

math and engineering is vital to our global competitiveness and has been a priority for the 110th Congress. Our Nation's status as a global leader in innovation and technology depends on young people getting involved in programs such as the National Science Bowl, and the team at St. Paul Central is leading the way.

In an impressive display of camaraderie and commitment, two teammates made a difficult sacrifice to attend the national tournament. The students are enrolled in Central's highly demanding International Baccalaureate program, which held its annual English exam during the National Science Bowl. This exam is a necessary step toward receiving a full B diploma—an impressive achievement that often results in college course credits—but the students decided to take the exam when it is next offered, in 2009, so that their team could compete at nationals. These young people represent teamwork at its finest.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the students, teachers and staff of St. Paul Central High School and the entire St. Paul Public Schools District, please join me in honoring the St. Paul Central High School Science Bowl Team.

HONORING GENERAL RICHARD H. THOMPSON

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to honor a true American patriot who has devoted his entire adult life to the service of his country. Today, the Army is proud to dedicate the Automation Training Facility of the Army Quartermaster Center and School in the name of retired GEN Richard H. Thompson at Fort Lee, Virginia. General Thompson's career reflects 43 years of outstanding service to the Army and to the Nation. General Thompson is distinct in the quartermaster career field, as he is the only soldier in that career field to ascend from the rank of Private all the way to the rank of a full, four-star General.

Upon completion of the Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course at Fort Lee in 1960, General Thompson served overseas before returning to the United States in 1961. He served multiple posts as a staff officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics for the Army, eventually reaching the position of Deputy Chief. In 1984, he was promoted to General and given command of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, a post he held until his retirement in 1987.

General Thompson is highly regarded as a pioneer in Army logistics. During the 1980s he helped modernize the Army's logistical operations. General Thompson is also credited with updating and improving the Army's logistics capabilities for the military's post-cold-war operations. This included his leadership in the expansion of newer automated equipment and techniques, and in the integration of those components throughout the joint services. He was inducted into the Quartermaster Hall of Fame in 1991.

As the representative of the citizens of Virginia's 4th District—and home to Fort Lee—it gives me great pride to honor and thank General Thompson for his dedicated service to the

United States of America. Please join me in congratulating him and Fort Lee on the dedication of the Automation Training Facility of the Army Quartermaster Center and School in his name.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD REECE, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Illustrious Potentate of the Oman Temple No. 72, Ronald Reece, Sr. Ronald was feted at the 52nd Annual Potentate Ball held in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, on Saturday, May 10.

Ronald Reece, Sr., moved to Saginaw, Michigan, from Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1961. He attended Arthur Hill Technical High School where he was captain of the track and basketball teams. He graduated from Saginaw High School in 1972 and started working at Saginaw Steering Gear in September of that year. He retired from his inspector position in July 1996.

Active in the community, Ronald is a motivational speaker for youth working with churches and organizations. He created the "Dick and Jane Saving System" and was recognized as an African-American Man of Distinction in 1997 for his work helping minorities achieve a brighter future. In 1998, Ronald and his wife, Barbara, received the Community Leadership Award for their work at the First Ward Community Center. They have received many awards for their involvement with various organizations in Saginaw and Buena Vista and they are contributors to the Buena Vista High Scholarship Commission. Ronald and Barbara have been married for 35 years and have five sons: Ronald Jr., Shannon (deceased), Kieston, London, and Ju'Neil.

The Oman Temple No. 72—A.E.A.O.N.M.S., Incorporated, has benefited over the years from Ronald's leadership and dedication. Under the Prince Hall affiliation, Ronald has held the positions of Worshipful Master of H. York Harrison Lodge #32 in Saginaw; Past 2nd Lieutenant of Saginaw Valley Consistory #71, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite; and Past Thrice Potent Master—Flint Lodge of Perfection #71. He currently serves as Thrice Illustrious Master—Omega Council #30, Royal and Select Masters; Captain General—Tri City Commandery #19, Knights Templar; and Captain—Flint Chapter #17, Holy Royal Arch Masters.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to applaud the life and work of Ronald Reece, Sr. May he continue to serve the community for many, many years to come.

COMMENTS TO INTERACTION ANNUAL FORUM

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, last week I had the opportunity to speak at InterAction's Annual Forum in the

Washington area regarding the importance of modernizing U.S. foreign assistance. With 165 member organizations, InterAction is the largest coalition of U.S.-based international nongovernmental organizations focused on the world's poor and vulnerable people. I would like to enter my remarks from this event into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

COMMENTS TO INTERACTION ANNUAL FORUM

Thank you for the invitation to be here today. I'd like to thank InterAction's President, Sam Worthington, along with Todd Shelton and Evan Elliot for being great partners and extraordinary advocates for your organizations and people in need around the world.

Like all of you, I strongly believe foreign assistance and development are part of the essential work of the U.S. Government and essential to our country's role as a super power.

I support a back-to-basics approach to development. For me, investments in child and maternal health, clean water, basic education, family planning, agriculture and food security are the foundation of successful long-term development. This is the work your organizations do everyday.

In my travels to places like Tanzania, Malawi, Afghanistan and Peru I have seen both real human need and real successes from U.S. development investments. And it was in these travels that I met you—smart, committed, passionate people giving hope and opportunity to people who often have very little.

Today, I want to talk with you about our present challenge—doing development better. It's time to modernize and strengthen U.S. foreign assistance to meet the challenges and realities of the 21st century. I know modernizing foreign assistance is a priority for InterAction and your efforts to inform and educate Congress are important and appreciated.

The 9/11 Commission predicted future threats to America would be transnational rather than international. We didn't have to wait long. A new generation of moral and national security challenges have already reshaped our foreign policy, including: terrorism, ethnic conflicts, food security, global health threats, climate change . . . the list goes on.

Confronting this new generation of challenges demands that we make foreign assistance especially development—central to our foreign policy.

The Pentagon appears to be convinced. Last November, Secretary of Defense Gates said, 'One of the most important lessons from our experience in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere has been the decisive role reconstruction, development, and governance plays in any meaningful, long-term success.'

Our top security officials know that sandals on the ground today can prevent boots on the ground tomorrow. Development is the right thing to do and it's a smart investment.

The direct link between development and security is now national policy. President Bush's 2006 National Security Strategy states, 'Development reinforces diplomacy and defense, reducing long-term threats to our national security by helping to build stable, prosperous and peaceful societies.'

Foreign assistance is more important to America's national security and foreign policy than ever before. But our Cold-War mechanisms aren't up to the challenge.

The structure of U.S. foreign assistance needs modernization. Today, more than 20 executive branch agencies have responsibility for administering foreign assistance programs. This means duplication, confusion

and inefficiency. But the problem goes beyond structure.

What is the overarching strategy guiding U.S. foreign assistance? The 1961 Foreign Assistance Act is still the basis for policy. Nearly 50 years of amendments have burdened the Act with conflicting objectives and priorities. Your organizations feel the impact of this confusion in the field, as do the families and communities you serve.

We need a new strategy focused on today's global realities. We need to find agreement on a coherent foreign assistance strategy and we need to create the necessary structure to implement it.

We all know there are strains on the current system. Due in part to a lack of confidence and capacity in civilian agencies, the U.S. military has become a major player in development. I want to read you a quote from last week's Financial Times article entitled: "US military seeks more Afghan aid funds."

"U.S. forces in east Afghanistan are already involved in a variety of non-military activities, from road-building to improving farming techniques . . . The Commanders' Emergency Response Fund allows battalion commanders to spend up to twenty-five thousand dollars on anyone project without seeking permission from higher command. Taskforce chiefs can spend up to two-hundred thousand."

How many of you have this kind of discretion with U.S. funds? Our troops are the best in the world, but they aren't development specialists. Major development projects need to be implemented by development professionals. If civilian agencies aren't working we need to fix them, not ignore them. If there aren't enough civilian personnel, we need to hire and deploy more of them.

Expanding global security and prosperity in the 21st century requires a new American commitment to foreign assistance. That

means being smarter about our strategy, structure and resources. We need comprehensive modernization. Half-way reforms won't cut it.

Blue-ribbon panels, commissions, think tanks and NGOs have reached the same conclusion. There's agreement that: resources should be matched to objectives; results should be measured; the Government's civilian capacity should be expanded; the number of agencies responsible for development should be reduced; and development should be elevated to be an equal partner with defense and diplomacy.

Today, development isn't an equal partner with defense and diplomacy—it's not equal strategically or structurally. It's often, at best, a secondary concern. There are different ideas about how to elevate development. Some suggest the solution is an expanded role for development within the State Department. Others may want to build up USAID to its former glory.

I strongly believe the U.S. needs a cabinet-level Department of Development. A cabinet-level Secretary of Development could advocate directly to the President for long-term development investments, aid effectiveness, and coordination across agencies.

The national security policy of the United States is clear: defense, diplomacy, and development are the essential components of America's engagement with the world. It's time to translate that policy into reality by elevating development as a foreign policy priority.

Some of my colleagues may disagree. I welcome that, because it means they've joined the debate. Many Members of Congress haven't. Many Members still don't fully appreciate the linkages between national security and foreign assistance.

Chairman Berman announced that rewriting the Foreign Assistance Act will be the top priority for his Committee next year. Be-

cause of his leadership, the debate over modernization will take place. To be successful in the House, and the Senate, and the White House with this huge effort, we'll need a broad, bipartisan consensus that U.S. foreign assistance is vital to America's national security and too important not to fix.

And to be successful, a commitment to change and modernization needs to be a priority for the next Administration. This means we need to make sure the Presidential campaigns are engaged. Those of you with advocacy arms in your organization should be asking the Presidential candidates three questions: Do you believe foreign assistance is important to America's future role in the world? How will you elevate development to realize the goals of U.S. national security strategy? Will you support modernizing foreign assistance to meet the needs of the 21st century?

And we need to be asking candidates for the Senate and the House the same questions.

Friends, this is an important moment. You cannot be shy or quiet.

We have a unique opportunity to create a strategy for U.S. foreign assistance rooted in innovation, coordination, and an understanding of culture and the complexity of local conditions. We have the responsibility to make the needs of the world's poor a strategic U.S. priority.

Together, we can get more for every dollar invested, by finding ways to better leverage bilateral, multilateral, private sector and NGO investments.

And together, we can refocus our nation's global development policy on achieving quality outcomes for families in the world's poorest countries.

This is our work and I look forward to the challenge ahead.

Thank you.