

TRIBUTE TO TOM COMFORT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Tom Comfort, principal of Emerson Elementary School in Indianola, Iowa, on the occasion of his retirement. I also want to express my appreciation for Tom's dedication and commitment to the youth of Iowa.

For the past 35 years Mr. Comfort has contributed his time and talents to improving lives through education and mentoring. Tom began as a student teacher in the school district in 1972. He later taught second grade at Emerson for over 20 years and worked 5 years in administration before becoming principal. Mr. Comfort is well-known for his natural ability to connect with young students, parents, and fellow educators. His guidance, sense of humor, and many unique abilities including his storytelling, will certainly be missed by all at Emerson Elementary, as is evidenced by art projects organized by teachers and students at every grade level in his honor.

Mr. Comfort has made a lasting impact on the many students and teachers he has worked with over his career. I consider it an honor to represent Tom in the United States Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in wishing him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

ESTABLISHING A CONGRESS 2012 COMMISSION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will continue my efforts of previous Congresses to work toward better representation for our constituents. My legislation will form a commission to examine how we, the people, may be best served by our representational democracy. This commission would analyze the current size of the membership of the House of Representatives and examine alternatives to the current method of electing Representatives.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on Rules Legislative and Budget Subcommittee, I find it absolutely necessary to continually update our mechanisms for representation and governance to best serve those constituents who have trusted us with representing them.

The legislation I offer today will counter the unfortunate truth that, ironically, our land of the free is one of the most under-representative democracies in the world. When considering elected federal representation per capita, many other countries throughout the world have parliaments which can more closely serve their constituents. Smaller ratios of elected officials to constituents allow for better engagement to more effectively address the needs of their districts. As a country that holds itself up as the standard bearer for the democratic process, we must be critical of our own standards to guarantee that we continue to give all citizens an equal and meaningful voice in our government.

We have encountered an electoral crisis in recent years with low voter turnout and diminishing faith in the effectiveness of our electoral process. However, the energy of this current election cycle has exponentially increased voter registration. We owe it to our constituents to ensure that this increase in civic engagement is met with the most effective mechanism of representation possible. The Commission proposed in the legislation I introduce today will meet that need by determining the best way to ensure maximum participation in this great democracy by every American citizen.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and look forward to its expedient passage.

HONORING DERRICK GREGG

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 15-year-old Derrick Gregg from Highland, Illinois. For his Eagle Scout badge project, Derrick chose to raise funds for building a helipad in Highland.

The \$88,000 helipad that Derrick has raised the money to build is fully heated. Additionally, it also has radio controlled lighting. As the nearest trauma center to Highland is about 40 miles away, this landing pad will be used when critical patients need to be transported by helicopter.

I congratulate Derrick for his efforts which will serve his community well. I wish him the best as he finishes this project and completes his Eagle Scout requirements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 25, 2008, I was not present for recorded votes due to a funeral in Florida that I attended. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: rollcall No. 449—"no"; rollcall No. 450—"no"; rollcall No. 451—"no"; rollcall No. 452—"no"; rollcall No. 453—"no"; rollcall No. 454—"aye"; rollcall No. 455—"no"; rollcall No. 456—"aye"; rollcall No. 457—"no"; rollcall No. 458—"no"; rollcall No. 459—"no"; rollcall No. 460—"aye"; rollcall No. 461—"aye."

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN RANDOLPH COUNTY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as

well as elected officials and community leaders in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor the Board of Commissioners and County Council, as well as these outstanding individuals in Randolph County:

Rick Brown, Director, Emergency Management Agency

Jay Harris, Sheriff

Steven Croyle, Mayor, City of Winchester

Michael Burke, Chief of Police, City of Winchester

These areas suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

Madam Speaker, I commend these fine men and women for their tremendous dedication to the Hoosier families, businesses, farmers and communities that they serve. As Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the people of Randolph County will be well served by these officials.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PREPAREDNESS, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION PROGRAM ACT OF 2008, THE DHS PREP ACT OF 2008

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, we live in a world where security threats have become more complex. For that reason, nurturing a field of educated and knowledgeable experts—trained and prepared to meet the security challenges before us—should be a priority of the United States Government. To accomplish this goal, opportunities within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) should be made available for students to participate in programs that allow them to help develop the solutions to the security challenges that our Nation confronts. It is equally important that participating students come from diverse backgrounds and are truly representative of all the communities across our homeland.

My legislation, the Department of Homeland Security Preparedness, Research, and Education Program Act of 2008, or the DHS PREP Act of 2008, would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out a program for fellowships and research to enhance domestic preparedness and the collective response to acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies.

When natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast region, infrastructure and the most basic services too many take for granted were destroyed. The Department of Homeland Security is overseeing efforts to rebuild public infrastructure in the Gulf Coast region that was devastated by natural disasters. That is why, during the first year of the fellowship, participants will undertake research specifically focused on rebuilding and recovery of the Gulf Coast.

It is the aim of this legislation to allow students receiving fellowships from this program to work closely with the National Center for Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure, and Emergency Management to strengthen our Nation's overall response to natural disasters. The research conducted by the fellowship participants will also reinforce the efforts of the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding at DHS. Additionally, the research conducted by the fellows will be shared with Congress.

This important legislation will allow us to train experts and professionals to develop substantive policy solutions that will seek to solve the homeland security and disaster response challenges that confront our Nation. I ask my colleagues to support the Department of Homeland Security Preparedness, Research, and Education Program Act of 2008, or the DHS PREP Act of 2008.

HONORING GOD AND COUNTRY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, for over 225 years the United States has been a beacon of hope and freedom throughout the world. Millions of people from every corner of the world have left their homelands to come to America and start a new life, one based on the rights and liberties enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

That freedom comes at a price, however. Whether it is the original fight for independence during the American Revolution, the drive to defeat communism during the cold war, or the current battle against global Islamic extremists, soldiers throughout our history have fought and given their lives to keep us safe here at home. I salute their sacrifice and dedication to their fellow man, and thank those veterans here today for your great military service.

While our Nation has often had to defend itself from enemies, both foreign and domestic, it has been our shared commitment to faith and belief in a higher power that has given us the strength to soldier on during tough and trying times. America has seen both the good and the bad throughout our Nation's history, but in the end I firmly believe that each of us will heed the call to the better angels of our nature when forced to make decisions that affect our fellow man.

Together we can continue the great success of the United States. Throughout our history, while our ancestors came from all over the globe, the great melting pot that is America meant that we have shared a common language and a common faith. Our Nation is firmly rooted in Christian principles that have made us strong and envied by the rest of the world. Whenever a crisis happens in a far-away land across the seas, it is men and women like you who pull together in the spirit of Christian charity and a desire to help your fellow man. It is our military that brings relief supplies to nations like Burma or Indonesia after their floods, and the United States Armed Forces that meets the challenge of liberating

Europe from the Axis superpowers. The can-do spirit of our Nation means we never back away from a challenge, and that by working together we can accomplish anything we set our minds to.

America is the greatest nation in the world. We have a proud history of service, faith and community ties that bind us to the common belief in the goodness of mankind. By working together we can continue that history and ensure that future generations of Americans will share the ideals and values that brought us here today. Thank you and God bless the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO CLEMMYEE JACKSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Clemmye Jackson, the Ames, Iowa Community School District's accelerated learning program director, after 30 years of service to the Ames community.

For the past 30 years Clemmye has contributed her time and talents to improving youths' lives through education and mentoring. She is a native of Ocala, Florida and moved with her husband George, to Rochester, Michigan when he was hired by Oakwood University in the 1970's. She started working as a substitute teacher and found her niche in working with at-risk children, where she learned to teach using structured discipline, communication in a respectful manner, and a sense of humor. When George took a job at Iowa State University in 1977, she became a counselor at Ames High School. She later became the director of the accelerated learning program for K-12 education in the Ames School District.

Under her guidance, the Ames School district has applied for, and successfully received annual grants of over \$2 million for at-risk accelerated learning programs including an intervention prevention department, Title I, a drug-free program, a program for homeless students, three separate preschool programs, and an English language learner program. Because of Clemmye's vision and hard work, the successful at-risk programs now utilize over 49 teachers and noncertified employees to assist students.

Clemmye has made a lasting impact on students throughout her career, and her leadership will be missed. However, she leaves the future program director the inspiration to help youth dream big, work hard, and achieve great things.

I consider it an honor to represent Clemmye Jackson in the United States Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in wishing her and her husband George, a long, happy and healthy retirement.

CONNECTICUT CLEAN ENERGY FUND

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. In December 2007, the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCF)

Board announced a \$1.18 million grant to the Lee Company's Westbrook production facility for the development of a solar photovoltaic system. On Friday, June 27, 2008 the Lee Company will celebrate the returns on these investments: Connecticut's largest solar photovoltaic system at a manufacturing facility. I rise today to recognize this monumental achievement and commend the Lee Company and the CCEF's leadership with facilitating a greener Connecticut for current and future generations.

In 1948, the Lee Company was founded by Leighton Lee II in eastern Connecticut. Over the past six decades, the Lee Company has transformed the original Connecticut regional offices into a national presence. Today, the company remains one of the foremost developers and manufacturers of fluid control components for aerospace systems.

The CCEF was established by Connecticut's General Assembly in 2000. Since inception, the CCEF, administered by Connecticut Innovations, has invested millions of dollars in renewable energy projects throughout Connecticut, focusing on solar, biomass, wind, hydro, and wave power. In my district alone, the Fund has provided nearly \$14 million in incentive grants for 207 alternative energy projects. Current operating renewable energy projects are estimated to generate 5 million kWh and eliminate over 4.1 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions over the course of each year.

As important as the state's help was in this project, it was the vision and determination of the Lee Company that really made the project's exciting transformation of its energy system possible. The CCEF's incentive grant to the Lee Company, which covered half the cost of the 308-kilowatt photovoltaic system at the Westbrook production facility, is one of the largest in the state of Connecticut. Once operating, the photovoltaic system will provide 19 percent of the energy used at the facility. When the system is not in use, energy production credits will be deducted from the company's electric bill.

In addition to reducing dependence on fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions, these investments will generate new economic growth and opportunity. The Lee Company employs more than 100 individuals at the Westbrook production facility and more than 800 people throughout the state. These investments will allow for the continued growth of the company and expanded employment opportunities throughout Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, our Nation is at a critical turning point. For the strength of our economy and health of our environment, investments in clean, renewable energy are needed now more than ever. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing these renewable energy achievements and supporting similar initiatives in their districts.

CELEBRATION OF GOVERNOR BILL SHEFFIELD'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a great American and outstanding Alaskan on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Born on June 26,