

with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.

The struggle to end the transatlantic slave trade and slavery was achieved by African resistance and economic factors as well as through humanitarian campaigns. Africans fought tirelessly to overcome the brutal treatment they endured. The years that our ancestors fought for freedom were among the most difficult times that Africans faced.

It is because of the sacrifices that our ancestors made that African Americans are free today, and able to be part of this wonderful body. We must not forget what our ancestors have done for us. We must teach our children and the generations not yet born of the sacrifices that were made in the name of our freedom. We must continue to celebrate the anniversaries such as this so our history may never go forgotten.

The 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade marks a tremendous accomplishment in African American history. It is with great honor that I am able to speak on such a significant part of my history.

**TRIBUTE TO TELACU FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF LATINOS**

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

The people of this great Nation share a common spirit and heritage. Whether born on the soil of this land or having chosen to come here in search of a better life—one free of political, social, and economic oppression, we are a Nation of pioneers. We believe in the American dream, and the promise that through our labors we can achieve educational and economic success. No barrier is too imposing, no obstacle to tall that it should stand in the way of pursuing this dream.

Two of my congressional predecessors, Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Jacob Javits, advanced legislation in the 1960s that promoted this dream by laying the foundation for an organization called TELACU. Since its founding in 1968, TELACU has become the largest community and economic development corporation in the United States. TELACU is a pioneer institution committed to service, empowerment, advancement and the creation of self-sufficiency within the Latino community.

Brought to life through a small investment appropriated by Congress, TELACU has grown to become an organization with nearly \$500 million in assets, creating thousands of jobs, affordable homes, loans to small business people, and most importantly, numerous educational opportunities for our Latino youth and veterans.

TELACU established the LINC TELACU Education Foundation, LTEF. For more than 2 decades, the Education Foundation has been working towards removing the formidable barriers that prevent Latino youth from achieving academic success. Latino youth not only struggle against the effects of low-income

households, inadequate support and counseling, but a lack of professional and academic role models, all of which contribute to why only 39 percent of Latino high school graduates in Los Angeles County go on to higher education.

TELACU Education Foundation realized that there is no more vital asset in any community than its human capital, which is why they began their efforts to reverse these trends. For more than 2 decades, the LINC TELACU Education Foundation has contributed to the development of our future Latino leaders through a variety of programs designed to maximize the potential of our youth.

The LINC TELACU Scholarship Program, established in 1983, is one program that helps students realize their dream of a college education by providing scholarships, supplemented by other essential support.

In conceiving the foundation, TELACU discovered that while financial assistance is vital for college students to achieve academic success, other factors are also important. Students who are the first in their families ever to attend college often lack the support system necessary to achieve their dream. Socio-economic factors, family responsibilities, cultural identity and financial stress create very real conflicting challenges to academic life.

The LINC TELACU Scholarship Program provides its youth not only with monetary assistance, but also counseling, leadership training, classes in time management and other subjects that will help them succeed in college.

TELACU has partnered with corporate donors, private individuals, and a vast network of colleges and universities, providing the driving force behind one of the most effective national institutions ever to impact the educational needs of the Latino community.

The LINC TELACU Education Foundation has accepted this challenge head on, combining important financial assistance with highly effective programs that ensure college completion. The foundation supports 600 college students and serves 2,000 elementary, middle and high school students and veterans each year. The success of this extraordinary foundation is best summarized by the numbers: Its scholar retention and college graduation rates are an astounding 100 percent.

Madam Speaker, I join today with community leaders throughout my State to express our Nation's gratitude to TELACU, the LINC TELACU Education Foundation and for scholarship programs like this one, for believing in the dream of higher education for all of America's next generation of leaders.

**HONORING THE LOUISIANA HONOR AIR VETERANS**

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from South Louisiana.

On May 11, 2007 a group of 96 veterans and their guardians will fly to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these veterans from my home state of Louisiana to visit

Washington, DC on a chartered flight free of charge. During their visit I will accompany them to visit Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II Memorial. For many, this will be their first and only opportunity to see these sights dedicated to the great service they have provided for our nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their unselfish service.

**RECOGNIZING DADE CITY, FLORIDA, FOR THEIR MAIN STREET RENOVATION PROGRAM**

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding steps taken by Dade City leaders to renovate and improve their Main Street area. These efforts to revitalize Main Street have made Dade City one of the brightest spots on the Gulf Coast of Florida. On May 18, 2007, Dade City is celebrating its 20th anniversary as part of Florida's Main Street program.

Noticing a decline in the beauty and economic vitality of Dade City's downtown in the 1980s, local leaders began to look into joining the Main Street program. Pat Weaver, Otto Weitzenkorn, Helen Brandt and the late Lewis Abraham banded together to find the resources to send representatives to the annual Main Street meeting in Orlando.

The Orlando meeting taught these concerned residents how to implement the "Main Street Four-Point Approach," a comprehensive strategy tailored to meet local needs and opportunities. The approach encompasses work in four distinct areas: design, economic restructuring, promotion, and organization. Ms. Weaver and Ms. Brandt returned from the meeting with a plan to develop a strong base of local business owners and citizens to see this concept through to becoming reality in Dade City. In 1985, they received a technical assistance program by the Department of State, Bureau of Historic Preservation through the Florida Main Street program. In April 1987, downtown Dade City was officially designated a Florida Main Street community.

On May 18, the Downtown Dade City Main Street program is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a party at one of its highly touted area restaurants. In reflecting on its history, the Downtown Dade City Main Street program has distinguished itself as one of the exemplary models of the Florida Main Street program. In addition, it has been successful in downtown restoration projects such as the Historic Courthouse, the establishment of the Community Redevelopment Agency to fund long-range downtown projects, the facade improvement grant, and for the millions of dollars it has helped bring to downtown construction and restoration projects.

Madam Speaker, I applaud all the men and women who have contributed to the success of the Dade City Main Street program over the past twenty years. These individuals exemplify how working tirelessly on downtown renovation and revitalization can reverse the decline of a community. This program continues to remain a vital part of downtown Dade City, and

I commend those involved for their efforts to keep Dade City vibrant and unique with its quaint shops and small town atmosphere.

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RECOGNIZING BETTE PETERSON

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Bette Peterson of Fresno, CA for her tireless service to her community and selfless giving to philanthropic causes throughout California's San Joaquin Valley. In recognition of her devoted service, the City of Fresno proclaimed May 1st, 2007 as "Bette Peterson Day."

Bette Peterson was born on October 30th, 1922 to Jean and Freda Johnson. Throughout her life, Ms. Peterson embarked on many adventures but not until 1975 did an adventurous life begin to flourish rapidly beginning with her marriage to Dr. Robert Billings, and shortly thereafter, the creation of the Poppy Lane Publishing Company.

After establishing her publishing company, she authored Beginning Reading at Home, a book designed to help young children develop and explore reading. In addition, Poppy Lane Publishing Company has published numerous books by local authors since 1976, opening up eyes to the wealth of literary talent in the San Joaquin Valley.

Founded in 1988 by Bette and her husband Dr. Robert Billings, the Billings Independent and Responsible Foundation continues to assist many charitable causes. Most recently, Habitat for Humanity was presented with a one-hundred thousand dollar contribution to help many achieve the dream of homeownership.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Bette Peterson for her tireless service to her community. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing her tremendous example.

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LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I was proud to stand up for the equal protection of all Americans by opposing H.R. 1592, the so called "Hate Crimes Bill." I abhor bigotry and discrimination, and I look forward to an America where no one is physically harmed for any reason. However, creating a special protected class within this country is poor public policy and contrary to the founding principle that all Americans are equal in front of the law.

First, this bill is unnecessary. State and local laws already provide criminal penalties for the violence addressed by the new Federal crimes defined in H.R. 1592. Many of the current state and local laws carry stiffer penalties than the proposed language in H.R. 1592. State and local law enforcement agencies and courts already have the capability to

enforce those penalties and are doing so effectively. The proof is that the most recent FBI Uniform Crime Report shows that bias-motivated crimes are decreasing. In fact, less than 17% of all law enforcement agencies reported a single hate crime in 2005. No evidence exists that states and localities are failing to prosecute hate crimes under existing statutes. There is simply no need for the Federal government to impinge on the manner in which state and local agencies are attacking these concerns.

Second, there are Constitution questions concerning this bill. The 14th Amendment affords equal protection under the law to all citizens. H.R. 1592 defies this principle by ranking victims according to nebulous categories like "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" that are based on behavior and are not easily definable. All violent crimes are unacceptable, regardless of the victim, and should be punished firmly.

It is ironic that this bill came to the floor on the National Day of Prayer. I am worried that this bill will unfairly target people of faith. Under this bill, Christians and clergy may be targets for prosecution if their traditional teachings on sexuality are considered an inducement to violence of people based on "sexual orientation" or "gender identity" whether real or perceived. Typically, members would have the opportunity to offer amendments to fix omissions such as this. Unfortunately, the Democrat leadership railroaded this bill through the floor with absolutely no opportunity to offer amendments, denying us the opportunity to protect traditional American values.

Instead of passing laws which violate long-standing principles of good government, we must instead continue in our efforts to make sure that criminals understand their behavior will not be tolerated. Individuals caught committing a crime must understand that conviction will be certain, sentencing will be swift and punishment will be severe. Creating classes of victims, as this bill surely does, based on broad indefinable categories makes certain citizens more equal than others, substitutes a federal mandate for local expertise, and fails to protect traditional American values.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA RILEY

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Patricia Riley, a long-time Las Vegas educator and school administrator.

Patricia was a longtime elementary school teacher with the Clark County School District before joining the staff of Hillcrest Academy in 1999. She earned a Bachelor's degree in human development and early childhood education from the University of Nebraska in 1970 and subsequently earned a Master's degree in education curriculum and instruction from UNLV in 1980.

For over two decades Patricia has been designing curriculum for public and private schools for adults and children. Her career as an educator began as a fifth grade teacher in

Grand Island, Nebraska. She later went on to teach math and reading to Army soldiers at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina from 1974–1976. Patricia subsequently moved to Las Vegas in 1978 and operated two preschool through kindergarten private schools from 1979 to 1984 both in the Spring Valley and Green Valley areas. Patricia left education, pursued a career in real estate and later came back to teach first and second grade at the Mack Elementary School in Henderson, Nevada, where she stayed until moving over to the Hillcrest Academy. After founding Hillcrest Academy and operating the school for over 7 years, Patricia sold the Academy and stayed on as a consultant.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend, Patricia Riley. Patricia is a truly gifted educator and has enriched countless lives. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to educational excellence and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR KENNETH LINDSAY

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday May 7, 2007

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kenneth Lindsay, a most remarkable and distinguished constituent of mine. Mr. Lindsay is one of about a dozen living members of the Monument Men, who worked to save tens of thousands of works of art during World War II. Mr. Lindsay is also a Binghamton University Professor Emeritus of Art History where he chaired the Art History Department for 17 years.

Mr. Lindsay's love of art and art history first developed while he was a student at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He signed up with the Army's Signal Corps and was preparing to go overseas in 1942. Catching scarlet fever delayed his deployment, but it resulted in his eventual assignment to the Monument Men after Victory in Europe Day in 1945. Mr. Lindsay first served as a technical corporal in London and was later sent to Omaha Beach.

Following V-E Day, the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Section of the U.S. Army, whose members were nicknamed the Monument Men, worked to save and preserve works of art that had been seized during the Nazi rule of Germany. Mr. Lindsay was assigned to the Monument Men in Wiesbaden, Germany in 1945. He personally handled some of Europe's most valuable works of art. A noted piece that passed through Mr. Lindsay's hands is the Holy Crown of Hungary, one of the most famous crowns of the Middle Ages. One of the most memorable pieces that he processed was a statue of the Egyptian Queen Nefertiti, which was stolen by the Germans in 1912.

Wars present perilous challenges for art, and the art world is indeed fortunate that Mr. Lindsay was available to help put the pieces back together in post-war Germany. Without the dedicated work from men such as Mr. Lindsay, a large amount of the world's culture would have been lost. Mr. Lindsay's work in World War II and as a teacher of art history has given future generations the opportunity to enjoy history and the rich cultures across the world.