

school and make sure they succeed. And money will also be dedicated to community colleges, like Northern Marianas College, to help them finance new projects and cover existing needs.

Higher education is truly the investment of a lifetime—it creates opportunities and opens doors that will benefit our students and families far into the future. I applaud this legislation.

ADVANCED VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3246) to provide for a program of research, development, demonstration and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my support for the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act (H.R. 3246). I thank Chairman GORDON and the members of the Science and Technology Committee for their work on this important legislation, which will fuel innovation in the American automobile sector and capitalize on America's manufacturing infrastructure to spur the creation of millions of well-paying American jobs and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Our country's approach to developing advanced technology vehicles must be comprehensive and coordinated to ensure innovation and advancement in our entire vehicle fleet. Historically, the Vehicle Technologies program at the U.S. Department of Energy has lacked a comprehensive approach to research and development, with various technologies competing for funding and imbalanced investment in between passenger and heavy duty vehicles research. The Advanced Vehicle Technology Act addresses these issues through authorization of long-term, sustained funding for a new comprehensive research and development program at the Department of Energy. H.R. 3246 invests in a diverse range of near-term and long-range vehicle technologies that will improve fuel efficiency, support domestic research and manufacturing, and reduce our country's dependence on petroleum that pollutes our planet and keeps us dependent on foreign energy sources. Such a comprehensive approach will fuel American innovation now and into the future.

Innovation is America's greatest strength. As our country recovers from a serious recession, funding for research and development is one of the best investments we can make to restore our American leadership in the global economy. America excels at high tech manufacturing, and investing in the development of a new generation of advanced technology vehicles will drive the creation of millions of new, well paying manufacturing jobs here at home. Innovation in vehicle technologies is also an important component in addressing the pressing challenge of global climate change. America's passenger and commercial transport sec-

tor produces one third of our country's total carbon dioxide emissions. Meeting the challenge of global climate change will require the development of a new generation of vehicles powered with clean energy.

Modernizing our nation's vehicle fleet through American innovation is critical for our economic prosperity, energy security, and responsible stewardship of our planet. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3246.

CONGRATULATIONS PEORIA CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY ON BEING NAMED A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Peoria Christian Elementary School in Peoria, Illinois on being named a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Peoria Christian joined only 49 other private schools, from a pool of more than 27,000, as a private recipient of this award; the school was nominated by the Council for American Private Education, also known as CAPE. By being recognized with the award, Peoria Christian has demonstrated its successes in ensuring students achieve exceptionally high national test scores.

I applaud the concerted effort it took to elevate the school's test scores to such an extraordinary level. As I honor this school I must remind this body that while this award is presented to Peoria Christian School, the award really reflects the combined efforts of all those involved with the school. As former Peoria School Board President, I know that every successful school has the trinity of skilled educators, committed students and involved parents as a base.

Also on a personal note, I always find it impressive to see a school allow for students' academic and personal development. As such, I must applaud the school's commitment to the mission of preparing their "students to lead Christ-like lives." I'm certain that Peoria Christian will not only continue to flourish as an institution for years to come, but that its young students will eventually become active leaders in Peoria, Illinois and throughout these United States.

Again, congratulations Peoria Christian.

NETWORKS PROMOTE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE AGENDA

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, National news programs have boosted the Administration's health care agenda and ignored the high costs of a government takeover of health care, according to a study by the Business and Media Institute (BMI).

BMI examined 224 health care stories on ABC, CBS, and NBC from over a five-month period.

The survey found that these stories favored proponents of the Administration's health care plan over critics of the plan by a margin of more than 2-to-1.

Yet the American people are split evenly for and against it, with the trend against it.

Only nine percent of stories mentioned the high cost of the Administration's plan.

And the networks frequently repeated the Administration's incorrect claim that there are 47 million uninsured people in America—a claim the President backed down from during his recent health care speech.

The national media should report the facts on health care, not tell Americans what to think.

STUDENT AID FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Financial Responsibility Act, which abolishes a historically successful private-public partnership in the student lending market in favor of a newer government-run program. In an unwise grab for total government control over the student lending market, this Majority is going to destroy a program that has provided need-based financial assistance to thousands of graduate students that have attended Midwestern University in my Congressional District.

Created in 1966, the Federal Family Education Loan program has distributed more than 200 million loans to college students totaling nearly \$800 billion. In 1993, the Direct Loan program—the government "option" in the student lending program—was established to promote competition. Now, this Majority wants to consolidate all federally supported student lending under the Direct Loan Program. Let me be clear about the consequences of this ploy: millions of dollars in financial aid for thousands of students across the country will be lost. Doing away with the Federal Family Education Loan program will also do away with the School as Lender program.

H.R. 3221 ignores the needs of graduate students. School as Lender is a vital need-based aid program for financially struggling graduate student education. Opponents of the School as Lender program have characterized these schools as profit-hungry proxies for commercial lenders. To the contrary, these schools obtain credit to make loans and use the proceeds from their origination to support financial aid. School as Lender institutions are prohibited by law from making money from the program—all proceeds from the sale of loans must be returned to graduate students in the form of need-based grants. School lenders have low default rates, indicating that schools are not irresponsibly encouraging students to

assume more loan burden than they can afford. Without School as Lender, many students will now be forced to take out more loans and student debt.

Within my Congressional District, one of the pioneers of the School as Lender program, Midwestern University, uses its School as Lender program to provide need-based grants to students who would otherwise not be able to pursue the University's graduate programs in osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, dental medicine and other health sciences. Decreasing access to education for low-income students would further inflame the shortage of the healthcare workforce as Congress considers a massive expansion of health insurance coverage. Over the past three academic years, Midwestern University has paid out over four million dollars in School as Lender scholarship monies to more than 1,500 students. Midwestern lacks profit motives to continue the program—they simply desire to maintain an affordable option to attract graduate students.

Midwestern University offers flexible and innovative student loan options. Through the School as Lender program, Midwestern is able to break down cost barriers that keep many low-income students from seeking graduate degrees. I urge my colleagues to stand on the side of students in need and reject this government grab for control of student lending that will rob many graduate students of the assistance needed to pursue advanced education.

RECOGNIZING MARJORIE HINES ON THE OCCASION OF HER BIRTHDAY

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Marjorie Elizabeth Hines on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Marjorie Elizabeth Hines was born on September 27, 1919 in Hickory Valley, Tennessee to Benjamin Tamlin & Mary Raines Lake. She would become the eldest of the farm family's seven children.

Marjorie studied at Lambuth College in Jackson, Tennessee and became an elementary school teacher. In 1943 she married Curtis W. Hines, a soldier from the Hopewell Community of Benton County, Mississippi. After his return from the war they began to farm land which had been in the Hines family for generations. Mr. Hines later became Chancery Clerk of Benton County. Mrs. Hines was his invaluable helpmate.

Mr. & Mrs. Hines reared two children, Beth Hines Davis of Iuka and Frank Lesley Hines of Hopewell. They also have six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mrs. Hines is known for her charm, grace, beautiful smile and dedication to family and fellow man. She prepared marvelous meals for family, friends and strangers. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Marjorie Hines on her 90th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK BATTEN SR.

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Frank Batten Sr., who was 82 when he passed away on September 10, 2009.

America lost an icon with the death of Frank Batten Sr. Frank will be remembered for his successful business career, steadfast community involvement, and selfless charitable endeavors. Nationally, he will be remembered as the founder of Landmark Communications Inc., which employed more than 10,000 people at its peak.

Born in 1927, Frank grew up in Norfolk and seemed destined to enter the newspaper industry lending to the influence of his uncle, Samuel L. Slover, who helped raise Frank and owned the publication that would become the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch. Frank graduated from Culver Military Academy in Indiana in 1945. After serving in the U.S. Merchant Marine, Frank graduated from the University of Virginia and earned a master's degree from Harvard University in 1952. Two years later, at the age of 27, Frank became the publisher of two newspapers, the Virginian-Pilot and the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch.

Batten's Virginian-Pilot was the only major Virginia newspaper to courageously oppose Governor Almond's 1958 orders to close six Norfolk secondary schools rather than accept court-ordered integration, and its editorials against the plan earned its editor the 1960 Pulitzer Prize.

Frank's company grew with the acquisition of other newspapers and media outlets, and in 1967, Landmark Communications, Inc. was born. Landmark's founder is perhaps best known for the audacious proposal to create a 24-hour weather channel, known as The Weather Channel. A now familiar household name, the Channel is a trusted source that has been relied upon by millions of Americans for more than 20 years when planning family vacations and in times of severe weather.

Education was the cause Frank Batten was most passionate about. After sitting on the State Council of Higher Education and serving as a trustee of Norfolk Academy, Frank became Old Dominion College's first rector in 1962. He guided the school until it achieved university status, and donated \$32 million to ODU in 2003. Frank also created the Access College Foundation in 1988, which is credited with sending 70,000 Hampton Roads high school students to college over 20 years. Frank also donated \$100 million to create the University of Virginia's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.

At home, Frank was the proud husband of Jane Parke Batten since 1957. They had three children—son Frank Jr., who followed his father's footsteps into the publishing business, and daughters Mary Elizabeth "Betsy" and Dorothy.

Frank's love for people and community will not soon be forgotten or easily replaced, and his contributions to our lives in Virginia will live on for generations.

HONORING DON FREELS FOR HIS THIRTY PLUS YEARS IN REALTOR SERVICE

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise to recognize the distinguished career of the CEO of the Ohio Association of REALTORS, Don Freels.

Homeownership has always been the cornerstone of the American Dream. When moving into a home of our own, we gain immeasurable independence and confidence, as faith in the future of our family and our community grows. The spread of ownership and opportunity helps give us a vital stake in the future of America and the chance to realize the great promise of our country. Therefore, those who contribute to the furtherance of the American Dream for others deserve to be honored for their service. The Ohio Association of REALTORS was created to help protect the investment Americans place in their homes, and for 17 years Don Freels has led this organization with honor and distinction.

Starting over 39 years ago, Don began serving as an active REALTOR in the Chicago area, working as the executive officer of two local boards. By 1985, due to his leadership and the remarkable reputation he built with his peers, Don was selected to head the Michigan Association of REALTORS. The success he achieved in this post caught the eye of REALTORS in the Buckeye State, and in 1992 Don was hired as CEO of the Ohio Association of REALTORS. Since then, Don's unparalleled leadership and passion for his craft has helped maintain the stature of Ohio's largest professional trade organization, improve the realty profession, and solidify its irreplaceable role in the furtherance of the American Dream.

Through commendable loyalty to his profession, Don stands as a pillar of his community. As a former REALTOR, I am very pleased to thank him for all he has done for Ohio.

I offer my congratulations to Don Freels for a career spent in service to REALTORS everywhere. I hope the spirit he daily brings forth in his life and work continues to inspire his friends and co-workers for years to come.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF PROFESSOR GEZA VERMES

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Professor Geza Vermes, an internationally renowned biblical scholar.

His commitment to inspiring and educating the world has been unwavering, and he deserves our congratulations.

Among his impressive list of endeavors, Vermes is perhaps best known as publisher of the first English translation of the Dead Sea Scrolls. His latest work, "The Story of the Scrolls," is set to be published in February, 2010.

Since 1957, Vermes has been teaching in England. Today, he is Professor Emeritus of