

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER AXNESS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Jennifer Axness of Southeast Webster—Grand Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Jennifer Axness on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Jennifer in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

HONORING PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT WILLIAM W. PRIOR, SR. OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and Purple Heart recipient, William W. Prior, Sr. of Brooksville, Florida. Wounded by an enemy torpedo during an engagement in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, Mr. Prior's service to our Nation will forever be remembered by this Congress.

Born in Tampa, Florida, Mr. Prior spent the early part of his career as a commercial fisherman and was one of five brothers who joined the military during World War II. As someone who loved the sea, when it looked like America might become involved in the war, Mr. Prior joined the United States Navy. Two of his brothers joined the Army, and two joined him in the Navy. While he was hoping to be stationed on a small boat, Mr. Prior was assigned as an aviation radioman and went to Seattle, Washington to begin his service. From there he and his crew were sent to Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

After just a few months on the job, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the Alaska military members were placed in the midst of some Pacific Coast fighting. While many Americans are not aware of this fact, part of the Aleutian Island chain in Alaska was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. On August 30, 1942, Mr. Prior's ship the USS *Casco* was anchoring in harbor at Nazan Bay close to an island under control of the Japanese. It was at that time that his ship was struck by a torpedo, and Mr. Prior was wounded by shrapnel and knocked unconscious. His

former squadron commander found him and flew Mr. Prior back to Dutch Harbor, where he received surgery to save his leg from amputation. Eventually sent to a naval hospital in California, Mr. Prior was discharged in 1943 from the Navy because of the severity of his wounds.

Madam Speaker, soldiers like William W. Prior, Sr. should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Prior with his long overdue Purple Heart. His family, friends and loved ones should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

REMEMBERING ALMONT TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEF PAUL WILCOX

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Almont Township Fire Chief Paul Wilcox who sadly passed away on Thursday, January 8th after a hard fought battle with cancer. I offer my deepest sympathy and condolences to all his family members and friends and hope they can find comfort and ease during this very difficult time.

As a former township and State elected official, I had the pleasure and opportunity to meet and work with Chief Wilcox on several issues. I know his leadership, integrity and community service will be greatly missed throughout Lapeer County and the entire State of Michigan. He truly was a great person.

Chief Wilcox amazingly fought fires in the Almont area for over 40 years and served as chief for 23 years. But he took his call of public duty beyond the walls of the fire station by serving in numerous roles such as an instructor at the Lapeer County Fire Academy during the 1970s, Almont and Imlay Township building inspector, member of the 9-1-1 Committee, Lapeer County EMS Committee, National Volunteer Fire Council and as President of the Michigan Fire Chief's Association just to name a few.

Again, I cannot stress enough how great of a loss this is for not only Almont but both Lapeer County and Michigan. Chief Wilcox was an innovative leader and faced any challenge head on. I can remember recently visiting the station and meeting with him and fellow firefighters about a year and a half ago to present a FEMA grant. There wasn't anything he wouldn't do to help the community. He always sought to improve the departments' services and resources for the residents he so proudly served. He was a tireless advocate for the volunteer fire service and took his message and mission to the national level. He raised the bar and set high standards which all future chiefs and firefighters will now need to live up to.

I am extremely grateful to have known Chief Wilcox and for the chance to have called him a friend. Chief Wilcox had announced his intention to retire this spring but unfortunately wasn't afforded that opportunity. Without question, he will be greatly missed but rest assured certainly not forgotten. I offer my sincere gratitude and thanks for his lifetime of dedicated

work and service. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of those who knew Chief Wilcox and may he receive eternal rest.

TRIBUTE TO GRETCHEN CONWAY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Gretchen Conway of Decorah Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K-12 schools.

I congratulate Gretchen Conway on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Gretchen in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLUSTER-BASED ECONOMY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Cluster-Based Economy Enhancement Act of 2009. This proposal is designed to stimulate collaborative interactions between businesses in regional economies to produce innovation and create jobs.

"Clusters" are geographic concentrations of competing, complementary, or interdependent business entities or industries that do business with one another and have common needs for talent, technology, and infrastructure. The bill recognizes that such clusters boost competitiveness and growth of a region as a whole.

As the recent economic turmoil has highlighted, American industries must become better equipped to thrive in the increasingly competitive global economy. Rather than continuing to see skilled workers move abroad, we need to take actions conducive to the creation of new employment, both through traditional means of expansion and in-sourcing of foreign jobs. As we do so, we must be mindful that there are regions within America, like Central and Northern New York, that continue to struggle disproportionately demanding we seek ways to overcome those challenges to economic development they face.

In response, this legislation would authorize up to \$50 million for cluster-based economic

development grants to state and local governments, colleges and universities, and nonprofit economic development organizations to further enhance economic development. Of note, this initiative would make those entities within the five regional development commissions, authorized in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) eligible to apply for such grants. It is important to note that these recently created bodies are configured to encompass some of our nation's poorest areas. In addition to the Northern Border Regional Development Commission, which I worked to create, the other commissions include the Delta Regional Authority, the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority, the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, and the Southwest Border Regional Commission.

Madam Speaker, this legislation would not only help increase America's economic competitiveness, it would also create new opportunities in areas like Northern and Central New York, that are particularly in need of economic opportunities. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me as I work to enact the Cluster-Based Economy Enhancement Act of 2009.

NYU'S JOHN BRADEMAS AWARDED
HONORARY DEGREE BY UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to take note of an honor received last month by former Member of Congress, John Brademas, who served for 22 years in the House of Representatives from the then Third District of Indiana.

He was awarded, by the University of Barcelona, the honorary degree of doctor of laws, his 54th honorary degree.

A Democrat, John Brademas was, during the Administrations of six Presidents of the United States, an active member of the House Committee on Education and Labor where he authored or co-authored legislation to support schools, colleges and universities; support for libraries and museums; and programs for children, the elderly and the disabled.

In his last four years in Congress, John Brademas was Majority Whip of the House of Representatives.

Defeated in his campaign for reelection in 1980, John Brademas was shortly thereafter invited to become president of New York University, the largest private, or independent, university in the United States. John Brademas led the transformation of New York University from a regional—New York, New Jersey, Connecticut—commuter institution into a national and international residential research university.

John Brademas graduated from Harvard University, with a B.A., with high honors, in 1949; then went on to Oxford University, England, as a Rhodes Scholar, for three years, 1951–1953. At Oxford he earned a Ph.D. with a dissertation on the anarcho-syndicalist movement in Spain from the mid-1920s through the first year of the Spanish Civil War, 1936. The anarchist movement in Spain was

centered in Catalonia and, therefore, the research brought him to Barcelona on a number of occasions. His study was published in Spanish, in Barcelona, in 1974 by Ariel under the title, “Anarcosindicalismo y revolución en España, 1930–37,” in a translation by Dr. Joaquín Romero Maura.

In presenting the degree, Professor Mercedes Vilanova spoke of John Brademas' service in the U.S. House of Representatives and of his legislative record there as well as of his leadership at New York University, now, she said, “one of the premier universities in the world, a rival of Ivy League universities like Harvard or Yale”. She added that John Brademas had been named “one of the four most important persons in American higher education”.

Presiding at the ceremony was the Rector of the University, Dr. Dídac Ramírez i Sarrió.

Said John Brademas, “To receive an honorary degree from one of the outstanding universities of Europe, indeed, the world, is profoundly gratifying.

I am especially appreciative of this honor because of my interest throughout most of my life in Spain and, in particular, Catalonia.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that John Brademas' former colleagues and his many friends will be most pleased at this latest honor he has received.

I ask consent to insert at this point in the RECORD the text of John Brademas' remarks on receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Barcelona on December 1, 2008. His statement follows:

Rector Ramirez, Professor Vilanova, members of the faculty and students of the University of Barcelona, and friends, to receive a grado honoris causa from one of the outstanding universities of Europe, indeed, the world, is, of course, profoundly gratifying.

This honor comes from a country, Spain, and a region, Catalonia, to which I have devoted considerable scholarly attention and so is particularly meaningful for me.

You have been told, in the generous words of Professor Vilanova, about my life—my education, my career as a Member of the Congress of the United States and as President of New York University—and of my activities in a variety of organizations dedicated to the arts and the humanities.

But, of course, I am especially appreciative of this honor because of my interest throughout most of my life in Spain and, in particular, Catalonia.

I had the good fortune, as you have been told, of studying at two of the greatest universities in the world, Harvard and Oxford. While in grade school, I read a fascinating book about Mayan civilization. I started learning Spanish, then as a high school senior hitchhiked to Mexico and, as a Harvard undergraduate, spent a summer with other college men working in Aztec Indian villages in rural Mexico. I wrote my senior honors thesis at Harvard on the Sinarquista movement, a far right-wing peasant movement important in Mexico in the late 1930s and early '40s.

ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST MOVEMENT IN SPAIN

At Oxford, I wrote a doctoral dissertation on Spain and, by way of preparation, reading the seminal book by Gerald Brenan, *The Spanish Labyrinth*, on the origins of the Spanish Civil War, I learned that Spain was the only country with a mass working-class movement, based not on the ideas of Karl Marx but of Bakunin and Kropotkin, the anarchist theorists.

So I wrote to Brennan, then living in Málaga, to ask his advice on how to go about studying the anarchist movement in Spain. He responded that I should see the headwaiter of a Spanish restaurant in the West End of London, an anarchist, who in turn put me in touch with the headquarters of the Confederación Nacional del Trabajo, the anarcho-syndicalist organization, then in exile in Paris. This was in 1952, I remind you, and Franco was in power. I was warmly received by the officials of the CNT in Paris.

Indeed, they arranged meetings for me in Toulouse and Bordeaux with Federica Montseny, the anarchist leader, and José Peirats, the historian of Spanish anarchism.

My interviews with Montseny and Peirats were immensely helpful to me and opened doors to others here in Barcelona as well as to an important collection of materials on anarchism in Spain, located in The Netherlands, in Amsterdam, at the International Institute for Social History.

My supervisor when I wrote my dissertation was the British historian of Spain, Raymond Carr.

Here I must note, as you have been told, that my study of the anarcho-syndicalist movement was published, in Spanish, in 1974 in Barcelona, by Ariel, under the title, *Anarcosindicalismo y revolución en España (1930–1937)*. The translation was done by my friend, also a scholar at Oxford, Joaquín Romero Maura, descendant of the respected Spanish leader, Miguel Maura.

SERVICE IN CONGRESS

I like to say that although I studied anarchism, I did not practice it! For only months after I completed my study and returned from Oxford to my hometown in Indiana, I became the nominee of the Democratic Party for election to Congress from my native constituency. I lost that first race, in 1954, then served on the Presidential campaign staff of Adlai Stevenson in 1956, a year when both Stevenson and I lost a second time. But I ran a third time, and in 1958 was first elected to the United States House of Representatives. I was then ten times re-elected and so served in Congress for 22 years.

A member of the Committee with responsibility for writing education legislation, I took part in writing all the laws enacted during those years, 1959 to 1981, during the Administrations of six Presidents—three Republicans: Eisenhower, Nixon and Ford; and three Democrats: Kennedy, Johnson and Carter—laws to assist schools, colleges and universities; students who attend them; the arts and the humanities; libraries and museums; and measures to help children, the elderly, the disabled.

You will not be surprised that as a member of the Democratic Party in my country and, indeed, as a citizen, I rejoice in the election last month of Barack Obama as President of the United States and of Democratic majorities in both the Senate and House of Representatives.

Defeated for reelection in Ronald Reagan's landslide victory in 1980, I was shortly thereafter invited to become president of New York University, the largest independent, or private, university in the United States, with some 50,000 students.

Given my background I directed particular attention at NYU—as we call the University—to encouraging the study of other countries, and I established a Center for Japan-U.S. Business & Economic Studies in our School of Business; a Remarque Institute for European and Mediterranean Studies; a Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies; with help from the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation, a professorship in Hellenic Studies; and, with funds from CITGO, the U.S. branch of Venezuelan Petroleum, a chair in Latin American Studies in the name