

RECOGNITION OF DR. ROBERT FRALEY OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI AS RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES' AWARD FOR THE INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION OF SCIENCE

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Robert Fraley who was a recent recipient of the National Academy of Sciences' Award for the Industrial Application of Science.

Every three years, the National Academy of Sciences recognizes one individual for original scientific work of both intrinsic scientific importance and with significant, beneficial applications in industry. This year, Dr. Fraley was honored with this important distinction for developing technologies that have enabled the production of the world's first transgenic crops. These modified plants have increased productivity, reduced chemical use, and profoundly changed global agriculture.

Since the 1980s, Dr. Fraley has been involved in agricultural biotechnology. Often referred to as the father of agricultural biotechnology, Dr. Fraley currently oversees Monsanto's integral crop and seed agribusiness biotechnology and research.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Fraley has contributed to various significant agricultural development activities including authoring more than 100 publications and patent applications relating to technical advances in agricultural biotechnology. In 1999, Dr. Fraley received the National Medal of Technology from President Clinton and was awarded the National Award for Agricultural Excellence in Science by the National Agri-Marketing Association in 1995. Dr. Fraley has also been awarded the Monsanto Edgar M. Queeny Award in recognition of the discovery, development and successful commercialization of Roundup Ready® crops as well as the Monsanto Thomas and Hochwalt Award for recognition of the advances made in basic research in plant biology.

Dr. Fraley is a shining example of the innovative ideas and great leadership that we have in Missouri. I thank Dr. Fraley for his service to the St. Louis community and beyond. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him on this important honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on April 23, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 209, rollcall 210, rollcall 211, rollcall 212, rollcall 213, rollcall 214, rollcall 215, rollcall 217, and rollcall 219.

I would have voted "nay" on the following: rollcall 208 and rollcall 216.

TEACH ABOUT THE GENOCIDE OF ROMA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I closely monitor incidents of racism and intolerance in the OSCE region. Today, I rise to address the need to foster greater knowledge of the genocide of Roma. I am moved to do so by some recent developments in the Czech Republic.

Too little is known, and too little is understood, about the genocide of Roma during World War II—and that ignorance manifests itself in many ways.

Last year, a tape recording emerged of a local housing committee meeting in the town of Ostrava in the eastern part of the Czech Republic. On this tape recording was the voice of Senator Liana Janackova, who was serving as a local mayor at the time the recording was made. And on this tape recording, Senator Janackova is heard to say: "Unfortunately, I am a racist. I disagree with the integration of Gypsies so that they would live across the area. Unfortunately, we have chosen the Bedriska (colony) and so they will stay there, with a high fence and with electricity." She was also heard to say that she had no place to move the Roma and would therefore like to dynamite them away.

News reports say that the Senator has since apologized and called her remarks "silly" and explained that they were not directed against all Roma, just some Roma.

Last week, this case was back in the news because the Czech Senate declined to lift Senator Janackova's immunity, a necessary step for prosecutors to charge her under the Czech Republic's laws that make defamation of a nation, ethnic group, race or faith a crime.

There has already been considerable criticism of the Czech Senate's 54 to 13 vote. According to news reports, those who voted against lifting Senator Janackova's immunity argued that she didn't make those remarks with a racist intent. Senator Janackova declared herself to be a racist and talked about dynamiting members of the Czech Republic's most persecuted minority, but they didn't think she had a racist intent. Frankly, I'm having a little trouble following that logic.

The fact is, this case illustrates one of the many ways in which hate speech laws stray from their original purpose and, often, don't work the way they were intended.

Now, I am not an advocate of hate speech laws as a means to address racism and intolerance. It is perhaps worth recalling that just a few years ago in the Czech Republic, a Romani woman cursed the wall that had been built in Usti nad Labem to separate Roma from non-Roma. In an extraordinary miscarriage of justice, she was convicted of hate speech for doing so. If not pardoned by Vaclav Havel, she would've gone to prison. And Romani activist Ondrej Gina was threatened with hate speech charges for saying his town was racist.

From where I stand, there are just too many cases where people are charged under hate speech laws not because they have fomented racial hatred, but because they have offended

the national or local government's political sensitivities.

So I am not here to make the case for prosecuting people for the content of their speech, or to argue that Senator Janackova should go to jail for what she said. Instead, I rise today to recommend that Senator Janackova visit the Romani camp at Auschwitz.

During World War II, Roma were targeted for death by the Nazis based on their ethnicity. At least 23,000 Roma were brought to Auschwitz—including many from the concentrations camps at Lety and Hodonin. Almost all of them perished in the gas chambers or from starvation, exhaustion, or disease. Some Roma also died at the hands of sadistic SS doctors, like Joseph Mengele. In fact, a young Czech woman, Dina Babbitt-Gottlieb, also interned at Auschwitz, was forced to paint portraits of Roma for Mengele, who particularly liked to conduct gruesome medical experiments on Roma.

On the night of August 2nd and 3rd, 1944, the order was given to liquidate the Romani camp at Auschwitz. In a single evening, 2,897 Romani men, women and children were killed in gas chambers. In the end, almost the entire Romani population of the Czech lands was exterminated during the Nazi occupation.

I don't know Senator Janackova. But I'd bet she has not been to the Romani camp at Auschwitz. Maybe she has not even been to the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno. Maybe she could view the collection of photographs of Czech Romani Holocaust victims that have been displayed in Prague. Maybe she could even help secure the resources to remove the pig farm from the site of the Lety concentration camp, as called for by many Romani activists and some government officials.

So I'm not calling for Senator Janackova go to jail. But I would like it if she could visit the Romani camp at Auschwitz. I think she would learn a lot there—she might even learn that words can have real consequences.

GREAT LOSS OF ALFRED BARNES

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great educator and leader, Alfred "Al" Barnes. The Tampa Bay community suffered a great loss on April 22, 2008 when he passed away.

Mr. Barnes grew up in the North Boulevard Homes in West Tampa and graduated from Middleton High School in 1956. He went on to Fort Valley State College on a full football scholarship, where he completed his Bachelor of Science. Upon graduation, Mr. Barnes began his career in education. His first assignment was as a P.E. teacher at the all-black Progress Village Elementary. But as segregation ended and Tampa worked to integrate its schools, Mr. Barnes was transferred to the then all-white Riverhills Elementary in 1965. It was a difficult time to be a black man in a white school, but Mr. Barnes' dedication to children and love of teaching moved him onward. In 1969 he became Tampa's first black varsity coach at Hillsborough High School, and for 25 years, he was the human relations specialist at Plant High School, helping at risk students.

Over his 40-year career in education. Mr. Barnes taught generations of Tampa students about acceptance and understanding, and his efforts are well remembered by them today. As Olga Barnes, his wife of 45 years puts it. "The children fell in love with him, and he fell in love with them." Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio, Mr. Barnes' former student, considers him a role model and appointed him to the Tampa Sports Authority. Carlye Morgan, a member of my staff in DC, is a graduate of Plant and was a member of the Student Advisory Committee, a student club that Mr. Barnes started to promote race relations and leadership at the school. She remembers his capacity to bring students of all backgrounds together to work on common goals. "He gave me the chance to be a leader at my school and taught me the power of mutual respect and acceptance. And students knew he was the type of teacher they could always come to if they needed help."

Outside of school. Mr. Barnes loved to scour flea markets for jewelry. A pocket watch and antiques collector, neighbors and friends rarely saw him without a healthy dose of his latest finds glittering back at them. As a member of First Baptist Church of College Hill, his collection of African artifacts was always a hit with the congregation during Black History Month.

Madam Speaker. Al Barnes will be greatly missed by me and my community. Tampa is a more loving and accepting place because of his dedication to our children. My thoughts are with Olga, his children Alfred and Zane, and his grandchildren, Luisa, Angelita, Andy, Brian, Kayla, and Kelsey.

HONORING GREENE COUNTY

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday April 29, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Greene County and Greeneville, Tennessee. Both celebrated their 225th anniversary on April 26.

Greene County was originally formed by the North Carolina Legislature on April 26, 1783 and just two years later, it became part of the state of Tennessee during the split of the State of Franklin. Today it still shares the pristine mountains, abundant history, and rich culture that it did 225 years ago.

Greene County has become a thriving tourist destination with its abundant history and the many restorations throughout the county.

Located in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, Greene County is one of the largest counties in Tennessee and hosts Greeneville, Tennessee's second oldest town.

Our 17th President, Andrew Johnson, who took the presidency after Abraham Lincoln, also calls Greene County home and is where he was finally laid to rest in 1875.

Celebrated hero, American folklore legend, and former Member of the United States House of Representatives, Davy Crockett was born in Greene County.

Tusculum College, which calls Greene County home, was founded in 1794 and is Tennessee's oldest college. Tusculum also is the oldest educational institution to be affiliated with the Presbyterian Church.

Greene County's Civil War ties are abundant and the county played a pivotal role in

the Civil War. The county was mostly made up of Unionist sympathizers and the Greeneville Convention of 1861 was Tennessee's largest and most important pro-Union meeting in the weeks prior to the Civil War. Furthermore, after the Confederate loss at the battle of Knoxville in 1863, General James Longstreet intended to stay the winter in Greeneville.

Greene County's historic production of burley tobacco led to prosperity in the late nineteenth century. After years of being one of the region's most important tobacco markets, the University of Tennessee Extension Service has invested in an experimental farm just outside of Greeneville which provides students with unique learning opportunities.

I would like to honor all who have had a hand in shaping the historic past of Greene County and those who will continue to shape Greene County for many years to come. Madam Speaker, as you can see, history, heritage, and culture are major characteristics of the First District, Greene County, and Greeneville. I ask my colleagues to honor and share Greene County and Greeneville's 225th anniversary celebration here today.

CONGRATULATING BRIDGER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bridger High School of Bridger, Montana for their 2008 Grammy Signature School Enterprise Award. With this prestigious award for academic excellence in music, Bridger High School receives a \$5,000 grant to use for improvement in their music department. These funds will also help this school's music department improve the quality of their program to a level that will allow them to compete for Grammy Signature School status in years to come.

The Grammy Signature School program was created by the Grammy Foundation in 1998. Through a stringent application process that begins in September with notifying over 20,000 schools nation-wide each school year, public high schools from a variety of large, small, urban, and rural districts are encouraged to send information regarding each school's music program. After each application is reviewed, finalists are chosen and then required to submit additional documentation including recordings of school concerts and programs. The Grammy screening committee then reviews each finalist to determine the winners. Bridger High School is the first school in Montana history to win the Enterprise Award.

Bridger, Montana is a small agricultural community of approximately 750 residents located in south-central Montana. Bridger High School is part of a K-12 school with 199 students. The music department has one teacher, Mrs. Michel Sticka. Since Mrs. Sticka joined the staff six years ago, the music department has grown from a handful of students to the exceptional program it is today. The fact that Mrs. Sticka has built this music program from the ground up is phenomenal, especially considering the relatively small size of the school. Her music program consists of a high school

choir, band, pep band, and jazz band, as well as a junior high cadet jazz band, 5th grade band and 6th–8th grade music.

All Montanans can be proud of this outstanding contribution to music education. The hard work and dedication of Mrs. Sticka and her students is certainly well-deserving of the 2008 Grammy Signature School Enterprise Award.

I ask that Mrs. Michel Sticka, Bridger High School, and the high school music students be added in my comments today.

Music Teacher: Mrs. Michel Sticka

Superintendent: Mr. John Ballard

Students: Benton Asbury, Katryna Asbury, Samantha Bobby, Jon Bostwick, Devon Cabellero, Jenny Cooke, Jessica Denney, Karissa DeRudder, Sommer Dykstra, Rebekah Edelman, Hayden Forsythe, Hannah Goetz, Jacey Griswold, Elliott McCarthy, Forrest McCarthy, Kimberly McClurg, Heidi Mudd, Wendi Mudd, Taran Murray, Lenore Pierson, Cole Schwend, Edward Stevenson, Andrea Sticka, Bailee Vaughn, Ryan Witt, Kyla Young, Tyler Young, Brittany Zentner.

RECOGNIZING DARKNESS TO LIGHT OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA DURING NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as you know, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about an organization in my home town of Charleston, South Carolina that was started just eight years ago to prevent one of the most horrific aspects of child abuse: child sexual abuse.

Statistics show that one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18. Further, 90 percent of child sexual abuse offenders are in an authority position over the children they are abusing, making it difficult for children to speak out or confront the abuse.

Ms. Anne Lee of Charleston founded Darkness to Light™ in 1999 with the core belief that adults should be responsible for the care and protection of children. Darkness to Light seeks to reduce the incidence of child sexual abuse by shifting the responsibility from children to adults. Their Stewards of Children™ training program teaches adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. It was recently named "Crime Prevention Program of the Year" by the National Crime Prevention Association.

This training program is being utilized by youth-serving organizations, as well as individuals and businesses who want to respond to the epidemic nature of this problem. Darkness to Light also offers Stewards program in a fully interactive, on-line format.

To date, over 120,000 adults in 47 U.S. States and territories—as well as nine foreign countries—have completed the Stewards of Children training. I commend Anne Lee and all of her colleagues for creating this important child protection program, and I encourage you all to visit the Darkness to Light website at