

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, on March 13, 2007, I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall vote 140. For the RECORD, had I been present, I would have voted: 140—"yea."

## ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

### HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, with spring upon us, college students across the Nation are trekking to our Nation's coastal areas in search of sunny skies and sandy beaches. Yes, Madam Speaker, spring break is upon us.

Often, this collegiate ritual is typified by moral abandon and excesses of many types. However, today it is my pleasure to highlight several students from the University of Wyoming who visited the Nation's Capital to take part in an entirely different spring break experience.

Last week, eight students traveled here from Laramie, Wyoming, to take part in an up-and-coming program known as "Alternative Spring Break." Here in Washington, they spent their days not sightseeing or sunbathing like many of their peers, but volunteering with the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Their week included long days spent working to serve homeless individuals and learning about the special needs of this all-too-frequently overlooked population of needy Americans.

Students like Amanda Blair, Jonathan McBride, Mackenzie Mixer, Lydia Bustos, John Ellis, Amber Johnson, Bailey Loghry, Jonathan Ingebrigtsen, Amber Pace, Brynn Hvidston, and their coordinators Robyn Paulekas at UW and Michael O'Neill of the National Coalition for the Homeless, are role models for people of all ages.

These students will undoubtedly now have spring break memories to last a lifetime. They deserve all the respect and praise this noble body can give.

## HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN THOMAS KLEPPE

### HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, our Nation lost a great American and this House lost

a most distinguished former Member with the passing of Thomas Kleppe at age 87 on March 2, 2007. Tom Kleppe was elected from the 2nd district of North Dakota in 1966 and 1968.

Tom was probably best known to the Nation for his service as Secretary of the Interior under President Ford, however he was best known to his home State of North Dakota for his service in Congress from 1966 to 1970. Tom was a trailblazer in North Dakota, being elected as the youngest-ever mayor of Bismarck at the age of 30 and the first native of North Dakota to ever serve in a Presidential cabinet when he was appointed Interior Secretary in 1975.

Tom exemplified the definition of the "Greatest Generation," having served his country as a warrant officer in the U.S. Army for 4 years during World War II. Shortly before being honorably discharged in 1946, Tom turned down an offer from the St. Louis Cardinals to return to his native North Dakota, and our State is the better for it.

As the son of homesteaders in Kintyre, ND, Tom was instilled with the enterprising spirit and work ethic that have made North Dakota prosper. By the time he was a teenager, Tom was working for his father's grain elevator business. He went on to work in bookkeeping and banking before entering public service, where he served as the mayor of Bismarck and later served two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. There Tom was known as a strong advocate for North Dakota's farmers and ranchers on the Agriculture Committee.

Kleppe was appointed to head the Small Business Administration by President Nixon, a post he held from 1971–1975, when President Ford appointed him Interior Secretary. Tom served in this position for the remainder of Ford's term. During his tenure, Kleppe proved an able steward of the Nation's land and wildlife. Even long after moving to Washington, DC, Tom never lost touch with his prairie roots, and continued to ride horses well into his 80s.

Tom is survived by his wife of 48 years, Glendora Kleppe, and his 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. The State of North Dakota mourns the loss of a great public servant.

## PEACE IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT

### HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, 2 years ago, China enacted an anti-secession law which "gave" China the right to overtake Taiwan by force. Since then both Taiwan and the United States have asked China to rescind the law. So far China has ignored all pleas. Instead, it has increased its number of guided missiles deployed along the coast of Taiwan, threatening war anytime. In addition, China

has prevented Taiwan from participating in international organizations such as the World Health Organization and heightened its bellicose rhetoric against the democratically-elected Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian.

As a rising world power, China must assume the responsibility of a global leader. It must lessen the tensions in the Taiwan Strait by rescinding the bad anti-secession law which has deeply hurt the feelings of the Taiwanese people. China should also reduce its military presence along the coast of Taiwan and learn to respect the wishes of the Taiwanese people.

I urge my colleagues to give Taiwan our support. Taiwan is a democracy and an ally of the United States. Under the framework of the Taiwan Relations Act, we must make sure that peace and stability continue to prevail in the Taiwan Strait.

## HONORING THE CHICAGO ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the great privilege of honoring the Chicago Academy for the Arts. In September of 2006, the Chicago Academy for the Arts received the Creative Ticket National Schools of Distinction Award from the Kennedy Center's Alliance for the Arts Education Network. In addition to this notable award, on Saturday, March 24, at 6 p.m., the students from this institution will have the rare honor and distinction of performing on the Millennium stage in the Kennedy Center. This is a great moment in these students' young lives, where all of their hard work has paid off so rewardingly.

This award represents the culmination of 25 years of practical and academic training in the fine arts. The academy is the only independent secondary school in Illinois that offers specialized training in dance, music, theatre, musical theatre, and visual arts. Their mission is to prepare young artists for life through rigorous academic education and professional arts training. To anyone from Chicago, it comes as no surprise that this high school was among only two high schools in the Nation to receive the honor. The school was also named the State's top arts school in March 2006 by the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education, which is in the Kennedy Center Alliance. This prestigious institution has consistently produced outstanding students with an immense talent and commitment to the arts. Daily, the 160 students complete a rigorous, 5-hour academic day in English, mathematics, foreign language, history, science, and social studies. They then move on to 3 hours of learning about the theory, history, and technique of the student's chosen art discipline, taught through intensive classroom and studio work under the direction of exemplary arts professionals. The

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academy supports a diverse population, with 46 percent of students coming from outside the city of Chicago and 5 percent from outside the State. Nearly half of the students rely on financial aid and scholarships to attend this marvelous institution. The Chicago Academy for the Arts demonstrates an incredible commitment to higher education, with 97 percent of students continuing onto top colleges and conservatories.

The Chicago Academy for the Arts shines as a beacon for students pursuing both strong academic and artistic training so that they can become the future leaders in their disciplines. I congratulate them on their impressive accomplishments, and I hope they break a proverbial leg on Saturday.

#### TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my alma mater Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville, where I graduated with my MBA in 1997, on its 50th anniversary.

The University currently serves nearly 13,500 students from 101 Illinois counties, 43 other U.S. States, and 46 nations. Since its inception, the institution has directly influenced the rate of individuals earning 4-year degrees in the St. Louis Metropolitan area of Southern Illinois, up from 3 percent in Madison and St. Clair counties in 1957 to 20 percent today. The University contributes roughly \$356 million to its regional economy, according to an Economic Impact Study released in May 2006, and more than 37,000 alumni live in the region and contribute to the economy.

Over the last 50 years the institution has played a major role in elevating the quality of people's lives, as well as their earning potential in Illinois. Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville has conferred more than 90,000 degrees in its history, with more than 75,000 alumni. The institution helped more than 8,000 people in the East St. Louis area and surrounding communities in the year 2006 through services, training opportunities, and programs at the SIUE East St. Louis Center.

Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville has been ranked two consecutive years among U.S. News & World Report's America's 15 Best Colleges, along with Harvard University, MIT, and other prestigious institutions, for its Senior Assignment Program and integrative learning experience required for all seniors prior to graduation. The University's Senior Assignment Program also was ranked as a model for learning assessment in the country by the American Association of Colleges & Universities in January 2007. The School of Dental Medicine, rated among the top dental schools in the Nation, is the only dental school in Illinois outside Cook County and the only dental school within 250 miles of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. The dental school provides more than \$50,000 in free oral health care to children annually through Give Kids a Smile Day and more than \$30,000 annually in care to low-income and uninsured patients who otherwise might go untreated.

After finishing fourth nationally in the U.S. Sports Academy Directors' Cup among NCAA

Division II schools in 2006, the institution is now currently in the process of moving its quality intercollegiate athletics program forward to NCAA Division I status.

I am pleased to congratulate Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville on its 50 years of accomplishments.

#### THE SAFE CLIMATE ACT OF 2007

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to join over 125 of my House colleagues in reintroducing the Safe Climate Act.

As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently announced, the fact that the planet is warming is now unequivocal. And the human role in this is no longer in debate.

The planet is at a crossroads, and it is time for us to choose to act.

I originally introduced this legislation just 9 months ago today.

At that time, I discussed how there are different approaches that can be taken to climate legislation. Some bills seek a symbolic recognition of the problem. Others are premised on what may be politically achievable in the near term.

The Safe Climate Act was drafted on a different premise: It reflects what the science tells us we need to do to protect our children and future generations from irreversible and catastrophic global warming. The bill has aggressive requirements to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. But the reality is, these are the reductions that scientists say we need to achieve to preserve a safe climate for future generations.

No one had yet proposed legislation that aimed to solve the climate crisis, and I wasn't sure how my colleagues and others would respond to this proposal.

However, in just 9 months, there has been remarkable progress in building consensus on this approach.

During the last Congress, I was pleased that 113 members decided to cosponsor my legislation. I was particularly delighted that Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI decided to endorse the bill.

Then in January of this year, a coalition of environmental groups and companies joined together in calling for emission reductions that are consistent with the reductions required by my legislation. This coalition, calling itself the U.S. Climate Action Partnership, is made up of Alcoa, BP America, Caterpillar Inc., Duke Energy, DuPont, Environmental Defense, FPL Group, General Electric, Lehman Brothers, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, PG&E Corporation, PNM Resources and the World Resources Institute. And many others, including such diverse entities as states, American workers, small businesses, religious congregations and outdoors enthusiasts, are all urging comparable levels of emissions reductions.

All of these groups recognize an important truth—global warming is the greatest environmental challenge of our time, and we have a short window in which to act to prevent profound changes to the climate system. Unless

we seize the opportunity to act now, and act decisively, our legacy to our children and grandchildren will be an unstable and dangerous planet.

The science clearly tells us what we need to do—we must reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, starting now and continuing over the next few decades. To achieve this, we have to grow our economy into a new and cleaner future. It's simply too late for legislative baby steps.

I have been working to address the threat of global warming for many years. Over 10 years ago, the science and the threat of global warming were clear. That's why I introduced the Global Climate Protection Act of 1992, which would have frozen U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide at 1990 levels. But Congress failed to act.

Now our understanding of global warming has only grown stronger. We're actually experiencing the effects of climate change today. And they are not good.

As the earth warms, its ice is melting. From the glaciers in Glacier National Park, to the snows of Kilimanjaro and the Larson B iceshell in Antarctica, ice that has been here since the last ice age is disappearing or already gone. Accordingly, sea levels will rise, posing enormous challenges for our coastal communities. The permafrost supporting towns and roads in Alaska is melting rapidly, and the summer sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is diminishing each year. These are changes we can see with our own eyes.

The seasons are changing—maple sugar producers in Vermont are tapping trees earlier, plants are flowering earlier, and birds are migrating earlier. These changes are happening across the globe. And with warmer weather come bugs that are no longer being killed by the winter cold, such as the beetles that are destroying forests across the Southwest and Alaska.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently confirmed that we have already observed climate-related changes in extreme weather including droughts, heavy precipitation, heat waves and the intensity of tropical cyclones. The year 2005 broke hurricane records, and America experienced the devastating results of just a few such storms with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The scientists have been proven right about global warming, over and over again, across the planet. We should start listening to them.

Now they are telling us that we have about 10 years to act to avoid being locked into irreversible global warming on a scale that will transform the planet. The scientists have identified a global temperature rise of just 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit as enough to produce undeniably dangerous consequences, such as 20 feet or more of sea level rise, which would flood large parts of Florida and New York City, as well as huge population centers in other countries. And scientists have calculated the quantity of atmospheric greenhouse gases that would very likely cause such a temperature rise. The nations of the world must keep greenhouse gases below that level to avoid irreversible dangerous global warming.

The United States emits more greenhouse gases than any other country in the world—about 20 percent of the total worldwide. We simply cannot avoid catastrophic global warming without substantial cuts in U.S. emissions. Of course, every nation will have to do its part.