary, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the achievements and important contributions of the Farmington Company. I applaud their work in Connecticut and across the country.

A TRIBUTE TO RALPH HENRY "SMILEY" SEYLLER

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great community leader, Ralph Henry "Smiley" Seyller, of Hampshire, Illinois who passed away November 17, 2007 at the age of 82.

Ralph was a man of many hats who dedicated his life to community service. Whether as a coach or park district director, much of his life was spent mentoring and encouraging children and developing programs in Burlington, St. Charles and Hampshire, Illinois.

His many contributions and honors include: Ralph Seyller established the Burlington Boys Club and served as counselor for 17 years. For his efforts, the Village named the baseball field in his honor and inducted him into their Hall of Fame.

After 25 years of employment at St. Charles High School, Ralph was honored for his service to the youth of St. Charles High School and his contributions to the Athletic Department. He was inducted into their Hall of Fame and given a Lifetime Achievement Award.

In retirement, Ralph organized the Hampshire Park District and served as Director for 20 years. During his tenure, he established programs for people of all ages. His major accomplishments included creation of the Little People Playtime Pre-School program, now in its 25th year and occupying its own facility. He created the Coon Creek Classic Run/Walk which eventually included 800 runners. And he organized trips to Cellular and Wrigley Fields to watch the Chicago White Sox and Cubs play baseball. In appreciation of those and many other contributions, the east park was named the Ralph H. Seyller Park.

Ralph served many years as Democratic Precinct Committeeman.

I was privileged to know Ralph Seyller, whose son David Edmonson is married to my niece Jodi. His life serves as a role model for