

became a judge, he mentored me. As a prosecutor, he counseled me. As a legislator, he influenced me. I count him among the people who kept the wind beneath my wings. I pray God will continue to bless him. We love you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present on Monday and Tuesday of this week and missed the following votes:

Rollcall No. 136, Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 85.

Rollcall No. 137, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 136.

Rollcall No. 138, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 89.

Rollcall No. 139, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 64.

Rollcall No. 140, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 228.

Rollcall No. 141, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 222.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of these motions.

TRIBUTE TO FERN HOLLAND

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize a true American hero, Fern Holland. Three years ago, Fern gave her life so that others might have a brighter future. One of my staffers was friends with Fern and wrote this tribute on the three year anniversary of her death:

On March 9, 2004, my friend, Fern Holland was killed—assassination-style—in Iraq. She, her colleague, and a translator were stopped at a checkpoint where they were shot by gunmen posing as Iraqi police. These gunmen riddled their car with AK-47 bullets and took her life.

Fern wasn't killed because she was a soldier. She was killed because she was someone cared about other people.

When Baghdad fell, Fern traveled to Iraq to work for USAID and then later served on the Coalition Provisional Authority as a women's rights specialist. It was this work that made her a target by extremists. You see, Fern worked tirelessly at setting up Iraqi women's centers around the country. These centers were places women could organize, learn political skills to participate in a democracy, and learn life skills. These centers were not welcome by many extremists for a variety of reasons, and Fern was an easy target because she was white and blonde and very outspoken in her quest for women's rights in Iraq.

While she was doing this work, even more important work came to the forefront. Fern, 33 from Oklahoma, was a lawyer by trade, and she helped draft the interim Iraqi constitution. It was Fern Holland who wrote the section of the constitution that got Iraqi women 25 percent of the seats in the national assembly.

On March 8, 2004, Iraqi leaders signed the interim constitution that included Fern's provision. Women in Iraq now had more than just a seat at the table, they had a say in Iraq's future. Fern was able to see her hard work come to fruition, but only for a day. Her work on behalf of people she did not know, and who did not know her, led to her death.

In February 2003, I met Fern. I was looking for a place on the Hill as a young staffer, and I wound up subleasing her room while she went to work on projects in Africa. She had worked previously in the Peace Corps in Africa and headed back to continue the work she had started when I took over her lease. Her work in Africa led to the establishment of a legal clinic for women who had been sexually exploited. At the time of her death in 2004, the clinic had handled 118 cases including rapes, sexual assaults, wife beatings, family abandonment and sexual exploitation.

From time to time, Fern would come back to the U.S. and would stop by the house to pick up her mail, chat about what she was doing, make sure her car was still working, and then would head back out into the world to battle for what she believed. Several months prior to her death we chatted and I took over her lease and paid for her desk and other items she had left in the room that I now use. From time to time, when I get a chance to slow down, I look around and think about Fern.

Today, three years later, I don't tear up as much as I once did, but the sadness is just as real, and my heart is just as heavy, as it was when I got the call about her death from my roommate Michael. Questions still flood my mind as to why such evil would happen to such a good person. . . . I often think in deep silence about the Iraq War and the sacrifices of Fern and those who serve there. . . . I wonder why God allowed Fern and my path to cross—if only for a brief time—yet thank Him at the same time that I got to meet her.

Fern's life has taught me many things. I have learned to love people more. It is really easy to get cynical about work and life on the Hill when things move at a snails pace, or when you see that people's main motives are something other than helping people. But when I catch myself in a poor attitude or in a cycle of cynicism, I think of Fern and her sacrifices and realize there is more work to be done to help others. Fern's life also taught me my time is not my own. I constantly try to keep in contact with friends/family—and would do anything in the world for them—and I try to reach out to people in need. I have learned that the most important things in this world are the small things people often overlook. I learned that people need other people and so I take the time to speak with someone longer than I would normally, or return calls or emails when I am tired or would rather not. I invest in people because it seems friendships and helping others is the only return that makes me happy. I think that is the secret of life that Fern learned and shared with others.

Today has just begun, yet my thoughts are constantly bouncing back to Fern and to a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. that I can't get out of my head: "A man who won't die for something is not fit to live." In one of Fern's last emails she wrote, "I love the work and if I die, know that I'm doing precisely what I want to be doing—working to organize and educate human rights activists and women's groups." In a day an age where people think

only of themselves, Fern was willing to die for something she believed in; people. And because of that, her life and work means something. . . . it means others can live in a better world.

We tend to throw around the word "hero" alot these days. But I have learned that they are not on the sports field or on the TV or on the movie screen. They are the people who sacrifice for others; who die for others if need be. Fern Holland will forever be one of my heroes. And I wrote this today so that others might know the work she did, and the life she led, because Fern deserves to be remembered.

IN MEMORY OF BOBBY HILDEBRAND

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Bobby Hildebrand of Camden, Arkansas, who passed away February 24, 2007.

Bobby Hildebrand and his family grocery store, Harvey's Grocery Store, were South Arkansas institutions. Bobby was a businessman, a landowner and the proud owner of Harvey's Grocery in Camden, one of Arkansas's legendary political landmarks. Bobby made Harvey's Grocery a famous gathering spot for Arkansas politicians, business leaders and residents of South Arkansas who had a love of good food, heated debate and friendship.

Bobby became known for his locally famous barbecue as much as his generous heart. Each time I drove through Camden, my car always wanted to veer to Harvey's Grocery where I knew I would find good food and great conversation with a man I truly looked up to and admired. I was privileged to have witnessed first hand the effect Bobby's big smile had on visitors of his store and friends who needed someone to listen. Above all else, I am blessed to have been able to call Bobby a dear friend.

Bobby talked endlessly about how politics could be a good and noble profession and how a career in public service could positively affect the lives of thousands. His love of politics helped inspire me and many others to seek elected office and for that, I am forever grateful.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Pat of Camden; his brother Harvey Hildebrand of Louisiana; and his sister Dorothy Herrington of Camden. Bobby Hildebrand will be greatly missed in Camden, Ouachita County and throughout the state of Arkansas, and I am truly saddened by this loss.

WALBERG SUPPORTS STATE, LOCAL CONTROL OF EDUCATION

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Education and Labor Committee, this morning I attended a bi-cameral

hearing on the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act.

In listening to testimony from various individuals today, it was impressed upon me that all of us involved are seeking the same goal: the best possible educational opportunities for our children.

Today, at a time when our Nation lags behind other countries in math and science testing and the Federal government has a larger role in education than ever before, this Congress must find a way to give our schools greater flexibility, reduce the bureaucracy involved in education and ensure these opportunities really are being given to our children.

In years past, Congress has attempted to solve problems in education by simply throwing piles of federal money into the education system.

The original purpose of No Child Left Behind was to return some education policy-making authority to the states.

Unfortunately, during the process of crafting, passing and enacting the legislation, No Child Left Behind took the form of a massive spending bill that increased the Federal government's presence in classrooms.

As the Detroit News stated in a December 22, 2006 editorial, "What our federal legislators come up with in the Nation's capital doesn't always translate well into the classroom."

The editorial continues, "Michigan should have the flexibility to decide how and when to measure student progress."

My daughter-in-law is a hard-working and talented teacher who has experienced firsthand the problems No Child Left Behind creates for teachers, parents and students.

As a classroom teacher forced to teach to the tests required by No Child Left Behind, she actually considered quitting because of the paperwork and restrictions imposed upon her. She struggled to have time to give individual attention to each of her "special needs" students.

Ironically, she obtained her teaching position due to her performance the year prior as a "permanent" substitute teacher in a classroom. Because she was not required to fill out all the forms and paperwork required by No Child Left Behind, she excelled, and the school offered her a permanent position.

In its origin, No Child Left Behind attempted to provide greater school choice and reduce Washington's involvement in education, but instead this expensive and largely unsuccessful legislation has broadened the scope of the Federal Government's role in education.

Enshrined in our Constitution is the 10th Amendment, which reads, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved for the States respectively, or to the people."

Federal control of education is listed nowhere in the Constitution, and in accordance with the 10th Amendment, education should be the responsibility of State and local governments.

Because I believe each child's educational path should be determined by a child's parents, and not by the Federal Government, I am an original co-sponsor of the A-PLUS Act.

The A-PLUS Act would give States, teachers and parents the freedom and authority to determine what educational path a student should take.

As part of this legislation, States can opt out of Federal programs and State leaders decide how to use Federal education funds to improve student achievement.

We all are seeking the best possible educational opportunities for our children, and the way to achieve this is let States and local communities be accountable for academic achievement and educational reforms.

HONORING REX HANSON

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rex Hanson, an exemplary citizen from my district who was recently named recipient of the LaRue County School's 2007 Excellence in Classroom and Educational Leadership, ExCEL, Award.

A math teacher at LaRue County High School in Hodgenville, KY, Mr. Hanson has worked to give his students the strong math and science skills needed in today's high tech world. Through his position as the Mathematics Department chairman, he has worked hard to strengthen the math curriculum in LaRue County, spearheading a program that allows high school students to receive college credit through Campbellsville University. This program continues to allow students in LaRue County to get ahead as they make the transition from high school to college.

Mr. Hanson's teaching philosophy is to challenge his students to become the best that they can be in whatever career path they choose once they leave high school. This philosophy has greatly served LaRue County and Kentucky's Second District.

President Bush has placed a strong focus on math and sciences as the country moves into a global economy. I believe Mr. Hanson is a fitting example of this charge. In addition to his position as the Math Department chair, Mr. Hanson is an advisor for the National Honor Society, senior class sponsor, ACT school coordinator, and teaches classes for Elizabethtown Community College.

I applaud Mr. Hanson for his accomplishments in public education, a profession of great responsibility and even greater reward. On behalf of many others in the Hodgenville area, I would like to express my profound appreciation of his service.

It is my great privilege to recognize Rex Hanson today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his special achievement. His unique dedication to the development of young people and the communities they will someday serve makes him an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and respect.

A TRIBUTE TO MAYFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL AND MAYFIELD SENIOR SCHOOL

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to Mayfield Junior

School and Mayfield Senior School as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary of Holy Child education in Pasadena, California.

In 1931, the Mayfield School was founded by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus. Under the philosophy and tradition of Cornelia Connelly, the Mayfield Schools are committed to educating the whole child, by providing a learning environment balancing academic excellence with the arts, athletics, community service, and spiritual growth.

The Mayfield Schools embrace seven goals developed by the Society of Holy Child Jesus founder Cornelia Connelly. These goals seek to provide an intellectually challenging and creative program of study that fosters academic excellence and to create a learning environment based on trust and reverence for the dignity and uniqueness of each person.

The Mayfield Schools have long been committed to community involvement and voluntary service. Upholding their motto of Actions not Words, both students and alumni have dedicated themselves to community enrichment and demonstrated the principals of compassion, integrity and leadership—characteristic of a Mayfield education.

Under the guidance of devoted teachers and faculty, the students of the Mayfield Schools have achieved great success. Over the past 75 years, more than 2,000 young men and women have graduated from Mayfield Junior School and more than 2,800 women from Mayfield Senior School.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring the Mayfield Junior School and Mayfield Senior School upon the celebration of their 75th Anniversary. The entire community joins me in thanking the Mayfield Schools for their outstanding educational opportunities for the youth of California's 29th District.

HONORING BILL AND MURIEL ELLIOTT AND DREW KATZ

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Muriel Elliott for their hard work in creating the John R. Elliott HERO Campaign, which promotes the use of designated drivers. The HERO Campaign, named after their late son, Navy Ensign John Elliott of Egg Harbor Township, NJ, began in 2000 when he was killed by a drunk driver.

I also rise to honor Mr. Drew Katz of the Interstate Outdoor Advertising Company of Cherry Hill, NJ. Mr. Katz graciously offered assistance to the Elliott family by providing billboard space to promote the HERO campaign. Partnered together, the Elliott family and Mr. Katz are helping to make the roads a safer place for all New Jerseyans. The Elliott family's commitment to their son and to this cause is truly inspirational. I also thank Mr. Katz for his generosity and commitment to his community.

The Elliott family and Mr. Katz's commitment to the John R. Elliott HERO Campaign has served New Jersey well, and I hope that they continue their vital efforts. I thank the Elliott family and Mr. Katz and wish them success with the HERO Campaign in the future.