

commitment to family and community will forever live in the lives of the people she so graciously touched. I am honored and humbled to join her family in celebrating the life of this amazing woman who will never be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHARLES ROBINSON-SNEAD

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday May 1, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Robinson-Snead, who was nominated to be the 2008 Delaware Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Reader's Digest have nationally sponsored the Youth of the Year program since 1947. The goal of Youth of the Year has been to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and their contributions to their Club, community, school, and family. More than 32,000 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Twelve students were nominated for the honor of Youth of the Year through an intensive local and State level selection process, including the nominees' personal contribution to home and family, community, school and their Boys & Girls Club. The nominees had to prepare two essays explaining why post-high school education is important and what the Club means to them. Additionally, students had to prepare a 3–5-minute speech and have an interview session with a panel of judges. The candidates attended the Youth of the Year Summit, where they received professional guidance regarding public speaking, writing, and interviewing skills.

After winning the Local Youth of the Year Award, Charles moved on to the State level competition, where he refined his essay and prepared for the next round of interviews. Charles was a highly qualified candidate for the Youth of the Year 2008. At Laurel Boys & Girls Club Charles serves as a tutor and mentor for other club members.

Once again, I would like to commend Charles Robinson-Snead for being nominated as the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware's Youth of the Year.

HONORING BONNIE COX

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bonnie Cox, a remarkable employee and public servant at the Department of Disability Determinations in Frankfort, Kentucky. Bonnie is retiring this month, ending her three decade career in Kentucky State government.

Bonnie began her career at the DDS in the operations support branch and advanced through numerous positions to her current executive secretary position in the Commissioner's office. She has spent the last 25 years with the Department of Disability Determinations.

Bonnie has been an invaluable participant in many events outside the realm of her daily job duties. She has been the chairperson for the agency's Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign and has worked tirelessly in this capacity. Having been touched by the generosity of KECC in her own personal life, Bonnie was the perfect advocate for KECC at the agency and brought a newfound inspiration into the DDS regarding this worthy organization.

In addition to her compassion, dedication, and good works for KECC, Bonnie also organizes appointments for the Red Cross blood drive, is instrumental in preparing information for the PRIDE, People Responsibly Influencing Decisional Excellence awards, and organizes retirement receptions and other noteworthy meetings within the DDS. She has received numerous awards and commendations for her dedication and commitment to these endeavors.

Bonnie has touched countless lives through her contacts with congressional inquiry claims. Her caring attitude and compassionate spirit have made her one of the strongest advocates for Kentucky's disabled citizens.

State government will lose a "voice" for the disabled and a friend to all when Bonnie retires. On behalf of the countless men and women who have benefited from her dedicated service, I would like to express my profound appreciation to Bonnie Cox and wish her a very happy and healthy retirement.

THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TO PROVIDE COUNTER-NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE TO CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO ERADICATE ILLEGAL DRUG ACTIVITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 865 which urges the United States Government to consider fully and carefully the recommendations in the UNODC and World Bank Report entitled "Crime, Violence, and Development: Trends, Costs, and Policy Options in the Caribbean."

Although using Caribbean nations as major transit points for illegal drugs is not a new problem, it does shed light on a longstanding issue—the U.S. policy on providing assistance to the Caribbean nations in combating illegal drug activity. A major contributing factor to illegal drug activity remains the lack of resources Caribbean nations possess to combat this growing and menacing problem.

This problem will not resolve itself. Some steps the United States should take to assist the member states of CARICOM and the Dominican Republic include, but are not limited to: coordinating policy development and implementation, providing counter-narcotics assistance, and a continuance of policy initiatives that are working, such as the bilateral cooperation between the United States and the Government of Jamaica. Under this initiative, the U.S. provides training and material support to sections of Jamaican law enforcement agencies to strengthen their counter-narcotics capabilities. This is an excellent example that should be modeled throughout the Caribbean.

It is imperative for the United States to work with CARICOM member states and the Do-

minican Republic to establish effective programs to mitigate and ultimately, eradicate illegal drug activity. This will take a coordinated and aggressive collaboration by CARICOM member states, the Dominican Republic and the United States to have an impact on drugs being transported through the Caribbean and into the U.S. Even though this is a very daunting problem, working together and fully and carefully considering the recommendations in the UNODC and World Bank report is certainly a major step in the right direction.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FERNANDO "CHITO" SALINAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Fernando "Chito" Salinas for his induction as a laureate in the 2008 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for his incredible dedication to the city of Laredo, Texas.

Fernando Salinas is a 1942 graduate of Martin High School, and attended Tulane University in New Orleans after transferring from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. After attending Tulane, Fernando returned back to work at his family's department store, Los Dos Laredos, in downtown Laredo. Five years later, he worked as a salesman at the famed Joe Brand store, and used his knowledge of men's retail to launch his own new department store, Don Antonio's in 1952. The business flourished during the 1960s, attracting a steady clientele from both sides of the United States-Mexico border.

After his retirement from the retail business in 2005, Fernando established a charitable trust that has donated \$1.35 million for causes that enrich education, the arts and human services, and pledged nearly \$95,000 in scholarships for college-bound students. The scholarships are given to hard-working students at Laredo Community College and Texas A&M International University. Fernando has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his philanthropic work at his charitable trust. He has also contributed to the youth of Laredo through his Junior League Achievement sponsorship of Christen Middle School. For his dedication and hard work in making the Laredo business community stronger and better, Fernando will be honored by the Junior Achievement League through his induction into the 2008 Business Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Mr. Fernando Salinas, and I thank you for this time.

COMBUSTIBLE DUST EXPLOSION AND FIRE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 5522) to require the Secretary of Labor to issue interim and final occupational safety and health standards regarding worker exposure to combustible dust, and for other purposes:

Mr. HARE. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5522, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act and commend Chairman GEORGE MILLER for his tireless efforts on behalf of America's workers.

Our Nation was horrified by news of the February 7 explosion at the Imperial Sugar Refinery in Port Wentworth, GA. I think we were even more stunned by the fact that it was caused by "combustible dust." Although, combustible dust explosions are well documented by the Chemical Safety Board, most employers, workers and the general public are not aware that accumulated dust can cause such destruction. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that not enough is being done to keep workplaces clean and safe from this hazard.

During a March 12, 2008, hearing in the Education and Labor Committee, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, Assistant Secretary, Edwin Foulke testified that OSHA has established a housekeeping and ventilation standard, as well as developed programs to address combustible dust hazards. While I appreciate these efforts, frankly they are not enough.

For one, the housekeeping standard is too vague to be useful, and secondly, these measures are "voluntary." When regulations are voluntary, people do not follow them. In my experience as the former President of UNITE HERE Local 617, most employers do not address hazards if doing so interferes with their bottom line or costs time and money.

At this same hearing, witnesses also testified that absent a comprehensive OSHA standard for combustible dust, no one can be confident that dust hazards will be cited and corrected prior to the occurrence of additional accidents.

In fact, the Chemical Safety Board ruled that in addition to the Imperial Sugar incident, several other recent refinery explosions in North Carolina, Kentucky and Indiana could have been prevented if the facilities had complied with the safety and engineering practices contained in National Fire Protection Association standard 484 and 654.

I have often said in this House how frustrated I am that we wait for an emergency to occur before reacting, rather than working to prevent it in the first place. We tend to pass laws, establish regulations and mitigate hazards after disasters and fatalities have occurred.

Today, by passing the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act, we take a proactive step to protect workers rather than waiting for even one more injury.

Specifically, this bill directs OSHA to issue an interim final combustible dust standard within 90 days. The standard would include measures to minimize hazards associated with combustible dust through improved housekeeping, engineering controls, worker training and a written combustible dust safety program. OSHA would then be required to issue a final standard within eighteen months. In addition to items required in the interim standard, the final standard would include requirements

for building design and explosion protection. Finally, OSHA would have to include combustible dusts in the Hazard Communication Standard which requires workers to receive information and training about the hazards they face.

Again, I thank Chairman MILLER and the committee staff for their hard work on this legislation and urge all my colleagues to vote "yes" on final passage.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
KENNETH GRAY, RETIRED U.S.
CONGRESSMAN FROM ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of the Honorable Kenneth Gray and to express appreciation for his years of service to his country and to the residents of southern Illinois.

A native son of West Frankfort, IL, Ken is a man of varied interests and talents. He was both a licensed pilot and auctioneer. From 1942 to 1954, he owned Gray Motors in West Frankfort and also operated an air service in Benton from 1948 to 1954.

In World War II, Ken answered his country's call to service at the age of 18, which took him to North Africa and Italy as well as combat missions over southern France and central Europe. Ken's decorations for his service in World War II included 3 bronze stars.

Upon returning home from the war, Ken became involved in assisting his fellow veterans and it was through these endeavors that he was encouraged to run for the U.S. Congress. Ken won election from the 25th Congressional District of Illinois in 1954 as a freshman member of the 84th Congress and he continued to serve for a total of 10 successive terms. Because of health concerns, Ken did not run for re-election in 1974 but ran again, and won, in 1984 and served another two terms, representing his beloved southern Illinois in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As a U.S. Congressman, Ken was a tireless advocate for the needs of the people of southern Illinois and built a reputation as a member who worked well with his colleagues to get the job done. On a personal note, I have always been grateful to Ken for what he did for me when I was first elected to Congress. I was elected in a special election in August 1988 to complete the term of Mel Price, who passed away that year. Ken resigned his position on the Transportation Committee, which made a seat available for me and gave me seniority over other members who were first elected in 1988 to start the 101st Congress.

Since retiring from Congress in 1988, Ken has continued to work hard for the needs of the people of southern Illinois. He has served on several boards and projects, most notably as a board member of the Rend Lake Conservancy District. He has also worked on a number of initiatives to improve rural health care, especially in Franklin County, IL. Ken is fre-

quently a speaker at local political and charitable events which benefit a number of organizations, such as the Poshard Foundation for Abused Children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to the Honorable Kenneth Gray for his years of service to this body and to the people of southern Illinois and to wish him and his family the very best in the future.

WOMEN IN THE PETROCHEMICAL
INDUSTRY—LISA VANDER LAAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to pay tribute to Lisa Vander Laan, Plant Manager of ExxonMobil's Chemical Polyethylene Plant, in Beaumont, Texas.

Mrs. Vander Laan earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Louisiana State University, graduating summa cum laude and receiving the University Medal. She joined Exxon Corporation in 1989 as a process engineer in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and spent her first decade in various manufacturing assignments in engineering and supervision before becoming intermediates technical manager.

Vander Laan spent the next 7 years at the corporation's Houston headquarters for chemicals in marketing and business planning, as global basic chemicals financial manager, Americas low density polyethylene product manager; and ExxonMobil Chemicals global manufacturing planning manager. In February 2007, she took over at the polyethylene plant in Beaumont as plant manager.

Mrs. Vander Laan is seeing more women in leadership roles in the petrochemical industry. When she started in engineering, there were very few female supervisors and managers. She now believes there are significantly more women in the petrochemical industry jobs like chemical engineering. She says ExxonMobil encourages girls to get into math and science, and has an "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" in the spring.

Chemical Engineering seems to run in the family. Vander Laan's father is a chemical engineer as well as an older and younger sister, in addition, "all the girls married ExxonMobil guys". She is married to Jeffrey Dale Vander Laan and has two children, Cecilia and Abigail. She doesn't know if her daughters will show interest in chemical engineering like she and her sisters, who love math.

Mrs. Vander Laan is on the board of the Beaumont Area United Way and a member of the Southeast Texas Plant Manager's Forum, for which she serves as chairman of the environmental committee.

Madam speaker, Lisa Vander Laan is a success story in the male dominated petrochemical industry, and I am proud to celebrate her accomplishments.