

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

April 9, 2008: Rollcall vote 175, on motion to instruct the conferees—H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act—I would have voted “aye.”

IN MEMORIAM: RICHARD EDWARD
GENSER, 1944–2008

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I rise today to honor an environmental leader whose work and passion has made the Sonoran Desert truly a better place.

Richard Edward Genser, known as Rich, Rex, and to many of his good friends as Gerónimo, was born in Newark, New Jersey and spent his childhood in South Orange, New Jersey. He served in the Air Force during the Vietnam war.

Rich came to Tucson, Arizona in the late 1980s. Although in the real estate business, his passion was preserving natural areas, protecting wilderness, and ensuring that development was directed away from the most sensitive lands.

Rich was a lifelong member of the Sierra Club and served the organization in several capacities including as chair of its Grand Canyon Chapter as well as its Rincon Group in southern Arizona. He helped to found the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection and was key in the efforts to Save the Scenic Santa Ritas from mining threats, a threat that has not yet been extinguished.

Rich was a good friend to many and there was no one who was more full of life. He loved Arizona, he loved the Earth, and he loved the Sierra Club and all of his many friends there. Rich also loved a good fight (for the environment) and helped with numerous efforts, including a successful effort to promote Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

Richard Genser passed away on February 27, 2008 at the young age of 63. He is survived by his wife, Claire; father, Lester Genser (Agnes); son, Jordon Genser; sister, Susan Bulger; brother, Jon Genser (Annie); stepdaughters Carol Bailey Stevens (Eloy), Ashley Ronen (Shlomi); four grandchildren, Zaida, Blue, Hailey, and Samantha; three nieces, Laura, Jane, and Courtney, a nephew, Gregg; several great-nieces and nephews, and his ex-wife Jill Genser.

Rich leaves a legacy that cannot be adequately expressed in words, and gives all of us who have known him and worked with him inspiration to follow our passion and know that one person can make a difference for the better.

CONGRATULATING THE REICHER
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOOT-
BALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Reicher Catholic High School Cougars football team on their 41 to 7 victory in the 2007 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) Division III state championship game. Reicher has a long history of outstanding achievement in the classroom and on the athletic field, and it is a privilege to represent these students, teachers, coaches and their families in Congress.

Winning a state football championship to cap a successful season is an extraordinary accomplishment that is a testament to the dedication of the student athletes, their coaches, and the community as a whole. The Reicher players have demonstrated outstanding commitment to achieving their goals through teamwork and personal sacrifice, traits that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to offer my sincere congratulations to the Reicher Catholic High School Cougars football team on winning the 2007 TAPPS State Football Championship, and I would like to enter the names of the players, coaches, principal and trainers in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as we celebrate their victory and wish them continued success in the future.

Thomas Zamudio, Stephen Harrison, Howie Grieve, Justin Dvorsky, Zach Rimlinger, Nick Fung, Andrew Mocio, Steve Lindloff, Ben Crenwelge, Kenneth Cluley.

Shadowhawk Saldana, Ross Rasner, Jacob Wilson, Nick Castillo, Matt McGinnis, Nick Deaver, Matt Pineda, Jose Luna, Jacob Peter, Joey Bagnasco.

Daniel Vaught, Juan Lizardo, Jonathan Young, Trent Hughes, Ryan Dunlap Jonathan Harper, Austin Wheeler, Brian Horn, Tyler Ellis, Charlie Lashua.

Taylor Madden, Austin Simpson, Jonathan Hoxie, Dalton Morgan, Joe Flores, Robert Gonzales, Lyndon Auclair, Lance Tepe, Dylan Carmody, Josh Wrzesinski, Hunter Tunmire, Justin Dvorsky, Cameron Owen, and Eric Morales.

Athletic Director/Head Football Coach: Assistant Coaches: Mark Waggoner; John Armes, Daniel Balderama, Adam Castillo, Nelson Castro, John Ryan, Steve Smith, David Wrzesinski, David Hurtado; Principal: Arlene Jones; and Trainers: Brianna Crenwelge, Erin Lewie, Haley Sebik, Briana Vasquez, and Morgan Welch.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF UNIVERSITY OF WIS-
CONSIN-EXTENSION CONFERENCE
CENTERS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of Univer-

sity of Wisconsin-Extension Conference Centers (ECC). Three conference centers, located on the UW-Madison campus, host tens of thousands of visitors each year. The centers provide meeting spaces, distance education, telecommunications technologies, catering, overnight lodging, and conference planning services to the UW System, state agencies, and other governmental and educational organizations.

Dedicated on April 11, 1958 as the Wisconsin Center for Adult Education, the building that is now known as the Pyle Center was the first constructed in order to provide a “roof for the Wisconsin Idea.” The idea embodies the belief that the benefits of education should not be confined to the halls and classrooms of the university but rather should extend to the boundaries of the state to improve the lives of people across Wisconsin. Early proponents of the Wisconsin Idea, with support from Governor Robert M. La Follette, Sr., assembled faculty experts and state legislators to bring their vision to life and give Wisconsin national notoriety as a place of innovation and progressivism. It was in this tradition of the university's service to the state that the UW Foundation built the first UW-Extension Conference Center.

Today, the Pyle Center is part of an extension system that extends the boundaries of the university even further than the boundaries of the state and expresses the central role of universities in a global economy. Visitors perennially hail from all parts of the world and the center continues to be a model for taking technological, academic, and scientific advancements and making them accessible and relevant to people and institutions everywhere.

To honor ECC's 50-year legacy as the roof for the Wisconsin Idea, a commemorative program will be held at the Pyle Center for the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, stakeholders, and supporters.

For 50 years of dedication and service to communities everywhere, I join Wisconsinites from every corner of the state in recognizing UW-Extension Conference Centers for fulfilling the promise of the Wisconsin Idea. I wish everyone involved many more years of success.

THE WIEN INTERNATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, is celebrating a special anniversary this month, April 11–13, 2008.

It was 50 years ago that Massachusetts Senators John F. Kennedy and Leverett Saltonstall and former U.S. Ambassador George Kennan joined University leaders to help inaugurate a unique international exchange program.

The Wien International Scholarship Program, established through a generous gift from philanthropists Lawrence and Mae Wien, was designed to further worldwide understanding by bringing students from around the globe to Brandeis to study in an atmosphere of cooperative learning.

Looking back over the last half-century, it is clear that the program has had an impact on

the international community that even its founders could not have envisioned. Since its founding with an inaugural class of 30 students from 16 countries, the Wien program has grown in stature and worldwide recognition. More than 800 students from over 100 countries have come to Brandeis as Wien Scholars.

Through the years, the Wien program has produced an impressive array of enlightened world leaders dedicated to making the world a better place. Wien Scholars have held important positions at the United Nations, served in prominent roles in national governments from Japan to Kenya to Iceland to the Philippines, and pursued life-saving medical breakthroughs. They have also distinguished themselves in the arts, business, education, law, and science.

I urge all of us, especially at this time of increasing ethnic and religious tensions around the world, to use the fiftieth anniversary of the Wien program to uphold the legacy of its founders by promoting the principles of understanding, tolerance, and acceptance.

CONGRATULATING MR. GREGORY
MATTHEW PROSKE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Gregory Matthew Proske, for attaining the impressive rank of Eagle Scout.

Gregory has been involved in the Boy Scouts of America for the past 11 years. Joining as a Tiger Cub, he has shown dedication to the organization, successfully moving up the Boy Scout ranks over time. Gregory is a proud member of Troop 434 in the Trailblazer District in North Tarrant County, Texas.

Gregory went through a rigorous process to receive this honor. A scout must fulfill seven main requirements before achieving Eagle status. He was required to be active in his troop for a period of at least six months after he had achieved the rank of Life Scout and to demonstrate that he lives by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life. He earned the expected 21 merit badges needed to qualify and served in a position of leadership in the scouts for at least 6 months. Gregory took part in a Scoutmaster conference, successfully completed an Eagle Scout board of review, and provided the Fort Worth community with a service project. Gregory reworked two planting beds at St. John the Apostle Catholic School in Fort Worth, Texas for his project.

A student at Nolan High School, Gregory plans to attend Texas A&M University, where he intends to become a member of the Corps of Cadets. Additionally, Proske aims to serve in the Air Force as a fighter pilot.

Madam Speaker, becoming an Eagle Scout is only the most recent in a string of impressive achievements, and I am confident Gregory will continue to excel in his future endeavors. I commend Gregory for his penchant for service, his commitment to the community, and this most remarkable accomplishment. He is a role model, both to young people and the entire North Texas area, and I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOOLS EMPOWERED TO RESPOND ACT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the former superintendent of public instruction in North Carolina, I am pleased today to introduce the Schools Empowered to Respond Act. This bill will put the federal government to work in partnership with states and local education agencies to support school preparedness planning, training, and equipment needs.

Schools are a vital resource in our community, and our children spend the majority of their daylight hours in our educational institutions. But schools are often overlooked when considering emergency preparedness and first responder needs. Even as teachers, administrators, and students are working together to make schools a safe place for learning, they can use additional help and guidance to make their planning as effective as possible.

When I surveyed principals in my district's schools in 2006 about emergency response planning, I learned that schools were keeping our children safe but, despite the lessons of 9/11, the federal government was doing little to improve emergency planning and disaster mitigation at schools. I then asked the Government Accountability Office to survey schools across the nation. They spoke to school personnel in Washington State, Iowa, Massachusetts, Florida, Ohio, and my own state of North Carolina. Last June, they reported the same thing I found in the 2nd District: schools want to improve their security, but need support and guidance to make improvements.

The Schools Empowered to Respond Act gives schools this support and guidance. It takes simple but important steps to make sure that schools have the help they need to keep our kids safe. State governments and education officials know what is best for their communities and their students, and this bill supports their work to keep schools safe and secure places to learn.

It gives school officials a "one-stop shop" in the Department of Homeland Security they can look to for advice, best practices, and assistance for school security planning. This office will coordinate federal initiatives such as the Safe Schools Initiative, Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools, and Safe and Drug Free Schools to ensure that resources get to the schools that need them. The bill also ensures that schools are eligible for emergency planning grants from DHS to improve school security. Given the vital role that schools serve in our communities, it ensures that teachers and administrators, school resource officers, and school emergency planning officials have a prominent voice in our national homeland security response. In short, it empowers school personnel to continue their good work and to implement their plans for school security by giving them the guidance and resources they need to keep our children safe.

Given recent events at schools across the country, we as a nation simply must invest in important priorities like emergency planning to ensure our schools remain prepared for any

emergency. I am proud to be taking steps to help schools with their emergency planning, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Schools Empowered to Respond Act today.

TRIBUTE TO MATAYA HULING

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor a great achievement by a young American from Garner, Iowa. This Sunday, April 13, Mataya Huling will be presented with The Girl Scout Gold Award. This is the highest achievement possible within the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

According to the Girl Scouts, the Gold Award project is the culmination of all the work a girl puts into "going for the Gold." It is something that a girl can be passionate about—in thought, deed, and action. The project is something that fulfills a need within a girl's community (whether local or global), creates change, and hopefully, is something that becomes ongoing. The project is more than a good service project—it encompasses organizational, leadership, and networking skills.

This award is certainly very prestigious, as last year only 5.4 percent of all eligible Girl Scouts received the Gold Award.

According to the Garner Leader and Signal newspaper, Mataya's Gold project was to redo the Garner-Hayfield High School Drama Department prop room. Mataya has been actively involved in drama programs since her days in junior high school. She worked 80 hours to organize, clean, repair and properly store props, costumes and materials used by the drama department.

Previously Mataya earned the Girl Scout Silver Award by planning and presenting several bike safety workshops for younger troop members and pre-school age children.

Along with her dedication to Girl Scouts, Mataya is involved in countless other activities in her school and community including chorus, band, GAP Teen Council, golf, and has volunteered teaching Sunday Bible School at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Mataya is a shining example of the dedication, determination and faith present in today's youth and their promise as tomorrow's leaders. I am proud to represent Mataya and her parents, Mark and Missy, in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in not only congratulating Mataya but also recognizing that maybe one day in the not too distant future we will see Congresswoman Mataya Huling serving in this historic institution.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING CHASE HUBER FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: