

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS MORE
PREPARATORY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Thomas More Preparatory—Marian and their centennial celebration. Located in my hometown of Hays, Kansas, Thomas More Prep recently concluded a 3 day festival commemorating 100 years of educational service. I stand before you in celebration of this remarkable milestone.

TMP, as it is known in Northwest Kansas, has served as a pillar of faith-based learning for generations. Founded by Capuchin Priests in 1908 as Hays Catholic College, the school featured a combination high school and junior college curriculum and would become a vibrant military academy with an active Junior ROTC program. The school would evolve into St. Joseph's Military Academy.

St. Joseph's Military academy was not alone in forming the foundation of what would become TMP-M. Girl's Catholic High School, the female counterpart to the Academy, was founded in 1918. As was the case with St. Joseph's, the school moved several times before it settled and was renamed Marian High School.

The name Thomas More Prep was coined in 1970. In 1981, Marian High School and Thomas More Preparatory merged to form the school that is being recognized today. Madam Speaker, I emphasize the history of this fine institution in an effort to illustrate the dedication and sacrifice exhibited by those charged with its continuation. To administrate and fund a parochial school on the plains of Kansas for one hundred years is no small feat. Admiration is due to Fathers Henry Kluepfel and Eugene Beckner who founded what would become St. Joseph's Military Academy in 1908 as well as Sister M. Reminga Neder, and Fr. Dominic Schuster who founded what would become Marian High school in 1918. Through their perseverance and leadership, an institution was established that would reach a global student body.

As an institution serving many international borders through the years, TMP-M has created a worldwide network of faithful alumni committed to the advancement of the school. The alumni of this educational system have much to be proud of. Each individual associated with TMP-M's rich history has contributed to the overall identity that the school enjoys. It is through their generosity that the school continues to provide the services necessary to continue the long tradition of academic excellence.

Admiration and thanks are also due to Ms. Jean Ross, current president of the school, Mr. Denis Coakley, principal and headmaster, and Mr. Gene Flax, assistant principal of student affairs. Through their faithful leadership, TMP-M has a bright future to coincide with their storied past. I ask God to continue to show his grace on this institution and I pray for its ongoing success.

I ask you, Madam Speaker, to join me in congratulating Thomas More Prep.—Marian on 100 years of service to its students, alumni and the greater northwest Kansas community.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4137,
HIGHER EDUCATION OPPOR-
TUNITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the conference report on the Higher Education Opportunity Act. As a conferee on this bill, I am very pleased that we have a final bill before us. I want to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON for all their hard work on this bill, and I especially thank them for including provisions that are very important to people in Michigan.

Higher education is vitally important for students entering the workforce and for the global competitiveness of this country. This bill will ensure students have better access to higher education, and that they have received a high quality educational experience when they receive their degree. Now that a college degree is the bare minimum requirement for so many jobs, the need for better access is stronger than ever.

Let me comment on some specific provisions in the bill.

In 2007, Representative BLUMENAUER and I joined together to introduce the Higher Education Sustainability Act (H.R. 3637). I commend Representative BLUMENAUER for his leadership in "greening" colleges and universities, and I am grateful that he allowed me to partner with him on an issue that is so dear to my heart. I am very pleased that provisions of our bill have been included in the conference report, especially now when energy prices and shortages are on everyone's mind.

Simply put, sustainability is meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. As population growth, urban development and growing energy use place stress on our ecosystem, it is imperative that we develop innovative and successful sustainable operations and programs.

Colleges and universities are in a unique position to foster new knowledge, evaluate policies and discover new technologies to address sustainability. Sustainable operations and programs on university campuses include water and energy conservation, recycling, and academic programs such as engineering courses that encourage innovative product designs, e.g., alternative fuels for cars, other new energy sources, and new types of packaging that use fewer natural materials.

The conference report contains two key sustainability provisions. First, it convenes a Summit on Sustainability with higher education experts working in the area of sustainable operations and programs. The Federal Government and university and business leaders are encouraged to identify best practices in sustainability by promoting current efforts, enhancing research and identifying opportunities for partnerships to expand sustainable operations and academic programs. Also, it authorizes the Sustainability Grant Program. The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, is authorized to award grants to colleges and universities to establish sustainability research programs, such as developing

new alternative energy sources. It also allows schools to implement sustainability practices on campus.

The conference report also contains an important study of distance education. It requires the Secretary of Education to contract with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a scientifically valid study of the quality of distance education, as compared to traditional, campus-based education. With so many students using distance education and a huge Federal investment in helping students attend college, it is critical that we effectively evaluate new modes of instruction to ensure that our students are receiving a topnotch education.

Finally, the conference report contains an array of provisions related to science, technology, engineering and math, collectively "STEM", education. Notably, it includes the National STEM Database to allow students with an interest in the STEM fields to more easily find financial aid. Also, it authorizes important loan forgiveness for college graduates pursuing careers in the STEM fields, and it authorizes the Mathematics and Science Scholars Program to award scholarships to students pursuing STEM majors. Now, more than ever, we must increase the size of our STEM workforce to maintain our competitiveness and national security.

In closing, I support this conference report since it helps students and makes many overdue improvements to the Higher Education Act. I urge all Members to vote in support of it.

COMMEMORATING JACK C. BINION
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S RIBBON
CUTTING CEREMONY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Birdville Independent School District upon the construction of an outstanding new educational facility in Richland Hills, Texas. This new building is an exciting step forward for the school district, and the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Jack C. Binion Elementary is planned for August 21, 2008.

Binion Elementary is capably headed by Principal Paul Anderson and Assistant Principal Hilda Hager. The school welcomes students from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, and has a total enrollment of over 500 students. Binion's mascot is the Bobcat, and their colors are maroon and white.

Binion Elementary is the newest facility for the Birdville Independent School District, which consists of 32 schools and over 22,000 students. Binion was founded in 1954 as Glenview Elementary. The first year the school opened, construction on the cafeteria wasn't completed until November. For the first few months of classes, food had to be brought in from another school each day. The first Principal was Mr. Jack C. Binion, and his leadership was instrumental in getting the school off to an excellent start. In 2003, Glenview was renamed Jack C. Binion Elementary School.

In the fall of 2006, voters approved the construction of a new campus for the elementary school. In summer of 2007, construction

began, and the building is scheduled to be completed in time for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise today to compliment the Birdville Independent School District's administration for its leadership in directing the construction of an impressive new campus for Jack C. Binion Elementary. I am proud to represent its students, teachers, and the Richland Hills community in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO BORRE WINCKEL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, CA are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Borre Winckel is one of these individuals. Borre is retiring as the Executive Director of the Building Industry Association, BIA, for Riverside County.

Born in the Netherlands, Borre arrived in the U.S. in 1977 following his family's acquisition of property in Temecula, CA. Borre was educated at Boston University and received joint degrees in Print Journalism and Public Communication. After graduation, Borre joined Chase Manhattan Bank's New York City Head Office as a Press Spokesman and Speechwriter for the Office of the Chairman. Chase decided Borre was better suited for banking and placed him in their prestigious corporate finance credit training program in Wall Street.

Following Wall Street, Borre's mixed-use land development activities led him to join the Riverside County BIA Chapter, which he has run as its Executive Director since 1996. The County's volume of building permit activity—highest in the State of California—places him center stage on many growth and development related issues. Under his leadership, Riverside County BIA became the region's leading private sector participant in major transportation planning and funding projects; air and water quality issues; endangered species conservation planning and residential green building programs. Borre is frequently quoted in the major media and is a sought after as a conference speaker.

Some of the BIA accomplishments under Borre include: membership at the Riverside Chapter flourished, tripling in size to over 700 members; in coordination with city and county officials, the BIA helped develop the Riverside County Integrated Project, RCIP, a three year planning effort to simultaneously prepare environmental, transportation, housing and development guidelines for future population growth; and worked with officials and outside groups to establish the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, MSHCP. In 2007, Borre convinced the County Board of Supervisors to initiate a streamlining strike force to speed up the entitlement and permitting process. As a result, County entitlement and permitting processes are already more fluid and predictable.

Borre is a resident of San Juan Capistrano and is married to Kay Sutton-Nagel. They

have three children, Emilie, Sophie and George, Jr. Borre's tireless passion for the community of Riverside County has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Inland Empire. I am proud to call Borre a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, or the AFOSI.

Today, August 1, 2008, OSI celebrates its 60th anniversary as the investigative arm of the United States Air Force. At the suggestion of Congress in 1948, AFOSI was established as the consolidated and centralized investigative service for the United States Air Force by then-Secretary of the Air Force Stuart Symington. Since its inception, AFOSI has served to ensure a capability for independent and objective criminal investigations. Through the years, AFOSI's mission has evolved in many ways to meet the changing needs of the Air Force. As a direct result, it has matured into a highly effective war fighting unit while maintaining the standards of a greatly respected federal law enforcement agency. Its goal today, as it was 60 years ago, is to provide the world's best investigative service to the world's best Air Force.

AFOSI has played a central role in the history of the Air Force. It was the AFOSI commander in Korea who first alerted the Far East Air Forces headquarters in Tokyo of the North Korean invasion in June 1950. During the early to mid-1960s, AFOSI units were deployed to Vietnam and quickly proved their mettle in support of air base defense by gathering early warning threat information on sabotage and surprise attacks. As terrorism became more prevalent in the 1970s, AFOSI responded with investigative tools and programs that enhanced the protection of Air Force people and resources. In 1978, AFOSI became the first organization in the federal government to establish a computer crime program. AFOSI's counterintelligence efforts contributed to victory in the Cold War by identifying and neutralizing foreign intelligence operations targeting the United States Air Force. When the Pentagon felt the impact of cyber-threats in the 1990s, it tapped AFOSI to run the Defense Department's computer forensic training and laboratory programs.

In recent years, AFOSI has answered the call to help protect an air and space force that is committed to going anywhere in the world, at any time. Its response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and contributions to subsequent combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as support to worldwide humanitarian assistance missions, continue to highlight AFOSI as a force multiplier providing for the safety and security of our armed forces anywhere in the world.

Although AFOSI has evolved and adapted to today's needs, there has never been a

change in the fundamental nature of the organization: it is an independent, high performance investigative agency, and indispensable to the Air Force. Today's AFOSI is made up of approximately 3,200 people operating across the globe, virtually anywhere you would find our Air Force's interests or resources.

With a legacy of service, integrity and excellence behind them, the members of this office march on today in the footsteps of the many men and women who have served in the AFOSI, including one of our honorable colleagues, Senator ARLEN SPECTER.

Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that the AFOSI celebrates its 60th anniversary. In a time of unprecedented change and challenge, AFOSI continues to rise to the occasion by answering the call of the United States Air Force, the Department of Defense, and our great Nation.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE APPLE CRUNCH AND THE NATION'S DOMESTIC APPLE INDUSTRY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 1143, which expresses support for the goals and ideals of the Apple Crunch and National Apple Month, which will be celebrated in October. Additionally, this measure promotes the importance of making healthy food choices, which apples certainly are, particularly when choosing snacks. As my constituents know, there is no better snack on a beautiful fall day in Upstate New York than a McIntosh apple.

We have all heard the old adage of 'an apple a day keeps the doctor away.' In fact, recent studies have reinforced the nutritional and health benefits of apples. These studies have indicated that eating apples may help to prevent Alzheimer's disease as well as certain types of cancer and heart disease. Additional studies have found that apple consumption may help to reduce coughing and perhaps even childhood asthma.

In addition to promoting good health, this resolution also recognizes the importance of our Nation's apple industry. The apple has long played an integral part in New York State's economy and history, particularly in Clinton County which I have the privilege of representing. Specifically, by 1850, over 500 varieties of apples had already originated in New York State, and of particular pride, the world famous McIntosh apple was first propagated and planted in the Champlain Valley in 1835. Additionally, in 1969 the Acey Mac apple variety, known for being sweet, tart, and juicy, evolved in Peru, New York, which is located in Clinton County.

Today, New York State is home to roughly 694 commercial apple growers and produces about 25 million bushels each year, which makes it our nation's second leading producer. Moreover, Clinton County is one of the State's most productive counties.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the importance of apples to our health and economy. Accordingly, I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 1143.