

IN HONOR OF CELEBRATING 80TH BIRTHDAY OF GERALD (JERRY) KOPEL AND 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF JERRY AND DOLORES KOPEL

### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a dual celebration for two distinguished members of the First Congressional District. This week the Kopel family of Denver celebrates the 80th Birthday of Gerald (Jerry) Kopel and the 56th Anniversary of the marriage between Jerry and Dolores Kopel.

Jerry and Dolores have led an interesting and engaged life together, balancing careers in journalism, law, politics, and policy. They were the original "power couple" long before dual careers were more outwardly prevalent and socially acceptable. What is truly admirable is the Kopels managed to pursue these accomplishments while raising a family and contributing to the broader well-being of our community.

Dolores and Jerry met at the University of Colorado when Jerry was city editor of the Silver and Gold newspaper and Dolores was a reporter. Jerry graduated from the University and Dolores transferred to the University of Denver College of Law. They married at the end of her first year of law school, while Jerry was working for the Rocky Mountain News.

Dolores graduated from law school cum laude in June 1954. Jerry enrolled in law school in January 1955 but continued for a while to pull night shifts at the Rocky Mountain News as a copy editor. In 1958, Jerry graduated cum laude from the University of Denver. The Kopels had the unique experience of practicing law together until 1979, when Dolores was appointed U.S. Trustee for the District of Colorado and Kansas.

As part of his life-long dedication to giving back to the community and preparing the next generation for careers in law, Jerry directed a review course for law students preparing for the Colorado bar exam from 1958 through 1985.

In 1964, Jerry combined his background in journalism and his law degree to become an influential member of the Democratic Party. He served as State representative for a total of 22 years, spanning 2 decades.

Jerry was known as the consummate legislator, reading every bill and every amendment that came before the House chamber. He successfully carried 110 bills as chief sponsor, including the Nation's first sunset law.

Jerry's 22 years in the State Legislature and his extensive involvement in community issues and Colorado politics are encapsulated in "The Gerald Kopel Papers", which are housed in the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection. The papers are perhaps the most extensive archive of the public career of any American state legislator from the 20th century.

After retiring from the Legislature in 1992, Jerry continued to produce a printed newsletter, titled "Jerry Kopel's Report" until 1998. However, for many years, Jerry prepared weekly reports for House Democrats and suggested amendments to bills being debated on the House floor.

Since retirement, Jerry has returned to journalism. He writes a weekly column for the Col-

orado Statesman and other newspapers and has joined the technological age with an extensive Web site chronicling his columns and exhibiting his extensive knowledge of Colorado politics, law, and history.

Over the years, Jerry has won numerous awards from the Colorado Press Association, most recently in 2006 in the Public Service writing category. All of his 600-some columns were edited by his wife, Dolores. Both Jerry and Dolores have received recognition from the Denver Bar Association for 50 years of practice. Their son, David, is an attorney and author who is a columnist for the Rocky Mountain News.

Jerry is also an accomplished cocktail pianist, and has entertained at many local functions. He has issued several fine CDs, which are in my personal collection.

I have personally known Jerry and Dolores for many years, eagerly accepting Jerry's sage advice on politics and I am an ardent reader of his weekly columns. Jerry and Dolores have had a distinctive lifetime at the forefront of Colorado politics, policy, and history and their commitment to public service and the betterment of the their fellow Coloradans serves as a sterling example for younger generations and those entering public policy careers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Kopel and his wife Dolores a wonderful 56th Anniversary and Jerry a healthy and prosperous 80th birthday and pay tribute to their longstanding service and dedication to the City of Denver and the State of Colorado.

### TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY H. LICHTER

### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life of an outstanding individual, Sidney H. Lichter, upon the completion of his term of office as Commander, Department of New Jersey, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., on Saturday, June 21, 2008.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for he has served countless others throughout his lifetime.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Lichter enlisted in the Air Force in 1966. He served two decades in the armed forces where he was able to see much of the world and was awarded many honors. Mr. Lichter was stationed all over the globe including: Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon; Alabama; Taiwan, and Germany. When he retired in 1986 as a Master Sergeant, he had been awarded such honors as the Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Force Commendation Medals, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with four campaign stars, along with both the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Presidential Award.

Mr. Lichter decided in 1991 to continue his service to others, but this time remaining close to home. He brought his commitment and expertise to the volunteer sector. His time with the Jewish War Veterans of the United States has proved to be as rewarding as his time in the Air Force. Over his 17 years of membership, he has served as Post Scholarship

Chairman; Post Commander; Commander, Essex County Council; Department of New Jersey Adjutant; both Junior and Senior Vice Commander, and this past year he has served as Commander of the Department. I am proud to represent a man who has spent his lifetime serving his country and community, a commitment I am sure he will continue for years to come.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing individuals like Sidney H. Lichter.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Sidney's friends, the Department of New Jersey, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., and me in recognizing Sidney H. Lichter.

### APPLAUDING THE MARK THAT AUGUSTA SOUZA KAPPNER LEAVES ON BANK STREET COLLEGE AND EDUCATION

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today because a visionary in the field of education has left her post at a premier New York institution after championing the cause there for over a decade. Augusta Souza Kappner, endearingly nicknamed "Gussie," has stepped down from the helm at Bank Street College of Education—a one-of-its-kind, independent graduate school, set beside its own K8 day school, that offers dynamic programs in professional development and community service. She came to Bank Street 13 years ago with unimpeachable, history-making credentials, having served as the first African-American woman to preside over the City University of New York, and afterwards, as the assistant secretary for vocational and adult education in the Clinton Administration's Department of Education.

Besides the obvious heft, intellect, and insightfulness a woman of her caliber inarguably brought to the position, those around her cite a contagious sense of humor, an aura of accessibility, and a profound loyalty to the institution as her defining assets. During her tenure at the college, Kappner launched a series of innovative programs, ones dealing with teacher preparation, early childhood education, leadership development, and dropout prevention and college preparation for adolescents. She oversaw as the college developed a new center to advocate for high quality literature for all children, led efforts to universalize pre-k for New York students, and built partnerships with hundreds of public schools, creating in one instance a project that trained more than 400 principals and assistant principals in the city. She was committed to the Bank Street mission, motivated by its push to address every and any contemporary challenge in American education, guiding the institution through a strategic planning process to affirm and interpret its ambitious aims and increasing its endowment sevenfold through its capital campaign.

Kappner's unrelenting work ethic can be traced to her modest beginnings, raised a poor kid in South Bronx, looking after her dependent mother. She went on to earn a degree from Barnard College, a master's degree

in social work from Hunter College, and a doctorate in social welfare policy from Columbia University.

She leaves with a trail of notable achievements to her name and legacy, and she is well-poised, prepared, and positioned for her next endeavor.

# FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2008*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of 6304, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Amendments Act of 2008.

This bill gives the intelligence community the tools it needs to keep America safe from terrorists, and at the same time protects the constitutional rights of all Americans. The FISA Amendments Act is a balanced bill that is tough on terrorists while also protecting the rights of Americans and increasing oversight of U.S. intelligence activities. H.R. 6304 allows the intelligence community to conduct foreign electronic surveillance for the purpose of defending against terrorism and national security without the need for individual court orders.

But in situations where these investigations would involve surveillance of American citizens, the Courts will have the oversight to review and approve the surveillance to ensure constitutional rights are upheld. We must remember that the United States has enemies abroad who wish to do us harm.

Under this bill, Americans will have stronger protections of their constitutional freedoms than the current foreign surveillance policy allows, and at the same time, the intelligence needed to protect our country will not be compromised. The legislation protects American civil liberties and upholds constitutional values by clarifying that FISA and Title III of the criminal code are the exclusive means by which the government may conduct surveillance on U.S. soil. This will prevent any President from using executive power to conduct warrantless domestic surveillance.

The legislation also clarifies that to conduct surveillance of a person in the United States, the government must first obtain an individual warrant from the FISA Court based on probable cause. H.R. 6304 ensures compliance measures, but not automatic immunity, for private-sector companies that allegedly participated in anti-terrorism surveillance programs. Federal district courts will be allowed to determine whether substantial evidence supports civil liability protection for companies which assisted in post-9/11 activities.

The bill also ensures liability protections for companies which provide lawful assistance to the government in the future. This is good legislation that reaches the necessary balance between keeping the American people safe and protecting our civil rights.

We will have greater oversight of our nation's surveillance programs, while at the same time encouraging greater compliance with our private sector partners in the ultimate goal of keeping America and her people secure. Please vote in support of H.R. 6304.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAPTAIN EVELYN DECKER

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to pay tribute to one of America's heroes, Captain Evelyn Decker. Captain Decker recently passed away on Friday, April 25, 2008, at the Northport Veterans Medical Center in Northport, New York. Captain Decker was one of the first African American nurses accepted to serve in the armed forces' Army Nurse Corps during the Korean War. She served with distinction for 13 years, in World War II and the Korean War, receiving the following medals and citation: American Campaign Medal; National Defense Medal; Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars; United Nations Service Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Army of Occupation Medal with Japan and Germany clasp; Service Lapel Button WWII; and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

Specifically, Captain Evelyn Decker belonged to the 38th Parallel Medical Society of Korea, and served as a nurse in the 8055 MASH unit. Nurses were on the front lines facing danger day and night, and Captain Decker was no exception, having been stationed on the front lines for months longer than normal tours of duty called for. During this time, she helped to save many lives and provided incalculable comfort to countless American soldiers. In addition, she did this as an African American woman serving in a segregated military. I know from my Korean War service that nurses valiantly went into harm's way in order to provide medical care for wounded American soldiers.

Aware that her war duty had compromised her health, making it impossible for her to serve to the standards she wished, Captain Decker left the army. It was many years before she would receive a 100 percent service-connected disability rating for lung disease caused by her tour of duty in Korea. Furthermore, it would take a full 50 years after her leaving the service before Captain Decker, at the age of 92, would finally be presented with her captain's bars and the several medals to which she was entitled.

During all this time, Captain Decker continued to participate in military-related activities, up to and including the current events surrounding the commemoration of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. Though frail and wheelchair-bound in recent years, Captain Decker felt it was important to stay involved and ensure that young people understood the contributions and sacrifices made by so many of all races and genders for our country.

CALALLEN HIGH SCHOOL  
WILDCATS BASEBALL TEAM

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Calallen High School Wild-

cats for winning the 2008 Texas State 4A Baseball Championship.

The Wildcats' title marked their third of this decade. Calallen culminated their impressive run with a win over the Waxahachie Indians 11-1, a margin so large that the game ended in the fifth inning due to a ten run mercy rule. Catcher Patrick Frasier was named MVP, after going two for three with four RBI and two runs.

This win, however, represents the efforts of the entire team, which was made up of Matt Garza, Derek Hagy, Aaron Alaniz, Logan Verrett, Jeramie Marek, Bryden McClure, Brett Bell, Jake Huddleston, Kris Guerrero, Dustin Vaughan, Hunter Whetsel, Skyler Hoelscher, Patrick Frasier, Dustin Marrou, Travis Neslony, Will Reynolds, Tyler Denman, Roland Resendez, Jordan John, Dillon Denman, Chad Vanaman, Parker Dorsey, Collin Simpson, Adam Hoelscher, Richard Montemayor, Nick Ginn, Rick Salazar, and Robert Zastryzny, as well as Head Coach Steve Chapman and Assistant Coaches Joe Luis Lopez and Rudy Salinas.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Coach Chapman and the team, as well as the parents, teachers, and student boosters who worked so hard to propel their team to a historic season.

I especially want to congratulate the seniors on their graduation and best wishes on their future plans.

Playing for a high school team is always a rewarding experience—one that provides enduring lessons in teamwork and responsibility. These student athletes will carry the lessons they learned, both on the diamond and in the classroom, for the rest of their lives.

H.R. 3403, THE NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES 911 IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3403, the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008.

This legislation ensures that consumers using Voice over Internet Protocol technology, or VoIP, can make full use of the 911 system in two important ways. First, the legislation extends the same liability protections afforded to wireline and wireless carriers, public safety, and end users to VoIP service. This parity in liability protections will encourage service providers, public safety, and end users to continue to rely on the 911 emergency communications system, regardless of the technology used to make a 911 call. Second, the legislation ensures that VoIP providers can interconnect with legacy telephone networks so they can deliver calls and information to 911 call centers.

Representative GORDON, the author of H.R. 3403, Representative MARKEY, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, Representative BARTON, Ranking Member of the Committee, Representatives UPTON and STEARNS, the former and current Ranking Members of the Subcommittee, and I worked very closely with all stakeholders on this legislation, and it has widespread support among the public safety community, industry, and others.