

young lady who completed her studies in only three years. She was expected to graduate from Loyola in December.

Another promising life cut short. Another life ended by gun violence. Another family forced to ask why their loved one, who was not involved in guns, drugs or gangs, had to leave tragically and so soon.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45."

When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killings!"

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1086, a resolution recognizing the designation of May 6 through May 12, 2008 as the National Nurses Week. I commend my colleague Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for introducing this resolution and am honored to be a cosponsor of the legislation. This is an overdue resolution that recognizes the vital service that nurses provide to health of our citizens.

I need to acknowledge that it is because of the efforts of the nurses that are helping the health care system to survive in its fragile state. It is only fitting that the end of National Nurses Week is the birthday of Florence Nightingale who is the founder of modern nursing that has initiated the blossoming of about 2,500,000 registered nurses in the United States.

I would like to specifically recognize the 190,000 registered nurses in Texas for their unprecedented service tending to the needs of my State. This legislation is a testament to our Nation's ability to honor those that dedicate their lives to humanitarian causes.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution allows everyone to realize the foundational contributions that they have and continue to contribute to everyone. I would like to point out that everyone has interacted with a nurse in their lives and nurses should never be taken for granted.

Not only does this recognition honor the servants of humanity, but also paves the way for inspiration and education for those that aspire to serve in humanitarian needs. Our Nation is facing hardship through the shortage of nurses and medical care is essential to the viability of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative for the government to recognize the importance of nurses in our country. I urge my colleagues to wholeheartedly support this resolution and other initiatives to properly recognize National Nurses Week.

COMBUSTIBLE DUST EXPLOSION AND FIRE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

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:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5522, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act. This legislation would require the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue rules regulating combustible industrial dusts, like sugar dust, that can build up to hazardous levels and explode.

Working families are the backbone of Minnesota and our Nation, and it is critical that all Americans to have a safe and healthy workplace. Unfortunately, due to the Bush Administration's failure in leaving worker safety in the hands of industry, OSHA has issued only one major safety standard, the fewest in its history, and killed and delayed dozens of existing and proposed regulations since President Bush took office. In 2005, over 5,700 workers were killed on the job and another 4.2 million workers were injured. It is clear that there is still a need for greater workplace protections.

A tragic example of this need occurred in early February when the Imperial Sugar refinery in Savannah, Georgia, exploded, killing thirteen people and injuring many others. When dust builds up to dangerous levels in industrial worksites, it can become fuel for fires and explosions. Combustible dust can come from many sources, such as sugar, wood, furniture, textiles, and metals, and therefore poses a risk across a number of different industries throughout the United States. There have been 281 combustible dust incidents between 1980 and 2005 that killed 119 workers and injured several others. Despite this, OSHA has failed to act to provide the necessary safety regulations.

The Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act (H.R. 5522) recognizes the serious hazard presented by combustible dust in American industry, and requires OSHA to issue rules regulating combustible industrial dusts. This bill sets a timeline for OSHA to respond, and requires workers to receive information and training about the hazards of combustible dusts. OSHA has known about these dangers for years, but has failed to act. Since 2001, in case after case and industry after industry, OSHA has chosen to emphasize voluntary compliance over setting strong rules and enforcing them.

Workers cannot be asked to wait any longer for these basic worker protections. The tragedy at Imperial Sugar shows that the threat of dust explosions is very real at industrial worksites across America and needs to be addressed immediately. Methods to control combustible dust hazards are well known. However, as we have tragically seen, voluntary standards are not enough. Without an OSHA

standard, many employers are unaware of the hazards of combustible dusts, while others have chosen not to adopt voluntary standards.

It is time for Congress to take action to protect American workers, because OSHA did not. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act to save American workers from harm.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF TOLEDO BLESSED SACRAMENT NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker. I rise today, pleased to recognize a milestone for Toledo Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish. They celebrate the dedication of a neighborhood center and middle school.

Blessed Sacrament became the Mother Church of West Toledo, established December 31, 1924, by Father Otto C. Kappus, in the forested epicenter of western Toledo. Struggling middle-class families of the densely populated, majority Catholic residential area settled and thrived through the Great Depression and World War II. September 6, 1925, marked the laying of the cornerstone for the first church and school by Monsignor J. T. O'Connell. However, the church and school were completed in February 1926.

The Sisters of Blessed Sacrament who served the Parish in 1925 belonged to the Dominican Order. The sisters found residence originally in the school building. In 1925, there were 112 pupils enrolled, with Sister Mary Leonilla as principal and 3 assistant nuns. The 1952 enrollment was 778 pupils with 14 nuns, 2 lay teachers and Sister Helen Patrick as principal. For much of the parish's history, Dominican Sisters shepherded generations of the youth through the school. They remain much loved, greatly respected and well remembered. Their teacher successors have upheld the grand tradition.

Between 1938 and 1952, school registration increased to the point where the entire floor space, occupied as residence by the nuns, was converted to classrooms. Then, the Sisters resided at 4110 Bellevue Road until the spring of 1948, when they moved to the convent on Castlewood Drive in Toledo, OH.

Blessed Sacrament Parish experienced rapid growth in its early years. To help serve the growing congregation, a new church was constructed. It was completed in 1954 and is still in use today. The charter members chose a Southern California Spanish architectural theme that has been faithfully reflected in the new constructions. This style was remarkably suited to accommodate the liturgical reforms of the Vatican Council, but also made the addition of narthex, in the 1970s, possible. Finally, the 2008 opening of the new middle school, neighborhood center and gymnasium facility marked the newest stage in Blessed Sacrament's development.

Today, Blessed Sacrament's parish community continues to be a hallmark of hospitality and ministry to its neighbors. The parish is lively with young families and a thriving

school, currently enjoying an increase in enrollment. Thus, the parish recognized the necessity for a hub to carry on the progress and traditions of the Blessed Sacrament community. The establishment of a neighborhood center invites parish members and neighborhood residents to enter a partnership to ensure and enhance the neighborhood's vitality. In lieu of the new landmark, the neighborhood formed an organization named "The Greater Close Park Neighborhood Organization." Their mission is to maintain and improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. They strive to beautify the area with trees and flowers, develop programs for seniors and children, enhance lighting in the Block Watch Program for safety, and establish community projects like Spring Clean Up, Welcome Wagon and a neighborhood garage sale. These programs will create recreational and social opportunities for all ages. I stand here to applaud the efforts of Blessed Sacrament to bolster a strong tradition of community in this West Toledo neighborhood.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, due to unavoidable circumstances, I missed one vote in a series of votes on Tuesday, May 6, 2008. I would have voted "yes" for the following vote: (1) Rollcall vote 248—To Table Motion To Reconsider.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a registered nurse with a Master's in Public Administration, it is a privilege and a delight to offer a resolution recognizing National Nurses Week, which is May 6th through the 12th.

My colleagues, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS and Congresswoman CAROLYN MCCARTHY, are also nurses and champions of this resolution, and of the profession.

I thank them for their efforts to encourage more than 110 Congressional colleagues to cosponsor this bill honoring nurses.

The Congressional Nursing Caucus was also helpful in promoting the legislation, and I appreciate Members' efforts to rally support for H. Res. 1086.

National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

Nurses are a key component of our Nation's health care system.

Whether on the battlefield or at sea, in a skilled nursing facility, in a hospital or even in a patient's own home, the care that a nurse provides is so very valuable.

Nurses are intelligent individuals who must often make quick decisions in an effort to save the life of a patient.

Nurses are recognized as the patient's primary advocate.

Nurses are tasked with closely monitoring even small changes in patients' health.

Nurses are tough. They often do their work under duress, and in difficult conditions.

For 15 years, I provided hands-on patient care as a psychiatric nurse.

The work was challenging and fulfilling.

Although more than 2.5 million nurses work in the United States, our Nation has suffered from a nursing shortage.

Those currently in the profession are beginning to retire. There are fewer individuals entering the profession.

The nursing shortage is unprecedented in its depth and duration, with a projection of over 1 million new and replacement nurses needed by 2016.

Nursing schools need help attracting well-prepared faculty to recruit the best and brightest into their educational programs.

Loan forgiveness and educational incentive programs can help, but Congress must do more to encourage bright young minds toward nursing.

Nursing is a career that has been valued for a long time, and it is fitting to recognize the Navy Nurse Corps on its 100th Anniversary this year.

For nearly 100 years before Congress formally established the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908, women worked as nurses aboard Navy ships and in Navy hospitals.

As early as the War of 1812, volunteers performed nursing duty in places that were often dangerous and required courage in the face of adversity.

Members of the esteemed Navy Nurse Corps care for those brave men and women who fight for our freedoms.

They contribute to relief efforts in all corners of the globe.

They serve in lead roles as part of a unified health-care team.

The Navy Nurse Corps practices progressive patient care.

It enjoys a rich heritage accompanied by high-tech training.

A registered nurse in the Navy is also a respected Officer, serving in modern facilities at home, at sea, around the country and across the globe.

I am proud to especially recognize the Navy Nurse Corps for its centuries of outstanding service for our military men and women.

Today's resolution honors the good work that all nurses do.

H. Res. 1086:

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of nurses to the health care system of the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, as founded by the American Nurses Association; and

(3) encourages the people of this Nation to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.

Along with my many supportive colleagues, I want to thank the House leadership for bringing this important resolution to the Floor.

TRIBUTE TO KENTWAN BALMER

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, on October 15, 1986, Christa and Charles Balmer, Sr., were blessed by the birth of their youngest child, Kentwan.

Kentwan grew up in Weldon, a very small town in my congressional district with a population of about 1,375 people. Kentwan attended O.R. Pope Elementary, Weldon Middle and Weldon High School. As a high school junior and senior, he earned All-Area and All-Conference honors. Kentwan was also an impressive bowler and dedicated a good deal of his time as a member of the North Carolina Shrine Bowl Team.

Kentwan earned a full scholarship to play football at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He saw limited action in nine games as right defensive end as a freshman, coming up with one assisted tackle. As a sophomore, he appeared in 11 games, and started in the final 3 games of the season.

As a junior, Kentwan appeared in 10 games, starting the final 8 games as left defensive tackle. The highlight of his season came against rival Duke when he blocked two extra point kicks in a one-point victory.

As a senior, he shifted to right defensive tackle. He earned second-team All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors and received the team's James Southerland Award. He ranked second on the team with 59 tackles, including 3.5 sacks.

In 42 games at the University of North Carolina, Kentwan started 23 times. He collected 93 tackles with 7 sacks. He also deflected three passes and blocked a pair of kicks.

On April 26, 2008, the San Francisco 49ers selected Kentwan with the 29th overall pick in the first round of the National Football League draft. He's expected to play either nose tackle or left defensive end. Kentwan is UNC's 17th first-round draft pick in school history.

Kentwan is known for his strength, athleticism, and versatility, and the 49ers expect him to anchor their defense for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, this is a great day for the town of Weldon—the place of Kentwan's roots and a very significant part of the First Congressional District of North Carolina. As friends, family and fans come together to celebrate at Clem's Grand Ballroom in Weldon on May 9, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives and folks all across North Carolina to join me in wishing Kentwan many successful years with the San Francisco 49ers. We applaud Kentwan's commitment, determination and dedication in achieving such a major accomplishment.

MAY 10TH IS A SPECIAL DAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, on May 10, 2008 the people of Azerbaijan