

helmets. Currently, the prison is designing a more protective helmet that will soon be used in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The 320 inmates in the Beaumont factory making these helmets are patriots, and they think they are because they are patriots; they are doing their part in the war efforts. This is a medium security facility, and it is not the only war contributor in the Beaumont prison system.

The minimum security system in Beaumont repairs damaged tanks. They receive a facelift from the inmates and their engines are overhauled. The mechanics that work in these prisons are experts in diesel mechanics, and they take a once unusable piece of machinery that has been damaged and they turn it into a war-worthy military tank once more.

Mr. Speaker, as a former judge, I believe in using inmate labor; make them help pay for the system they have created. The taxpayer has paid for the system long enough. Some of these inmates in the Beaumont prison I met earlier on a professional basis at the courthouse, and now I am glad to see that they are turning their lives around. For behind the steel doors and tall walls of the prison, these men go to work each day producing helmets that safeguard American troops from enemy fire. They are not forced to work in the factories, but they choose to. They choose to volunteer.

The inmates I talked to are proud of our troops overseas and feel a sense of connection to them by making these helmets. Prison labor programs are a good idea for inmates and for America, and certainly for the American taxpayer. Some inmates are locked up behind bars because they harmed another person's life. Now they have the chance to redeem their past deeds; they now work to save the lives of our American soldiers. After all, Mr. Speaker, we are all in this together.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMENDING THE LILLY ENDOWMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Lilly Endowment for its exceptional commitment to Indianapolis and to the State of Indiana.

Recently, the Lilly Endowment announced the winners of its 2007 Teacher Creativity Fellowships. The result of this endowment's effort is a program that will enable 129 teachers, prin-

cipals, guidance counselors, and school librarians from all over Indiana to take the time to gain insight into new cultures, to explore subjects that intrigue them, and to just get away and bring back refreshed perspectives to share with their students.

The endowment has been successfully funding such programs for 20 years now. The class of 2007 includes nine recipients from public and private schools across the State who were selected as "distinguished fellows" of the program and received up to \$25,000. The remaining 120 recipients each received an \$8,000 grant for their activities.

The distinguished fellows feature of the program was introduced last year by the Lilly Endowment. A limited number of grants were available for creative renewal projects that would provide additional financial support and the possibility of time away from the classroom. As a result of this innovative feature, each selected teacher received up to \$25,000. A separate grant of up to \$25,000 was available to the teacher's school district to cover the costs of a replacement teacher, if necessary.

The winning creative renewal projects will send Indiana educators to study Indian culture by visiting Punjab, India; practice service learning by volunteering in Calcutta, Belfast, reservations in South Dakota, Haiti, and Mississippi; and interviewing street children in Latin America. But whether they travel to the Arctic or Mongolia, they will return to their Indiana schools carrying new cultural insights, full of new adventures and wisdom to share with their students.

Sara B. Cobb, the Lilly Endowment Vice President for Education, summarized the effort when she said, "Once again, we are thrilled at the response to this popular program. Good teaching requires a high degree of energy and motivation. We regularly hear that these renewal experiences have helped hard-working Indiana educators regain their enthusiasm for their profession."

So, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, I want to commend the Lilly Endowment for doing such a great thing for Indiana and the education system. Good teaching does require a high degree of energy, motivation, and inspiration. I would add, "Good corporate neighboring requires a commitment to a corporate vision for a better community and the will to invest its resources to achieve that vision."

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Lilly Endowment and its CEO, and indeed a good neighbor to Indiana. Thank you very much.

TEACHER CREATIVITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2007—\$25,000 FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Arsenal Technical High School, Karen Beck, "Service Learning: The Example of Mother Teresa"—travel to Calcutta, Belfast, the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations (South Dakota), Haiti and Mississippi to do volunteer service; conduct interviews in Maryland and Washington in preparation for

creating service learning program at Tech; volunteer with local agencies.

Juvenile Learning Center School No. 459, Robert Masbaum, "Street Children of Latin America and Human Rights"—visit Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua, Honduras and Panama to study and interview street children; prepare a documentary, curriculum guide and exhibit about children's rights.

TEACHER CREATIVITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2007—\$8,000 FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

Archdiocese of Indianapolis (private), St. Joan of Arc School, Susanna L. Abell, "Mentoring Abroad in Central America"—work with promising young artist in Honduras; offer an art camp for children in Honduras; create paintings.

St. Therese Little Flower School, Lori Grant Feliciano, "Defining a Hoosier"—study the unique history and culture of Indiana.

Heritage Christian School (private), Sherryn L. Miley "Never Forget: The Holocaust"—study the Holocaust at the U.S. Holocaust Museum, European concentration camps and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel.

International School of Indianapolis, Bernadette C. Allamel, "Ceramic Storytelling from Mali"—learn to make pottery in Mali, from collecting the clay through firing finished pieces; study cultural stories of Mali.

Arlington High School, Kerry J. Brown (see also MSD Lawrence Township) "East Meets West"—four generations return to Vietnam to gain closure from secret boat escape in 1977.

Charity Dye No. 27, Sidney Allen, "Pilgrimage to Monet's Garden"—study art and horticulture in Giverny, France; create a garden at school.

Howe Middle/High School, Mary F. Nolan, "A Linguistic Immersion Amidst the French Culture"—spend time in rural France completing a book; experience the culture of France.

Jonathan Jennings No. 109, Patricia Reeves, "Tolerance and Diversity as Seen Through the Irish Eyes"—research Ireland's "Great Famine;" introduce classroom activities about immigration, racism and cultural tolerance.

New Horizons Alternative School, Christopher L. Howey, "A Journey on the Path of the Martial Way"—study aikido and jodo in Japan and Canada.

MSD Lawrence Township, Bernard K. McKenzie Career Center, Jane Davis Miller, "The Ups and Downs in Life: Unmasking the Search for Ourselves"—study history of mask-making; create and use masks in therapeutic theater programs.

Lawrence Central High School, Lan Bui-Brown (see also Indianapolis Public Schools), "East Meets West"—four generations return to Vietnam to gain closure from secret boat escape in 1977.

Mary Castle Elementary School, Jan Good, "The Joy of Painting"—attend watercolor workshops; develop painting skills.

MSD Warren Township, Raymond Park Middle School, Rae Bosio, "Flamenco in Spain"—travel to Spain to study culture and dance.

MSD Washington Township, Eastwood Middle School, Douglas O. Vinton, "History Alive"—tour Germany, Italy, Greece, France and Austria to explore history and culture.

J. Everett Light Career Center, Robert Hendrix, "Voices Amidst the Mountains: A Journey into the Folklore of Storytelling"—create a radio documentary on the art of storytelling in the Smoky, Blue Ridge and Appalachian mountain chains.

North Central High School, Stephen J. Quigley, "The Emerald Ash Borer and the Art of Carving Ash Sticks for the Sport of

Gaelic Hurling”—study history and cultural significance of the Gaelic sport of hurling; learn to cut and carve hurley sticks using ash wood salvaged from central Indiana forests decimated by the emerald ash borer.

Martha Sando, “2007: To Russia with Love, From Moscow to St. Petersburg”—view art collections in St. Petersburg and Moscow; hone plein air landscape painting technique; create classroom lessons on painting techniques, history and culture of Russia.

MSD Wayne Township, McClelland Elementary School, Eric Webb (principal), “Bringing My Ancestors to Dinner”—investigate Clan McLeod, capture images, poetry, songs and stories of Scotland.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MEEK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to come before the House here, the 30-Something Working Group. I am glad that we are here tonight to have an opportunity to really talk about the accomplishments under the 110th Congress, and also issues that we are going to be working on in the very near future.

But as you know, Mr. Speaker, day after day I have been coming to the floor sharing with the Members and the American people on the fact that we have really worked hard to make sure that we run a house in a way that all the Members can feel comfortable about voting on the public policy that comes to this floor, especially major public policy.

The Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act that passed this floor today is a piece of legislation that is going to assist not only the public knowing more about what happens here, but to make sure that we protect those that are trying to protect us.

As we start to head down the road of fiscal responsibility, as we start to

have oversight hearings and Federal employees and others that are involved in Federal action, and just average Americans will be able to come forward and to share with this Congress and other agencies of accountability and oversight about waste, they will be able to come and share concerns or speculation of corruption, they will be able to come forth with recommendations without receiving the repercussions that they would have received prior to the passing of this legislation today.

One other thing that I think is important when we start looking at this legislation, the fact that there were 102 Members on the other side of the aisle that voted in the affirmative. The vote on this floor just moments ago was 331-94. And I think that will go right in line with other pieces of legislation that have passed this House floor in a bipartisan way on a major bill. I think we have a chart here that I think will be helpful for the Members to take a look at.

Implementing the 9/11 Commission recommendations, H.R. 1, passed 299-128, with 68 Republicans voting with the Democrats.

Raising the minimum wage passed 315-116, with 82 Republicans voting along with Democrats.

The funding for enhanced stem cell research, H.R. 3, 253 Members of the House voted in the affirmative, only 147 voted against. But as you know, Republican votes, 37 joined Democrats on that vote.

Making prescription drugs more affordable for seniors, H.R. 4, passed 255-170, with 24 Republicans voting with Democrats.

Cutting student loan interest rates in half, H.R. 5, 356-71, with 124 Republicans voting for it with all Democrats.

Creating long-term energy initiatives, I think it is an important initiative, H.R. 6, 264-163, with 36 Republicans voting with Democrats.

□ 1845

Now, Mr. Speaker, why is this important? Why are we talking about bipartisanship so much when we come to the floor in the 30-Something Working Group? We are talking about it because this has not been the culture here in the House. Major pieces of legislation, from H.R. 1 to H.R. 6, and even today when we passed off of this floor the Whistleblower Act, H.R. 985, to see bipartisan votes on these major pieces of legislation goes to show you that we have been waiting; and when I say “we,” Members of the House have been waiting for a very long time to have the opportunity to vote on common-sense legislation that is going to assist the American people in their everyday lives, will assist this Congress in bringing about the kind of accountability that the American people voted for and hoped that we would, hopefully, enact one day.

I think it is also important to look at three House bills to shed light on pub-

lic records. I think it is very important that the American people understand that we are going to open the Federal Government up to allow them to be able to receive public records in a timely manner. Of course, we are going to protect national security issues. Of course, documents that are not ready for public consumption will not be given to the public or anyone that may endanger Americans abroad or here in the United States. But there are so many documents by the White House that have been deemed secret when it wasn't necessary for them to be deemed secret. This piece of legislation and the three bills would deal with that issue, to be able to have a little more openness to the process so that we can do our jobs here on Capitol Hill.

I think it is important to continue to stick with the watchwords that we have been talking about here, the 30-Something Working Group, on accountability, oversight, new direction, and fiscal responsibility. I think it is important that we pay attention to what is happening right now, Mr. Speaker, when it comes down to Hurricane Katrina, Abu Ghraib, 9/11 Commission recommendations, which I must add that 10 Republicans and the Senate joined Democrats in passing the 9/11 Commission recommendations. All of these reports, as we look at good government, are taken from bipartisan commissions.

We are talking about governance here. We are talking about accountability here. Some may say, well, 9/11 Commission recommendations, that is a Democratic work product. No. That is just a Democratic leadership bill, that we said that we would fully implement the 9/11 recommendations even though the President has threatened to veto them. Even though it was a bipartisan commission, Mr. Speaker, chaired by a Republican Governor, former Governor, still the President and Republicans are saying that there is not a need to implement those recommendations.

I think, as we start to reflect, before I start talking about the supplemental appropriations bill that is being marked up in the Appropriations Committee this week, since Democrats have taken the majority, Mr. Speaker, Walter Reed, the misconduct was exposed by a newspaper here in the Washington area, The Washington Post. Democrats took action, making sure that we had hearings going immediately, not after, not 2 or 3 weeks later, saying we are waiting on the administration to see what they are going to do.

In kind, the administration started working very vigorously to take some action, and I commend the President on appointing two very outstanding Americans, Ms. Shalala and also Mr. Dole, to lead a commission to look at that.

The firing of U.S. District Attorneys became exposed recently, within the last 48 hours. Information that we received here in Congress was inaccurate.