

course designed to replicate lunar ground conditions in 4 minutes and 25 seconds.

These students represent America's next generation of scientists, mathematicians, and engineers. I have no doubts that their ingenuity, creativity, and dedication to discovery will result in creative solutions to many of the challenges America faces after they leave the University of Evansville. Congratulations!

SEWAGE CRISIS NOW ADDED TO THE HUMANITARIAN DEBACLE IN GAZA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, since late January 2008, the 1.5 million person population in Gaza has been enduring an Israeli-imposed blockade. The blockade effectively restricts the entry of food, clean water, fuel, and medical supplies. The lack of basic goods has severely deteriorated Gaza's health, economy, and social fabric.

The World Bank reports that since Hamas ousted Fatah from Gaza last June, 90 percent of businesses have shut down costing workers more than 100,000 jobs. Due to the closure of Gaza's borders and its inability to import raw materials, farmers and businesses are unable to produce and export their goods leaving nearly half a million people without an income.

According to Oxfam, today 80 percent of Gaza's population is dependent on food aid. On April 24th, the United Nations, UN, announced the suspension of their food aid program to 650,000 Gazans, 56 percent of whom are children, due to a lack of fuel for their trucks. These restrictions exacerbate an already dire humanitarian crisis in which 17.5 percent of children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Water and wastewater systems have also become a casualty of the blockade. Gaza's water and wastewater system is heavily reliant on diesel-powered generators. Due to the restrictions on the entry of diesel into Gaza, many water pumps do not have the power to provide running water. Additionally, the sewage system dates back to 1967 and was meant to provide for a population one-third the size of Gaza's Population. The lack of clean water and an adequate sewage system has led to a sanitary water crisis in Gaza.

According to a recent UN publication, seventy-five percent of Gaza's drinking water is polluted. The lack of clean water and a proper sewage system has caused infestations of small organisms such as amoeba that have led to several ailments including abdominal colic, diarrhea, and constipation. The sewage crisis has also led to overflow. On March 27, 2007, a wall of human waste overflowed into Gaza's residential areas and caused the death of children and elderly people.

According to the United Relief Works Agency, UNRWA, "Gaza is on the threshold of becoming the first territory to be intentionally reduced to a state of abject destitution, with the knowledge, acquiescence and, some would say, encouragement of the international community."

Israel must protect its citizens and ensure their security, but pursuant to the Fourth Ge-

neva Convention, Israel also has a legal duty to provide Gazans with food, clean water, electricity, and medical care. I urge the U.S. Administration to help end the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and ensure the health, safety, and security for Palestinians and Israelis.

NEW BRIDGING INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT TOUGH HI-TECH RESEARCH ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY (BIG THREE) ACT OF 2008

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the New Bridging Industry and Government Through Hi-Tech Research on Energy Efficiency (BIG THREE) Act of 2008. This important legislation is a bold step to foster innovation, create and retain high-paying jobs, and promote efficient and alternative fuel technology to ensure that automakers meet the increased Corporate Average Fuel Economy, CAFE, standards.

It is impossible to overlook the importance of the automotive industry to the U.S. economy. Our history and our heritage as a nation are deeply rooted in the automotive industry, which has greatly improved the quality of life in our time. Nearly 400,000 Americans jobs are provided directly by the automotive industry on assembly lines, in research facilities, and offices across the country. Additionally, approximately 3.5 million other jobs are supported by the automotive industry through parts suppliers, hospitals, schools, and police stations that serve them. That means that every automotive job equals nearly 9 other jobs for U.S. workers.

It is also impossible to ignore the current struggles of the automotive industry. When Congress enacted energy legislation that increased CAFE standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020, it placed the burden of cost on the auto industry to meet the aggressive efficiency targets. Increased CAFE standards represent only the latest hurdle thrown at the automotive industry from Washington, with little help delivered to assist the industry's pursuit of higher efficiency and lower emissions. During a time of an economic slowdown, Washington should take steps to protect these valuable jobs, not jeopardize them.

CAFE will cost the domestic automotive industry an estimated \$85 billion to research, develop, and implement the efficient and alternative fuel technology required to meet the aggressive new standards. For an industry that already spends approximately \$16 billion per year on research and development, finding the extra funds to develop this technology without compromising drivers' safety will be extremely difficult. This means that the increased costs will have to be passed on to the consumer, with some estimating that it will cost an extra \$6,000 per car to meet CAFE standards.

Instead of throwing the automotive industry up the creek without a paddle,

Washington should play a part in increasing energy efficiency. Energy security is an issue of national security and must be addressed over the short term and the long term. This requires a comprehensive strategy and steadfast dedication to meet our goal.

That is why I have introduced this legislation, which will help automakers meet the new regulations, help make our country a leader in alternative fuel technologies, and help stimulate our slowing national economy. Michigan's economy has been in unique and deep trouble for some time.

The first step in my plan is to permanently extend the research and development tax credit at 20 percent and make it fully refundable for expenditures that help meet the new CAFE standards. Automakers and suppliers have not been able to take advantage of the tax credit because they have not made substantial profits in recent years. Allowing an industry that currently invests significant funding in advanced research and development to take advantage of the tax credit will help defray the costs of increased research and development. This will enable them to reinvest these funds and create more high-paying jobs in the U.S.

The New BIG THREE Act will also invest significant Federal funding in research and development of leap-ahead technologies that will help us meet the new CAFE standards. Advanced battery technology is one of the most promising ways to dramatically increase fuel efficiency. However, there is no domestic production of advanced battery technology that is applicable to vehicles. By investing \$750 million over 5 years to research and develop advanced battery technology, my bill will help ensure that America is the epicenter of hybrid and plug-in electric vehicles that will help reduce our dependence on oil.

Hydrogen fuel cell technology has always been regarded as the long-term goal of extremely low-emission transportation. The New BIG THREE Act will invest \$250 million over 5 years to install hydrogen fuel pumps in commercial gas stations in at least two pilot regions. By establishing a hydrogen infrastructure, we can promote use of currently available hydrogen vehicles and provide an incentive to produce more of these leap-ahead vehicles. The New BIG THREE Act will also invest \$150 million over 3 years for the Federal Government to purchase hydrogen vehicles in order to reduce the emissions of our fleets and demonstrate the viability of the technology.

The New BIG THREE Act also has a provision that will affect short-term efforts to increase fuel efficiency. Clean diesel technology is one of the best ways to reduce emissions in the short term, and utilizing biodiesel is a promising way to reduce our dependence on Middle East oil. However, not all current biodiesel blends are compatible with all biodiesel engines. My bill will direct the Environmental Protection Agency to make a harmonized national standard for biodiesel composition.

Finally, my comprehensive plan will establish the Interagency Group on CAFE Standards, which will make sure Federal agencies work together and that all money spent on auto-related projects is used wisely and most effectively.

Ultimately, my plan is about jobs and our economy. The New BIG THREE Act is about working with one of our most important industries to create and retain good jobs, allow the industry to be competitive in the global market, and help move to a cleaner and more efficient line of American cars. The strong position of the Federal Government created by CAFE on

all of these issues mandates a strong commitment to make sure the goals are accomplished. I hope you will help American manufacturing succeed by supporting this important legislation.

COMMENDING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STUDENTS FROM SOUTH TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the students of South Texas High School for Health Professions in Mercedes, Texas for once again excelling in the Health Occupations Students of America state competition. This year 13 Med High students scored first or second among all Texas students in competitions testing their knowledge of subjects ranging from nutrition to personal care to first aid techniques. The hard work of these South Texas high school students is to be commended, as is their involvement with HOSA.

As our Nation struggles to find and train a sufficient number of health care workers to meet the needs of our aging population, HOSA has endeavored to play a leading role in training high school and post-secondary students for futures in health care careers. To date, over 90,000 students have participated in the HOSA program through approximately 2,600 secondary and post-secondary chapters across the country.

By expanding the number of students receiving training and instruction in health care careers, our Nation would be investing in the futures of both our students and our communities. This Congress, I have introduced H.R. 3618, the Safe Schools and Health Care Professional Pipeline Act, to facilitate the expansion of health care and medical education in our secondary and post-secondary institutions. This bill will create a pipeline of trained students into the health professions, where they will be able to provide for the medical needs of their communities. By introducing these students to health care careers at an early age, our high schools and universities will join in our effort to sustain an adequate supply of medical professionals while developing the skills of our young people.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the accomplishments of the students of Med High and in supporting the Safe Schools and Health Care Professional Pipeline Act.

A TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT EMANUEL PICKETT

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Emanuel Pickett of Wallace, North Carolina, who lost his life while defending our Nation on April 6 during a mortar attack in Baghdad. In addition

to his service in the North Carolina National Guard, Emanuel served as a captain with the Wallace, North Carolina, Police Department. He shall be remembered by all those whose lives he touched as the finest example of bravery, honor, and public service.

Emanuel lived in Wallace his entire life, and throughout his 34 years, worked selflessly to make a positive difference in his community. Besides working as a captain with the Wallace Police Department, he also worked as a reserve deputy for the Duplin County Sheriff's office, where he led undercover drug investigations in several surrounding counties. Emanuel's giving spirit found many outlets. He also started a crime watch in his own neighborhood, helped to found a program to mentor kids without fathers, and coached youth basketball.

Emanuel will be missed by his family and friends. He was the son of Harry and Merlese Pickett, the youngest of 6 children. He was the loving father of 3 children—2 daughters, ages 17 and 10, and a 14-year-old son. Over his lifetime, Emanuel earned countless friends. Because of his 13 years of service with the police department and his stint of more than 20 years employed at a local butcher shop, Emanuel owned one of the most recognizable faces in his community. He was so admired within his community, in fact, that his family has received condolences from thousands of people, including some that Emanuel helped send to prison.

Emanuel Pickett was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq when his life was taken. His courage will continue to be an inspiration to us all. His life is a strong representation of what can be accomplished through devotion to a community and its people. May God bless his family, and may we always remember the life of Staff Sergeant Emanuel Pickett.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING GERRY JASPER FOR WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Gerry Jasper showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Gerry Jasper was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Gerry Jasper always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Gerry Jasper on winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARETE WALDEN

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, this past Sunday, April 27, 2008, Margarete Walden of the 7th Congressional District in Washington State, was announced the national winner of the Student Conservation Association and Mazda North American Operation's Conservation in Action multimedia contest. The contest was designed to create new, practical solutions to our Nation's most urgent environmental issues.

Margarete Walden's winning essay, titled The Pen Pal Project: A Kyoto Protocol for the Individual Citizen, develops an action-oriented environmental solution. Implemented on the classroom level, American students would be paired with students from a developing country and would be responsible for lowering their carbon footprint to below per capita 1990 levels by the end of the school year. This pen pal partnership is modeled on the Kyoto Protocol so that the pairs can work together to meet their target while learning about international environmental politics. The project's main goal would be to provide students with a practical opportunity for action on global warming in the short term that would lead to a lifestyle change of great benefit to the environment in the long term.

Today, I am proud to welcome Miss Walden to our Nation's capital where she will receive her cash prize and the 2008 fuel efficient Mazda 3 sedan.

Margarete Walden reminds our Nation that every citizen must be leaders in the incessant challenge to improve old models of conservation.

RECOGNIZING DARRELL R. GREEN AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE CARE AWARD

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Darrell R. Green, an NFL Hall of Famer, seven-time All-Pro defensive back for the Washington Redskins and founder of the Darrell Green Youth Life Foundation, upon his receiving the Commonwealth Academy Recognition for Educators, CARE, Award.

Mr. Green is being honored for his visionary leadership in establishing the Darrell Green Youth Life Foundation, which provides support services to young people facing challenging life circumstances. Through his foundation, Mr. Green has opened the Youth Life Learning Center in the District of Columbia and affiliate centers in Richmond, Virginia, and Nashville, Tennessee. These centers provide comprehensive after-school and summer programs for at-risk teens and pre-teens. They offer academic enrichment and remedial education in the areas of reading, language arts, mathematics, supplemental services, mentoring and character development. In addition to providing these services, Mr. Green's foundation