

INTRODUCING THE STUDENT VOTER OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE REGISTRATION (STUDENT VOTER) ACT OF 2008

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Student Voter Opportunity To Encourage Registration Act of 2008, along with my colleague Representative STEVEN LATOURETTE. The foundation of America's democracy lies in broad participation and civic engagement. From the Civil Rights Amendments, to women's suffrage, to the abolition of the poll tax and finally the ratification of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment, this nation has embarked on a difficult but steady march toward becoming a more inclusive nation.

I believe that the Student VOTER Act is a continuation of that progress, because it provides a pathway to participation for America's youth.

The need for this bipartisan bill is clear. Despite a small rise in youth voting in the 2004 presidential election, young voters are far less likely to vote than older voters. In the 2004 presidential election, only 47 percent of 18–24 year old citizens voted, compared to 66 percent of citizens 25 and older. This marked the eighth straight presidential contest in which less than half of young Americans voted.

While there are a number of factors that contribute to this trend, one is clearly the fact many college students are first-time voters and often are unfamiliar with how to register. In some states, including my own state of Illinois, first-time voters must register in person in order to cast an absentee ballot. For students who attend college outside of their home state or who do not have access to transportation, those requirements present a tremendous burden that is costly and difficult to overcome.

The Student VOTER Act offers a straightforward solution: it requires colleges and universities that receive federal funds to register students. The Student VOTER Act does this by amending the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to designate colleges and universities that receive federal funds as voter registration agencies.

This legislation will not present a substantial burden to our Nation's universities. In fact, many are already providing this service for students. For example, even before orientation begins, Brown University in Rhode Island provides its students with voter registration materials not only for Rhode Island, but also for each student's home state.

Unfortunately, too many colleges and universities have failed to follow Brown's lead. I am introducing this legislation today to spur more universities to make registration widely available to America's youngest voters.

I would also like to thank my friend Matthew Segal, the Executive Director of the Student Association for Voter Empowerment. This bill would not exist today were it not for his dedication to enhancing voter access for America's youth.

I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE DECATUR CENTRAL BASEBALL TEAM, 2008 INDIANA STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Decatur Central High School baseball team. The Hawks were crowned Division 4A Indiana State Baseball Champions on June 14, 2008 at Indianapolis's Victory Field. Decatur Central captured the state title with a 7–3 victory over Fort Wayne's Homestead High School.

The boys worked tirelessly throughout the season and compiled an overall record of 29–7. This is the first state championship for a Decatur Central team.

This year's team was led by seniors Harmon Cooper, Zack Deakin, Anthony Eldridge, Adam Kirk, Shawn Mattingly, Jeff Pace, and Isaac Pruitt. Other members of the team include juniors Jake Gharst, Aaron Gregory, Andrew Kinnaird, Nate Kress, Pat Sharpe, Kenny Rackley, Nick Stoia, Taylor Tijerina and sophomores Eric Howell, Brent Ledford, Shane Muse, Ronnie Shelton, Austin Sprinkle and Zach Weldon. Top performers this year included Nick Stoia, who set a school record for runs batted in and Andrew Kinnaird, who set a school record for doubles.

This team's achievements would not have been possible without the support of their coaches and school officials. Head Coach Phil Webster, in his 23rd season of coaching at Decatur Central, and his staff served as excellent teachers and mentors to the young men they were charged with coaching. Additionally, all the Decatur Central fans, and in particular the always energetic student body, should be recognized for their enthusiasm and pride in their team.

The 2008 Decatur Central baseball team has secured a place in the storied history of Indiana high school sports. I offer my congratulations to the members of the team, the coaching staff, the school, and the greater Indianapolis community on their accomplishments throughout the season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I was on a leave of absence for a family medical situation on July 29, 2008, and I missed several rollcall votes. At this time, I wish to note that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 534, "yea" on rollcall No. 535, and "yea" on rollcall No. 536.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I

would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 534 through 536. I was absent on Tuesday, 29 July due to personal reasons.

If I were present I would have voted, "aye" on rollcall vote 534, "aye" on rollcall vote 535, and "aye" on rollcall vote 536.

THE DEFINITION OF HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND HONOR: CHAIRMAN CHARLES B. RANGEL AND PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise in unequivocal, unapologetic, and unwavering support of one of the finest individuals who set the standard for statesmanship, excellence and principle in the U.S. House of Representatives, none other than the gentleman from the 15th Congressional District of New York, one of the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Congressman CHARLES B. RANGEL. Congressman RANGEL, whom I am proud to count as not only one of my Congressional mentors, but also as a personal friend, has to take time from his schedule of, among other things, ensuring that all children have access to health care, ensuring that cigarettes are regulated, and that Congress figures out a way to pay for the education of the women and men who are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, to defend himself against a charge levied in a newspaper that questions his very integrity, dignity and honor.

I was unavoidably detained, and I did not vote on this motion. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" in favor of the motion to table.

It is without a single scintilla of doubt these charges against the Chairman, charges registered by Chairman RANGEL himself with the House Ethics Committee, will arrive at one conclusion—the conclusion of innocence. Chairman RANGEL's record of almost four decades of service, of dedication, of devotion not only to his constituents, but of the integrity of the institution of Congress, has earned him the right to a fast and fair examination and I would add exoneration of these charges. Chairman RANGEL, along with my fellow Michigan colleague JOHN CONYERS, JR., is the remaining founders of the Congressional Black Caucus who serve with us today. For the remainder of the 110th Congress, Chairman RANGEL will have my personal support and assistance as he wages what will be a victorious fight against these charges.

What describes Chairman RANGEL? Here are a few: outstanding attorney. One of the finest politicians in the history of New York. Civil rights worker. Founder of the most influential political organization in the history of Congress. The first African American Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. Husband. Father. Colleague. And finally, friend.

As I continue to pray for Chairman RANGEL's continued good health, prosperity and fortune, I look forward to a fair and expeditious consideration of these charges by the House Ethics Committee. Chairman RANGEL's importance to this body, as the leader of the Ways and

Means Committee, is far, far too valuable to both Congress and the nation to waste toward dilatory efforts to ruin his good name and bring him down. I know that, based upon the merit of the case, that the Chairman will be exonerated, the Chairman's innocence will prevail, and he will continue to handle the people's business in the manner that has brought honor, dignity and respect to the U.S. House of Representatives.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following earmark request:

1. Project—Security Forces Operations Facility.

Requesting Member: MICHAEL TURNER.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Air Force, Mil Con.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Address of Requesting Entity: Dayton, OH.

Description of Request: \$14,000,000 is appropriated for a Security Forces Operations Facility in fiscal year 2009. The entity to receive funding for this project is Wright-Patterson Air Force Base located at Dayton, OH. The funding would be used to house the operations of the 88th Air Base Wing Security Forces Squadron (88 SFS), which provides security and police services for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

TRIBUTE TO BURT RUTAN

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elbert Leander "Burt" Rutan, a renowned aerospace engineer, who celebrated his 65th birthday on June 17, 2008.

Burt was born in Portland, Oregon, on June 17, 1943, though he was raised in Dinuba, California. As a young boy, Burt produced award-winning model airplane designs; a prodigy in the making. When Burt was sixteen, he obtained his pilot's license and went on to receive his aeronautical engineering degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Soon after, the United States Air Force hired Burt as a civilian flight test engineer at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Throughout the years, Burt has established himself as a leader in innovative aircraft design. With the start of his own private company, Rutan Aircraft Factory, based in Mojave, California, Burt began to market sleek, light, and efficient aircraft such as the VariEze, Quickie, and the Long-EZ; it was during this time that the concept for the Voyager was generated. Burt's passion for aeronautical engineering soon found him leading Scaled Composites, the world's most productive aerospace prototype development company. Some of the most innovative and successful aircraft

developed by Scaled Composites have been the Triumph jet for Beechcraft, the CM-44 UAV for California Microwave, the Scarab Model 324 drone for Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical, and the McDonnell Douglas DC-X single stage rocket structure. His designs utilized lightweight composite materials, rendering him with copious amounts of success and praise for his entrepreneurial skills and insightful knowledge on the subject to which he has dedicated his life.

One of Burt's most famous designs, the Voyager aircraft, piloted by Burt's brother, Dick Rutan, set a record-breaking flight around the world without stopping to refuel in 1981. Model 218 Proteus, a tandem-wing high-endurance aircraft designed by Burt, holds several altitude records. SpaceShipOne gained Burt significant recognition as it was the first privately-built, funded, and flown aircraft to enter space in June of 2004. This feat was acknowledged with the Ansari X Prize, while his team was honored with the 2004 Collier Trophy later that year, awarded to them by the National Aeronautic Association.

Today, SpaceShipOne, Burt and his team's spacecraft that launched men successfully into space, is displayed in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's "Milestones of Flight" gallery in Washington D.C. Other prestigious awards given in recognition of Burt's aerospace expertise include the Chrysler Award for Innovation in Design, the British Gold Medal for Aeronautics, "Engineer of the Year" by Design News, the Presidential Citizens Medal presented by President Ronald Reagan, and the Lindbergh Award.

As Burt has soared through his creative and competitive career, he has been commended for his innovative efforts. His maverick aerospace expertise continues to be highly sought after. Today, Burt and his company, Scaled Composites, are currently engineering SpaceShipTwo for Virgin Galactic with the prospect of offering suborbital trips into space by 2009. Burt has never given up on his dreams and he continues "looking up, way up."

REMARKS ON THE OLYMPIC JOURNEY OF LEONEL MANZANO

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, a son of Burnett County, Texas is going to the Olympics. I rise today to congratulate Leonel Manzano on his outstanding achievement in making the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Team.

It seems Leonel was born to be an Olympian. His work ethic is legendary, his character is impeccable, and he can just flat out run. His dedication to his sport has earned him a spot to compete on the biggest stage in athletics and prove to everyone that a young man from a small corner of Texas can be the best in the world. It will be a joy to watch him represent my district, the State of Texas, and our entire country.

As Leonel travels to Beijing, he will go with the hope and prayers of the entire Texas Hill Country with him. His neighbors, family, coaches, and even competitors have all

helped forge him into the man he has become and we will all be watching in rapt attention when he steps into the blocks.

If I could remind Leonel of just two virtues that bring success, it would be to always fulfill your God given talents and never forget to be gracious under pressure. If he can manage these two feats, as he has done so well in the past, he will return home an Olympic hero.

It is my honor to represent Leonel, as well as his parents, Jesus and Maria Manzano, here in Washington. I share their pride in all that Leonel has accomplished. As he heads to Beijing, I wish him good luck and safe travels.

A TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL MINORITY EDUCATORS, INC. 33RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE—SEPTEMBER 17-21, 2008

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor today to rise and recognize the National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc., also known as NAMME, for their years of support for health professionals from traditionally underrepresented and disadvantaged populations.

Established in 1975, NAMME aims to increase the presence of minority health care providers. To achieve this goal, the founding members of NAMME have worked tirelessly over the years to provide motivated students with access to education, training, and practice in the health care profession.

Since its inception, NAMME has strived to prepare students for success in health related fields including dentistry, optometry, public health, and veterinary medicine. The organization holds as its core values its ability to develop and sustain productive relationships and to produce action oriented programming for stakeholders. NAMME has established an extraordinary reputation of providing exceptional professional development opportunities for its members. NAMME is hopeful that these significant opportunities will ultimately translate to the reduction in health disparities among underserved populations. Madam Speaker, I commend NAMME for its vision and foresight in identifying this service which is so greatly needed in disadvantaged communities.

Today, with alumni across the country, NAMME stands as one of the leading organizations for providing the type of training and informational resources that will greatly benefit small communities. Programs are available that nurture and support individuals through all stages in their pursuit of a career in health care.

NAMME will hold its 33rd Annual Conference in Arlington, Virginia on September 17-21, 2008 where House Majority Whip, The Honorable JAMES E. CLYBURN will serve as the keynote presenter.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, I hope that you will join me today in honoring NAMME and the substantial contributions this organization has made to provide access to health care education for underrepresented and disadvantaged communities.