

These modifications were made to the proposal prior to the release of the final Task Force recommendations and introduction of H. Res. 895. Members deserve to know that the concerns of the Ethics Committee were taken into account by the Task Force and that, while this commentary caught many Members by surprise on March 11, we had already been briefed on its substance and had responded appropriately.

The Task Force worked diligently over our 11 months of meetings to cooperate on a bipartisan basis and craft a set of recommendations that would improve the ethics process in the House of Representatives. While I regret that we could not come to a final agreement, I thank my colleagues on the Task Force for their efforts and for their commitment to this institution.

#### SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE OF COLORECTAL CANCER AWARE- NESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 302, supporting the observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and for other purposes, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Texas, Representative KAY GRANGER. This important legislation recognizes the devastating effects of Colorectal Cancer, which kills 49,960 Americans each year, and raises awareness regarding the realities and severities of this disease.

Colorectal cancer includes both colon and rectal cancer and is the second most common cause of cancer deaths for both men and women within the United States. This form of cancer does not discriminate between men and women, race and ethnicity; however, the rates of diagnoses are slightly higher among the African America Community. Despite the fact that every 3.5 minutes someone is diagnosed with colorectal cancer, every 5 seconds, someone who should be screened for this cancer is not.

That is why this legislation is so important; we know the devastating effects of this type of cancer, yet we have failed to apply the necessary steps to address the epidemic. The survival rate of those who have colorectal cancer is 90 percent when detected in its early stages, but that rate dramatically drops to only 10 percent when colorectal cancer is detected after it has spread to distant organs. The death rate of colorectal cancer could be reduced by up to 80 percent if the majority of Americans age 50 or older were screened regularly for colorectal cancer. It is not surprising to note that uninsured Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with late stage colon cancer than patients with private insurance, and that as only 39 percent of colorectal cancer patients have their cancer detected at an early stage. Only 18.8 percent of Americans without health coverage in the United States have currently been properly screened for colorectal cancer.

Regular colorectal cancer screening makes economic sense because it has been ranked

as one of the most cost effective screening interventions available, with the potential to save more than 30,000 lives a year. Treatment costs for colorectal cancer are extremely high and are estimated at \$8,400,000,000 for 2004; however, the risks associated with non-treatment are even higher.

The necessity of raising awareness about colorectal cancer cannot be overemphasized, and I applaud this legislation for supporting the observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. The potential deadly effects of colorectal cancer should encourage Americans from all walks of life to be tested and treated by their doctors. Colorectal cancer is the third most common form of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the Western world. As such, colorectal cancer causes 655,000 deaths worldwide per year. Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month must also raise public awareness for the need of colorectal cancer testing for those Americans who are traditionally unable to afford such screening and seek ways to alleviate this disparity. It is imperative that Congress find a way to ensure every American at risk is tested and treated in the early stages to prevent an even higher death rate. Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month should be recognized by all Americans to focus on the special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening.

I am proud to cosponsor this important legislation to support the observance of March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. I strongly support H. Con. Res. 302 and urge all Members to do the same.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, I was absent on Thursday, March 13th, Friday, March 14th, and Monday, March 31st due to personal reasons, and I missed rollcall votes 139 through 146.

If I were present I would have voted, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 140, "nay" on rollcall vote No. 141, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 142, "nay" on rollcall vote No. 143, "nay" on rollcall vote No. 144, "nay" on rollcall vote No. 145, "nay" on rollcall vote 146, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 147, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 148, and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 149.

#### HONORING STEPHEN LEE DODSON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephen Lee Dodson of Kearney, Missouri. Stephen is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Stephen has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Stephen has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stephen Lee Dodson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIS AVERY

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 86 year old Willis Avery, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom while serving in the United States Navy.

Willis served in the United States Navy in World War II as a Chief Pharmacist's Mate aboard the USS *Solace*, a hospital ship moored to the battleship USS *Arizona*. Willis was aboard the *Arizona* during the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He courageously ignored the flames and assisted the wounded and helped transfer them to the USS *Solace* and other ships nearby. The Officer of the Deck ordered Willis and his partner off the *Arizona*. He witnessed the explosions of the USS *Arizona*. The day after the attack, Willis was among the Naval personnel who retrieved the bodies of the dead and readied them for burial.

While in the service, he played the saxophone and clarinet in a dance band and put on comedy skits along with USO entertainer Joe E. Brown to entertain fellow troops. He was an escort to the First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt when she visited New Zealand.

Today, Willis is one of the few remaining survivors of the attack at Pearl Harbor and he is truly part of the "Greatest Generation."

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Willis Avery for his heroic service in the United States Navy. His dedication to this country in the theater of war and his devotion to his fellow troops' morale are truly commendable. I laud the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service.

#### HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVER- SARY OF THE USS *NAUTILUS* REACHING 90 NORTH

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to honor an important anniversary not only to my district, but to our Navy and our nation.

In June 1958, the USS *Nautilus* (SSN 571), the world's first nuclear powered submarine, departed Seattle as part of a top secret operation called "Operation Sunshine." Unknown to many at the time, the *Nautilus* was embarking on a historic mission that took them on a course north to the Arctic Ice cap. At 1:15

p.m. (EDST) on August 3, 1958, the boat became the first vessel to cross the geographic north pole when Commander William Anderson, *Nautilus*' commanding officer, announced to his crew: "For the world, our country, and the Navy—the North Pole."

This historic crossing of "90 North" took place at a critical time in our nation's history: the Cold War was heating up, the Soviet Union had seemingly laid claim to space with the launch of Sputnik, and many Americans—and many around the world—were looking for something to rally around, a sign that we were not ceding big ideas and notable achievements to others. Having reached the North Pole, the *Nautilus* clearly demonstrated our undersea superiority and opened the region to decades of scientific research and exploration.

The crossing of the North Pole was praised by numerous world leaders of the time, being described by President Eisenhower as a "magnificent achievement" from which "the entire free world would benefit." A ticker tape parade was held in honor of the crew in New York City, the *Nautilus* became the first naval vessel in peacetime to receive the Presidential Unit Citation for its meritorious efforts in crossing the North Pole and Commander William R. Anderson was awarded the Legion of Merit.

In the fifty years since, the United States Navy and Coast Guard have repeatedly followed in the footsteps of this historic voyage. Dozens of U.S. submarines, in addition to specially fitted vessels and general aircraft of the United States Coast Guard, have journeyed to the top of the world in service of their country and to reinforce our Arctic presence. These submarines and their intrepid crews have broken through to the surface, charted new courses and expanded our knowledge of the Arctic.

Built and launched at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, on January 21, 1954, the *Nautilus* was the first vessel in the world to be powered by nuclear power. After claiming their historic milestone at 90 North and returning home to Naval Submarine Base New London, the *Nautilus* continued to establish a series of naval records in her distinguished 25 year career, including being the first submarine to journey "20,000 leagues under the sea."

The history and the legacy of the *Nautilus* is not only meaningful to my Congressional district, but to the entire submarine force and our nation. Today, the *Nautilus* proudly serves as a museum where visitors from around the world come to learn about both her history-making service to our nation and the role of the submarine force in securing our nation. The *Nautilus* truly helped set the tone as the standard bearer for the submarine force, and achievements like the crossing of 90 North both proved the capabilities of our nation at a critical time in our history and raised the bar for all those who came after her.

Too often the critical achievements of our submarine force, our "Silent Service," go unnoticed. I am proud to introduce this resolution today to honor the *Nautilus*, her crew and the countless individuals who provided support for her journey across 90 North, and urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this important milestone in our Nation's history.

TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE OLSSON,  
SEUNGSOO KIM, MARGUERITE  
TAIMI AND NEWPORT HIGH  
SCHOOL

### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements and congratulate Catherine Olsson, Seungsoo Kim, Marguerite Taimi, and Newport High School in Bellevue, Washington, for their outstanding excellence in Advanced Placement, AP, math and science as awarded by the Siemens Foundation.

Catherine, who attends Lakeside School in Seattle, Washington, and Seungsoo, a student who attends Mountain View High School in Vancouver, Washington, were two students from my home State who received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Siemens Foundation and the recognition that comes along with such a prestigious award. Ms. Taimi, an 18-year teaching veteran at Kentridge High School in Kent, Washington—located within my congressional district—was recognized by the foundation for her dedication to students in her AP calculus class. Additionally in my district, the entire AP math and science department at Newport High School was recognized for their significant strides and continued excellence in AP courses.

The Siemens Foundation, in partnership with the College Board, a non-profit association committed to connecting students with overall college success, is celebrating its tenth year of presenting awards and significant scholarships to students, teachers, and institutions in all 50 States. This year alone, Siemens and the College Board awarded 97 students, dozens of teachers, and many high schools monetary gifts, bringing their total commitment since 1998 to more than \$4.5 million.

One of my constituents, Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, appeared before the Committee on Science and Technology on March 12, 2008, and spoke at length of the need for improved math and science education in order to maintain our leadership in technological innovation.

With that message in mind, please join me in congratulating Catherine, Seungsoo, Ms. Taimi, Newport High School, and all the other students, teachers, and high schools who strive for excellence in AP math and science. Moreover, I want to thank the Siemens Foundation and the College Board for their extraordinary commitment to encouraging America's future mathematicians, scientists, and engineers.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, on Monday, March 31, I was unavoidably absent and so was unable to join in three recorded votes.

If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On H.R. 3352—To reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act,

and for other purposes—I would have voted "yea."

On H.R. 2675—To provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes—I would have voted "yea."

On H. Con. Res. 302—Recognizing the Month of March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month—I would have voted "yea."

### HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND BIRTHDAY OF CESAR CHAVEZ

### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, Today, we gather to pay tribute to a remarkable man, and one of the most revered workers rights pioneers, Cesar Estrada Chavez. Cesar Chavez became one of our Nation's and the world's notable advocates for nonviolent social change.

Born on a small Arizona farm on March 31, 1927, Cesar Chavez began his life as a farm worker in the fields at age 10. He later served in the United States Navy during World War II.

Cesar Chavez didn't just learn about the struggle of migrant workers. He and his family lived it. He grew up moving from town to town and from school to school while his family worked in the fields.

He became a farm worker as soon as he finished the eighth grade. Born out of his sweat and toil was a fierce determination to give a voice to families like his who labored so hard and received so little in return.

Cesar Chavez became that voice of the farm workers. He established the United Farmworkers Union to establish this movement. The priorities he fought for are America's priorities: Better pay and benefits for workers. Better education for children. Health and safety protections for workers where there were none. He helped in expanding civil rights for minorities and advocated on behalf of every person living within the United States.

He was committed to the idea that no matter their education or their job, anyone can demand fair treatment at work. Before Cesar Chavez, farmworkers were exposed to horrifying conditions, working long hours and being poisoned by pesticides. Chavez drew national attention to the plight of the farmworkers. Because of Chavez, farmworkers can no longer legally be treated in the inhumane manner they were before.

Cesar E. Chavez was loved and respected by many, and he continued to fight for the rights of farm workers until his death in 1993. Chavez lived his life fighting for workers' rights, civil rights, environmental justice, equality for all, peace, non-violence, children and women's rights. Over 50,000 mourners came to pay their respects to the humble man, whose simple, modest manner was driven by his commitment to social justice.

In 1994, Cesar Chavez was posthumously awarded the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Robert F. Kennedy once described Cesar Chavez as "One of the heroic figures of our time." He encouraged millions of people across the country