

On this 19th anniversary of Workers Memorial Day, let us acknowledge the steps that have been taken to address workplace safety but let us never overlook the obstacles and challenges that remain.

We have an obligation in this Chamber to do everything in our power to ensure that hardworking Americans are protected from unsafe workplaces. These men and women have worked to make our Nation great and now we must recommit ourselves to ensuring their safety.

Andrew Acevedo, Kenneth Babcock, Leslie Bealer, Terry Berkey, PVI Joseph R. Blake, Dwight Boris, Carlos Bravo, PFC Dean R. Bright, Donald Brown, Debra Chapman, Abel Cinto, James Clark, Roland Couch, Iven Cox, Scott Cox, SPC Douglas C. Desjardins, Randall Dillon, Burl Eastman, James Edson, Ronald Engelsman, SSG Jason M. Evey, CPL Billy B. Farris, Kevin Fink, Carol Forest, Sgt. Brennan C. Gibson, Kenneth Graves, Trona Griffin, Floyd Grisham, CPL Chase A. Haag, Kenneth Harper, Lori Hayes-Kotter, SFC Richard J. Henkes II, Terry Hughes, Daryl Jepson, LCpl Derek W. Jones, SPC Robert L. Jones, Pedro Juarez de la Cruz, Michael Kallis, Jeffrey King, Aaron Lambert, Craig Larsen, PO2 Marc A. Lee, James Lester, Kenneth Lewis, Howard Lichtig, SSG Nathaniel B. (Brad) Lindsey, Michael Lilburn, Louis Lobo, SPC Jeremy M. Loveless, Kyle Lowe, David Mac Donald, Devin Malmore, PO3 Marques J. Nettles, LCpl. Randy L. Newman, Sean Mc Quillan, Eric Metzler, Pablo Montecinos, Douglas Mullen, Donald Mustoe, James Naillon, Brad Niemeyer, Ezequiel Osoria-Oliver, Captain Christopher T. Pate, SSG Robert J. Paul, Gary Percell, Henry Ploeg, Franklin, Pugh, Lewis Purcell, Leta Ramerman, Jose Ramirez, Anthony Rizzo, Douglas Sauter, Dale Seiders, Peter Simpson, Leland Smith, Quin Stone, Robert Thomas, Eddie Tol, PFC Thomas L. Tucker, Mark Wagner, SPC Ryan Doran Walker, Shane Watson, Lynn Webb, Jeffery Wilson, Louis Wofford, Robert Wolfe, Richard Woodworth, Howard Workman, and Ston Yackamouhi.

COMMENDING BRENDAN A. JONES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Brendan A. Jones for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Brendan is a student at the Texas Academy of Math and Science in Denton, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Brendan. I would also like to recognize his

parents and the faculty of TAMS for their outstanding commitment to Brendan's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

INTERNET RADIO EQUITY ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, on March 2, 2007, the Copyright Royalty Board (CRB), a three member panel affiliated with the Library of Congress, issued a decision that changed royalty expenses for commercial and non-commercial webcasters and will likely end Internet radio as we know it today. According to the decision, which is retroactive beginning January 1, 2006 and commences through December 31, 2010, commercial and non-commercial webcasters would be subject to an increase in royalty rates from \$.08 in 2006 per performance to \$.19 per performance in 2010. The new royalty rates amount to a 300 percent increase for the biggest webcasters and up to 1200 percent for small webcasters. For most web casters the royalties will exceed their gross revenues and bankrupt them. The CRB has refused to reconsider its decision so the higher royalties—including retroactive royalties back to January 2006—are due May 15, 2007. My fear is that these new rates will decimate Internet radio and 70 million Americans that listen to Internet radio every month will no longer have access to this music service.

For these reasons, I have introduced the Internet Radio Equality Act which provides royalty parity for Internet radio providers. The bill vacates the CRB's March 2nd decision and changes the royalty rate-setting standard that applies to commercial Internet radio royalty arbitrations so that it is the same standard that applies to satellite radio, cable radio, jukeboxes, and record companies (when they are licensees of songwriters). The bill also sets a transition rate through 2010 that is the same royalty rate that satellite radio services pay (7.5 percent of revenue). Finally, the bill expands the Copyright Act's Section 118 musical work license for noncommercial broadcasters like National Public Radio to enable those broadcasters to also perform sound recordings over Internet radio at royalty rates designed for noncommercial entities.

I believe strongly that it is the responsibility of Congress to promote media diversity in all areas including web-based broadcasting and to ensure affordable consumer access to Internet media.

CONGRATULATING THE GOODWILL FIRE CO. NO. 1 HYDE PARK IN MUHLENBERG TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA, ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Goodwill Fire Co.

No. 1 Hyde Park in Muhlenberg Township, Pennsylvania on its 100th anniversary.

From 1907 to today, the Fire Company has devoted itself to keeping the community safe. The Company's volunteers have been familiar faces in the Muhlenberg area, participating in every holiday parade, working with schools on fire prevention education and seeking to make Berks County a great place to live.

Without the dedication of its members, the Fire Company would never have been this successful. For 100 years, the Goodwill Fire Co. No. 1 Hyde Park has had tremendous volunteers. These brave men and women have been providing a service to the community every hour of the day for the last century. This service is provided regardless of the weather, the time of day, and many times their own family commitments.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Goodwill Fire Co. No. 1 Hyde Park, its current crew and the many men and women who have worn the uniform over the years for serving the community and helping to keep Berks County safe for the last 100 years.

HONORING TOLEDO MAYOR SHARON BRANSTITER

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mayor Sharon Branstiter of Toledo, Oregon. A dedicated public servant and one who committed her entire life to enriching the Toledo community, Mayor Branstiter lost her life this past Sunday at her home due to complications associated with a double bypass surgery.

Sharon moved to Toledo from Nebraska when she was 7 years old. She attended Toledo High School and earned a degree in education from Oregon State University. Before serving as Mayor, she earned her master's degree and worked as a guidance counselor.

What is most remarkable is the passion Sharon had for serving her community. From a young age, she was active in city government and served on a multitude of committees and clubs. Her friends and family will attest that she never forwent an opportunity to voice her concerns or stand up for what she saw as just.

Sharon worked hard to increase the aesthetic landscape of Toledo. As her colleagues recall, Sharon always included flowers and trees in city projects and spent countless hours gardening and weeding public places. The streets of Toledo are lined with beautiful hanging flower baskets that Sharon secured with donations from the community. As a memory to Sharon, let us always think of her contributions to Toledo when we see and enjoy the flower baskets.

I was reminded of the closeness of communities like Toledo when I recently attended the funeral for one of our young men who lost his life in Iraq. The young Marine grew up in Toledo. At the service, Sharon shared her heartfelt memories of this young man and emotionally explained that the entire community of Toledo was losing a son. I have no doubt that the community is now grieving the loss of a

woman who was not only their mayor, but was their sister, their mother, their daughter and their friend.

I join Oregonians from across the state in mourning the passing of Mayor Sharon Branstiter.

COMMENDING ALYSSA N. NABORS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Alyssa N. Nabors for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Alyssa is a student at L.D. Bell High School in Hurst, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Alyssa. I would also like to recognize her parents and the faculty of L.D. Bell High School for their outstanding commitment to Alyssa's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

DEFENDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF COMFORT WOMEN SURVIVORS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, today, Washington welcomes Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, a country that has been our good and trusted ally in Asia. The Prime Minister's visit promises to further cement this important and expanding U.S.-Japan relationship.

Our strong ties depend upon our shared values of democracy and human rights or as his Foreign Minister notes, a "values oriented diplomacy." Unfortunately, the rhetoric does not consistently match Tokyo's actions towards its neighbors and allies. This is dramatically true in regard to the Comfort Women tragedy where possibly as many as 200,000 women and girls were pressed into sexual servitude for the Imperial Armed Forces of Japan.

My colleague, Mr. HONDA, is the leader on this issue and introduced on January 31, 2007, H. Res. 121, legislation that calls upon Japan to "acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal statement for Imperial Japan's Armed Force's maintenance of a system of sexual slavery, presently known to the world as 'Comfort Women,' during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands."

On February 15, 2007, Mr. FALCOMA, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, held a moving hearing with three survivors of this abusive Imperial Japanese government sanctioned and maintained system. It was clear from their testimony that these women needed, but had not received an adequate apology for their suffering and humiliation from the Government of Japan.

Clearly their experience is neither new nor has this sort of violence against women stopped. The topic of sex slavery is not merely a historical footnote, but has relevance to today's world where human trafficking is exploding and rape is a feature of ethnic conflict. Thus, it should come as no surprise that H. Res. 121 has substantial bipartisan support, with nearly 100 cosponsors.

To date, a careful analysis of the Japanese political process shows that Japan has never provided an official governmental apology to the Comfort Women. This is incredible. Do the Japanese think we do not understand their political system, nor care to?

It is also a concern of Congress that Tokyo's apparent insensitivity, its surprising and insistent focus on narrow definitions and self-seeking legalisms convincing to no one but a few, even in Japan, is harming U.S. relationships in Asia and adding instability to an already volatile region.

An unequivocal admission of past wrongdoing toward the Comfort Women would remove an outstanding moral issue weakening the ties between Japan and major U.S. allies in the region. But more important, it would demonstrate Japan's commitment to human rights, women's rights, and underscore its very new efforts to combat human trafficking. Officially apologizing to the surviving Comfort Women is "value oriented diplomacy."

Getting history right and taking formal responsibility for historical misdeeds are the marks of a great nation. An apology from Japan with respect to the Comfort Women would enhance Japan's over 60-year history of constructive and responsible membership in the today's world community and our alliance.

Madam Speaker, for all these reasons, I hope that my colleagues will join in co-sponsoring H. Res. 121 to signal that the U.S. is very concerned about this important request for social justice and human dignity from Japan.

RECOGNIZING EAST VINCENT TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY, ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of East Vincent Township, Chester County, for celebrating its 175th anniversary on May 4th, 2007.

East Vincent Township is a rural community situated on the banks of the Schuylkill River in Chester County. During the Revolutionary War, GEN George Washington and the Continental Army traversed and lived in the area during their Valley Forge encampment. Today,

more than 6,500 people call East Vincent home. As the Township grows and develops, significant efforts are being made to preserve its beautiful open spaces for future generations.

On Saturday, May 5, 2007, the East Vincent Township community will gather and celebrate this auspicious occasion with a parade, ceremony and evening concert.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me in congratulating the people of East Vincent Township for celebrating their 175th anniversary and for contributing to the wonderful quality of life of Chester County, PA.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN LOVE OF LAKE OSWEGO, OREGON

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable student athlete from Lake Oswego, Oregon. Kevin Love was recently named the 2006-07 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

Often perceived as the most prestigious high school athletic award, Kevin was selected from among a group of more than 547,000 student boy basketball players. Kevin averaged 33.6 points, 17 rebounds, four assists, and three blocks per game as center for the Lake Oswego Lakers.

In addition to his distinguished record on the court, Kevin received this honor for the many contributions he has made in the classroom and in our community. As an active volunteer, Kevin has mentored countless youth and is an inspiration to all.

It is truly an honor and privilege to extend my sincere congratulations to Kevin Love. I wish Kevin continued success as a future UCLA Bruin.

COMMENDING KIM TRAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Kim Tran for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Kim is a student at Birdville High School in North Richland Hills, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

Kim is ranked first in her class at Birdville High School. Aside from academics, Kim holds leadership positions in numerous clubs