

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

impact of this order and the ensuing exclusion, relocation, and internment on American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry.

The CWRIC found that EO 9066 and the decisions that followed were not justified by military necessity, but shaped by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. As a member of the commission, Father Drinan was among the most outspoken about the need to remedy the injustices done to these loyal Americans and permanent residents. Based on the CWRIC's findings and recommendations, Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided a national apology and redress to all surviving individuals who were excluded from their place of residence due to EO 9066.

The CWRIC and its findings are cited as historic and remarkable due to their impeccable credentials, solid research, and far-reaching influence. As such, we cannot understate the role of Father Robert Drinan in the proceedings and findings of this commission. He spoke for redress to former internees in his Congressional testimony on behalf of the commission. His testimony was truly instrumental in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act and sent a message to the Nation and the world that the U.S. Government is able to admit its mistakes and take responsibility in making reparations. In a speech before Congress in 1987, Father Drinan profoundly stated, "No U.S. Government may take away the liberty of its citizens, even in wartime, unless there is some clear and provable reason. Lacking any such reason, the deprivation of liberty of any U.S. citizen is a clear violation of the Constitution, which states in the 14th Amendment that no person may be deprived of 'life, liberty, or property without due process of law.'"

Father Drinan maintained his commitment to the causes of human rights, education, and promoting awareness of the triumphs and follies of U.S. history throughout his life and well after his tenure on the CWRIC. On the matter of Japanese American Internment, Father Drinan was among the founding board members of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund which was created by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 to fund educational and humanitarian purposes related to the wartime internment of Japanese Americans. As part of this board, Father Drinan ensured that we as a Nation never forget the mistakes in our history and are reminded to uphold the virtues of equality and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, Father Robert Drinan has certainly impacted this Nation in innumerable ways, but I have been personally touched by Father Drinan's work and advocacy on behalf of the Japanese American community towards redress. Our Nation owes Father Drinan much honor, respect, and gratitude for his work to address the wrongs done to Japanese Americans during World War II and his tireless effort to ensure this Nation lives up to its own standards. He will be sorely missed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to my attendance at a memorial service in my district,

I was unable to cast the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 74: "yea".

Rollcall No. 75: "yea".

#### HONORING TEMPLE COLLEGE

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the high level of success achieved by Temple College located in Temple, Texas. The Texas Bioscience Institute established by Temple College recently garnered the highest award offered by the Community College Futures Assembly, the distinguished Bellwether Award. The Bellwether Award is given to the highest achieving institute in workforce development. This award is given to only one community college each year, effectively recognizing the Texas Bioscience Institute as the finest workforce development institute at any community college. One chancellor from a California community college was so impressed with TBI he plans to emulate the institute at his school.

This award not only recognizes TBI's success; it is an indicator of the bright future of Temple College and the Texas Bioscience Institute. With this award comes the opportunity to apply for grants from the state and federal governments, ensuring the means for further successes from this institute. Not satisfied to rest on their laurels, the institute plans to increase the number of students by 50 percent to 150 and maintain the high level of teaching achievement they are known for. I am very proud of their work and am honored to represent such a fine academic institution as Temple College and their award-winning Texas Bioscience Institute.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES C. MILES

### HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to remember the life of a proud Berks County resident, James C. Miles. James was born August 26, 1918, to Alfred and Grace Miles, and passed away on February 5, 2007, at the age of 88.

Born and raised in Reading, Pennsylvania, Mr. Miles graduated from Reading High School in 1936 and later joined the U.S. Army during World War II. Utilizing his experience with the famous Reading Railroad industry, Mr. Miles served in Northern Africa and Europe helping to repair the rail network in support of the advance towards Germany.

Mr. Miles was a member of the Advent Lutheran Church in West Lawn, Pennsylvania. In addition, Mr. Miles was a former President of the Wernersville VFW.

Mr. Miles was preceded in death by his wife of over 40 years, the former Marjorie Elizabeth High, whom he wed November 27, 1941, and who passed away on May 22, 1986. Surviving him are his two children, Larry E. (Catherine)

Miles of Wyomissing, Deborah (Michael) Shimko of Nazareth; five grandchildren, Kelly (Tony) Curtis of Glen Allen, VA, Jeffrey (Meredith) Miles currently serving at our Embassy in Mexico City, Mexico, Jennifer Miles of Chicago, IL, Michael and Mark Shimko of Nazareth; and three great-granddaughters, Caroline, Madelyn and Claire Curtis of Glen Allen, VA.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of James C. Miles. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and achievements here today.

#### NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED A DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, America needs a Department of Peace in order to have a peace-making capacity to match its war-making capacity. America should rely on preventive diplomacy, not on preventive war. We should work within the framework of international law, not defy it.

My first campaign for Congress, following the teaching of Dr. King, was based on "jobs, peace and justice." That remains my priority agenda. So I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of H.R. 808, Representative KUCINICH's bill to establish a Department of Peace and Non-Violence. At a time when the world is awash in war, he and Marianne Williamson, founder of the Peace Alliance, offer this modern vision of healing and preventing violence.

It could not be more timely. According to all reports, the Bush administration is debating whether to attack Iran or to find peaceful ways to deal with its nuclear program and its intervention in Iraq. The prospect of President Bush starting a "pre-emptive war" with Iran, on top of the tragedy in Iraq, is frightening. If that is not a compelling argument for creating a Peace Department, then I do not know what is.

We attacked Iraq because President Bush would not pursue peace and let U.N. inspectors complete their work. Instead, he distorted intelligence and failed to foresee the terrible consequences of that war. We must not repeat those mistakes in Iran, or anywhere else.

Last night, I spoke to an overflowing crowd that supports this measure and I told them what I tell my colleagues now. The best way to stop the war in Iraq is for the Congress to end our fighting there as soon as possible, and the best way to prevent wars with Iran and other adversarial nations is to establish a Department of Peace. We need a Cabinet Secretary focused like a laser on how to keep peace with Iran and constantly pressing the President to choose that strategy.

President Bush has already spent some \$2 trillion on the war in Iraq. Just think what we could have done with \$2 trillion spent on health care and education. That is another strong reason for the Department of Peace. A small fraction of that amount could also have funded a robust, proactive Department of Peace to analyze looming conflicts and to advise the President on how to diffuse them without war.