

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to salute Professor Emeritus Kenneth Lindsay for his dedication in the Army and as a teacher. He has left his unique mark on his students, peers, and the art community.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JEFFREY SHELTON

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jeffrey Shelton, an officer of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in North Carolina. Officer Shelton was fatally shot on March 31, 2007 while responding to a call with a fellow officer, Sean Clark.

Officer Shelton was on the force for more than six years before he was killed in the line of duty. The citizens of Charlotte will remember Jeff Shelton as a brave man, who gave his life in service to the city. He will be sorely missed by his fellow officers in the North Tryon Division.

To show their appreciation for Officer Shelton, thousands of Charlotteans gathered to watch his funeral procession in person on April 6, 2007. Citizens have since created a permanent memorial at the very spot where the two officers were killed. This site, near an apartment building in East Charlotte, has been dedicated to the memory of Jeffrey Shelton and Sean Clark.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jeff's wife, Jennifer, and his family and friends at this difficult time. May the legacy of service and dedication that he leaves behind be a comfort to all those who loved him.

HONORING OCCAM'S ENGINEERS ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Occam's Engineers Robotics Team from West Morris Mendham High School in New Jersey, a team that I am proud to represent! They are celebrating their recent attainment of first place in the FIRST Vex Challenge World Championship.

Occam's team was founded by Joshua Kaplan and Michael Medford, who also serve as co-captains. The other members include Adam Brozynski, Joshua Franklin, Julianna Brown, Thomas Cioppettini and Chase Tralka. The team was established at the beginning of the school year and began preparing for the competition in January. After placing last in the FIRST Vex New Jersey Tournament, they completely redesigned their robot, basing their new design on simplicity.

For the FIRST Vex Challenge World Championship in April, the team had to build a robot no larger than 18 inches that was pre-programmed and controlled by remotes to pick up softballs and deposit them into differing receptacles from a set list of parts and guidelines.

The team spent endless hours building and practicing leading up to the competition.

They competed against over 10,000 students from over 23 countries. The judged award is based on the team that performs well in all categories, gaining votes from opposing teams based on performance as well as cooperation with others. Occam won not only the FIRST Vex Challenge Winning Alliance Award but also the FIRST Vex Challenge Inspire Award!

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Occam Engineers Robotics Team and all its members on all of their past, present and future achievements!

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1592, The Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

This important legislation is about protecting the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable in our society.

The fact is, hate toward people in our country who are deemed different remains copious and persistent.

What is not fact, however, is the campaign of mistrusts right-wing extremists with a megaphone have instigated against this bill. They claim, for instance, that passage of this bill will be used to persecute anti-gay churches. To which I say, I don't know of any pastor or minister who would advocate tying a man to a split-rail fence, beating him brutally, and leaving him to die in the cold of the night for no reason other than he was gay.

This legislation addresses long overdue deficiencies in current federal hate crimes law. It extends protections to even more groups of targeted minorities. And it ensures that when states are unwilling or unable to prosecute hate crimes, justice will be served.

Violent acts committed against a member of a targeted minority do not merely beleaguer the individual. They deprave an entire group and society as a whole by promoting a culture of fear among our diverse communities and perpetuating stereotypes and hate. I have hopes that someday such legislation will no longer be necessary. But the reality is that in this day and age it still is. It is evident in the resurgence of organized white supremacist movements such as the KKK over the past year.

Without the passage of this critical legislation, an alarming amount of hate crime perpetrators around the country will continue to escape punishment under federal law. Such as the assailants who shot frequenters of a gay bar in New Bedford, Massachusetts earlier this year. And the four white male assailants who left Bill Ray, a mentally challenged African American, severely and errantly brain damaged. And the assailants of Michael Sandy, a gay man who was beaten, chased into traffic, hit by a car, and then dragged off the road and attacked a second time.

Until the day comes when there is no need for such legislation, we will continue to have a moral obligation to ensure these victims of hate crimes have access to just recourse.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER SEAN CLARK

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sean Clark, an officer of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in North Carolina. Officer Clark was fatally shot on March 31, 2007 while responding to a call with a fellow officer, Jeffrey Shelton.

Officer Clark was on the force for just over a year before he was killed in the line of duty. He leaves behind his wife Sherry, his son Brayden, and a baby who is expected to arrive shortly. The citizens of Charlotte will remember Sean Clark as a brave man, who gave his life in service to the city. He will be sorely missed by his fellow officers in the North Tryon Division.

To show their appreciation for Officer Clark, thousands of Charlotteans gathered to watch his funeral procession in person on April 5, 2007. Citizens have since created a permanent memorial at the very spot where the two officers were killed. This site, near an apartment building in East Charlotte, has been dedicated to the memory of Sean Clark and Jeffrey Shelton.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sean's family and friends at this difficult time. May the legacy of service and dedication that he leaves behind be a comfort to all those who loved him.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSE MARTEL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jose Martel, an exceptional maitre d' at the newly opened Michael's Restaurant at South Point Hotel.

Prior to assuming his position with Michael's Restaurant, Mr. Martel served as maitre d' at the Barbary Coast Hotel for 23 years. There, Mr. Martel developed a reputation for a commitment to customer service. As a maitre d', Mr. Martel is known for meeting all of his patrons' needs and has proved himself to be an exemplary model of friendliness, attentiveness, and professionalism.

During his many years of service, Mr. Martel has cultivated a working environment that has distinguished him from others in the field. Mr. Martel's evident dedication to restaurant patrons is unparalleled and his outstanding service was recently honored by a dedication in Casino Connection Magazine.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Jose Martel. His dedication to and respect for his work are commendable and I wish him every continued success.