

Scott Young, and everyone affiliated with the West Rowan Falcons for proving the old football adage that great defenses win championships. Congratulations to West Rowan on a spectacular season and for winning the North Carolina 3A state championship.

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today we will vote on an important piece of legislation that discusses a problem that persists in communities across our country. This bill will show that this problem will not go away with wishful thinking and good intentions. Something must be done to prevent stalking now. We can not afford to wait. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution, do their part to make America aware of stalking, and do their utmost to prevent it's occurrence.

Every day, millions of woman and men have their lives disrupted by a stalker. While every state and DC has passed laws that make this act illegal, stalking still happens far too often. We must do everything we can to tell those being stalked that they are not alone and we will help them. We must do everything we can to tell those terrorizing their fellow man or woman with stalking that you will be caught and prosecuted.

Madam Speaker, stalking has multiple ways it can impact it's victims. Stalkers do not just harass and annoy their targets, they also cause real financial and psychological harm. 26% of stalking victims have lost time working because of their stalkers while a full 7% have been so frightened, they have not returned to work at all. Almost 30% have sought counseling because of the stalking. Overall, the prevalence of insomnia, anxiety, social dysfunction and severe depression is much higher among stalking victims.

These victims feel helpless and will do anything to control their lives again. The number of victims who drastically change their lives to get away from these individuals is staggering. Through no fault of their own, the victims often reach out to law enforcement early requesting restraining orders to prevent contact with their tormenters. These attempts rarely work and result in about 3 out of every 4 restraining orders being violated. Victims have gone so far as to move from their homes to prevent the stalker from being able to antagonize them. One in seven victims has moved in order to maintain their ability to live their life or as normally as possible.

In one out of five cases, the stalker will approach his target with a weapon to threaten or harm them. The worst is that in cases where a woman is murdered by an ex-intimate partner, nearly 90% of them were stalked prior to the homicide. This can not be allowed to go on any more. We have the means and the ability to prevent these attacks.

While technology has aided law enforcement in the ability to target stalkers it has also

been used by the stalker to target and contact victims. One in four victims have reported being stalked online. Every day women are stalked and not enough of them are reporting it. Less than half report it to law enforcement officers and only 7% contact victims groups. As the famous author Michele Archer said, "It is important that people know that stalking is a crime and that they can do something about it." This advice can help save a lot of lives.

The biggest misconception about stalking is that it only happens to women. While women are the majority of the targets, they are by no means the only gender that is stalked. Men and women are both targeted and attacked. This legislation will help bring attention to this problem that's underreported, undereducated on and overlooked far too often.

All of us, as members of Congress, want to help, and so often we disagree on how to accomplish that laudable goal. For once we can agree on a problem and can help provide a solution. Today we have that chance to make an impact upon the people who live in daily fear. We can say to them today they are not alone, we are on their side and we will do anything we can to fight for them. We can also say that stalker's days are numbered.

Madam Speaker, I urge that my colleagues to support this resolution.

PRESIDENT OBAMA AND DR.
MARTIN LUTHER KING COUNTY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the inauguration of President Barack Obama and in honor of the dream of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In August of 1963, Dr. King shared dream with the world, "that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" To so many, this inauguration symbolized the realization of this dream.

As the Representative of the Eighth District, I'm proud to stand before you today to recognize the importance of President Obama's place in history, and the fulfillment of the dream of Dr. King. The majority of the Eighth Congressional District of Washington is within the boundaries of King County, and in 1986, King County renamed itself in honor of Dr. King, "a man whose contributions are well-documented and celebrated by millions throughout this nation and the world, and embody the attributes for which the citizens of King County can be proud, and claim as their own."

The inauguration of President Barack Obama represented a monumental step forward in fulfilling Dr. King's vision for America. It was also a moment to celebrate our nation's freedom and cherish our democracy as we witnessed the peaceful transition of leadership between two individuals elected by a free people.

In the words of President Obama's inauguration speech: ". . . we gather because we

have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord." Just 16 days ago President Obama shared these words with the nation as he took to the oath to become the 44th President of our great nation. He shared these words, I believe, to inspire a nation facing great challenges and opportunities ahead.

I am so proud to know that, as I serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, I am serving in Washington, DC with a man in the White House who is the absolute embodiment of the beautiful words Dr. King spoke. With that in mind, I requested an American flag to be flown over the Capitol on Inauguration Day to present the flag to King County Executive Ron Sims and the entirety of the County Council, in remembrance of this historic day as the nation moves forward and looks to a future filled with hope and lives on in the American spirit.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND
REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes:

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

One week ago, President Obama called for bold and swift action to address the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Millions of jobs have been lost, homes have been foreclosed, and families have been stretched to the limit. We must act now.

I join my colleagues to give the American people hope that better days are ahead. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is a downpayment on the investment of our future. It is the first vital step in an intensive effort to reinvigorate our economy by focusing on JOBS, JOBS, JOBS.

This bill will save and create three to four million jobs by immediately putting people to work rebuilding our neglected roads and bridges. Further, the legislation confronts our 21st Century energy challenges by combating climate change and creating good-paying green jobs that cannot be outsourced. The bill also provides funding for education to ensure that every American has the ability to compete with any foreign worker in the new global economy.

Additionally, the measure provides relief for those who lost their jobs and will help struggling families make ends meet while the economy recovers. In fact, if we do not pass this legislation the unemployment rate is expected to explode to staggering 12 percent.

This legislation must pass if we are to overcome the economic crisis. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
FARM SERVICE AGENCY, DOTSON
COLLINS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Arkansas Executive Director of Farm Service Agency, Dotson Collins, for his commitment to this country.

Dotson has led a life of service, first in the U.S. Armed Forces. He studied agriculture under the GI Bill and he used that knowledge and understanding to become a leader in the field.

Dotson first served as USDA State Executive Director under President Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush. In 2006, under President George W. Bush he was anxious to do it again.

Dotson devoted his life to helping Arkansas. The list of positions he has held is impressive, from Labor Commissioner and Director of the Commodity Food Stamp Division, to Policy Advisor of Agriculture, Veterans and Military Affairs, Environment and Rural Development.

In roles that would leave the rest of us tired, Dotson found time to serve as President of the Christian Union Council, a position he has held for the last 20 years and he's looking at ways he can continue to help Arkansans.

I appreciate the leadership Dotson has shown and most of all I appreciate his friendship.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STEEL
INDUSTRY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, there is perhaps no industry that better encompasses the American spirit than the steel industry. Spanning for generations, the steel industry has offered the benefit of employment to millions of Americans, producing material that would serve as the backbone of America.

Earlier today, a number of my colleagues joined me for a hearing entitled the "State of the Steel Industry." At the hearing, industry executives joined with labor unions to discuss the future of American steel production.

The present economic recession, coupled with the dubious trade and economic policies of competing nations abroad, makes the future of the industry of grave concern. In my district alone, hundreds of Ohioans depend on the industry for gainful employment. These jobs are good jobs. Given the present state of the economy in Ohio, we cannot afford to lose these jobs.

I am proud to be a Member of the Congressional Steel Caucus, and proud to have the opportunity to work on behalf of the millions of Americans whose employment depends on the production of American steel. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues who share my passion for this issue to ensure that the American steel industry can thrive.

There is no question that American steel can compete with any industry in the world on

a level playing field. Congress must make that field even.

HONORING KEVIN CORWIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kevin Corwin of Gallatin, Missouri. Kevin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 67, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kevin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kevin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kevin Corwin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN MEMORY OF KEN RUFENER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend, Ken Rufener, who passed away Saturday after a fulfilling 89 years.

Ken Rufener was the epitome of service. He served as a United States Air Force statistical officer in the Far Eastern theater during World War II, and subsequently made the Air Force his first career. Before retiring 26 years later, Ken was assigned to the Pentagon before being loaned to the Rand Corporation in Southern California.

After the Air Force, Ken moved his wife, Doris, and their two children to Westlake Village and he went to work as a cost analyst for the Hughes Aircraft company for the next 15 years.

His new home became the beneficiary of Ken's energy, sense of service and sense of community. He helped bring youth baseball to Westlake Village, serving as first vice president and coach of the Westlake Athletic Association. He is credited with keeping the Westlake Golf Course from becoming an industrial park. Ken also served as president of the First Neighborhood Homeowners Association.

In 1987, Ken was elected to the Westlake City Council for his first of two 4-year terms and served as mayor for 2 years. After retiring from the council, Ken was elected in 1997 to a 4-year term on the Las Virgenes District Water Board.

Ken was a member of the Military Order of the World Wars and the Retired Officers Association of America.

Among the awards Ken received for his service were the Patrick Henry Patriotism Award, Westlake Village Citizen of the Year,

and the Conejo Valley/Las Virgenes Civitas award for service to the Conejo Valley.

Ken and Doris's daughter, Karen, died about 10 years ago.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join my wife, Janice, and me in offering condolences to Ken's wife of 62 years, Doris, their son, David, and all their family and friends, and in celebrating Ken's life of service to his country, his community and his family.

Godspeed, Ken.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON
THE TIFERET ISRAEL SYNA-
GOGUE IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my profound concern and indignation regarding the recent attack on the Tiferet Israel Sephardic synagogue in Caracas, Venezuela.

The attack, which occurred just days after International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on the Jewish Sabbath, was reminiscent of Kristallnacht.

For five hours, violent anti-Semites profaned and vandalized a Sephardic synagogue in capital city Caracas, leaving behind graffiti with words of hatred.

But the violence didn't stop there. Sacred torah scrolls were hurled about recklessly and damaged. The synagogue's guard was held at gunpoint and was found on the floor of the building by synagogue members on Saturday morning.

Let me be clear. This brazen attack on the Venezuelan Jewish community did not occur in a vacuum.

It was the direct result of the Venezuelan government's leaders, officials, media commentators and others, who have fostered an atmosphere of intimidation against the Jewish community.

During the Gaza crisis, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel statements were made by the Venezuelan President, the foreign minister, interior minister, the president of the national assembly, a number of congress members, and governors across the country.

In the most recent example of his blatantly anti-Semitic public comments, President Hugo Chavez said "the Israelis criticize Hitler but have done something worse," and also asked "Don't Jews repudiate the Holocaust? This is precisely what we're witnessing."

Hateful, fear-mongering comments like these were condemned by our own Department of State, in a 2008 report where they listed "drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis" as an example of anti-Semitism.

President Chavez "condemned" Friday's attack on Tiferet Israel as briefly as possible, making no mention of plans to ensure the safety and security of the Jewish community in his country. He did, however, take a considerable amount of time to throw mud at his opponents, accusing them of staging the synagogue assault. This is unacceptable.

In November 2008, President Chavez signed a statement along with the presidents of Argentina and Brazil condemning religious