

model for other philanthropists and volunteers who think of others and care about where our society is headed.

It is with pride and pleasure I recognize Stanley C. Smoyer here today and ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his dedicated and generous service to Planned Parenthood, his community of Princeton, the schools he has chosen to support, and for teaching us all the lesson of giving and caring.

H. RES. 1355, SUPPORT DISABILITY PRIDE DAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1355, a resolution to support the goals and ideals of Disability Pride Day.

Over 18 years ago Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law to end discrimination against and provide equal opportunities for people living with disabilities. It was a historic and proud day for the United States. The significant contributions to American life, our economy and every aspect of our society by people with disabilities deserve to be recognized and honored. While great strides have been made to ensure all rights for people living with disabilities are respected, we must always celebrate the victories and act with vigilance and determination to protect, defend and advance those rights.

This resolution expresses support for Disability Pride Day, and acknowledges the efforts of Chicago's 5th Annual Disability Pride Parade organizers for raising awareness for the needs of those with disabilities. It also urges public officials and the general public to support and encourage understanding of persons with disabilities.

We need to help support and encourage understanding of persons with disabilities in schools, the workforce, and in our communities. It is unacceptable that only one-third of Americans with disabilities are employed and people with disabilities are three times more likely to live in poverty. I believe all Americans should have the opportunity to achieve economic independence, which is why I support efforts to improve employment programs for individuals with disabilities. I also believe every child deserves a quality and affordable education, and we must ensure that our schools are adequately funded to promise a fair education for all children with disabilities. I support full funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, which is why I introduced the Achieving Our IDEA Act, H.R. 1896. This bill will help ensure that the Federal Government contributes 40 percent to the cost of educating children with special needs.

This year Congress also took action to ensure the rights of those with disabilities. The ADA Amendments Act, of which I was a co-sponsor, passed the House with overwhelming support on June 25, 2008. This bill protects individuals from employment discrimination in the workplace for those who can and want to work, and restores the original intent of Congress. All Americans should be able to live and work in their communities without fear of being discriminated against.

All people have the right to be active, contributing members of our society and fully engaged citizens. I will continue to support efforts to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and celebrate Disability Pride Day.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to voice my full and enthusiastic support for H. Res. 1324. With violence on the rise in many communities, including my home district of Chicago, I have committed myself to raising the issue of gun violence within the U.S. Congress. We must effectively address this issue and begin to repair the devastation that it has caused for countless families, communities, and neighborhoods.

Since February, I have been speaking of the "Daily 45s", the number of casualties the Department of Justice reports that our Nation suffers every day due to gun violence. Though the number of gun shot fatalities that Americans endure here in our own communities dwarfs the number of daily casualties our troops suffer in two war zones combined, in Iraq and Afghanistan, it saddens and frustrates me that this issue is not being discussed more here in Congress.

As a country, we are not doing enough to address this deadly issue. That is why I proudly support H. Res. 1324, which asks the President to focus appropriate attention on neighborhood crime prevention and community policing, and to coordinate Federal efforts to participate in National Night Out on the first Tuesday in August.

Additionally, like my Communities in Action Neighborhood Defense and Opportunity (CAN DO) bill, which I will soon be introducing, H. Res. 1324 provides Federal support to assist local efforts in addressing the issue of violence. This bill assists community watch groups by supporting local officials in an effort to promote community safety and help secure our homeland.

It is past time for Americans of all races, classes, and geographic locations to come together and put an end to the senseless violence that is gripping our Nation. H. Res. 1324 goes a long way in bringing this deadly subject into the light and forcing all of us to deal with this devastating problem. I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure as well.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is August 1, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the

sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,975 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

So, Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,975 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is August 1, 2008, 12,975 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

HONORING BOB O'CONNELL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the legacy contributions of a great father, grandfather, athlete, teacher, and coach Mr. Bob O'Connell of Toledo, Ohio. Recently, Bob was acknowledged by a wonderful story published in the Toledo Blade tracing his many accomplishments. Our entire community applauds him for his life's achievements, and thanks him.

Bob has taught and mentored thousands and thousands of young athletes across our community in his chosen sport of tennis. For 21 years, he coached students at Rogers and Ottawa Hills High Schools during the regular school year and summer. Truly, he has been a teacher's teacher and a coaches' coach and has been recognized in the Ohio High School Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame. Bob also taught history and worked to develop his students as well-rounded persons who are both academically and physically fit. I can personally attest to his skill and patience having been one of his many students so many years ago. Bob taught not just the skills of tennis and endurance, but also what it meant to be a good sport. He held his racket with distinction, kept focus, and airily breezed across the court with an ease that demonstrated this indeed was his sport.

Bob raised another generation of O'Connell's who follow in his footsteps, his son Kevin, Sr., was the No. 1 singles player for 3 years at St. Francis and earned a scholarship to college as a result. Now his children, Kevin Jr. achieved rank as an All-City League first team player all 4 years as a high school and Kelly O'Connell was the No. 1 singles player at St. Ursula for 3 years.

It is hard to place an adequate value on a man who has played such a significant father-figure role not just to his family but to our community, using his teaching and coaching abilities to rear the next generation. I feel personally honored to have been coached by Bob O'Connell and recognize his extraordinary accomplishments as an American who gave so much of himself, so quietly and effectively, to the next generation. He is the kind of man that deserves admiration for he exemplifies what it means to be a man for others. May he and his family enjoy many years together and may he and they know how truly our community expresses its gratitude to him. Onward.

RECOGNIZING EVONIK DEGUSSA INDUSTRIES IN MOBILE, ALABAMA ON 35 YEARS OF SERVICE IN ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Evonik Degussa Industries located in Mobile, Alabama, on 35 years of business and service to our community.

Founded as Degussa, the 160 acre site in Mobile was established 35 years ago. Last year, the German chemical company was purchased by Evonik Industries AG and is now operating as Evonik Degussa Industries. With 44,000 employees in over 100 countries around the world, Evonik Industries is the global market leader in specialty chemicals and presently maintains several locations in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The Mobile plant manufactures a range of products from hydrogen peroxide to a binding agent used in more than 250 products ranging from ketchup to paint. The \$1.2 billion complex is the company's largest facility outside of Europe with approximately 700 employees. The Mobile plant has announced several new projects just in the last year. In October, Evonik Degussa announced it is adding a new biodiesel project, which will add production of a specialty chemical used to make alternative fuels. Once fully operational, the new plant will have the annual capacity to produce 60,000 metric tons of alloxides, a catalyst for biodiesel production.

Evonik Degussa is also adding a \$10 million expansion which will allow for the production of ROHACELL, which is high-tech foam used in a wide-range of products including airplane wings and skis. Earlier this year, Evonik Degussa announced it is considering a \$65 million expansion to make a chemical for chicken feed.

Evonik Degussa not only creates essentials for everyday use, but the employees and the management team strive to make a positive impact on the citizens of Mobile County through heavy community involvement. The company supports numerous local causes through its "Essential to the Community" donation program and gives more than \$100,000 each year to the arts, schools, and charitable organizations. In 2006, the Mobile plant donated \$115,000 to community activities. These contributions included \$55,000 to Mobile civic organizations, \$40,000 to educational activities, \$10,500 to the arts, and \$1,700 to environmental groups.

It is evident Evonik Degussa is passionate about serving the Mobile community, and this dedication deserves recognition. Evonik Degussa exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism and serves as an outstanding corporate citizen of Alabama. Furthermore, their dedication to improving the lives of their fellow citizens sets them apart from many other companies. Evonik Degussa remains a strong supporter of our community and is a wonderful corporate role model.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating both the employees and management team at Evonik Degussa Industries for 35 years of operations in the Mobile area. I know the employees, their friends, fam-

ilies, and members of the community join with me in praising Evonik Degussa Industries for their many accomplishments. I extend my thanks for their continued service to the Mobile, Alabama business community, the First Congressional District, and the state of Alabama.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the nation of Israel and her people on the recent 60th Anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel. The United States stood with Israel in 1948 as it took the first steps forward as a new nation and we proudly stand with her today.

The United States and Israel are bound together by a shared history and shared values. We share thriving, pluralistic democracies that allow for—and encourage—open political discourse and opposition. Both countries are governed by the rule of law and share fundamental freedoms such as the freedom of speech and religion. And our economies share an entrepreneurial spirit which gives those from all walks of life the opportunity to succeed.

The United States has no better ally and friend in the Middle East than Israel. Both peoples strive to live in peace and protect our communities from those who would do us harm. The United States stands with Israel against any threats to the security and existence of your country, and we stand with you as you strive to secure a peaceful and lasting relationship with your neighbors.

Madam Speaker, as we join with Israel to celebrate 60 years as an independent and free state, now is the time for the United States to reaffirm our support for our ally and friend. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO AUGUSTINE OLIVENCIA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the many personal and professional accomplishments of Augustine Olivencia. Mr. Olivencia, known by one and all as "Chito," is a true leader for all western New Yorkers.

Professionally, Chito has served for many years as Superintendent of Ellicott Creek Park in the town of Tonawanda, and his service in that role has been exemplary. But Chito has truly made his mark as a dedicated activist within his beloved Hispanic community. In fact, for public officials living throughout western New York, many conversations with Chito both begin and end with a playful but serious reminder that the Hispanic community remains a growing constituency in western New York, and that collectively the community remains a force with which to be reckoned.