

to discourage unauthorized workers from entering this country illegally to seek work. Ensuring a legal workforce must be a key component of any immigration bill moving through Congress.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to build on this proposal to achieve a bipartisan solution to immigration reform.

HONORING BROOKE EDWARDS

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an essay written by Brooke Edwards, a fourth grader from Flippen Elementary School in McDonough, Georgia. Her school sponsored a writing contest in which students answered the ever patriotic question, "Why I'm Proud to be an American." It is stories like these that inspire all citizens. I am proud to report to the U.S. House of Representatives that Brooke won first place in the contest, I would like to submit her essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for all Americans to read.

WHY I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

My name is Brooke Edwards and I'm a fourth grader. I go to Flippen Elementary School in McDonough, Georgia. I'm proud to live in Georgia because it is in the United States and I'm proud to be an American. What do I like about America? I like our freedom, military, and our 4th of July.

My first reason why I'm proud to be an American is freedom. I like our freedom because we don't have kings or queens bossing us around. For example, England has a queen. We can vote for our presidents. In America we have a choice that other countries don't have.

My next reason is our military. Brave men and women fight everyday all around the world for our freedom. We wouldn't be free if we didn't have the military. We have men and women who are veterans. They served our country and made me feel proud.

My final reason is our 4th of July. On the 4th of July, we celebrate our freedom and have fun too. We also celebrate our flag on the 4th of July because it stands for America. I love the 4th of July!

There are many reasons I like being an American. I like our freedom, military, and our 4th of July. These are my favorite parts of America.

WILLIAM BARRETT TRAVIS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it all started way back in 7th grade, Mrs. Wilson made Texas history come alive and my fascination with Texas legends like Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, James Bowie, and of course my personal favorite, William Barrett Travis, took root. It was this month, 172 years ago, that Travis, a 27-year-old lawyer, penned the most famous letter in Texas history from behind the walls of a besieged, rundown mission in San Antonio.

"To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world, fellow citizens and compatriots,

I am besieged by a thousand or more of the enemy under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannon fire for over 24 hours, but I have not lost a man.

The enemy has demanded surrender at its discretion. Otherwise, the fort will be put to the sword. I have answered that demand with a cannon shot. And the flag still waves proudly over the north wall.

I shall never surrender or retreat. I call upon you, in the name of liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character, to come to my aid with all dispatch. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself for as long as possible, die like a soldier who never forgets what is due his honor and that of his country. Victory or death.

As a child, I was so intrigued by this letter. I would always be the first in my class to volunteer to play Travis at any given opportunity, if only just to read his words aloud. To me, he was the ultimate hero. Travis and his rag-tag group of relentless freedom fighters, made up of men from nearly every State in the Union and 13 foreign countries, including Mexico, held off an entire army of several thousand for 13 days. Defeat was not an option. Retreat was never on the table. Victory or death. And the rest is—as they say—Texas history.

History teaches us everything we need to know, if we just look. This letter was written nearly 2 centuries ago and its message still rings true today. It's a story of "liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character." Freedom is still worth dying for. And to do so as a soldier, "is what is due his honor and that of his country."

Travis believed these words, believed that the cause for independence was his life. Our freedom fighters today understand these words as well, they know that America is worth fighting for and that defeat is not an option. We must not neglect the call.

Unfortunately, the call for help was not answered in time. Commander Travis and 187 volunteers sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom after 13 glorious days at the Alamo. The youngest to die for Texas was 15-year-old William Phillip King. The oldest to die was Gordon C. Jennings. He was 56. Their sacrifice would later be remembered along the banks of the San Jacinto as GEN Sam Houston led the Texans to victory and freedom. But their courage will never be forgotten.

Travis isn't just my favorite Texas war hero, he has intertwined himself throughout my life and even the lives of my children and grandchildren. He is the inspiration behind my profession. I always wanted to be a great lawyer like William Barrett Travis. My grandson, Barrett Houston, is even named after Travis. Inscribed along the bottom of my stationery are his words, "I shall never surrender or retreat," and for as long as I can remember, I end every letter with his famous words, "God and Texas." Because of men like William Barrett Travis, Texas is the great State that it is today. His legacy embodies the passion and loyalty that make Texans stand out around the world.

And that's just the way it is.

DEFENDERS OF THE ALAMO WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES

Alabama: James Buchanan, William Fishbaugh, Galba Fuqua, Issac White.

Arkansas: Issac G. Baker, Jesse G. Thompson, Henry Warnell.

Connecticut: Gordon C. Jennings.

Georgia: Albert (Alfred) Calvin Grimes, William T. Malone, Elice (Eliel) Melton, Manson Shied, William Wells, William Wills

Illinois: Jonathan L. Lindley.

Kentucky: Peter James Bailey III, James Bowie, Daniel William Cloud, Jacob C. Darst, John Davis, William H. Fauntleroy, John E. Gaston, John Harris, William Daniel Jackson, Green B. Jameson, John Benjamin Kellogg, Andrew Kent, Joseph Rutherford, B. Archer M. Thomas, Joseph G. Washington.

Louisiana: Charles Despalier, James W. Garrard, Joseph Kerr, Isaac Ryan.

Maryland: Charles S. Smith.

Massachusetts: John Flanders, William D. Howell, William Linn, Amos Pollard.

Mississippi: M.B. Clark, Isaac Millsaps, Willis A. Moore, George Pagan, Christopher Adams Parker.

Missouri: William Charles M. Baker, George D. Butler, Charles Henry Clark, George Washington Cottle, Jerry C. Day, George W. Tumlinson.

New Hampshire: Robert E. Cochran.

New Jersey: Richard Lucius Stockton.

New York: Robert W. Cunningham, Lewis Dewart, Samuel B. Evans, John Hubbard Forsyth, John Jones, James Tylee.

North Carolina: Micajah Autry, Dolphin Ward Floyd, William Parks, Mial Scurlock, Joshua G. Smith, John W. Thomson, Claiborne Wright.

Ohio: William B. Harrison, Tapely Holland, Robert Musselman, James M. Rose.

Pennsylvania: John J. Ballentine, James Murry Brown, John Cain (Cane), Robert Crossman, David P. Cummings, James Hannum, Samuel Holloway, William Johnson, George C. Kimble (Kimbell), William McDowell, John Purdy Reynolds, John M. Thurston, Hiram James Williamson, John Wilson.

Rhode Island: Albert Martin.

South Carolina: James Butler Bonham, Lemuel Crawford, George Neggan, Edward Nelson, George Nelson, Cleveland Kinloch Simmons, William Barrett Travis.

Tennessee: Joseph Bayliss, John Blair, Samuel C. Blair, Jesse B. Bowman, James (Robert) Campbell, David Crockett, Squire Daymon, William Dearduff, Almeron Dickerson (Dickinson), John Henry Dillard, James L. Ewing, James Girard Garret, Andrew Jackson Harrison, Charles M. Haskell, John M. Hays, William Marshall, Jesse McCoy, Robert McKinney, Thomas R. Miller, William Mills, Andrew M. Nelson, James Waters Robertson, Andrew H. Smith, A. Spain Summerlin, William E. Summers, Edward Taylor, George Taylor, James Taylor, William Taylor, Asa Walker, Jacob Walker.

Texas: Juan Abamillo, Juan Antonio Badillo, Carlos Espalier, Gregorio (Jose Maria Esparza, Antonio Fuentes, Damacio Jimenez, William Phillip King, William Irvine Lewis, William J. Lightfoot, Jose Toribio Losoya, Andres Nava, Richardson Perry.

Vermont: Miles Deforest Andross.

Virginia: Robert Allen, John J. Baugh, William R. Carey, William Garnett, John Camp Goodrich, Patrick Henry Herndon, James Kenny, George Washington Main, Edward F. Mitchasson, Robert B. Moore, James Northcross.

Denmark: Charles Zanco.

England: William Blazeby, Daniel Bourne, George Brown, Stephen (or Ireland) Dennison, James R. Dimpkins, James C. Gwynne, William Daniel Hersee, James Nowlan, Marcus L. Sewell, Richard Starr, James E. Stewart, Thomas Waters, Anthony (Avram) Wolfe, son age 12 Wolfe, son age 11 Wolfe.

Ireland: Samuel E. Burns, Andrew Duvalt, Robert Evans, Joseph M. Hawkins, Thomas Jackson, James McGee, Jackson J. Rusk, Burke Trammel, William B. Ward.

Germany: Henry Courtman, Henry Thomas.

Scotland: Richard W. Ballentine, John McGregor, Isaac Robinson, David L. Wilson.

Wales: Lewis Johnson.

Unknown Locale: Robert Brown, Freeman H.K. Day, John E. Garvin, James George, Edward McCafferty, William T. Mitchell, Napoleon B. Mitchell, Thomas H. Roberts, William H. Smith, William Depriest Sutherland, Robert White, John (Last Name Unknown).

TRIBUTE TO THE PEACE CORPS 47TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 47th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

Since 1961, when the Peace Corps was created by President John Kennedy in Executive Order 10924 and subsequently authorized by the Congress, 139 host countries have invited 190,000 Peace Corps volunteers into their territories and homes to serve those in need and build mutual understanding, cooperation and respect. Peace Corps volunteers have contributed to improving health, education and basic essential services for an inestimable number of persons in dire need.

I am proud to say that this year, nine Peace Corps Volunteers from the seventh district of Arizona have applied and been chosen to carry on this vital legacy, serving abroad over six continents on this ever-smaller planet.

Of course, the Peace Corps is a uniquely precious legacy of our martyred President, John F. Kennedy. The idea of the Peace Corps is forever linked in American hearts to the spirit of those one-thousand days that were inaugurated with the words, "my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

This message still rings out strong and true in this new century. Love of country still has a powerful and appropriate role in motivating our young people to take up service, and the people of this Nation take proper pride in the noble mission carried out by these young women and men.

I also choose to believe that in this new century, we can also take a broader view of the challenges facing the global community of nations, in the face of global warming and environmental degradation, global health pandemics, and denial to billions of the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration Human Rights. I choose to believe that we have today a greater capacity to think deeply and act vigorously in response to a new call to service: Ask what you can do for your neighbor, and for your planet.

I offer my deepest respect, gratitude and praise for those many courageous women and men who have answered this clarion call to service, and a special note of recognition to my colleagues, Mr. FARR and Mr. HONDA and their service to this Nation and to humanity.

HONORING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 47th Anniversary of the Peace Corps and in doing so, join many others around the Nation in celebrating National Peace Corps Week. Their mission is to help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women while helping to promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served, as well as, a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Since the establishment of the Peace Corps by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, more than 190,000 U.S. citizens have served their country in the cause of peace by living and working in 139 developing countries. As of September 30, 2007, 8,079 Peace Corps Volunteers are currently at 68 posts serving 74 countries.

I am proud to say that two of those volunteers currently serving their country are from my district in West Virginia. Daniel J. Beck will finish up his 2 year's of service in Guinea this June, while Amelia Dulee-Kinsolving will return from Peru in September.

Peace Corps volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth and the environment.

The 190,000 citizens, who have volunteered to serve their country since 1961, came from all walks of life and represent the best of what the United States has to offer. The work they have done over the past 47 years has played an important role in developing nations and continues to provide opportunities for people of different backgrounds to come together to serve the cause of peace.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM CONDUCTIVE TO BICYCLING: "THE NATIONAL BIKE BILL"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution which recognizes that a national transportation system conducive to bicycling produces enriched health, reduced traffic congestion and air pollution, greenhouse gas emission reductions, economic vitality, and an overall improved quality of life which is valuable for the Nation.

Communities across the Nation are seeking to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, save energy and enhance neighborhood safety. The Federal Government can assist in those efforts by promoting increased bicycle safety, supporting policies that establish national target levels for bicycle use, increase intermodal travel, provide incentives to State and local government, provide flexibility in Federal transportation law, and encourage

partnerships with employers and executive agencies. These changes will benefit all Americans whether they ride their own bikes or benefit from those neighbors who do.

I have witnessed these positive impacts in my hometown of Portland, Oregon, as bike ridership has skyrocketed as modest investments in facilities have improved access and made biking safer. I have no doubt that communities nationwide can reap the benefits of bicycling if the Federal Government provides the right incentives and works with State and local officials on a balanced transportation system.

Ever since I started the Congressional Bike Caucus over 10 years ago, I have seen broad and bipartisan support for bicycling grow with over 170 members from both sides of the aisle standing up for the role bicycles play in our transportation system. I now call on my colleagues to support this legislation that gives bicycling its proper role for our Nation's mobility and health.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, due to events in my district I missed votes held on February 26 and 27. Had I been present the record would reflect the following votes: Tuesday, February 26, H. Res. 974—A resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 3521—"yea"; Wednesday, February 27, H.R. 5351—A bill to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy—"yea"; H.R. 5264—A bill to extend certain trade preference programs—"yea".

CONGRATULATING MURPHEY CANDLER LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Murphey Candler Little League on the celebration of its 50th anniversary. The league has enjoyed enormous success and growth since it was founded, as "Brookhaven Baseball," way back in 1958. But most significantly, Murphey Candler has played a prominent role in the lives of generations of young athletes who learned to love our national pastime on their storied fields.

Currently, over 850 kids play on 71 different teams in 6 separate leagues. Bringing together the entire community, hundreds of parents and family members participate as board members, coaches, managers, scorekeepers, and most importantly, passionate fans. This association of players and parents, rallied around our beloved baseball and a desire to build a fun and positive environment in which to learn, has provided the means for 50 years worth of improvement, growth, and fun.

Instilling the values of determination, teamwork, and fair play, the members and supporters of Murphey Candler Little League have