

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHESTER RICHARDSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Chester Richardson who passed away on January 2, 2007.

Chester made a profound impact on the Las Vegas community during his lifetime. Chester possessed a vast knowledge of the gaming industry, expertise obtained while working as the surveillance manager of the Luxor Hotel and Casino as well as his experiences as vice-chairman of the Southern Nevada workforce Investment Board, chairman of the SNWIB Programs/Performances committee, and chairman of the SNWIB Youth Council.

Chester also dedicated his life to his community. He was instrumental in the development of the first drug abuse prevention community based organization in northern Nevada, was a field investigator for the Reno/Sparks NAACP Branch investigating labor complaints and served four terms as the local NACCP election chairman. Chester was very much involved in designing a successful affirmative action plan and began the elimination of the Rule of Three in the State legislature. Chester also assisted local businesses in obtaining over \$300,000 in micro business loans. His other accomplishments include serving as the Nevada General Secretary and as the first Grand Worthy Patron of the Nevada International Free and Accepted Modern Masons. Chester was also an associate minister for the Second Baptist Church in Las Vegas.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and the legacy of Chester Richardson. His dedication to service and community was truly exemplary and should serve as an example to us all. Chester will be profoundly missed.

INTRODUCING THE TEACHER TAX CUT ACT AND THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce two pieces of legislation that raise the pay of teachers and other educators by cutting their taxes. I am sure that all my colleagues agree that it is long past time to begin treating those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's children with the respect they deserve. Compared to other professionals, educators are under-appreciated and under-paid. This must change if America is to have the finest education system in the world.

Quality education is impossible without quality teaching. If we continue to undervalue edu-

cators, it will become harder to attract, and keep, good people in the education profession. While educators' pay is primarily a local issue, Congress can, and should, help raise educators' take home pay by reducing educators' taxes.

This is why I am introducing the Teachers Tax Cut Act. This legislation provides every teacher in America with a \$3,000 tax credit. I am also introducing the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act, which extends the \$3,000 tax credit to counselors, librarians, and all school personnel involved in any aspect of the K-12 academic program.

The Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act increase the salaries of teachers and other education professionals without raising federal expenditures. By raising the take-home pay of professional educators, these bills encourage highly qualified people to enter, and remain in, education. These bills also let America's professional educators know that the American people and the Congress respect their work.

I hope all my colleagues join me in supporting our nation's teachers and other professional educators by cosponsoring the Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act.

SACRED HEART MEDICAL CENTER DELIVERS HIGH QUALITY HEALTH CARE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sacred Heart Medical Center for being rated as a top performer in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Premier Hospital Quality Incentive project.

Sacred Heart Medical Center has been providing quality health care to the people of Eastern Washington for more than 120 years. Their mission to provide a community of healing, collaborate with caregivers, and uphold a commitment to excellence guides the kind of care they provide every day.

As a top performer, Sacred Heart Medical Center was evaluated on their performance and outcome measures in five clinical areas—acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, coronary artery bypass graft (CABO), pneumonia, and hip and knee replacement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Sacred Heart Medical Center for setting the standard for clinical excellence, and for providing excellent health care to the Eastern Washington community. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the doctors and employees of Sacred Heart Medical Center on this great achievement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAXWELL BRUNER, JR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Maxwell Bruner, Jr.

Mr. Bruner is survived by his wife, Linda, eight children, ten grandchildren, and sister and brother-in-law, Burt and Barbara Bruner Godwin. To his family and friends, I would like to offer my sincere condolences. Northwest Florida has suffered a great loss.

Born on July 12, 1931, in Ashford, Alabama, Max Bruner, Jr., grew up during the Great Depression on the farms in southeast Alabama. He was the son of a farmer and local businessman. It was not until after his graduation from Auburn University, where his interest in politics and government grew, that he made his way to Fort Walton Beach, Florida, in 1957—a place where his footsteps would be planted and never washed away.

Mr. Bruner was an active member in the business, civic, and church communities, and entered into the Okaloosa County School District as an assistant principal, quickly rising to principal at Fort Walton Elementary School. In 1963, Max Bruner became principal of the newly integrated Eglin School. Okaloosa County School District became one of the first districts in the South that integrated schools. After two years, Mr. Bruner was elected Superintendent of Schools. Voted in for five consecutive terms, he made a significant impact on the Okaloosa County School District and molded it into the success it is today.

His passion for change and commitment to excellence came at a time when it was needed the most. Facilities were overcrowded, which forced schools to hold double sessions and hold classes in churches. In a time when schools were segregated and students not given the opportunity they deserved, Max Bruner ensured that they received the proper materials. He established a \$40 million construction plan and developed educational programs to accommodate every learning level, including the gifted and disabled. He knew the importance of education and believed that all students must be given the opportunity to learn. Maxwell Bruner worked tirelessly for the advancement of the local public school system and transformed the Okaloosa School District into one of the best in the state of Florida.

To some Max Bruner will be remembered as an educator, and to others, a warrior. To some he will be remembered as a loyal Auburn fan, and to others, a comrade in the United States Air Force. He will long be remembered by his family and friends as a loving and compassionate father, grandfather, husband, and companion; and we will all remember his energy, motivation, and generosity. From his humble beginnings as a child

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to a man who had such a profound impact on society, Mr. Bruner touched a number of lives; all who knew Max Bruner are forever grateful for his presence in their lives, and will forever be inspired by his life.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor the life of Maxwell Bruner, Jr., and his living legacy.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HARRY
NOONAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Harry Noonan and recognize him for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and posthumously award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944, the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

Harry served in the United States Army, 194th Glider Infantry Regiment in Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland. For his heroism and valor, Harry was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Service Arrowhead, and the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Service Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Harry Noonan who passed away on February 13, 2007. His service and dedication to this country exemplified the sacrifices of the "Greatest Generation." He was truly a great American patriot.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOPE
PLUS SCHOLARSHIP ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Hope Plus Scholarship Act, which expands the Hope Education Scholarship credit to cover K-12 education expenses. Under this bill, parents could use the Hope Scholarship to pay for private or religious school tuition or to offset the cost of home schooling. In addition, under the bill, all Americans could use the Hope Scholarship to make cash or in-kind donations to public schools. Thus, the Hope Scholarship could help working parents send their child to a private school, while other parents could take advantage of the Hope credit to help purchase new computers for their children's local public school.

Reducing taxes so that Americans can devote more of their own resources to education is the best way to improve America's schools, since individuals are more likely than federal bureaucrats to insist that schools be accountable for student performance. When the fed-

eral government controls the education dollar, schools will be held accountable for their compliance with bureaucratic paperwork requirements and mandates that have little to do with actual education. Federal rules and regulations also divert valuable resources away from classroom instruction.

The only way to reform America's education system is through restoring control of the education dollar to the American people so they can ensure schools provide their children a quality education. I therefore ask all of my colleagues to help improve education by returning education resources to the American people by cosponsoring the Hope Plus Scholarship Act.

ARCHBISHOP GEORGE NIEDER-
AUER'S EDITORIAL ON GLOBAL
POVERTY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I would like to use this opportunity to direct the attention of my colleagues to a very important opinion piece written by the Archbishop George H. Niederauer, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco and chair of the Communications Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which last October sponsored a national conference on global poverty. As a champion of the poor and a well-respected constituent, I value his commitment to eliminating global poverty and his mission to translate faith into action.

I emphatically agree with the Archbishop's position outlined in this article, that ending global poverty is one of the great challenges of our time and we have a moral obligation, as a civilized nation, to help eliminate the scourge of extreme poverty. As the Archbishop points out, foreign policy is indeed a moral endeavor. The United States, in keeping with its core humanitarian values, must be a model for other countries by promoting sustainable development. While we know that poverty does not cause extremism, the United States must use all of the tools at its disposal to limit the breeding grounds for terrorists seeking to take advantage of the millions of economically deprived human beings in the world today. We must work with our partners in the faith-based community, non-governmental organizations, and development activists to end suffering, hunger, and death.

THE MORAL SCANDAL OF GLOBAL POVERTY

(By George H. Niederauer)

It's easy to forget that more than a billion people survive on a \$1 a day when we live in the world's richest country. Whether in the fields of Africa, the factories of Asia or the streets of our own cities, we often pay scant attention to the abject poverty that degrades our fellow human beings. Ending global poverty is one of the great challenges of our time that requires urgent political will and solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Catholic leaders, economists, international-development experts and activists from several countries will meet in San Francisco tomorrow and Saturday to explore strategies for addressing the Moral Scandal that is global poverty. We come together to

raise awareness, mobilize resources and reflect on how putting faith into action can build a more just world. As Catholics, we pray that we can embrace the hungry, the sick and the suffering as Jesus called us to do with compassion and love. As engaged citizens who understand that foreign policy and budgets are moral endeavors that reflect our values, we call on our leaders to do more to help the world's poor.

Our gathering will help build national momentum for the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty, an effort led by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services, which engages citizens to advocate for policies that increase development aid, offer debt relief to poor countries and ensure that trade agreements benefit more than the wealthy. Guided by Catholic social tradition that teaches us to have a "preferential option for the poor," we know that upholding the dignity of all human life does not end at our borders. When our neighbors in other countries suffer, we too are diminished. What we do to the least among us, we do to Christ himself.

In the San Francisco Bay area, the Catholic community strives through its social service agencies to relieve the suffering of local poverty, and funds international anti-poverty and development programs through Catholic Relief Services. Local Catholic priests, nuns and lay people are working in some of the poorest countries to ease the burden of extreme poverty. We also work with people of other faiths in efforts to increase awareness and understanding about global poverty and to encourage our legislators to make greater efforts to address this crucial problem. In 2000, the United States and other nations signed the U.N. "Millennium Development Goals" to halve extreme poverty, increase development aid to 0.7 percent of gross national income, stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide universal primary education by 2015. The United States still falls near the bottom of the list when aid by developed countries is measured as a percent of gross national product.

Some ask why we should care about starvation or disease in remote corners of the globe. Along with being the right thing to do, retreating from this cause is also not practical. The forces of globalization have made nations, and their destinies, more interconnected than ever before. As the world's largest economy, the United States has considerable influence to galvanize resources for the poor, push to end curable diseases in Africa and be a model for other countries when it comes to development.

Each year, governments spend billions of dollars on sophisticated weapons. The technological creativity and energy it takes to build these systems should be matched by the best of our minds and hearts in fighting the enemy of poverty that kills 50,000 people every day, far more than even the ravages of war. A robust development agenda that helps uplift and support the poorest countries can also limit the appeal of terrorists who exploit political instability, desperation and poverty to recruit converts to extremist ideologies. Nothing can justify terrorism, but we can also build a world in which terrorism finds fewer places to breed.

As daunting as the challenge of ending global poverty may seem, this is not an unreachable goal. Renowned poverty expert, Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University, who will deliver the keynote address at our gathering, has identified practical steps such as increasing crop productivity and soil efficiency, providing nutritious school meals and helping poor countries reform internal agencies. We know that governments alone can't solve this problem. Faith-based groups,