

A TRIBUTE TO THE CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Philadelphia institution and a staple in our community, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has always held itself to the highest standard of care. This month, they have been recognized for their excellence as they were rated as the best over all children's hospital in America in a U.S. News & World Report exclusive annual ranking, receiving this honor for the sixth year in a row.

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia was founded in 1855 and was the first hospital devoted solely to the care of children. Today it houses 430 beds and treats more than one million patients a year. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia specializes in cancer, digestive disorders, heart and heart surgery, neonatal care, neurology and neurosurgery and respiratory disorders. While coming in first for overall general practices, the hospital also ranked in the top three in the country in each of these individual categories.

Since it was established the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has been concentrated on caring for the families of patients as well as the patients themselves. Now they have programs where parents teach the physicians what it is like to care for a child with a specific disease, because they have the best knowledge of this. The Children's Hospital also encourages families to stay with their children at all times, making the treatment more bearable for the children and their families.

Madam Speaker, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is a key institution in Philadelphia and I congratulate them on this honor and thank them for their dedication to excellence and their service to our community.

THE DAILY 45: MIGUEL CELIS

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Young lives are being cut short because of gun violence and families on both sides of the gun are dramatically affected.

Last week, authorities charged Edgar Ceasar Diaz, 15, of Waukegan, Illinois with six counts of first-degree murder that, if convicted, could land him in jail for the remainder of his life. His family is in pain over what their son is charged with.

Diaz is accused of the April 25 shooting death of 18-year-old Miguel Celis also of Waukegan. Celis died of a gunshot wound to the chest fired from a .38-caliber handgun that was recovered from Diaz, according to reports. His family is in mourning.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

RECOGNITION OF RICHARD M.  
KNAPP, PH.D.

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Richard M. Knapp, Ph.D., who is retiring as Executive Vice President of the Association of American Medical Colleges, AAMC, after 40 years of service to the Nation on behalf of medical schools and teaching hospitals.

As the senior policy advisor to the AAMC, Dr. Knapp has provided leadership on a wide range of health policy matters, particularly regarding the delivery of hospital and medical services where medical education simultaneously occurs and research brings advances.

Dr. Knapp joined the AAMC in 1968 after earning a bachelor of arts degree from Marietta College, in Marietta, Ohio, and a Ph.D. in hospital and health administration from the University of Iowa.

He has consistently been a fair and thoughtful advocate for the Nation's teaching hospitals and medical schools, and his knowledge and integrity are widely recognized and appreciated.

Dr. Knapp's service to the health community includes his tenure on the Board of Trustees of the Inova Health System in Fairfax County, Virginia, from 1983–2005, where he served as chair from 1999–2003. He is a past chairman of the National Association for Biomedical Research and has held the offices of secretary and treasurer in the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions. He also served on the Advisory Board for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellowships.

Before becoming executive vice president of the AAMC, Dr. Knapp served the organization as senior vice president, director of the Department of Teaching Hospitals, director of the Division of Teaching Hospitals, and director of a teaching hospital project.

His contributions to health care policy have been recognized by his election to the Institute of Medicine.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Knapp and his family every success and happiness in the next phase of his life.

THE PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS  
PROTECTION AND GOVERNMENT  
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

**HON. JOHN SULLIVAN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 6219, the Private Property Rights Protection and Government Accountability Act of 2008.

Previously, the U.S. Constitution specifically limited government taking of private property through a relatively narrow exception for "public use." Public use has historically referred to roads, schools, firehouses, etc. You may remember the infamous 2005 Supreme Court decision, *Kelo v. City of New London*, where the court broadened the government's ability

to take your home, farm, business or place of worship. The negative affects of this far reaching Supreme Court decision places millions of private property owners nationwide at risk.

Some States are trying to correct this injustice and have enacted restrictions on the use of eminent domain (in this case, is when the government seizes private property), with varied effectiveness. However, Congress has not taken action to restore private property rights and the abusive use of eminent domain has continued.

That is why I am introducing the Private Property Rights Protection and Government Accountability Act of 2008, along with the House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member JOE BARTON. This legislation will restrict certain federal economic development funds for 10 years to any state or locality in which eminent domain is used to take private property for a private purpose. It will also allow private property owners the legal recourse they deserve to fight baseless private property takings by State and local governments.

Examples of eminent domain abuse can be seen across Oklahoma, from Oklahoma City to Muskogee, and across this country.

No family, business operator or place of worship is safe if the government decides that their property does not measure up, and that "public purpose" would be better served if it were torn down and replaced by something bigger, glitzier and more taxable. I encourage all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF KATHERINE KELLY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Katherine Kelly. Ms. Kelly is a lifelong Democrat who has always fought for the values and ideals that our party and our country hold dear.

As a member of the Democratic Executive Committee (D.E.C.) of Palm Beach County for more than 30 years, Katherine and her late husband, Edward Kelly, helped to build the D.E.C. and bring it to the position of prominence it holds today. Recognizing her status as one of the most respected Democrats in Palm Beach County, her fellow Committee members elected her State Committeewoman, a title she still holds.

Katherine Kelly was a founding member of Palm Beach County's first chapter of the National Organization for Women and has spent her entire life fighting to advance the rights of women. She has also been a leader in countless endeavors to ensure the rights of minorities and underprivileged citizens. And she is an ardent supporter of organized labor and the rights of working men and women in South Florida and throughout our Nation.

Katherine Kelly's relentless efforts have resulted in the election of many Democratic officials at all levels of government. More importantly, however, they have resulted in better lives for the people for whom she has fought.

Katherine is loved and respected by all who have benefited from her compassion, concern,

and determination, and she has earned the gratitude of the countless individuals who have benefited from her work. I am extremely proud to call Katherine Kelly my friend and ally. She is truly an admirable individual and a great American.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN RICHARD A. GEPHARDT OF MISSOURI

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this time to recognize my good friend and our former colleague, Congressman Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri, who recently received the Harry S. Truman Award for Public Service from the City of Independence, Missouri. This award is given annually to honor a distinguished public servant who best exemplifies the characteristics of President Harry S. Truman.

Congressman Richard Gephardt grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, and in 1958 graduated from Southwest High School. He is an Eagle Scout and is a recipient of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. In 1962, he earned a bachelor of science degree at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and earned a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1965. After law school, Congressman Gephardt practiced law and set forth on a distinguished public service career that included serving the American people in military uniform and in elected office. From 1965 to 1971, Congressman Gephardt served in the Missouri Air National Guard. From 1968 to 1971, he served as a Democratic committeeman in St. Louis, and from 1971 to 1976, he served as a St. Louis alderman.

In 1976, Gephardt ran for and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. From 1977 to 2005, Congressman Gephardt served the people of Missouri and our country with distinction and quickly became a leader within the Democratic Caucus. In 1984, he was elected chairman of the House Democratic Caucus and was elected House majority leader in 1989. He subsequently served as House minority leader from 1994 to 2005. Gephardt also twice ran for the Democratic Presidential nomination, in 1988 and in 2004. After retiring from Congress in 2005, Gephardt formed a consulting and public policy development firm.

Madam Speaker, Congressman Richard A. Gephardt exemplifies the best of American public service. He is so very deserving of the Harry S. Truman Award, and I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him, his wife, Jane, and their lovely family for their years of dedication to the American people.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WILLIAM E. ODOM

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to General William E.

Odum, a man of unquestionable character and undeniable devotion to our Nation. He served with distinction, provided experienced insight about our Nation's foreign policy decisions, and expressed a rare candor that made him an invaluable resource to everyone that worked with him, including the United States Congress.

On Friday, May 30, 2008, General Odom passed away at the age of 75. The course of his career traces the evolution of our military and intelligence communities over the past 25 years. He served as a senior military intelligence official for President Jimmy Carter, and then joined President Ronald Reagan as the director of the National Security Agency during the administration's second term. Following his retirement from the Army in 1988, after 34 years of active duty, General Odom continued his service by teaching at Yale University, working for the Hudson Institute, and writing scholarly works.

Chief among his laudable qualities, it was General Odom's candor that proved most refreshing and invaluable. A self-described military hawk, he was among the first military persons to speak out against the invasion of Iraq and he openly advocated a withdrawal. General Odom warned that military action in Iraq would be foolhardy and futile well before the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. In hindsight, his concerns were well founded and have since been validated, but before the invasion he was among the few willing to speak out loudly in opposition to the drumbeat to war. His background and depth gave intellectual credence to the growing opposition to the war, and he demonstrated that there were differences of opinion within our military and intelligence communities on the merits of the invasion.

To me and other members of the Defense Appropriations Committee, General Odom was a great source of experience and a wealth of knowledge. I came to rely upon his judgment and took counsel with him privately on issues related to our national defense. He was a thoughtful, steady guide on the most complex matters that face us today, and we are at a loss without him. More importantly, the Nation has lost a true and valued patriot.

Madam Speaker, we are saddened by General Odom's passing, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family. May others learn from his example and may his memory stay with us forever.

TRIBUTE TO ROBIN AUGUST

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Robin August, recently awarded the title of 2007–2008 Baltimore County Teacher of the Year. Ms. August has been a teacher with Baltimore County Public Schools for 8 years, teaching mathematics at Deep Creek Elementary School and now Deep Creek Magnet Middle School.

Ms. August began her career in education in 1990, working for the Baltimore City Public School System. In 2000, she accepted a position at Deep Creek Elementary School in Baltimore County and is currently a mathematics teacher and team leader at Deep Creek Magnet Middle School.

As the team leader for the 6th grade at Deep Creek, Ms. August has been instrumental in developing and maintaining parental involvement that is necessary for the school to be successful. She consistently monitors the academic performance of her students in all of their classes in order to provide mentorship to the students and provide strategies to help them succeed. Throughout the year, Ms. August opens her classroom doors to teachers who are in need of professional development, modeling lessons that demonstrate excellence in teaching.

She has dedicated her career to improving achievement for her students, serving on many school improvement teams and holding positions as diverse as Student Council Advisor, curriculum writer, and mentor. As a member of the leadership team at Deep Creek Middle, Ms. August continues to bring new ideas to the school plan, helping to design better and more efficient ways of meeting the various needs of the students. Through the Teaching American History in Maryland program, she has published work with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Center for History Education and presented at the Maryland Conference for the Social Studies.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Robin August in her acceptance of the 2007–2008 Baltimore County Teacher of the Year Award. Her legacy as a dedicated, enthusiastic educator will be forever remembered by the grateful students who walk through her classroom doors. It is with great pride that I congratulate Robin August on her exemplary career in education and her outstanding performance at Deep Creek Magnet Middle School in Baltimore County.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIANS OF 2008

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend tens of thousands of youngsters who, this year, earned their high school diplomas as first in their respective graduating classes. The diploma in itself has come to symbolize promise and opportunity, the first step in a series of steps towards achieving the American dream, and I am proud of each and every student who earned one this year. But that honor is ever the more remarkable when awarded with a valedictorian title, an acknowledgement that its receiver is academically top-notch in his or her class.

These bright, young minds—freshly out of school, having ostensibly left adolescence behind and come into their own as educated, young adults—will inherit this world, as much our successes as our failures. It will be up to them to improve upon our legacy, to wield their ingenuity and knowledge to the benefit of their country and their world. It pleases me to know that there are steady, capable young hands out there prepared to mold, shape, and supply form to a better future.

These men and women are an exemplary class, many of whom will go on to earn college degrees, serve America in some form of public service, travel abroad, raise families, or