

patent reform which are likely not even covered by the bill but may be considered at a later time. I hope to work with the many co-sponsors and the diverse industry, university and inventor groups to reach further consensus as we move this bill towards final passage.

As I have said previously, "The bottom line in this is there should be no question that the U.S. patent system produces high quality patents. Since questions have been raised about whether this is the case, the responsibility of Congress is to take a close look at the functioning of the patent system." High patent quality is essential to continued innovation. Litigation abuses, especially ones committed by those which thrive on low quality patents, impede the promotion of the progress of science and the useful arts. Thus, we must act quickly during the 110th Congress to maintain the integrity of the patent system.

GLORIA MARSHALL—EDUCATOR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Gloria Marshall is the well-respected principal of Spring High School in my district. I am proud to know her because she has devoted her entire life to education and to the well-being of our Nation's most important asset, our children.

Not only do the students admire her, but the parents and faculty of Spring High School cannot say enough about what she has done for the community.

Approximately 33 years ago, after receiving her bachelor's degree, Gloria took a teaching job for the nationally-recognized Spring Independent School District. While teaching at the high school, she earned a master's degree and later became principal.

Gloria's career has been highlighted by numerous awards both locally and at the state level. She was named Teacher of the Year at Spring Elementary School in 1979. In 2003, Spring ISD named her Secondary Principal of the Year. On a state-wide basis, she was named 2002-2003 Principal of the Year by Texas Region IV Education Service Center.

Under her guidance, The U.S. Department of Education has named Spring High School a "Blue Ribbon School" and also honored them with "Drug Free School Recognition Awards."

Not only is she a top-notch administrator in the education field, she is a faithful community servant who believes in helping local charities. For example, her school holds an annual food drive for Spring Assistance Ministries during the Christmas holiday. She encourages her students to collect thousands of pounds of food for the organization and to take responsibility in caring for their neighbors.

Gloria has an unwavering commitment to teach young people how to be responsible citizens and people of character.

The students of Spring High School are very fortunate to have such a dedicated principal who always has a positive attitude and commitment to excellence. She is a remarkable educator and an inspiration to all of us. That's just the way it is!

INTRODUCING THE CATHERINE SKIVERS CURRENCY FOR ALL ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Catherine Skivers Currency for All Act.

This bill would finally make the United States' paper currency accessible to blind and visually impaired Americans. Of the more than 180 countries in the world that issue their own banknotes, only the U.S. prints identical bills for every denomination. As a result, millions of Americans with visual impairments cannot recognize various denominations and may have difficulty using paper money. This legislation would, at long last, make our currency accessible to all.

Thanks to a recent court case, the inaccessibility of American currency has received significant national attention. In November, a federal court agreed with the American Council of the Blind that the current size and shape of bills violates the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits the government from discriminating against people with disabilities.

The Treasury Department is appealing the decision. But Congress has the ability to do the right thing before the appeal is heard. I first introduced this bill in 1979 and think it is embarrassing that, more than 25 years later, blind Americans had to sue their government requesting access to their own currency. We should not delay or deny justice any longer.

I propose this particular solution because it is simple, effective, and easy to implement quickly. My legislation requires the U.S. Treasury to trim the corners of all bills in a manner that prevents fraud, with lower value bills having more trimmed corners.

My bill calls for the trimming of four corners on the one dollar bill, three corners on the two dollar bill, two diagonal corners on the five dollar bill, two corners on a long side of the ten dollar bill, two corners on a short side of the 20 dollar bill, one corner on the 50 dollar bill, and no corners on the 100 dollar bill.

I named this bill in honor of Catherine Skivers, a remarkable woman of strength and conviction. Catherine is a constituent of mine, mother of five, longtime advocate for the rights of blind people, and the immediate past president of the California Council of the Blind. It is for Catherine and millions of other blind and vision-impaired Americans that I will work to enact this legislation.

Next to the flag of the United States, our money is perhaps the most widely recognized symbol of our nation. We deserve no less than a currency that serves the needs of all Americans. Let us not let another year pass with our currency in violation of our own laws and commitment to equality.

RECOGNIZING JACKIE ROBINSON DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Jackie Robinson, a

sports trailblazer, civil rights activist, veteran, and great American and to enter into the record an article from the New York Daily News by Lisa Olson entitled "Barriers Still Need Breaking—Up to us to complete Robinson's great work."

Long before Jackie Robinson stood up to racism and smashed through the barriers of segregation in Major League Baseball on April 15, 1947, he was fighting for equality. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 and rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant. In July of 1944, he refused to sit in the back of a segregated military bus and although a court martial was issued for insubordination, he was found not guilty and honorably discharged in November of that same year. The courage displayed during this incident, as well as his commitment to the Army, helped prepare him for the battlefield of discrimination he would encounter on the baseball diamond.

Despite the hostility of opponents and even teammates, on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson had the courage to join the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first Black man to play in baseball's major leagues. He knew that excellence was the calling and he proved his skill and talent on the baseball field. With tremendous pressure and opposition from fans and even some teammates, he handled himself with grace on and off the field. Because of his commitment and determination to be the best in the face of prejudice, African American and other minority athletes have been afforded the opportunity to compete in professional sports today.

Jackie Robinson received numerous awards and honors during his extraordinary career, and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. His legacy and outstanding contribution to Major League Baseball and America is representative of what America is all about. This country is about opportunity, diversity, and humility. I applaud Jackie Robinson for leaving a legacy of excellence, breaking down segregation, and inspiring people to strive for the best.

[From the Daily News]

BARRIERS STILL NEED BREAKING—UP TO US TO COMPLETE ROBINSON'S GREAT WORK

(By Lisa Olson)

They don't have to dress in the broom closet. They can drink from the same water fountains, eat at the same buffet, stay in the same ritzy hotels, swim in the same pools.

It's almost incomprehensible to imagine the America that greeted and jeered Jackie Robinson 60 years ago yesterday, when he bounded out of the dugout at Ebbets Field and became the first African-American Major League Baseball player of the modern era.

There were racial slurs and despicable letters, flying cleats and death threats, opponents who turned their back on him and Brooklyn Dodger teammates who wouldn't sit near him. We blithely toss around the words "courage" and "hero" far too often these days, but they can't be used enough to describe Jackie Robinson. MLB retired his No. 42 on April 15, 1997, the 50th anniversary of Robinson's major league debut, and temporarily suspended it yesterday, a serendipitous gesture that coincided with yet another hit to the American conscience.

Ken Griffey Jr. was the first contemporary player to push for the movement, to ask commissioner Bud Selig for permission to honor Robinson by wearing No. 42. Griffey, who donned six different jerseys in the Reds' game against the Cubs, told reporters, "I think a lot of people wouldn't be in this locker room if it wasn't for what he did."

More than 200 players and managers joined the tribute, and there was No. 42 on the back of every Dodger last night, and on the Cardinals' Albert Pujols as he tipped his cap, Robinson-style, while crossing the plate after belting a home run, and on Arizona's Tony Clark as he swatted two of his own, and on Cleveland's C.C. Sabathia as he struck out 10 White Sox and then talked about how he wanted to make sure he represented Robinson's legacy with grace and class.

There was Dontrelle Willis, an All-Star, a 20-game winner, saying wearing No. 42 was "the highest honor I've ever received in my life." There was Chris Young, Padre starter and Princeton graduate, recalling how he wrote his senior thesis on Robinson while sitting in the back of the bus as his Class A team, the Hickory Crawdads, traveled the South Atlantic League roads.

Young took America's pulse by analyzing newspaper reports, both before Robinson broke the color barrier and after. "I observed there was significant improvement in the attitude of the media toward African-Americans. Not from negative to positive so much as negative to neutral," Young told ESPN The Magazine. "I excluded sports, but prior to Robinson breaking the color line, you'd see reporters frequently using expressions like 'a Negro hoodlum' in their stories. I noticed coverage that was much more neutral after the integration of baseball."

And there was the Twins' Torii Hunter, pulling his black socks high and dropping into a curling slide as he safely nailed home on the same day his op-ed piece appeared in the Pioneer Press. "You don't have to be African-American to know what (Robinson) went through. You've just got to be a smart person or a person who knows what pain is like," Hunter wrote. "For the past 10 years, I've been called the N-word, like, 20 times. Not in Minnesota. In Kansas City. In Boston."

Clearly we haven't yet demolished the racial barrier, or wiped out negative language. Sixty years after Robinson authored the most seminal moment in American sports history, Hunter is still called the N-word, and the Rutgers women's basketball team gets bombarded with hateful E-mails simply because it had the misfortune of being caught in the maelstrom created by Don Imus' nasty mouth.

In August 1945, in a conversation now cemented in American lore, Dodger president Branch Rickey told Robinson, "I know you're a good ballplayer. What I don't know is whether you have the guts."

"Mr. Rickey," Robinson asked, "are you looking for a Negro who is afraid to fight back?"

"Robinson, I'm looking for a ballplayer with enough guts not to fight back," Rickey said, and thus an unspoken pact was sealed.

Robinson altered the complexion of our pastime and forced Americans to understand blacks could be equal with whites. How shocking, how depressing, that 60 years later, not everyone seems to get it.

"The course of history probably would have changed had he quit because he was the smartest of the Negro League players," Hunter wrote. "This was a guy who went to UCLA and played four sports in college. He had an education. If he had quit—the guy who was supposed to be the strongest of the Negro League and the smartest of the Negro

League—why go get the others? They wouldn't be able to handle it if he couldn't handle it."

They took No. 42 out of retirement and put it on their backs yesterday, black and white and Latino and Asian players proudly wearing the digits. In clubhouses and stadium seats all across the land, stories were repeated about how Pee Wee Reese, a white shortstop from Louisville, once draped an arm over Robinson's shoulder in a silent show of support. It ought to be Jackie Robinson Day every day.

HONORING CHERIF BASSIOUNI

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Cherif Bassiouni. Professor Bassiouni is retiring from his position as President of the International Human Rights Law Institute and Distinguished Research Professor of Law at DePaul University after 43 years of dedicated service.

Throughout his legendary career, Professor Bassiouni has been a champion of the poor and voiceless worldwide. His creation of the International Human Rights Law Institute at DePaul University is just one of his many lasting contributions to human rights and international law.

For 30 years, Professor Bassiouni has been an important leader within the United Nations, holding such positions as Chairman of the Security Council's Commission to Investigate War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia and the Independent Expert on Human Rights in Afghanistan for the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Often considered the father of the International Criminal Court, Professor Bassiouni was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee during the 1998 United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. As a testament to his lifelong dedication to international criminal justice, he was nominated for a Noble Peace Prize in 1999.

For his global efforts, Professor Bassiouni has received medals from his native Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States. He has also received numerous academic and civic awards, including the Special Award of the Council of Europe; the Defender of Democracy Award, Parliamentarians for Global Action; and the Adlai Stevenson Award of the United Nations Association.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Cherif Bassiouni on his long and noteworthy career, and thank him for his contributions to the international community and to the people of Chicago. DePaul University is certainly going to miss him, and I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF LORAN JOHNSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madame Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Loran Johnson of Warren, Arkansas, who passed away April 6, 2007.

Mr. Johnson was committed to making the state of Arkansas a better place to live through his hard work and dedication to his community. He is noted as the founder of the Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival because of its start in 1956 while he was manager of the Warren Chamber of Commerce. He also spent his time promoting Southeast Arkansas with the Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District and the Bradley County Industrial Development Commission.

Mr. Johnson served in the Navy during World War II and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) upon returning. He then taught in Swift and Warren where he also sponsored the Future Farmers of America (FFA). Because of his work with the FFA students there is now a Loran Johnson Endowed Scholarship Fund at UAM for early childhood education majors.

Mr. Johnson was a devoted family man and a model civic leader. He was a member of the Arkansas Cattleman's Association, the Bradley County Retired Teacher's Association, the American Legion and he served as a delegate to the Arkansas Silver-Haired Legislature. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Warren where he served as the program chairman for the Brotherhood Men's Group.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Madge Bryant Johnson; his children Wayne Johnson of Warren, LoraNelle Humphrey of Stuttgart and Camille Johnson Lide of Little Rock; and his grandsons, nieces and nephews. Mr. Johnson will be missed by his family, his church, his community and all those who knew him and called him a friend. I will continue to keep his family in my thoughts and prayers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TYLER FULLER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tyler Fuller, a 7-year-old international BMX champion.

Tyler, a two-time Union Cycliste Internationale BMX champion, learned to ride a bike at the age of 2 and began BMX racing at the age of 3. When he was 5 years old, Tyler joined the Redman Yamaha Factory Team and has been racing for them since that time. Tyler has competed in events around the world and his natural ability and dedication to the sport have earned him recognition as one of the top four BMX racers in his age group.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Tyler Fuller. His talent, drive, and passion are commendable and will serve him well. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.