

Human Genome Project, is poised not only to reveal medical truths about ourselves and our potential for health, but also to help us make that connection to our past.

While some of my colleagues are focused that GINA will provide further incentives and additional opportunities for litigation against employers, they seem to forget the very real concern of individual protections. In an age where electronic databases are easily tampered with and private information is passed around like a bad cold, we must focus on the rights of individuals and their families when dealing with such a complex and contentious issue.

At a time when we want people to seek out preventative care and gain greater health literacy, we want to ensure them that they are safe and big brother is not selling their detailed information to the highest bidder.

Researchers at Penn State University have stated that from a medical viewpoint, African genetic diversity is important in understanding genetic diseases of African Americans and for finding treatment methods for contagious diseases that originated in Africa. These researchers have said that if they could identify the genetic changes that provided this protection, then they might be able to find treatment methods for the diseases.

These revolutionary discoveries are due to a diverse group of people feeling secure enough with their doctors, nurses, and health insurance companies that they participate in genetic testing and research studies.

We exclaim that we want better health care, greater incidence of prevention, better understanding of current diseases, and most importantly more cures to the illnesses of Americans. This is what genetic testing and research can do. If we allow employers and health insurance companies manipulate the data to further restrict Americans' access to quality care, then we should not support this bill.

However, if we are for access to quality health care, if we are for greater understanding of infectious diseases and mutations, if we are for privacy protections in medical records and payment systems . . . then we must give our full support to this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your leadership in the area of health care access. This is yet one more area that allows us to support an individual's right to care without fear of retribution by increased health insurance payments or even worse, denial of care altogether. Vote in support of Access, Understanding, and Privacy.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR., TO INTELLECTUAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, last month the Senate of Alabama including Alabama Senators Pittman, French, Griffith, Brooks, Marsh, Glover, Butler, Waggoner, Bedford, Mitchem, Barron, Bishop, Lindsey, Benefield, McClain, Preuitt, Orr, and Mitchell, passed a resolution recognizing the contributions of William F. Buckley, Jr., to intellectual and philosophical discourse.

Today, I rise to ask that this resolution be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in its entirety:

Whereas, the death of William F. Buckley, Jr., on February 27, 2008, brings to a close a public career of enormous productivity and significance in the United States and around the world; and

Whereas, educated by private tutors in Connecticut, in European Catholic schools, and at Yale University, he was an intellectual giant with an intimidating vocabulary, finely tuned debating skills, and a fearless pen; he was at the forefront of the coalescence of a conservative movement in the 1960s, introducing a rhetoric still relevant today; and

Whereas, Mr. Buckley founded a magazine, the *National Review*; wrote some 55 books, both fiction and nonfiction; authored editorials published around the country and abroad; entered into debate on the public stage; and hosted *Firing Line*, a long-running television interview and debate program; and

Whereas, as chief spokesman for a conservative philosophy which found favor with such political figures as presidential candidate, Barry Goldwater and then-California Governor, Ronald Reagan, Mr. Buckley rode the wave of public support to prominence at home and around the globe, luring converts in his wake; and

Whereas, described by his son, the novelist Christopher Buckley, as not leaving any stone unturned, Mr. Buckley also directed his attention to religion where he applied his conservative mind-set to the tenets of Anglican and Roman Catholicism, writing expositions in defense of a traditionalistic theology; and

Whereas, rarely does an individual of the modern era succeed in being heralded as a philosopher of immense influence in his lifetime; Mr. Buckley's prolific work will continue to bear scrutiny as western thought evolves; now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Legislature of Alabama, that we recognize and applaud the contributions of William F. Buckley, Jr. to the intellectual and philosophical discourse of the twentieth century, and we offer this resolution in tribute to an accomplished and distinguished American.

RECOGNIZING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4–10, 2008.

This week we take a moment to thank educators who are committed to enriching the lives of the children they teach.

I want to thank the teachers in Idaho dedicated to paving the road for the next generation's success. Educators have a unique opportunity to play a vital role in the lives of Idaho students and provide a powerful role model through their patience, dedication and knowledge.

Several teachers from my youth left a lasting impression that has shaped who I am today. I want to express my gratitude to those teachers who taught me life long lessons. I am in debt to them for their wisdom and vision.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Genius without education is like silver in the mine." I'm confident in the ability of Idaho educators to

cultivate the minds of our youth and inspire them to greatness.

Idaho teachers face a unique challenge in that the Gem State includes 63 percent Federally administered land and this has left many of our counties and schools without an adequate tax base. In light of this, I will continue to dedicate my time in Congress to ensure Idaho's rural counties get a fair shake and the Federal Government meets its responsibilities to them fully.

It is through the innovation and hard work of parents, teachers, local administrators and the community as a whole that the educational needs of all children will be served. I remain confident that Idaho's students will reap all the benefits that our teachers have to offer.

THE ABOLISHMENT BY THE CITY OF EDCOUCH, TEXAS, OF A 1931 CITY ORDINANCE "ESTABLISHING A LINE SEPARATING RESIDENTS OF MEXICAN OR SPANISH ORIGIN FROM AMERICAN RESIDENTS"

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, on this Cinco de Mayo, it is quite appropriate that the City of Edcouch, in my Congressional district, is repealing a 1931 city ordinance that should have never been approved. This ordinance segregated the city into two portions based strictly on racial and national origin. It was this type of prejudice, sanctioned by local government, which created fear and insecurity among the residents of Edcouch and the surrounding region. It was this type of discrimination that caused my family to move from Edcouch to Mercedes, Texas.

I recall how my brothers and I had to attend segregated schools in Edcouch. It did not matter that my parents and family were upstanding citizens of Edcouch or that my father started and ran a business. It didn't matter that we were hardworking and wanted to help the community grow, and it did not matter that we were U.S. citizens. No, it was our last name and family lineage that defined who we were and where we could live. That type of treatment stays in your mind forever. That is why this Nation has to constantly strive to improve civil rights for everyone in 2008 and beyond.

The struggle for civil rights by Mexican-Americans and other Hispanics throughout the southwest is well documented. In my district, it was the 1968 Edcouch-Elsa high school walkouts that sent a loud message that justice had not yet been achieved for all. Those walkouts eventually led to a Federal court declaring the ban on Spanish speaking in schools to be unconstitutional. That demonstration and legal action led to the establishment of bilingual education in public schools.

Back in the 1930s and 1940s, little did anyone expect that a Mexican-American, born in Edcouch, would one day be the U.S. Congressman representing the Edcouch community. But, we should not focus completely on the past. We must look forward, because many challenges remain.

The ugly head of prejudice still shows itself, especially against immigrants. My parents

were immigrants and many others like them are greatly responsible for much of the Nation's economic growth. That is why comprehensive immigration reform is so important.

At the local level, much remains to be done to help Edcouch and the surrounding Delta re-

gion reach its potential. Projects such as the Mercado Delta and the future Gran Parque will raise the quality of life in this community to another level.

I congratulate the City of Edcouch for being a full partner in these projects and for seeing

a greater future for itself. Today, it has taken a very symbolic and significant step to correct an injustice from its past. For that, I commend the community and its city leaders and am confident that Edcouch will become a model of success in the Rio Grande Valley region.