

California's 9th Congressional District and beyond, and it is my pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of Piedmont's residents on the occasion of its Centennial Celebration.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this continuing resolution and want to thank the Chairman, Mr. OBEY, for his leadership and that of his staff. Indeed, in the last few weeks alone, I think we have seen more leadership and more courage than we saw at any time in the last 6 years. You made hard choices—unpopular choices. But you took the first steps toward restoring fiscal discipline and order to a process that for too long had been broken.

And so, Mr. OBEY, I want to thank you—for reminding us that our first obligation is not to the special interests, but to the American people. To the business of governing responsibly. I am honored to call you my Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is only being considered for one reason and one reason alone—and that is because when the Republican majority left town last year they did so without passing a single domestic appropriations bill. No funding for health care. No funding for our veterans or our seniors. That is what the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars got them last year—nothing.

And so, I would say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—you had your chance to make this an open, transparent, functioning process. You had your opportunity to crack down on earmarks and special interests. You had that opportunity last year—for the last 6 years. And you squandered it and left a mess.

This bill is but the first few steps Democrats are taking toward cleaning up the mess left by the previous majority. It is by no means a perfect process. We are under no illusions. But by suspending this institution's broken earmark process, we have an opportunity to look toward next year with some optimism. Indeed, we used this opportunity to strengthen our capacity to respond to the needs of the public and restore funding to a few key priorities that had for too long been neglected by the previous majority.

This is true in area after area—first and foremost, with respect to our troops. Under this bill, men and women wounded in action in Iraq and Afghanistan will receive the health care they need, as will 325,000 additional veterans. We have restored some funding for Head Start and early childhood education, for special education and for Pell Grants which will help 5.3 million students pay for college. And by providing an additional \$125 million for the President's underfunded, undermanned No Child Left Behind program, we can begin to help 6,700 underachieving schools turn around. So, too, are we restoring funding to the National Institutes of Health, which the previous majority cut for the first time in 36 years. This bill supports an additional 500 research project grants, 1,500 first-time inves-

tigators, and expands funding for high risk and high impact research—the future of medicine.

As the chair of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I am pleased we were able to hold the line on rural development programs which provide assistance for rural utilities systems, business development, community facilities and housing—programs that otherwise would have seen draconian cuts under the President's FY07 request. We provide \$65 million to help us counter the avian flu threat. And having been alarmed by breakdowns in our food safety and drug safety processes these last few years—from Vioxx to spinach—I am pleased we were able to provide some increases in this bill to help us begin to restore public confidence in these areas—at the USDA and FDA.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, with this bill, we are sending the same message to the American people about their Congress. And so, I want to again commend my friend and chairman, Mr. OBEY, for doing remarkable work under the most difficult circumstances imaginable. It is time to put the public interest before the special interests. And with this bill, we take the first steps necessary to doing that. It is about time.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 808, ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 808, establishing the Department of Peace and Nonviolence.

At a time when we are spending hundreds of billions of dollars on the war in Iraq, which the majority of the American public no longer supports, there is a growing call for a diplomatic and political, in other words, a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

The establishment of the Department of Peace and Nonviolence, with its emphasis on education and dispute resolution through peaceful means, sends a clear message to our citizens and to the rest of the world that our country recognizes and values the peaceful resolution of conflicts and differences and that these methods should be emphasized to resolve conflicts at both the individual and national levels.

The Department of Peace is not a new idea. My esteemed and highly respected predecessor from the State of Hawaii, first Representative and then Senator Spark M. Matsunaga, proposed a similar institution 30 years ago as the Vietnam war waged on. After three decades of unresolved conflicts, worsening international relations, and seemingly endless wars around the world, the time has come to bring this great idea to life.

I fully support H.R. 808.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE CARTER DAWKINS

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Grace Carter Dawkins, a native of Greenville, GA. Mrs. Dawkins recently passed away, leaving behind a long legacy of compassion and spirited involvement in her community.

Mrs. Dawkins had a big heart and a willingness to help others. As a teacher in Newnan and Atlanta, she not only taught home economics and served as a class sponsor, but she helped sew prom dresses for the students and cooked up delicious meals for class banquets.

Grace was also deeply involved with her church, Brinson Chapel, where she lent her passion for service to the church's missionary, senior, and community outreach programs.

Madam Speaker, I've had the honor to experience Grace's generous personality firsthand, and I know her loving acts of kindness will be felt in Greenville for many years to come.

I also know Grace's husband, Robert, her sister, Gloria Carter Morris, and her three brothers, Rufus, Earnest, and Willie Carter, will keep her memory strong.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the compassion, charity, and joy of Grace Carter Dawkins's life.

HONORING MRS. DAWN GASIOR OF ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator in my district, Mrs. Dawn Gasior. For 27 years, Mrs. Gasior has tirelessly served her students and the entire St. Symphorosa Parish community. As a result of her dedicated and enthusiastic efforts, she was recently nominated for the Archdiocese of Chicago's "Heart of the School" Award.

A long-time Clearing resident and student at St. Symphorosa from 1963 to 1971, Mrs. Gasior returned to the school in 1980 to establish a Kindergarten program and began teaching the second grade in 1984. Mrs. Gasior still teaches the second grade today and especially enjoys teaching the Sacraments. She not only provides valuable insight and moral guidance in the classroom, but also offers support to the parish through her work as a Eucharistic Minister.

The Archdiocese of Chicago's "Heart of the School" Award annually recognizes 14 teachers for their outstanding, unique, and innovative accomplishments. This year, the Archdiocese is acknowledging Mrs. Gasior in the area of Catholic School Identity and Mission for her work in the design and implementation of effective catechetical approaches in the curriculum and for her commitment to promoting peace and justice. Mrs. Gasior's nomination is a tribute to her work and a reflection of the

Chicago Archdiocesan pledge to develop educated, thoughtful, and moral students.

It is my honor to commend Mrs. Dawn Gasior for her achievements as an outstanding teacher and advocate of Catholic education. She, along with countless other educators, serves to enhance our overall education system—impacting one student at a time. I thank Dawn, along with all of our Nation's teachers, for their dedication, passion, and noble service.

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL BOARD HAS FIRST BLACK MAJORITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article in the New York Times announcing a majority African American School Board in Little Rock, AR. This is the first time since Federal troops enforced integration in 1957 that African Americans have earned a majority on the Little Rock School Board. As pronounced in the article, it is good to see that people are looking for a change.

The events that took place in Little Rock still stand as a testament to the spirit of resiliency abiding deeply within the African American community. Similarly, the decision to integrate in 1957 echoes our country's commitment to ultimately ensuring equality among all of our Nation's sons and daughters. In the same way that 1957 remains such a pivotal year in our Nation's history, I hope that these more recent events continue to shape future generations—moving away from things as usual, as the article states, toward viewing issues of importance from the perspectives of the people directly affected rather than by socially engineered categories like race, gender, and class.

Central to the article are the issues faced by students, skin color notwithstanding. It is important to understand that what this article highlights is not simply the need to recognize the gains made by African Americans in winning the majority of seats on the school board but rather the changes in minds and hearts necessary to move to a space where people are voted for because of their desire to preserve and protect the interest of the people they serve.

I applaud the efforts of Little Rock School Board members as well as members of the community.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 13, 2006]

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL BOARD HAS FIRST BLACK MAJORITY

(By the Associated Press)

LITTLE ROCK, AR.—For the first time since federal troops enforced public school integration here by escorting a group of black students into Central High School 49 years ago, the Little Rock school board has a black majority.

Dianne Curry won a runoff election on Tuesday, meaning four of the Little Rock School District's seven board members are black. Ms. Curry defeated Tom Brock, who had been appointed to fill an unexpired term in February.

The district, which has 26,000 students, has been mostly black for years, but until now

has never had a black majority on the school board.

Until 1957, Little Rock had operated separate schools for blacks and whites. Despite an order from the United States Supreme Court, Gov. Orval E. Faubus sought to prevent nine black students from entering Central High, but President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent in the 101st Airborne to enforce the court's order.

Federal courts have monitored the desegregation effort since 1965.

Sixty-eight percent of the district's students are black, 24 percent are white, and Hispanics and Asians make up most of the remaining 8 percent. The population of Little Rock is mostly white, and there are many predominantly white private schools in the area.

The school district has sought to free itself from federal monitoring, but a judge maintained partial control after ruling two years ago that the district was not adequately praising how well its academic programs helped black students.

Superintendent Roy Brooks is black, as is Robert Daugherty, the board's president.

"I think people are looking for a change," Mr. Daugherty said. "They're tired of things as usual, business as usual. They want people who are more in tune with the community, and I think that's what you see now."

Skip Rutherford, dean of the Clinton School of Public Service and a former board president, said that a black majority on the board was "probably long overdue."

Students will still come first, said Mr. Rutherford, who is white.

"I think the board members are going to vote much more on the content of their character than the color of their skin," he said. "Most people when they get on the school board tend to view issues not by color but by what's best for the students."

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY PERMANENT ELIMINATION ACT OF 2007

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to introduce the Marriage Tax Penalty Permanent Elimination Act of 2007. This important bill makes marriage tax relief permanent for the 48 million American married couples that benefit from the marriage tax relief enacted by Congress and signed into law in 2003.

Madam Speaker, if we do not act, in 2010 48 million hardworking married couples will face an annual tax increase which averages \$2,726. I am sure I speak for the married couples in my district and Illinois when I say that \$2,726 each year is a lot of money. In fact, if a couple were to put this money away each year to pay for the costs of a child's college education, without even earning interest they would have nearly \$50,000.

My legislation will ensure that marriage tax relief becomes permanent and 48 million American couples are not subject to a \$2,726 annual tax increase starting in 2010. I encourage my colleagues to join me in continuing the fight to guarantee that the values we hold most dear, marriage, family and hard work are treated fairly under our tax code.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, February 5, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 74 and 75.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend two votes last night due to official business, hosting a paying for college workshop in my district.

I obtained an excused absence for this event, and I ask unanimous consent to include this personal explanation in the RECORD.

On February 5, 2007, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes No. 74 and No. 75.

On rollcall vote No. 74 to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution regarding National Consumer Protection Week, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 75 to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 74 and No. 75 I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both No. 74 and No. 75.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER ROBERT F. DRINAN, SJ

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize the recent passing and pay tribute to a great and former Member of this House, Father Robert Drinan. Many Members of this House have already praised his advocacy of human rights and women's rights, his efforts to uphold government morality, his role as an educator, and his commitment to his Catholic faith. I rise today to highlight and honor Father Drinan for a particular element of his human and civil rights advocacy work.

In 1981, as a former Congressman and noted advocate for social justice, Father Drinan was named to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC). This commission was formed to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order (EO) 9066 and the