

Who are but all our finest daughters and
sons, who so bring us to tears . . .

Who but live by a code . . .

Who but carry that burden, who but teach us
all so . . . as they carry that load . . .

As now once again, such a very fine man . . .
by the name of Kody, so shows us the
way . . .

What the word hero so means!

Like Bob Dole of Kansas, they are both one
and the same . . .

Who from this great heartland the word hero
can claim!

Without his one leg . . .

He lives by a code of honor and faith so
strode . . . that would make any heart
beg . . .

For there in his darkest of pain, in what God
has so left to him . . . so remains . . .
the greatest I say . . .

As we so watch him and learn . . .

As Kody so teaches us all to discern . . . how
a heart full of courage can burn . . .

As the leg he has lost, but like all our great
heroes of the past he accepts that great
cost . . . in turn . . .

You see, he's got a life to live . . .

And so much more to this our world to so
give . . .

To teach us, to reach us . . . as we so watch
in wonder, as his most magnificent
heart gives . . .

For on this day . . . we must understand . . .
This Army Man, so shows us the way . . . as
taller than most he now so stands . . .

And if I have a son, I pray he'd be like this
one . . . who runs with his heart all the
way to Heaven's sun . . .

From Out of The West . . .

Once, again . . . as here has so come one of
our Nation's best . . .

Who our hearts will so bless, who leave us
breathless . . .

In Honor of Kody Wilson

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask that you join
me in honoring CPL Kody Wilson, and recog-
nize his courage, commitment and patriotism
to serving the United States and the people of
Kansas. I truly wish all the best for him in his
future endeavors and will remain grateful for
his service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO RAMONA RIPSTON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, my col-
leagues, Representative JANE HARMAN, Rep-
resentative HENRY WAXMAN. Representative
ADAM SCHIFF, Representative DIANE WATSON,
Representative MAXINE WATERS, Representa-
tive XAVIER BECERRA, Representative LINDA
SÁNCHEZ, REPRESENTATIVE HILDA SOLIS and I
are greatly pleased to join Ramona Ripston's
army of fans in recognizing her decades of
service to the American Civil Liberties Union
of Southern California, ACLU/SC, and also in
celebrating the dedication of the Ramona
Ripston Center for Civil Liberties and Civil
Rights in Los Angeles. Over many years of
friendship, we have admired Ramona's work
and sought her advice, as she guided the
ACLU/SC as its executive director. She is one
of the Nation's premier and most distinguished
advocates for civil rights and against violence
and hatred.

Many of us have known Ramona for 30 or
more years and have been fortunate to work

with her on a whole host of issues ranging
from immigration reform to the Voting Rights
Act, the Constitution and the first amendment.
It's been a great pleasure to watch the grace
and dedication she brings to everything she
does. Whether working with corporate leaders
in the boardroom, policymakers on Capitol Hill,
and movie stars, or walking Skid Row, she
has always brought something extra and very
special to the table.

Ramona's view of civil liberties embodies
action more than words. She is a frequent vis-
itor in the poorest parts of our communities
where she meets with the homeless and desti-
tute of Los Angeles, serving them by making
them aware of what a civil liberties organiza-
tion is and how it can help them know and ex-
ercise their basic rights. She does this not
only from compassion and empathy, but be-
cause she is more comfortable there than sit-
ting in her office. Because of this propensity,
the ACLU/SC is the only affiliate to advocate
an economic Bill of Rights. She simply suc-
ceeded in making economic rights a civil lib-
erties issue.

When civil wars in Central America brought
thousands of refugees to America, Ramona
could be found where immigrants gathered.
She was seeking information about how the
INS and our social service and educational
entities dealt with them, carrying on the de-
cades of work done by the ACLU/SU in advo-
cating for the rights of all people, including ra-
cial and ethnic minorities and the newly-ar-
rived.

In the same way, Ramona made equality of
educational opportunity a priority—not just by
reading scores and statistics, but by going out
to schools in poor areas and meeting with stu-
dents. She made her office a part of those
communities.

Even a quick and cursory review of Ramo-
na's accomplishments and the legion of hon-
ors awarded her by prominent community and
national leaders and by numerous organiza-
tions dedicated to human rights demonstrates
the extent of her work: her assertive and ar-
ticate voice constantly advancing the causes
dear to her and vital to the protection of our
liberties—from the right to free speech to the
ability to organize as workers, the protection of
antiwar demonstrators, the fights against cen-
sorship and the defense of civil rights. The
ACLU/SC and Ramona have often held con-
troversial positions and done so in the face of
vociferous attacks. It is with profound appre-
ciation for their courage, foresight, and tena-
city that we salute both her and the organiza-
tion she has guided.

The ACLU holds that the Constitution is its
client, but for Ramona Ripston, it has also
been all about the clients themselves. It is a
joy to honor her and to congratulate her for
the high esteem in which she is held and for
the width and breadth of her humanitarian and
democratic ideals.

As the new headquarters building—the Ra-
mona Ripston Center for Civil Liberties and
Civil Rights—is dedicated, we ask our col-
leagues to join us in paying tribute to Ramona,
and to the ACLU of Southern California for
decades of work in defense of liberty and jus-
tice for all. The fight is never over and we are
grateful for the bulwark you will continue to be.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I would
like to submit the following poem, written by
Mr. Albert Carey Caswell, in memory of our
late great colleague, Congresswoman Steph-
anie Tubbs Jones.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

The things which matter . . .

The moments which count, the ones all the
end which so amount . . .

All in our lives, are all of those things in our
hearts of which are so tantamount . . .

The very ones . . .

Which all in the end, are what our souls are
really so all about . . .

As to this our world, what we so give no
doubt . . . all in these our lives to tout
. . .

Are all those things which really matter . . .
Are but the ones, which so make The Angels
hearts so shout!

All in the end, are but really what our lives
are all about!

The Ways and Means . . .

By which we overcome all the odds, all in
our life's themes . . .

Are but the ones, our songs which so make
our Lord's heart so shine and gleam
. . .

Stephanie Tubbs Jones . . .

A Heroine . . . A Pioneer . . . A Champion
for Civil Rights so seen!

A great strong great woman of firsts, who
but lived The American Dream!

The only thing bigger than her bright big
smile . . .

Was but her fine kind and warm heart, that
which so caressed all . . . all the while
. . .

For in these our short lifetimes, these are
but the things you'll find!

For it's how we live . . .

And it's how we lead, all in this world which
so helps her to succeed . . .

And who we care for, and for whom we bleed
. . . giving to her what she so needs!

Are but All Those Things Which Really Mat-
ter . . .

All in these our times, all in these our short
lives which we so bring about . . .

All in the end, what really up in Heaven . . .
what so matters no doubt!

SCHOOL SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT 2007

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam
Speaker, I support H.R. 2352, the "School
Safety Enhancements Act of 2007", which is
aimed at making America a safer place. The
bill under consideration addresses health and
safety issues for children. I support this bill
and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

H.R. 2352 is necessary and will ensure the
protection and safety of our children in a
learning environment. Violence at our schools
have increased at an alarming rate in States

such as California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin over the last few years. H.R. 2352 seeks to curb that stem of violence.

H.R. 2352 increases authorized annual funding from \$30 million to \$50 million for FY 2008–2009 for the Secure Our Schools grant program, and decreases the non-Federal grant participation percentage from 50 percent to 20 percent. It requires institutions of higher education to conduct annual campus safety assessments and develop and implement campus emergency response plans.

This bill seeks to address the violence in our schools. It will ensure the safety of students and teachers and will make sure that education is the paramount concern of educators.

The Act also increases the Federal portion of the funding from 50 percent to 80 percent, which decreases the non-Federal portion from 50 percent to 20 percent. According to the Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, Office of the Department of Justice, which administers the Secure Our Schools grants, many of the poorer communities that need help the most have been unable to participate in the program because they cannot afford the previously required 50 percent non-federal grant match. The proposed change in non-Federal funding is more in line with the COPS traditional 75/25 percent split, and should allow more participation in the program.

The Act increases the possible uses of funding to include surveillance equipment, hotlines to report potentially dangerous situations and capital improvements to make school facilities more secure. Finally, the Act requires the establishment of an interagency task force to develop and promulgate advisory school safety guidelines.

The Act amends the existing requirements for grant applications, and requires each grant application to be accompanied by a report, signed by the chief education officer and the attorney general or other chief legal officer, demonstrating that the proposed use of the grant funds is an effective means for improving school safety, is consistent with a comprehensive approach to preventing school violence, and meets the individualized needs of the particular school.

Finally, the Act amends the Higher Education Act and requires each eligible participating institution to conduct an annual campus safety assessment, and develop and implement a campus emergency response plan to address emergency situations, including natural disasters, active shooter situations, and terrorist attacks. The bill is sponsored by Mr. ROTHMAN, and has 52 cosponsors.

MY THREE AMENDMENTS THAT WERE OFFERED AND
ACCEPTED

I have three amendments that I offered and that were accepted concerning this bill. The first extended the current requirement of establishing a hotline or tip line to include the reporting of hazardous conditions, including the presence of hazardous chemicals.

The second one requires schools to develop and implement safety measures to protect students in the event of a terrorist attack or other hazardous condition or situation. It would further require that no funds would be disbursed unless the school had a safety plan in place to respond to a terrorist attack or other hazardous condition or situation.

The need for schools to respond to hazardous conditions or situations is necessary because often children are confronted with hazardous conditions and they simply ignore them. This has been a big problem in the Houston Independent School district. For example, in Key Middle School students were getting sick because they were learning in classrooms where mold was growing on the walls and ceilings. The students saw the mold and were getting sick but they did not know how to respond. These amendments would ensure that children are aware of the toxicity of these chemicals and organic substances. This is a real threat. Key Middle School was subsequently closed because of the severe health risks posed to students. My call for student awareness, training, and prevention as pertains to a terrorist attack does not need much explanation. In light of the tragic events of 9/11, we can never be too cautious with schooling and protecting our children. Children need to know what to do and how to respond to dangerous situations during a terrorist threat.

My last amendment goes to the heart of administrative practice. The original bill required that a taskforce create guideline. Because the taskforce is to be established within 30 days of enactment of this act, my amendment allows the taskforce to convene and within 60 days issue a preliminary advisory school safety guideline and after that time it should provide the public with an opportunity through notice and comment and publish a final advisory school safety guideline not later than 30 days after the preliminary guidelines. This is good administrative practice and ensures public participation by students, teachers, and parents.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF STANLEY REED

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the commitment and service, my friend Stanley Reed provides to Arkansas youth.

Stanley is a leader in the state, serving as President of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, a former member of the Arkansas Board of Trustees, a board member of Baptist Health, and Simmons First National Corporation and a member of the Board of Advisors of the Arkansas World Trade Center and of the Brandon Burlsworth Foundation.

His professional achievements are far reaching, and so are his accomplishments away from the Board Rooms. Stanley spends much of his time and energy being an example for Arkansas youths and helping them lead a better life.

Stanley's life of service will be honored by Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe and the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, an organization that provides a stable living environment with responsible role models.

Stanley has been a very good friend and was a teammate at the University of Arkansas. He has been blessed with a wonderful family, his wife Charlene, son Nathan and daughters Hailey and Anna.

I have had the privilege to work with Stanley throughout my professional career. His dedication, persistence and leadership are all exemplary qualities. I appreciate his friendship and example. I am honored to have had the opportunity to have worked with such a great man, and thank him for his service.

A TRIBUTE TO GENERAL BRUCE CARLSON

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to pay tribute to United States Air Force General Bruce Carlson for his 37 years of distinguished and honorable service in the United States Air Force and to our Nation.

General Carlson has had a distinguished career, beginning with his graduation from the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Minnesota. He has held numerous flying assignments, staff and command positions throughout his career. He commanded the 49th Fighter Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, the Air Force's first stealth fighter wing. His staff assignments included time at HQ AF, the office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff. Prior to serving as Commander of Air Force Materiel Command, General Carlson served as Commander of the 8th Air Force, Barksdale AFB and Joint Functional Component Commander for Space and Global Strike, U. S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB.

As Commander of AFMC, General Carlson led the organization to meet leadership challenges and world threats. General Carlson championed the Air Force alternative fuels program and delivered on Presidential and Secretary of the Air Force challenges to reduce the military's dependence on foreign oil. General Carlson also oversaw the development and deployment of AngelFire persistent surveillance and reconnaissance program. Under his command, AngelFire deployed to the CENTCOM AOR with the help of Air Force Research Laboratory personnel, marking the first-ever deployment of an AFRL program directly into combat. Additionally, General Carlson delivered the first MQ-9 Reaper to the 42nd Attack Squadron at Creech AFB nearly a year ahead of schedule to meet Air Combat Command requirements.

He received numerous military awards for his service including: Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He also received the highest honor from the Air Force enlisted corps, the Order of the Sword. In addition, General Carlson is a command pilot with over 3,300 flight hours.

I have known General Carlson since he took command of AFMC in August 2005.

General Carlson is a man who is honest, provides a straight assessment and has the highest degree of ethics. His service honors the Air Force and our country. I've appreciated his dedication to duty and his willingness to work with the surrounding community. General Carlson truly exemplifies the core values of