PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on April 29, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 224, rollcall 225, and rollcall 226.

CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2739, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. This omnibus bill contains many essential elements that reinforce the infrastructure of our Nation's historical and natural treasures. Out of the several important pieces of legislation, I would like to emphasize the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2007, which my friend Representative CASTLE and I introduced and led to passage in the House last year.

I would like to once again thank Chairman RAHALL and Subcommittee Chairman GRIJALVA for their support of H.R. 1239 when it passed the House and commend them for bringing this omnibus legislation to the floor today. Additionally, I thank Senator BIDEN for his leadership in introducing the companion to H.R. 1239 and the National Parks Conservation Association for their tireless work for the Network to Freedom and other national park initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom is the only national program dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of Underground Railroad history included in this legislation. It appropriately adjusts authorization levels for the Network to Freedom to reflect the growth of interest nationally and the resulting expansion of opportunities.

The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 is part of a concerted movement to overcome the funding challenges that threaten all national parks. In doing so, this legislation appropriately empowers the Network to Freedom by moderately expanding their operating funds and establishing appropriate oversight for grant funds.

If not for the plethora of other reasons to support the overarching legislation, I urge my colleagues to vote for S. 2739 because it truly demonstrates that African-American history is synonymous with American history. This legislation preserves the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom so that future generations will have a chance to learn about our history not only in a book, but with their own eyes.

COMMENDING COLE VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SCIENCE BOWL TEAM

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an elite group of students from Cole Valley Christian School in Meridian, Idaho. Christopher Barker, Maxwell Greenlee, Timothy Segert, Adam Tucker and Phillip Grafft will represent Idaho in the 18th annual U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl competition in Washington, DC.

The National Science Bowl is an academic challenge involving more than 12,000 high school students across the country. From January through March, regional elimination tournaments were held across the country and the group of four seniors and one junior from Cole Valley Christian prevailed. The 67 winning teams have won the opportunity to compete at the national finals in Washington, DC, May 1–6, 2008.

The mission of the National Science Bowl is to encourage students to excel in science and math, and to pursue careers in those fields. I am proud to congratulate Christopher, Maxwell, Timothy, Adam and Phillip who represent the best of our next generation of scientists, engineers and educators.

The competition is in a fast-paced question and answer format. The students prepared during their lunch break under the guidance of Coach Lola Lynch. Ms. Lynch is described by the students simply as "awesome." I thank her for all the dedication, support, and encouragement she has lent to the students. Though Ms. Lynch is unable to attend the competition in DC, the students will be diligently coached by Tim Berggren.

When asked if they will win, the students said they hope so. But even more, they hope to represent God and Idaho as best as possible.

Christopher, Maxwell, Timothy, Adam, Phillip, Coach Lynch and Coach Berggren: I wish you the best of luck at the Science Bowl. Congratulations on your efforts thus far, you are fine representatives of Idaho.

HONORING JUDITH A. HORN FOR HER WORK WITH THE KINGS PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Judith A. Horn, Director of the "Hand in Hand" Family Resource Center for her work with the Home Garden and Lakeside communities. Today, thanks to her efforts, these communities not only have many educational programs but a resonating voice in local politics that addresses their needs.

I have had the pleasure of working with Judy Horn on a variety of projects throughout her time with the Family Resource Center. As the founding director of the center, Judy laid a strong foundation for the organization, focusing on activism, youth advocacy and crime prevention. Her unique ability to work well with a wide variety of individuals has aided the center immeasurably.

The success of the Kings Partnership for Children, which Judy founded in 1991, is evidenced by the presence of a permanent health clinic, a pre-school, an after-school program, a summer program, and a computer lab for youth in the area. These are direct results of the dedication, commitment, and invaluable drive Judy has always exhibited.

It goes without saying that Judy Horn personifies a woman of great principle and integrity. She is a role model for us all, especially our Valley's upcoming generation of activist youth. It is with great pride that I congratulate Judy for all her work with the "Hand in Hand" Family Resource Center and the Kings Partnership for Children, and thank her for all that she does on behalf of Kings County residents.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ANTHONY FLOWERS

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. Anthony Flowers, 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, Anthony moved onto the state level competition, where he refined his essay and prepared for the next round of interviews. Anthony was an extremely qualified candidate for the Youth of the Year 2008. Anthony is a Boy Scout and a Keystone Club Member at the Clarence Fraim Boys & Girls Club. Among the candidates for the state Youth of the Year, Anthony won the Highest GPA Award for his 3.63 GPA at Hodgson Vocational Technical High School.

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