

and when he left the service he decided to remain in the Vallejo area with his family. He received his business degree from Solano Community College in 1973.

Mr. Gourley joined the IBEW Local 180 in 1978 while he was working as a construction electrician. Even as he continued to work, he pursued a teaching credential from the University of California at Berkeley. He became credentialed in 1983, and has taught classes through an apprenticeship program for many years.

In 1988, Mr. Gourley was elected to the executive board of Local 180, and has since served 3 terms while taking on a variety of other responsibilities on behalf of numerous local and State labor interests. Within Local 180, he has served 3 terms as the Business Manager Financial Secretary, helping to guide the financial activity of the group.

Mr. Gourley has also served with numerous other organizations, including the California Electricians Public Relations Committee, the Vallejo Unified School District, and beginning in 2001 he was tapped to use his teaching experience with the California Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. He has also been extensively involved with the committees of the Northern California Sound and Communication workers. In 2003 he was appointed to assist and lead the very important work of the Council on Industrial Relations.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Bruce Gourley for his many years of service to the labor community. His extensive efforts to educate future generations of electrical workers, and his determination to foster a productive negotiating environment in northern California have been extremely valuable.

HONORING WOMEN IN SERVICE AND ENTERPRISE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, for the past six years, the greater Mesquite area has embraced the opportunity to honor many exceptional women in the community through the Women in Service and Enterprise (WISE) Award Luncheon and Style Show. Today I would like to honor this year's award recipient, Dr. Linda Henrie, who is an example of strong, capable and dedicated leadership. I would also like to recognize honorees Patti Hawkins, Pat Ogles and Marjorie Seward for their valuable service and commitment to their community.

Dr. Henrie is the Superintendent of the Mesquite Independent School District (MISD) where she oversees more than 34,000 students and more than 4,000 professional and auxiliary staff. She has served in this position with distinction since 2001.

Dr. Henrie has served on numerous boards in the greater Mesquite community including: The Board of Directors for Mesquite Social Services, the Board of Directors for the Mesquite Symphonic Band and as President of the Mesquite Education Association. Dr. Henrie also serves as President of the Texas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the Dallas County Workforce De-

velopment Board. In addition to being active in the community and holding multiple leadership roles, Dr. Henrie has been recognized for the Association of Texas Professional Educators' Administrator of the Year Award in 2002 and was named one of the 100 Heroes of MISD.

Past WISE Award winners have served in a variety of ways, but they are united by the long-lasting impact they have made on their community. Their service, community involvement and dedication to enterprise continue to inspire younger generations.

Today, I would like to recognize all of the WISE honorees for their outstanding service and congratulate them on their awards. Thank you, ladies, for helping make our community and country a better place.

OFFERING HEARTFELT CONDO- LENCES TO THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES REGARDING THE HORRIFIC VIOLENCE AT VIRGINIA TECH AND TO STU- DENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRA- TION AND STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN AF- FECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the tragic deaths of the 32 victims in the shootings at Virginia Tech this past Monday.

These 32 individuals did nothing to deserve this awful fate and should never have had their lives prematurely ended by the horrific actions of one disturbed individual. One of the shooting's victims, Ryan Clark, served as a volunteer counselor at a camp for mentally impaired children. Ryan was described by the camp's administrator as "one of the kindest, most compassionate people" whom she had ever met. Another victim, Henry Lee, graduated second in his high school class, despite having immigrated from China and having had to learn English as his second language. And Liviu Librescu, a Holocaust survivor, displayed heroism all the way to the end by sacrificing his own life by barricading the door to his classroom to give many of his students enough time to escape through the classroom window.

In the lives of these 32 innocent individuals we find countless examples such as these, of kindness, compassion and determination. I would like to extend my warmest sympathies to the families and friends of these individuals, as well as to the entire Virginia Tech community.

Unfortunately, we have seen tragedies like this one numerous times in our Nation's history. In my own home state of Texas, we lost 15 of our citizens in a similar rampage four decades ago at the University of Texas at Austin.

I believe that, in this time of tragedy, we must honor the shooting's victims, offer the people of Blacksburg our utmost condolences and support, and, most of all, renew our commitment as a country to doing everything in our power to helping communities prevent similar tragedies from taking place in the future.

I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. BOUCHER for introducing this resolution.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO RAISING AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING PREVENTION OF SEXUAL AS- SAULT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 289, which expresses the "sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

I was the lead Democratic sponsor of the original legislation, introduced by former Representative Mark Green and signed into law in 2003, that designated April as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

While we are taking the time today to highlight this important issue, it is important that we remember that preventing sexual assault should be a top priority during each month of the year. We must also remember that violence against women is not just a women's issue, it is a men's issue, too.

Every 2½ minutes, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted. I have long been a champion of increased efforts to prevent violence against women and in 2004, legislation that I first introduced, "The Debbie Smith Act," was signed into law. Through this landmark act, we have the ability to protect our daughters, our sisters, and our friends by putting rapists behind bars through DNA evidence. We know that DNA evidence is better than a fresh set of fingerprints. And we know that it is often better than eyewitness testimony. With "The Debbie Smith Act," the hundreds of thousands of rape kits that were gathering dust across the country are finally being processed.

It is vitally important that we support the Violence Against Women Act by fully funding the important programs that will help women escape abusive and dangerous situations and begin new lives that are free from violence and fear. The organizations, shelters, and counseling centers that are on the front lines of this problem need our steadfast commitment that they will have the resources to continue their important work.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE UKIAH MAIN STREET PROGRAM FOR 20 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ukiah

Main Street Program which has provided outstanding and distinguished service to the town of Ukiah, California, and its citizens for 20 years.

Since its founding by Mayor Colleen Henderson in 1987, the Ukiah Main Street Program has given merchants and residents tools to improve neighborhoods and advance redevelopment of the commercial district. Through numerous workshops and consultations with business owners the UMSP has helped make Historic Downtown Ukiah a safe and friendly business district.

Six years later, in 1993, Ukiah was named the number one place to live in California and the sixth best place to live in the United States by Norman Crampton in his book *The 100 Best Small Towns in America*. The recognition brought lots of publicity, and Ukiah was featured in publications around the country.

The UMSP Economic Restructuring Committee has facilitated the openings of dozens of new businesses in the downtown including the Ukiah Brewing Company, the first organic brewpub in California. UMSP produces a map of the historic downtown and directory of businesses that is useful to tourists as well as locals.

The UMSP Design Committee is responsible for beautification projects in the historic downtown. Landscaped planter triangles and painted crosswalks throughout the downtown corridor have helped create a safer and more clearly defined pedestrian area. Trees were planted and are maintained in the adjacent Alex Thomas Plaza, a place for many events and community gatherings. UMSP installed decorative lighting in the trees to enhance the ambiance and walkability of downtown at night.

The Ukiah Main Street Program began many popular community events including the Annual Country Pumpkin Fest, Winter Wonderland, Taste of Downtown, Thursday Night Farmers Market, Fabulous Flashback Car Show, Cinco de Mayo Festival, North Coast Express Bike Race, Home for the Holidays, Moonlight Movie Madness, Downtown Halloween, Deep Valley Brew Tasting, Comedy Alley and First Night Ukiah. These events attract locals and visitors alike who enjoy the amenities of small town life and neighborliness.

UMSP created a mini-park in the parking lot adjacent to the post office and started the Standley Street demonstration block façade improvement program that spurred refurbishment and façade improvement on 38 downtown properties with an investment of roughly \$713,441 in public and private funds. In addition nearly 2 million dollars have been raised by the UMSP, which is organized as a non-profit with a dedicated volunteer board of directors composed of the community's business leaders.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to enter my remarks honoring the Ukiah Main Street Program for two decades of exemplary successes, making it a model of public and private partnership.

REGIONAL ACADEMIC ALL-STAR TEAM FROM THE PENNYROYAL REGION IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize nominees for the Regional Academic All-Star Team from the Pennyroyal region in western Kentucky. The regional academic All-Star program's purpose is to recognize top academic scholars and performers.

Students from Caldwell, Christian, Trigg and Todd Counties of Kentucky were nominated based upon their academic performance in seven disciplines: English, foreign language, journalism, mathematics, science, social studies and the creative and performing arts. The students are judged on their core academic score, the curriculum of the student, their grade point average, academic honors earned, unique accomplishments and achievements, extracurricular activities, both school related and outside school activities, employment history, and an autobiographical essay.

Madam Speaker, education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in my district are developing their talents, furthering their education and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among young Americans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:

William Cole Davis, Emily Faulkner, Rachel Marie Furnas, Britni Kay Holder, Stephen R. Incata, Adrian Leigh Nelson, Darian Goldin Stahl, Kelsey Leigh Willen, John David Fourqurean II, Erika Michelle Kirby, Andrew Boyd Newton, Prentice Kyle Robertson, Alexandria Frances Soyk, Jessica Lynn Stallons, Kyle Andrew Winn, Ashlee Castle, Taylor Elizabeth Cline, Kyle Raymond Cobb, Crystal Jo Fishburn, Sarah Joy Galloway, Morgan Michelle Milburn, Matthew Franklin Morse, William Thomas Noel, Philip Allen, Brittney Ann Beebe, Elizabeth Hope Chester, Hykeem M. Craft, Kelsey Elizabeth Lewis, Adrian Leigh Nelson, Clayton Alan Sanderson, Catherine Clark Smith, Millie Beth Deason, Hayla Joi Frye, Clara Elizabeth Heisterberg, Kelsie Marie Nelson, Seth Thomas Riker II, Ami Prakash Shah, Samantha Danielle Adams, Shaena Maria Godwin, Brianna Rose McGuire, Kevin M. McLendon, Joshua Lee Robinson, Paula Lynn Southall, Robert Zachary Thompson, Cameron Ross Williams, Barron Stewart Adams, Benjamin Charles Boden, Carrie Louise Burks, Adam Blake Humphries, Bonnie McCullagh, Margaret Oats, Laura Don Oliver, Robert Joseph Williams, Jr., James Tyler Chapman, Skye Lynn Darnell, Emily Paige Doss, Danbee Mishell Kim, Michael Lee Mason, Heather Nicole Moore, Rebecca Schultz, Amy Ja-Le Weatherford, Kelsey Jo Brown, Cahle Buckingham, Zach C. Gaines, Lester W. Gibbs, Jessica Hanks, Cori Hatley, Meaghan Ann Key, Ashley Matlock, Matthew Kyle Spencer, Rebecca Vargas, Cassie M. Whitt, Craig Hodge, Donovan Kates, Eunbee Grace Kim, Mary Gayle Martin, Shelby Martin, Tess Miller, Ryan Michael Russell, James Sears, Nicki Seay, Matt Treadway,

Joseph E. Williams, Jr., Taylor Bennett, Chesika J. Crump, Sarah Curasco, Meagen Dunleavy, Dean France, Daniel Joiner, Griffin Lee Joiner, Kristen Sarene Kursave, Kaitlynn Pritchett, Hayley Stewardson, Mallory Taylor, Russell V. Buzzard, Kaylin Dilbeck, Mara Lynn East, Cory Fish, Cody Grinnell, Rachel Marie Hampton, Brenden Hoffman, Sean Hurd, Russell Jones, Austin C. Norrid, Joel Ben Thomas.

Madam Speaker, these students embody the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I am proud to represent them in my District. I extend my thanks to these students for their efforts, and I am proud to bring their accomplishments to the attention of this House.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE ACT OF 2007

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing by request the Administration's National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007. This bill would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish and implement a regulatory system for offshore aquaculture in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone.

I commend Secretary Carlos Gutierrez for his leadership, and initiating the debate on aquaculture. While I do not agree with many provisions in this legislation, I think it is important for Congress to take a serious look at marine aquaculture and see if it is possible to establish a program that makes economic and environmental sense.

At the moment, there are no aquaculture projects in U.S. Federal waters, but there are successful farming operations onshore. In my state, West Virginians are successfully raising arctic char, a fish tasting similar to salmon.

The Department of Commerce believes aquaculture has the potential to meet our growing demand for seafood. The United States imports more than 80 percent of its seafood, and half of our imports are fish farmed. With a successful aquaculture program in place, the United States could reduce its \$8 billion trade deficit in seafood, according to the recent report from the Marine Aquaculture Task Force. Additionally, aquaculture could help alleviate the overfishing and exploitation of fisheries world wide.

The aquaculture industry claims the United States is technologically and economically ready to venture into offshore waters to farm fish. Done responsibly, with strict environmental standards, offshore aquaculture has the potential to address the growing demand for seafood, provide jobs, relieve pressure on some of our wild fish stocks, and perhaps even help to replenish some depleted fish stocks.

Again, I commend Secretary Gutierrez for his leadership and look forward to working with him to ensure that offshore aquaculture production occurs in a manner that is both economically and environmentally sustainable.

As we have heard from both national ocean commissions, the oceans are in trouble. We must be very careful that offshore aquaculture