

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, September 18, 2008, I was absent from the House. Had I been present I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 610, "nay"—H.R. 3036—To Amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding environmental education, and for other purposes.

On rollcall No. 611, "nay"—H.R. 3036—Providing for consideration of H.R. 3036, to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding environmental education, and for other purposes.

On rollcall No. 613, "yes"—H.R. 3036—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions of the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008.

On rollcall No. 614, "nay"—H.R. 3036—On Passage of the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008.

On rollcall No. 615, "nay"—H.R. 6460—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESOURCE CENTER OF DALLAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, this September marks the 25th anniversary of the Resource Center of Dallas, a long standing institution in the 30th Congressional District of Texas. The center's parent organization—the Dallas Gay Political Caucus, later known as the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance—incorporated what was then called the Foundation for Human Understanding in 1983.

In 1988, the center established the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic for treatment, clinical drug trials and HIV testing. Today, the renamed Nelson-Tebedo Health Resource Center also offers HIV dental, STD testing and treatment, medical case management, insurance assistance, prevention and transgender health services. Nutritional services are available as well as hot lunches.

To recognize the history of and the struggle for GLBT rights in Dallas, the Phil Johnson Historic Archives and Research Library was established at the Community Center in 1994. The Library also operates a 24-hour information helpline, which first started in 1985.

In 1998, the Foundation for Human Understanding changed its name to the Resource Center of Dallas. It operates the John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Community Center, named after the founding executive director, and the Nelson-Tebedo Health Resource Center. Through its health and medical services, the center is a leader in HIV/AIDS education, prevention and services, and provides a full spectrum of STD prevention education, screenings and treatments.

More than 1,100 volunteers and a paid staff of 44 make the Resource Center of Dallas one

of the largest centers of its kind in the United States. More than 50,000 people each year use the Resource Center through its programs and services. From its roots as an advocacy group for civil rights regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, the center continues its dual mission: to develop programs and offer services for the GLBT community, as well as individuals and families affected by HIV and AIDS.

RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO
COLONEL FRANCIS M. MUNGAVIN

HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to recognize Colonel Francis M. "Mike" Mungavin for his 40-plus years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he serves as the Commander, Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service and Director of Recruiting, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. In this role, he exercises command and oversight to over 450 military and civilian personnel worldwide at over 45 main operating locations and serves as the principal advisor to the AFRC commander on all matters relating to recruiting.

Colonel Mungavin enlisted in the Air Force in November 1968, and served 10 years prior to receiving his commission through the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program. Prior to entering Recruiting Services, Colonel Mungavin served as member of the security forces for 32 years on active duty, as a civilian and within the Air Force Reserve Command as a Traditional Reservist and Air Reserve Technician. During this time, he conceived, developed, implemented and commanded the Air Force Reserve Patriot Warrior Program providing our security force troops with required ground combat skills training.

Since taking command of Air Force Reserve Recruiting, Colonel Mungavin has developed and executed numerous initiatives resulting in the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) exceeding its annual recruiting goal for eight consecutive years. As the second largest Air Force Major Command, AFRC has been manned at greater than ninety-nine percent for the past seven consecutive years reversing a decade-long trend of failing to meet congressionally mandated end strength levels. He is directly responsible for accessing more than 72,037 airmen helping to transform the Air Force Reserve recruiter into the most productive within DoD.

Mike could not have been such a tremendous leader without the love and unfailing support of his lovely wife of 37 years, Arlene, and their two sons—Nick and Ryan.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to Colonel Francis "Mike" Mungavin for his outstanding service to both the United States Air Force and our great nation. We wish him the best as he transitions into retirement. Colonel Mungavin is a true professional and a credit to himself and the United States Air Force Reserve.

CONGRATULATING WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT'S SOLDIER RIDE—2008 HIGH DESERT CHALLENGE AND SPONSOR U-HAUL

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Wounded Warrior Project for its annual Soldier Ride—2008 High Desert Challenge and the sponsor of the challenge, U-Haul.

The nonprofit Wounded Warrior Project is a nonprofit organization that follows their mission, honors and empowers wounded veterans through raising public awareness, enlisting aid for those severely injured, and providing programs and services to those with special needs.

The Soldier Ride—2008 High Desert Challenge is a rehabilitative program that provides the opportunity for wounded veterans to regain an active lifestyle. This three-day bicycle ride from Phoenix to Las Vegas is a remarkable way to honor those wounded during their brave service to our country and to raise money to further the mission of the Wounded Warrior Project.

I congratulate the Wounded Warriors Project for recognizing the significant sacrifices these soldiers have made for our country and community, and continuing to serve these brave men and women through fundraising projects such as the Soldier Ride. I would also like to recognize U-Haul for sponsoring the event.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Wounded Warrior Project and their fundraising efforts, as well as their dedicated sponsor, U-Haul.

GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Georgian Court University (GCU). For the past 100 years, Georgian Court has been a leader in higher education, encouraging intellectual inquiry, ethical professionalism, and community involvement. Founded as a women's college in 1908 by the Sisters of Mercy, Georgian Court is dedicated to the success of women. The Women's College at GCU provides a liberal arts education tailored to women's learning styles and an environment conducive to achievement. Georgian Court's Women in Leadership Development program is one of the most powerful programs for young women today. By participating in university committees, making presentations, lobbying legislators, and networking with mentors, students develop the skills and tools needed by today's successful women leaders. In the 1970s, Georgian Court established a coeducational graduate program. Today, the University College caters to men and women adult students and offers flexible class schedules with online components at a number of locations throughout the state.

With 29 undergraduate and 8 graduate degree programs, Georgian Court University continues to develop new academic programs to meet the changing needs of the time. A new nursing program established in this Centennial Year will help stem the serious nursing shortage in our state. Accelerated and Executive M.B.A.s allow busy executives to gain the information they need to advance their careers. As 1 of only 50 NASA Educational Resource Centers, Georgian Court ensures that our children's teachers have the most up-to-date scientific information for their classrooms.

Georgian Court University has preserved the estate that comprises its campus and is on the National Register of Historic Places and the New Jersey Register. Over the decades, GCU has added buildings to meet the growing student population—starting with 7 students in 1908 up to more than 3,000 today. Within the past several years, a new wellness center, residence hall, chapel, and science wing have been added to the Georgian Court landscape.

Georgian Court University is an economic force in Lakewood and the surrounding areas, providing employment to thousands over its 100-year history and fueling the local economy. The university is also a cultural gathering place for the community, bringing notable artists, musicians, poets, writers, and political figures to campus for lectures and concerts that are open to the public.

Sending teams of students and staff to poverty-stricken areas of Honduras to install water systems, to New Orleans to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, or right here in Lakewood to help provide the necessities of life for the homeless, Georgian Court University is a good neighbor and is committed to making the world a better place. Georgian Court is also an ecologically aware citizen, contributing to the sustainability of our environment. Its new wellness center complex has been built with energy efficiency in mind and is being considered for LEED—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—certification.

With an abiding commitment to its students, the community, and the greater good, I commend Georgian Court University on its 100 years of academic excellence and community service.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

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

It is September 22, 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, Madam 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 13,027 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, Madam 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." Madam 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 13,027 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 September 22, 2008, 13,027 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.