

The future is knocking at our door right now. Make no mistake, the next generation will ask us one of two questions. Either they will ask: "What were you thinking; why didn't you act?"

Or they will ask instead: "How did you find the moral courage to rise and successfully resolve a crisis that so many said was impossible to solve?"

We have everything we need to get started, save perhaps political will, but political will is a renewable resource.

So let us renew it, and say together: "We have a purpose. We are many. For this purpose we will rise, and we will act."

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MICHAEL
HERMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph M. Herman 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 and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

CELEBRATING THE TEACHERS OF
THE ILLINOIS' FIFTH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT WHO RE-
CEIVED NATIONAL BOARD CER-
TIFICATION IN 2007

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize sixty eight distinguished teachers from Illinois' Fifth Congressional District who have been honored with National Board Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

National Board Certification is the highest level of certification in the teaching profession, and these teachers have earned this distinction through their service, commitment, and excellence in teaching.

Those who are honored with this award are widely considered to be at the peak of their profession, providing countless opportunities for children to learn and excel. National Board Certified teachers are also statistically proven to increase financial opportunities within their districts, strengthen the teaching practice, and improve student learning.

Applicants for this award may spend up to three years proving themselves, while undergoing peer reviews by 12 separate teachers, passing competency and skill testing within his

or her individual specialty, and demonstrating educational outreach beyond the walls of the classroom.

Teachers everywhere play a critical role in our children's lives, and these sixty-eight individuals have exemplified that spirit and motivation, guiding students with patience, compassion, concern, and most of all, dedication to their profession.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor these distinguished educators on their award of National Board Certification. I have no doubt that their efforts have had a tremendous impact on countless children throughout the Chicago-area, and that they will continue their profound effect for years to come.

I wish to congratulate:

Cynthia Ahn of O.A. Thorp Elementary Scholastic Academy; Cynthia Anderson of Highcrest Middle School; Wendy Anderson of Audubon Elementary School; Rolando Argumedo of Nobel Elementary School; Anita Aysola of Walter Payton College Preparatory High School; Rosemary Barilla of Sauganash Elementary School; Pamela Barreda of McPherson Elementary School; Becky Benkiser of Mitchell Elementary School; Jessica Bezares of Avondale Elementary School; and Patricia Bonness of Vaughn Occupational High School.

Daniel Caldwell of Northside College Preparatory High School; Elizabeth Campe-Montcalm of Sullivan High School; Paul Carrera of Lane Technical High School; Jennifer Catron of Depriest Elementary School; Holly Clark of Roosevelt School; Jennifer Cline; Alan Demski of Taft High School; Adlin Dominguez of Roque De Duprey Elementary School; Edward Dziedzic of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School; and Catalina Fernandez of Vaughn Occupational High School.

Laura Floyd of Mayer Elementary School; Anna Franczyk; Tiffany Frayer of Moos Elementary School; Mary Galligan of O.A. Thorp Elementary Scholastic Academy; Christopher Gamble of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School; Valerie Gemske of Walter Payton College Preparatory High School; Donna Goode of Solomon Elementary School; Laurie Green of Bridge Elementary School; Francese Guerrero Borrull of Roosevelt High School; and Samara Guzman of Newberry Elementary Math & Science Academy.

Deidre Habetler of Dever Elementary School; Arthur Helbig of Casals Elementary School; Patricia Jones of Haugan Elementary School; Sarah Kissell; Renee Kreczmer of Sauganash Elementary School; Phyllis Kuziel-Perri of Hitch Elementary School; Wendy Lambie of Gray Elementary School; Joan Leber of Talcott Elementary School; Carrie Lewin of Donoghue Elementary School; and Martin Lombardo of Foreman High School.

Eileen Luciano of Sumner Elementary Math & Science Community Academy; Erin Luzadder of Palatine High School; Katrin Machaj of Lane Technical High School; Dona Maldonado of Hamline Elementary School; Gladys Maldonado of Haugan Elementary School; Martha Maly of Jenner Elementary Academy of The Arts; Mary Martin of Hawthorne Elementary Scholastic Academy; Tricia McGann of Sheridan Elementary Math & Science Academy; James McIntosh of Roosevelt High School; and Traci Meziere of Central Elementary School.

Michelle Nash of Hammond Elementary School; Jennifer Nelson of New Field Eleme-

tary School; James Newman of Taft High School; Thomas O'Brien of Flower Career Academy High School; Marguerite O'Connell of Foreman High School; Alicia Peshel of Mitchell Elementary School; Johonna Pollack of Saucedo Elementary Scholastic Academy; Holly Pruett of O.A. Thorp Elementary Scholastic Academy; Ana Romero of McKinley Park Elementary School; and Selma Saidane of Kellogg Elementary School.

Richard Sasso of Hinsdale South High School; Julianne Soble of Solomon Elementary School; William Spain of Amundsen High School; Darlene Stone of Donoghue Elementary School; Jennifer Trejo of Taft High School; Patrice Turk; Yoni Vallecillo of Senn High School; and Kristen Wilkens of Best Practice High School.

CONCERNS ABOUT BORDER
PATROL ACTIONS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, like many of our colleagues I have seen recent news reports about the use of pepper spray by Border Patrol officers who have been the targets of attacks by people on the other side of our southern border.

I am sure that we all agree that the officers can and should defend themselves, but like others I am concerned about the extent to which use of pepper spray or other chemical agents could have unintended consequences.

In that connection, I think we should carefully consider a recent editorial in the Gazette, a daily newspaper published in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

As the editorial puts it:

The Mexican Consulate has complained, and rightly so. The United States is not at war with Mexico, and it makes sense to maintain friendly relations with our southern neighbor.

Border Patrol officials argued that the agents need to protect themselves, and that the smugglers should be blamed for hiding behind innocent people. Well, there are better ways to protect against criminals than to saturate entire neighborhoods with tear-gas canisters. For starters, the Border Patrol could engage in cooperative efforts with the Tijuana police or the Mexican federal authorities to go after the rock-throwers.

I think that is a suggestion well worth exploring.

For the information of all our colleagues, here is the complete text of the editorial:

[From the Colorado Springs Gazette, Dec. 18, 2007]

BORDER PATROL SHOULD STOP TEAR-GAS
ATTACKS

What would Americans think if Mexican officials routinely fired pepper spray and tear gas into California neighborhoods as a way to root out, say, smugglers who were operating from the U.S. side of the border? How would we, as Americans, feel if our houses were damaged, our neighborhoods evacuated and our children endangered because of the aggressive tactics of the Mexican police or military?

Most Americans would no doubt be outraged. American officials would likely demand that Mexico cease and desist from such

behavior. The anger would be perfectly justified.

Mexican officials are not attacking the United States, but U.S. Border Patrol agents are attacking the Colonia Libertad neighborhood of Tijuana. Mexicans have every right to be as angry as we would be if the roles were reversed.

In response to smugglers who are pelting Border Patrol agents in order to create a diversion, the Americans are stepping up their efforts. "Agents have used pepper spray in the past, but usually aimed directly at the smugglers," the Los Angeles Times reported Friday. "The new tactics, which saturate large areas, have forced dozens of temporary evacuations and sent some residents to hospitals."

The Mexican Consulate has complained, and rightly so. The United States is not at war with Mexico, and it makes sense to maintain friendly relations with our southern neighbor.

Border Patrol officials argued that the agents need to protect themselves, and that the smugglers should be blamed for hiding behind innocent people. Well, there are better ways to protect against criminals than to saturate entire neighborhoods with tear-gas canisters. For starters, the Border Patrol could engage in cooperative efforts with the Tijuana police or the Mexican federal authorities to go after the rock-throwers.

We understand that the issue of illegal immigration is extremely contentious, but even those advocating tougher U.S. enforcement measures should agree that there need to be limits to the policy. It's hard to make the argument that Mexicans are trampling our sovereignty while we so eagerly trample theirs.

IN HONOR OF MARY MILLS RITCHIE

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, as we wrap up this year in Congress, I want to honor Mary Mills Ritchie, who left my staff earlier this year to return to Mississippi. She was a dedicated member of my staff who honorably served my office and the people of Mississippi.

Mary Mills came to my office as our staff assistant in 2003, after graduating from the University of Mississippi earlier that year, and Jackson Preparatory School in 1999. She demonstrated her abilities to understand and affect public policy and with her dedicated work ethic, her role grew to Legislative Assistant for health care policy.

She managed this legislative portfolio at a critical time, as we worked with seniors and communities to implement the Medicare Reform Act of 2003 that provides prescription drug benefits to needy Americans. She served as my liaison to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and assisted pharmacists, hospitals, and other health care providers in Mississippi move through the Washington bureaucratic.

Following Hurricane Katrina, she played a critical role as we inserted language in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 that provided funds for 8½ months of Mississippi's state

Medicaid budget: \$850 million in budget relief at a time when Mississippi was straining under the pressures of disaster recovery.

While working in Washington, she met a young man from Texas named Spencer Ritchie and they married in March of 2005. But rather than carrying her away to the Lone Star State, she converted him into a Mississippian. He is now in law school at the University of Mississippi, where she works in Oxford.

Mary Mills' hard work and success is a tribute to her parents, Sam and Leila Lane. I know they and her brothers, Samuel and Ben, are very proud of her.

Madam Speaker, Mary Mills Ritchie left a formative mark on my health care agenda and on our office. We will not forget her good nature or her eagerness to learn and work. She possesses a rare grace and presence. This unique spirit carries her compassion and commitment to help, teach and serve others. She continues to bless the lives of all who know her. I thank her for her service to this office and to Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING MONTY SLOUGH AND THE DENTON COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Monty Slough of Little Elm, Texas for his years of service in the United States Armed Forces, and for his continued service to our country by building a memorial to veterans from Denton County, Texas.

After checking records at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Monty identified the names of nine fallen service members and created a personal way to memorialize their service. Without prompting or financial support, Mr. Slough began building a granite tiled memorial to Denton County soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who died in service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Mr. Slough has taken up the honorable but unfortunate task of paying respect to fellow veterans who pay the ultimate price while serving our country. In his own eloquent words Monty said, "This isn't going to bring them back, but they sure as hell are not going to be forgotten."

The mobile memorial built by veterans Monty Slough and Dee Cork is an example of why we hold our Nation's veterans in such high esteem. I believe the character displayed by Mr. Slough and Mr. Cork should be highlighted as an example of American civic duty and community support; I rise here today to show them that courtesy.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Monty Slough of Little Elm, Texas for his dedication to veterans and their families. I thank him for his work, I support his mission, and I am honored to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, In 2002, we enacted the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act in an attempt to stabilize the economy following the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and to protect against economic catastrophe should another attack occur. This important program is set to expire at the end of the year, and it is essential that we reauthorize TRIA.

The legislation before us is not the strong bill we passed in September or the compromise we passed last week, and it is not a perfect bill. It extends TRIA by only 7 years and does not include the strong new provisions that were included in the other bills we passed. However, this legislation does do one vital thing: it works to ensure the stability of our economy should another national crisis occur. For this very important reason, I support this legislation today but hope we can pass a stronger bill in the future.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ANGELO WEDO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Angelo Wedo, a former shoemaker's helper and railroad worker, who served ten years as mayor of Brook Park, Ohio.

Born in Windber, PA, Angelo was the son of Italian immigrants. After graduating with a degree in accounting from Lehigh University, Angelo moved to the Cleveland area, where he worked as an accountant for Pre-form Marine Products before and after his stint as mayor.

In 1961, Angelo was elected Brook Park city treasurer. He served as Ward 4 councilman from 1966 to 1970 and as council president for two years before becoming mayor.

Angelo served as mayor from 1972 to 1981 and is credited for playing an integral role in establishing the city's first recreation center. In appreciation of his commitment to recreation facilities, a city park was named in his honor.

Angelo was the devoted husband of Sondra and the loving father of Greg, Michelle, Tony, Valerie, and Vicki. He was the cherished grandfather of six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Angelo Wedo, an enthusiastic member of the Brook Park community and dedicated servant of local government. May his commitment to Brook Park serve as an example to all of us.