

CONGRATULATING CHARTER
SCHOOLS FOR THEIR ONGOING
CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pembroke Pines Charter School as we consider H. Res. 344, a bill congratulating Charter Schools.

Forty states and the District of Columbia have charter schools, totaling nearly 4,000 schools nationally. Enrollment is approximately one million students or about 2 percent of the Nation's elementary, middle and high school enrollment. Over one-half of all charter schools are in Florida, Arizona, California, Ohio and Texas.

The City of Pembroke Pines Charter School is the only city-sponsored charter school in Florida. Madam Speaker, the Pembroke Pines Charter School, located in my district, is comprised of seven schools ranging from K-12 grades with a total enrollment of nearly 5,400 students. The school is so successful that there is a waiting list of 9,000 students desiring to attend the Pembroke Pines Charter Schools.

The Pembroke Pines Charter High School has recently been rated as one of the top two high schools in Broward County, with 93 percent of all Pembroke Pines charter school high school graduates attending college.

The Pembroke Pines Charter Schools were among those nominated to the Center for Education Reform to compete for the honor of being named one of the top charter schools in the Nation. Out of 4,000 charter schools nationwide, 52 charter schools received this acknowledgement of distinction.

Madam Speaker, two of these top charter schools are part of the Pembroke Pines Charter School System. Ms. Devarn Flowers, Principal of the West Campuses, and other city and school officials will attend a special recognition program at The Center for Education Reform in Washington, DC on May 15, 2007 to receive the "top schools" recognition for The Pembroke Pines Charter Schools.

I commend Ms. Devarn Flowers, the teachers, the administrators and especially the students of Pembroke Pines Charter Schools for their hard work. On the occasion of National Charter Schools week, I am enthusiastically supporting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 344.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR DOUGLAS M. GREENWAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Douglas M. Greenway of Ft. Benning, GA. The Command Sergeant Major for the U.S. Army's Infantry School, he will soon retire from the Army after a long career of distinguished service.

CSM Greenway entered the Army in 1979, completed Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, GA. He graduated from Sergeants Major Academy Class 50 and completed all levels of the Non-Commissioned Officer Educational System, NCOES, including the Sergeants Major Academy and Command Sergeants Major Course.

CSM Greenway also has honorably and dutifully served his country in several posts, both stateside and abroad, including Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Just Cause in Panama.

Concurrent with his service, CSM Greenway has been honored with numerous awards and medals, most notably the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Ranger Tab, the Master Parachutists Badge, and Drill Sergeants Badge.

In addition to his many years of service, honors, medals, and commendations from countless colleagues, last month CSM Greenway made history: he and his son, Brandon, were the first father and son team to compete in the Best Ranger Competition, a grueling competition held every year at Fort Benning that demands exceptional navigational skill, great physical strength and a keen intellect.

Madam Speaker, at this time in our nation's history, we are in need of leaders, of individuals who step forward and exemplify the concept of "service above self." We need more people like Command Sergeant Major Douglas M. Greenway.

It is an honor to recognize him here today. I humbly thank him for his service and for his contribution, not just to Fort Benning, but to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING TYLER JOSEPH
VANVACTER FOR ACHIEVING
THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Joseph VanVacter, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 270, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Joseph VanVacter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF WEST-
MINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Westminster Presbyterian Church of Sacramento on the 150th anniversary of their congregation's founding. Since Sacramento's earliest days Westminster Presbyterian has been a constant force of spirituality and tolerance in our community. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the church and its congregation on this historic occasion.

Founded on April 27, 1856, the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Sacramento has been a fixture in our community for a century and half. Their first church service was held in a hall at 6th and J Streets, marking the formation of the first Presbyterian congregation in Sacramento.

Westminster Presbyterian held services at a number of downtown locations before they built and moved into its current historic home on N Street, across from California's State capitol building in 1927.

Through their first 150 years, Westminster Presbyterian Church and its members have sought to be a diverse, welcoming, regional congregation that is able to assist individuals in transforming their spiritual insights into positive actions in our community.

For the past few years Westminster Presbyterian has extended a hand of prayer and compassion to many in Sacramento's diverse communities. Under the leadership of Rev. David Thompson, the church has been active on a wide range of issues, from civil rights to global warming. With its location across from the State capitol, the congregation's stance on such issues has played a welcome role in many of California's policy debates.

On a personal note, my family and I will always be grateful to Rev. Thompson and the church's staff for opening their hearts and doors to us after my husband, Bob Matsui, passed away. The church was a gracious host to his funeral and the hundreds of attendees who mourned with us.

Madam Speaker, as the members of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sacramento gather to celebrate the 150th anniversary of their church's founding, I am honored to pay tribute to their historic church and enduring faith. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing the congregation and church's leadership continued success in serving all of us in Sacramento.

SALUTING BETTY LOU REED

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I would like to salute Betty Lou Reed from Deerfield, Illinois. Betty has been a part of the community for nearly fifty years, and has served at nearly every level of government. Later this month, she will move to Denver so she can be near her daughter and grandchildren.

Betty Lou started in politics in the 1960's as a volunteer and staffer. She retold stories of serving bourbon and branchwater to Senator Everett Dirksen during the good old days. From 1968 to 1972 Betty Lou was an elected Supervisor serving on the Lake County Board. During that time, she also served as a Field Representative for the Illinois Department of Local Government Affairs. In 1971, Betty Lou was appointed by President Nixon to the Small Business Administration's Midwest Regional Advisory Council.

She was elected by the citizens of her community to the Illinois General Assembly from 1975 to 1982, becoming the Chairman of the Illinois Water Resources Commission in 1980.

After her retirement from the legislature, she became the District Director for our former colleague and my predecessor, John Edward Porter, from 1982 to 1989. After leaving Congressman Porter's Congressional office, she continued serving as his General Chairman from 1988 to 1994.

Recognizing her talent and dedication, Betty Lou received the prestigious Hope B. McCormick Illinois Lincoln Series Excellence in Public Service Award in 1996 for her exceptional work in mentoring women in politics.

Along with John Porter, Betty is a mentor and, as she would say, "a pro." I hope you will join me in wishing Betty Lou many years of happiness as she leaves our community.

TRIBUTE TO MARINE LANCE
CORPORAL DANIEL CHAIRES

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the valor and honor the legacy of a brave young man who gave his life to his country while serving in Iraq. Marine LCpl Daniel Chaires was killed on October 25, 2006, at the age of 20 in a gun battle with Iraqi insurgents. Daniel has left a wonderful legacy of devotion to his family, the community, his church, the Marines, and our great country.

As a descendent of one of Leon County's pioneer families, Daniel has deep roots in North Florida. His hometown of Chaires, Florida, and Chaires Elementary School are named after his family. On Friday, Chaires Elementary School will celebrate the life and military service of Marine LCpl Daniel Chaires. The school will be dedicating a patriotic mural and a monument in honor of Daniel, who was a young man of great courage and character.

As an active and energetic member of the community, Daniel touched the lives of so many. I know that his family and friends will always remember Daniel as a source of strength, inspiration, and leadership.

As a Vietnam veteran, a father, and a fellow American, I would like to pay tribute to Marine LCpl Daniel Chaires. We honor him, we thank him, and we will never forget the ultimate sacrifice he made for his country and for the cause of freedom. I know that his family is immensely proud of him and his service, and we are all in his debt.

WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, Workers' Memorial Day, which was observed on April 28th, is a solemn day of remembrance for the thousands of workers who have died—over 5,700 or 16 workers a day in 2005—and a day in which we pledge to do better to protect the health and safety of America's workers.

Since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) in 1970, conditions in the workplace have improved and thousands of lives have been saved, but with this Administration's dismal record on workers' safety, many still die and over 4 million are injured or fall ill every year.

OSHA knows how to help workers when it wants to. For example, in 1978 when OSHA's cotton dust standard was adopted, there were 40,000 workers—or 12 percent of all textile workers—12 percent of all textile workers suffered from this deadly disease.

By 2000, and because of the OSHA standard, brown lung was virtually eliminated. OSHA's 1978 standard on lead dramatically reduced lead poisoning, and the 1989 excavation standard designed to protect workers from trench collapses has reduced deaths by more than 20 percent while construction activity has increased by 20 percent. But this administration has one of the worst records of any Administration in the issuance of safety and health standards.

My subcommittee, the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, held a hearing on OSHA's record last week where the administrator of OSHA, Edwin Foulke and Eric Peoples, a worker who has lost 80 percent of his lung capacity due to his exposure to a dangerous and unregulated chemical called Diacetyl [die-aci-teal] sat side by side.

Mr. Foulke said that his heart went out to Mr. Peoples and his family. But then he told us that there wasn't enough proof to promulgate an emergency standard to protect workers from Diacetyl.

What more evidence does he need? Diacetyl is a butter flavoring chemical that causes a deadly lung disease, known popularly as "Popcorn Lung." Workers exposed to Diacetyl work in microwave popcorn facilities and other factories where flavorings are used. Mr. Peoples worked in one of these facilities and became ill within months of starting his job. Mr. Peoples—like many of those with popcorn lung—is so sick that he is awaiting a double lung transplant. Scientists have called the effect of Diacetyl on workers' lungs "astonishingly grotesque" and likened it to "inhaling acid." Three workers have died so far.

There has been almost no response from OSHA despite the fact that OSHA scientists have urged the Agency leadership to take broad action on Diacetyl. And sadly, failure to protect workers from Diacetyl is just the tip of the iceberg. The Agency has failed to issue even those standards that are among its priorities, and in 6 years only one significant safety and health standard issued in February 2006, and that was under court order. If OSHA were to inspect every workplace in the country just once, it would take the Agency 133 years.

A recent congressional hearing revealed that OSHA had not done a single

comprehensive inspection of any American refinery in the 10 years preceding the devastating 2005 explosion at BP's Texas City refinery that killed 15 workers. But instead of hiring more inspectors OSHA only wants to increase staffing for voluntary activities with its industry partners.

Meanwhile, millions of public employees and other workers still don't even have OSHA coverage, and OSHA penalties are so low that they are just seen by business as the cost of doing business.

We need to hold this Administration's feet to the fire and that is what I intend to do. And we need to act here in Congress to make health and safety our priority and to truly honor America's workers who have died on the job.

So I hope you will join me by co-sponsoring H.R. 2049, the Protecting America's Workers Act. Senator KENNEDY has introduced a companion in the Senate.

This law will bring much needed change by expanding coverage to millions of public employees not covered by OSHA and to other private sector employees who are not currently covered. It will increase penalties in the case of willful violations resulting in death or serious injury and will also protect employees who have the courage to speak out about unsafe working conditions.

And finally, it mandates that the Department of Labor investigates all cases of death or serious injuries, makes the process transparent, and gives workers and their families the right to meet with investigators.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 272, a resolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. The transatlantic slave trade was a crime against the humanity of Africans, mostly from Western, Central, and Eastern Africa, who were kidnapped and sent to the United States and the colonies that became the United States which occurred between the 15th and late 19th centuries. Millions of Africans were literally kidnapped and shipped like chattels to the Americas. In the process many were physically abused and raped. Many perished as a result of torture, malnutrition, disease and resistance in transit. Those who survived were forced into slavery. Slavery in the United States during and after British colonial rule included the sale and acquisition of Africans as chattel property in interstate and intrastate commerce.

Humans of African origin here in the United States were robbed of their homes, family, language, culture, religion, and above all their freedom. The transatlantic slave trade is characterized as the largest forced migration in world history. What made the institution of slavery in the United States unique was that this particular form of slavery was in fact race based with 'black' or 'Negro' becoming synonymous with the word 'slave'. Slaves were