

Adams Elementary School in Las Vegas, Nevada and recent recipient of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards program recognizes and rewards outstanding teachers, principals, and education professionals who go above and beyond to achieve excellence in education. Since the first award was presented in 1987, over 2,200 recipients have this prestigious award. Ms. Johnson was one of the 100 educators chosen for 2006–2007 school year and the 78th Nevada educator to win.

Ms. Johnson's long career as an outstanding educator and an effective administrator has earned her this much deserved national recognition. For the past 17 years, Ms. Johnson has served the Clark County community where her insight, guidance, and leadership have propelled academic improvement in students of all levels and abilities.

As principal of Kirk Adams Elementary School, Ms. Johnson has implemented several programs that have not only inspired student successes but have also enhanced the professional lives of the teachers on her staff. Adams Elementary is one of only four schools in the Clark County School District to be designated as an empowerment school. This distinction allows the administrators of Adams Elementary to have more control over the school's budget and curriculum.

Most notably, under Ms. Johnson's leadership, the school has seen teacher turnover rate reduce to less than 10 percent. Finally, through the establishment of a Professional Learning Community, Ms. Johnson has created an environment in which teachers, parents, students, and the community work together to facilitate student success.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Ms. Johnson and her achievements. I wish Ms. Johnson continued success in her career in primary education.

INTRODUCTION OF SEPTEMBER 11TH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND PATRIOTISM ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the September 11th Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act with Representatives PETER KING, RANGEL, NADLER, SERRANO, ISRAEL, ENGEL, BERMAN, SCHAKOWSKY, and HARE.

We are introducing this legislation because the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, left many surviving spouses and children of legal employment-based visa holders and undocumented workers in jeopardy of being deported, because their immigration status was linked to a family member who was employed at the World Trade Center.

The USA PATRIOT Act initially gave some immigrants amnesty until September 10, 2002. Others, who were not protected by the amnesty provided by the PATRIOT Act, because they were undocumented, also face deportation. The administration has acted with care by not moving forward with deportation procedures for many of them, but their status nonetheless remains in limbo. This legislation

would provide permanent relief for the non-citizen dependents of deceased victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, as determined by the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund. These individuals should not be forced to leave the country because of the actions of the terrorists.

Finally, I would like to thank Moshe and Debra Steinberg for their assistance in preparing this legislation for introduction and for all of the work they have done on behalf of the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and urge its swift passage into law.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HOYA BASKETBALL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to call to my colleagues' attention this year's 100th anniversary of Hoya Basketball at Georgetown University here in the Nation's Capital. Over the last century, the Georgetown Hoyas have had great success on the basketball court, but I am proud to say there is much more to the Hoyas than their athletic prowess. The teams have had a strong record of academic success, community service and developing leaders that have served the Nation with distinction.

First, to their success on the basketball court: The Hoyas were the NCAA National Champions in 1984 and have made it to the Sweet Sixteen or beyond in nine NCAA tournaments since 1980. They have played in National Championship games in 1943, 1982, 1984 and 1985. Since the founding of the Big East Conference in 1980, the Hoyas have been six time Big East Champions. Having played in ten National Invitational Tournaments, in three years, the Georgetown team made it to the NIT Final Four. Former Georgetown head basketball coach John Thompson, Jr., was named Coach of the Year seven times during his career at Georgetown. In 1988, Coach John Thompson, Jr. coached the U.S. Men's Olympic Basketball team, and six of the last eight U.S. Men's Olympic teams have included Georgetown Hoya players or coaching. After completing their careers at Georgetown, many of their players have gone on to success in the NBA including Alonzo Mourning, Dikembe Mutombo, Allen Iverson and Patrick Ewing, to name just a few.

Georgetown athletics have also been committed to ensuring the academic success of their players. In fact, during the years when Coach John Thompson, Jr. led the team to win after win on the basketball court, he also focused on ensuring that his players succeeded in the classroom. Of 78 players who stayed at the University for four years during the years that John Thompson, Jr., led the team, 76 received their degrees for a 97% graduation rate. Since being under the coaching of Craig Esherick and John Thompson, III, the Hoyas have maintained that same commitment to ensuring the academic success of their players on the court.

In addition to the Georgetown Hoyas who have gone on to professional basketball careers of significant renown, two former

Georgetown team members are names all of us in the Congress will recognize. First, our former colleague who just retired earlier this year after a long career in this chamber, the Honorable Henry Hyde of Illinois, played on the first Georgetown Hoyas team to play in a National Championship game in 1943. Here in the House, Congressman Hyde served with distinction both as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and of the House International Relations Committee. The other familiar name, Paul Tagliabue, served as Commissioner of the National Football League from 1989 through September, 2006. Mr. Tagliabue graduated from Georgetown in 1962 and subsequently earned a law degree from New York University School of Law. His record of rebounds remains in the top 20 through Georgetown Hoya history.

It is also heartening to know that this team has a long record of community service here in the District of Columbia as well as nationally and internationally. Since 1980 when the Hoyas began playing in arenas off campus with adequate space, it has been Georgetown basketball policy to donate at least 1,000 tickets per game to community groups here in the City. At present, some 80 organizations benefit from those donations in a typical season. Recognizing the importance of developing interactions between young people and law enforcement, the Hoyas partner with the DC Police Department and Coca-Cola each year to sponsor the "Kids 'n Cops" program when about 1,500 young people from the District attend a Hoyas basketball game with members of the District police force. Also, as part of a broader Georgetown athletics mentoring program known as "GAME," basketball team members tutor students at the SEED School here in the District.

The experience of engaging in community service has carried forward as Hoyas graduate and go on to their own careers. I will share just a few of many examples of this important legacy of Georgetown basketball. Alonzo Mourning who graduated in 1992, is deeply involved in community programs in South Florida where he now lives with a focus on development and education programs for at-risk children and their families. He has also supported kidney research and programming for foster children. Since leaving Georgetown in 1998, Allen Iverson has established the Cross-over Foundation which is actively involved in mentoring young people, assisting with access to technology and providing scholarships. As we heard in this chamber last week during the President's State of the Union address, Dikembe Mutombo, who graduated from Georgetown in 1991, has funded a 300 bed teaching hospital in his home of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 1996, he also funded the expenses of the Zairian women's Olympic basketball team. In addition, he has been engaged in the NBA's Basketball Without Borders program in Africa and elsewhere.

In closing, I would also note that, as part of the important effort to promote public diplomacy, three former Georgetown Hoyas, Courtland Freeman, Omari Faulkner, and RaMell Ross, have in recent years participated in the State Department's cultural envoys program. That work has taken them to South Africa and Botswana where they have focused on efforts to promote behaviors to prevent the spread of HIV-AIDS and to El Salvador and

Brazil where they have concentrated in part on anti-gang messages.

Indeed, as the Congresswoman representing Georgetown University and as a tenured member of the University's Law Center faculty, I am proud to represent and to be associated with the accomplishments of the Georgetown Hoyas over the last century. I look forward to continuing successes under the leadership of their current coach, John Thompson III.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS EQUITY ACT," H.R. 1073

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, with my colleague JOHN MCHUGH, to introduce The Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act (H.R. 1073). The purpose of this bill is simply to give law enforcement status to all Federal law enforcement officers!

Many Federal officials—for example, the Border Patrol—are classified as "law enforcement officers," for the purposes of determining salary and retirement benefits. But many other officers—such as Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Inspectors, Veterans' Affairs Police Officers, U.S. Mint Police Officers, Internal Revenue Officers, and police officers in about two dozen other agencies—do not have equal pay and benefits status.

The tragic irony, Mr. Speaker, is that the only time these officers are classified as law enforcement officers is when they are killed in the line of duty. Then their names are inscribed on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial right here in Washington.

Let me say that again. It is only when they are killed that they are called law enforcement officers, and that is a tragic irony.

My district encompasses the entire California-Mexico border and is home to two of the busiest border crossings in the entire world, so I am very familiar with the work of our Nation's border inspectors. They wear bulletproof vests, they carry firearms, and, unfortunately, have to use them. Most importantly, these inspectors are subject to the same risks as other officers with whom they serve side-by-side. However, they are not eligible for early retirement and other benefits, which are designed to maintain a young and vigorous law enforcement workforce that we need to combat those who pose life-threatening risks to our society.

The Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act will provide well-deserved pay and retirement benefits to the officers protecting our borders, our ports of entry, our military and veterans' installations and other sensitive government buildings. The costs of these benefits would likely be off-set by savings in training costs and increased revenue collection. The bill will also reduce turnover, increase yield, decrease recruitment and development costs and enhance the retention of a well-trained and experienced workforce.

Madam Speaker, the simple fact is that these officers have dangerous jobs and de-

serve to be recognized as law enforcement officers, just like others with whom they serve, side by side, and who share the same level of risk. I encourage my colleagues to join me and Mr. MCHUGH in cosponsoring, the Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act. The valiant officers who protect us deserve no less!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
CAPTAIN DONNIE R. BELSER, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I request the House's attention today to recognize a heroic American, Captain Donnie R. Belser, Jr., 28, of Anniston, Alabama, who died in Iraq on February 10, 2007. Captain Belser was assigned to the 425th Military Transition Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, and according to initial reports was killed during an exchange of small arms fire.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and the gratitude our country feels for his service. Captain Belser died serving the United States and the entire cause of liberty, on a mission to bring stability to a troubled region and liberty to a formerly oppressed people. Captain Belser was a true patriot indeed.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY KAY
BARTON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend Larry Kay Barton who passed away January 30, 2007.

Larry Kay Barton was instrumental to the development of the Las Vegas community. Having served as the deputy city manager of Las Vegas in 1985 and in 1993 and as the city manager between 1993 and 1997, he helped facilitate the exponential growth of the region. Larry was involved in many projects that revitalized the historic districts during his time as city manager such as the Lewis and Fifth Streets Corridors and he played a major part in making the Freemont Street Experience come together. Other significant achievements he made during his time as city manager of Las Vegas were leading negotiations and facilitating the land assemblages for the Lloyd George U.S. Courthouse and the Regional Justice Center as well as the Las Vegas Technology Park and Enterprise Park developments. One of his biggest focuses was to make the city more efficient, so he created the Development Services Center and Express Plans check process for building projects in order to streamline permit approvals. I had the great pleasure of working with Larry in my capacity as Boulder city councilman, Boulder city mayor and later during my tenure in the Nevada State Senate.

In addition to Larry's long time commitment to serving the Las Vegas community, he also served as an Airman in the United States Air Force for over 30 years. He started as a fighter pilot in 1956 and subsequently became a command pilot and logged over 3,500 flying hours and flew more than 200 combat missions. Later, Larry served as a director of operations, a wing commander of the 354th Tactical Fighter Wing and ultimately become vice commander.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Larry Kay Barton. As the city manager of Las Vegas, he led with integrity and greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. Larry was a true patriot, having devoted his life to his community and country. His dedication to service should serve as an example to us all.

HONORING SOJOURNER TRUTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, greetings to Senator CLINTON, Dorothy Height, Dr. E. Faye Williams, Eleanor Smeal and Cicely Tyson.

In this country's majestic Capitol rotunda sits a monument honoring three pioneers of the women's suffrage movement, which led to the women of our great Nation being granted the right to vote in 1920. The monument features the busts of Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony. As the Architect of the Capitol has noted, the monument was presented to the Capitol as a gift from the Women of the United States by the National Women's Party and was accepted on behalf of Congress by the Joint Committee on the Library on February 10, 1921. The unveiling ceremony was held in the rotunda on February 15, 1921, the 101st anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony, and was attended by representatives of over 70 women's organizations. The committee authorized the installation of the monument in the crypt, where it remained until, by act of Congress in 1996, it was relocated to the Capitol rotunda in May 1997.

In addition to the wonderful busts of Stanton, Mott, and Anthony, one of the interesting features of the monument is the existence of a large slab of stone that was never sculpted. Looking at the monument, it is clear that it was intended for a fourth person—another pioneer of the women's suffrage movement—to be sculpted. The legislation that myself and Senator CLINTON along with Senator SPECTER crafted calls for Sojourner Truth to be that person.

Born into slavery as one of the youngest of 13 children of James and Elizabeth in Hurley, which is in Ulster County, New York, in approximately 1797, Sojourner Truth's given name was Isabella Baumfree. Almost all of her brothers and sisters had been sold to other slave owners. Some of her earliest memories were of her parents' stories of the cruel loss of their other children.

Isabella was sold several times to various slave owners and suffered many hardships under slavery, but throughout her life she maintained a deep and unwavering faith that carried her through many difficult times.