

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE JUNIOR GROUP EXHIBIT TEAM FROM CHUCKEY-DOAK MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THEIR FIRST-PLACE PERFORMANCE IN THE TENNESSEE HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior Group Exhibit Team from Chuckey-Doak Middle School for their first-place performance in the Tennessee History Day competition. They will now move on to the national competition next week.

The Chuckey-Doak Middle School team, composed of students Emily Frazier and Katie Adams, also took first place with their performance on Women's Suffrage: The Conflict Within.

To understand and present these topics in an articulate way is a noteworthy and outstanding accomplishment. The students have represented Chuckey-Doak Middle School and East Tennessee in an exceptional way.

With their first-place performance, the team will travel to the University of Maryland and compete against other students from across the country at the 2007–2008 National History Day competition.

It is a pleasure to see that these students are taking the initiative to represent their schools in the most upstanding way. Their dedication to knowledge, excellence and hard work is honorable and I congratulate them on their successes.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Emily Frazer and Katie Adams and in wishing them the best of luck at next week's National History Day competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I missed several rollcall votes on June 12, 2008. I would like to enter into the record how I intended to vote on these rollcall votes had I been present:

On #405, on ordering the previous question on the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 6063, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, I would have voted "yea."

On #406, on agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 6063, I would have voted "yea."

On #407, on ordering the previous question on the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 5749, the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act, I would have voted "yea."

On #408, on agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 5749, I would have voted "yea."

On #409, on passage of H.R. 1553, the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, I would have voted "yea."

On #410, on the motion to table the appeal, I would have voted "yea."

On #411, on the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 5749, I would have voted NAY.

On #412, on passage of H.R. 5749, I would have voted "yea."

On #413, on passage of S. 2146, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF THE FALLEN HEROES OF 1-34 BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 20 heroes who served the people of our Nation valiantly in Operation Iraqi Freedom and who this past weekend were honored at the Fallen Heroes Memorial in Bloomington, Minnesota.

SPC Benjamin J. Slaven, SGT Brent W. Koch, SPC Kyle R. Miller, Staff SGT Jeffrey J. Hansen, Staff SGT Joshua R. Hanson, SGT Germaine L. Debro, SPC Kampha B. Sourivong, SGT 1st Class Scott E. Nisely, SGT Bryan T. McDonough, and SGT Corey J. Rystad.

SGT Nicholas D. Turcotte, Staff SGT Thomas W. Clemons, Staff SGT James M. Wosika, Jr., SPC Carla J. Stewart, SGT MAJ Michael C. Mettelle, SGT 1st Class David R. Berry, Staff SGT Greg N. Riewer, SGT Joshua A. Schmit, SGT Brandon L. Wallace, and Staff SGT Robert J. Basham.

Each made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms and each deserves a special place in America's history and America's heart. I join with their friends, family, and comrades who were in attendance this weekend in honoring their memories.

A TRIBUTE TO DENNIS HAWTHORNE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dennis Hawthorne, owner of Dennis Shipping, a renowned shipping company located in Brooklyn, NY.

Hawthorne is a native of Jamaica, NY and migrated to Brooklyn, NY in 1985 where he founded Dennis Photography and Shipping. In addition, Hawthorne founded the Caribbean American Shippers Association which is now

the largest Caribbean American shipping company in Brooklyn.

Hawthorne's success has led him to pursue various humanitarian efforts in Brooklyn and its East Flatbush community. Hawthorne once stated "give a community of good people, good services, respect and opportunity, and the potential for growth is inevitable." Hawthorne has committed to service and supports various outreach programs; he has donated time and money to community organizations including the East Flatbush Friends Education, Caribbean American Outreach Association, Children Outreach of Jamaica, Kings Highway Development Project, local churches, senior civic organizations, and schools.

It is important that we recognize Hawthorne, not only for his success through his Brooklyn-based business, but also for his commitment to serving the citizens of Brooklyn.

INTRODUCTION OF VETERANS AND SURVIVORS DENTAL INSURANCE ACT OF 2008

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Veterans and Survivors Dental Insurance Act of 2008. This legislation would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to offer a voluntary dental insurance plan for certain veterans, their survivors and dependents.

Under current law, veterans with service-connected dental conditions, a total service-connected disability, and former Prisoners of War are eligible for lifetime, comprehensive dental care from VA. Newly discharged veterans are eligible for a one-time, comprehensive dental evaluation and restorative services. Additionally, veterans with dental problems negatively impacting a medical condition, disabled veterans receiving vocational rehabilitation training, and certain homeless veterans are eligible for limited dental care. VA also provides inpatient emergency dental treatment at its medical facilities.

In 1997, Congress first authorized the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP). As Chairman of the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee during the 105th and 106th Congresses, I helped champion the TRDP program. It is a voluntary, all-enrollee-paid dental program that currently covers over 800,000 retired members of the uniformed services, including National Guard and Reserve personnel, and their families. This program offers military retirees an affordable comprehensive dental benefit program that covers diagnostic and preventive services, basic restorative services, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery, and dental emergencies.

Madam Speaker, this legislation would simply provide eligible veterans, survivors, and

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

dependents the option of enrolling in a high-quality and affordable dental care plan similar to what is available for military retirees under TRDP. I assure my colleagues that nothing in this Act would diminish the responsibility of the Secretary to provide dental care under current law. Eligibility for VA dental benefits according to law would not change.

Important to overall health and quality of life is maintaining good dental health. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Veterans and Survivors Dental Insurance Act of 2008.

HONORING RAQUEL GONZALEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Raquel Gonzalez, for her commitment to the small business community in Laredo, Texas, and her tenure as the longest-serving member of the board of trustees at the Laredo Community College.

Raquel spent her early years learning the value of hard work at her father's business, J.B. Gonzalez Garage. Upon graduation from high school, she became the full-time manager of her father's business, which she turned over to her brothers so she could concentrate on other ventures. Raquel invested in real estate, forming the Southgate Subdivision to develop affordable housing in South Laredo, and also invested in oil and gas wells in South Texas. In 1980, Raquel began serving as a trustee on the Trustee Board of the Laredo Community College, and has honorably worked to promote the value of education in empowering the lives of young people in Laredo, Texas. Her dedication and hard work helped the Laredo Community College become one of the most acclaimed community colleges in the nation.

Ms. Gonzalez has also received many accolades from the business community in Laredo for her successful entrepreneurship and civic involvement. She was the first female director of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce in 1983, served as the Director of the Falcon National Bank, and was recognized by the Republican National Hispanic Assembly for exceptional service to the community. She also received the Congressional Certificate of Merit in 1992, and was named the Small Business Person of the Year and inducted into the Laredo Women's Hall of Fame in 1995. Ms. Gonzalez remains an active member of the Financial Women International, Rotary Under Seven Flags, the Texas Land Title Association, and the Women's City Club.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Ms. Raquel Gonzalez to the small business community in Laredo, Texas, and her contributions to higher education as a member of the Board of Trustees at Laredo Community College.

TRIBUTE TO RENDY AND RENEE MAO

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts and dedication of Rendy and Renee Mao. Throughout the past months, Rendy and his sister Renee have worked tirelessly to raise money to feed victims of the devastating earthquake which hit Sichuan Province, China on May 12, 2008.

The Maos' idea of fundraising for earthquake relief began from within the classroom. One of the student's teachers suggested looking further into current events occurring across the globe. Teachers across America plant important seeds in the minds of children, and Rendy's German teacher at Mercersburg Academy is no exception. Through educational discussions about the importance of global awareness and global connections, a teacher sparked the mind of not only Rendy Mao, but also Renee Mao. Together, these students realized the immensity of the devastation which ravaged rural China and felt the need to act. Their decision to act led them to set a goal of raising five thousand dollars by June 30, 2008 for the victims of the Sichuan earthquake. If this goal is reached, over five thousand earthquake victims will be fed for a day. This laudable decision has set an example for all of us.

In order to make their dream of helping others a reality, Rendy and Renee began to increase awareness in their community through several steps. First, they focused on alerting the public to the events which had crumbled part of a nation, through word of mouth and flyers. The flyers provided a variety of information on the earthquake as well as outlined their planned actions for the funding of their effort. As their message spread, the number of volunteers throughout the community increased, which multiplied the effectiveness of their efforts. The goal of this drive is not only to raise money to support the needs of the victims, but also to assure the victims that their plight has not gone unnoticed and will not be ignored. The teens have collected hundreds of signatures to demonstrate to the victims that residents of Franklin County, Pennsylvania support them by sending not only financial aid but also their thoughts and prayers.

These students have truly practiced what they have been taught and have set an example for communities throughout this nation and the world. As Rendy and Renee reflect upon their work and their dedication to helping others, they can certainly be proud of their service to the community of the Sichuan Province. These two students are wonderful representatives of Pennsylvania. They have exhibited compassion and determination to help others who are less fortunate than themselves. The Maos, along with the community of Franklin County, all deserve our thanks and congratulations on their hard work toward giving an extraordinary \$5,000 contribution to the victims of the Sichuan Province earthquake. I would like to wish Rendy and Renee the best in their future endeavors as they continue to serve Franklin County and the world. I thank them for their far-reaching commitment and service

as they continue to add greatness to their community.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A SENSE OF THE HOUSE RESOLUTION CONCERNING SPECULATION IN CRUDE OIL MARKETS

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing a resolution calling for the U.S. Government to lead a global diplomatic initiative to limit the incentives for speculation in crude oil futures through the adoption of international standards for margin requirements on speculative trading in oil futures. By establishing this policy we can moderate surging oil prices and bring relief to consumers around the world.

Margin payments are paid to an exchange when purchasing a futures contract. Akin to an escrow deposit in a real estate transaction, margin requirements are set by exchanges and not government regulation. On the New York Mercantile Exchange, the purchase of a standard oil futures contract for 1,000 barrels carries a margin requirement of just over \$10,000, a small percentage of the value of a contract with a settlement price this week of \$135,000 for oil priced at \$135 per barrel.

This relatively small amount of capital required to purchase a contract and reap potentially sizeable gains from the daily movements in the price of crude oil is an attractive invitation to speculative investors. Higher margin requirements would reduce this incentive by limiting such opportunities for gain. By removing speculative money from the crude oil market, we can begin to bring down oil prices and relieve the pain our constituents feel at the gas pump.

Currently, there is a heated debate of whether a growth in speculative trading is showing up as part of a "speculative premium" built into the price of crude oil. Because so much trading in energy futures takes place in unregulated exchanges, there is a shortage of good information, and we lack the empirical evidence necessary to make a firm conclusion.

In the absence of such firm data, some have argued that tight supplies and high demand are the only explanation for high prices. On the other hand, many have suggested that heightened speculation has resulted in adding anywhere from \$10 to \$35 to the price of each barrel of oil. The market indications cited by supporters of the market speculation theory are impressive and include:

April 2008 oil stocks held by the U.S. and its fellow members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development totaled 2.562 million barrels, above recent averages and sufficient for 53.4 days of consumption.

The president of OPEC, Chakib Khelil of Algeria, in declining to commit the organization's members to a production increase, noted that supply was exceeding demand by one-half million barrels per day.

OPEC has also lowered its forecast of average daily global consumption of oil by 60,000 barrels, the third time this year that the oil cartel has reduced its estimate. This view coincides with that of the International Energy