

The Blue Ribbon Schools award was created in 1982 to recognize schools where students attain and maintain high academic standards and are pushed to improve themselves and further their dedication to scholastic achievement. This award shows that Bluewater Elementary School is serving its students well and helping them make strides forward in their academic careers.

Schools like Bluewater Elementary achieve such great distinctions because of the hard work and dedication of the teachers, staff, and administration. Their students also deserve to be commended for fully taking advantage of all of the opportunities provided to them by their exceptional staff. Bluewater Elementary School is a model for the progress other schools throughout the nation should strive to achieve.

I am honored to have Blue Ribbon Schools like Bluewater Elementary School in my district. I commend their achievement and wish them luck in the continuing their academic achievement.

HONORING MIKE NURY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mike Nury upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 2009 San Joaquin Winegrowers Association 7th Annual San Joaquin Valley Wine & Grape Industry Forum. The luncheon will be held in Fresno, California on Friday, November 20, 2009.

Mr. Mike Nury came to the United States in November 1945 to attend American International University in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1946 he was drafted into the United States Army and served during the Korean War. Upon completion of his military career, he arrived in California and attended the University of California, Berkeley. He later transferred to the University of California, Davis where he earned a bachelor of science and master of science degree in food science in 1952. In 1953, Mr. Nury started his career with Vie-Del Company, a Fresno, California based winery, as a research chemist. His role at the winery had a tremendous impact on the company, as well as the industry as a whole. He played a major role in developing an improved method of concentrating grape flavors by adjusting the temperature and time used to concentrate the grapes. The outcomes were significant. The new concentrate had no ethanol, which was important for those unable to metabolize ethanol, thus eliminating ethanol taxes on the original concentrate. It also weighed less, reducing shipping costs, and the new concentrate made it possible to add wine flavor to more products.

In 1972, Mr. Nury was named President of the Vie-Del, and in 1990 the Nury family purchased the controlling interest in Vie-Del from Joseph E. Seagram & Sons. Since then, the company has continued to grow, producing millions of gallons of concentrate per year. Mr. Nury has served as president and owner, and after his semi-retirement, he served as chairman of the board. His family has also taken an interest in the wine industry. Two of his

three daughters, Dianne and Roxanne, have spent many years with the company and his brother, Fred, taught Enology at California State University, Fresno and later worked for Seagram in the Bay Area. Mr. Nury is only one of three winemakers to have served as president of the Wine Institute and the American Society of Enology and Viticulture. He has also played an active role with the Fresno Rotary for over thirty-five years, served as a member of the Fresno Community Hospital Foundation Board and Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mike Nury upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Nury many years of continued success.

OPPOSITION TO THE STUPAK AMENDMENT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I have witnessed the horror of the choice between a back alley abortion and a forced marriage to avoid disgrace. These were the realities women faced prior to 1973. My fear is that if this harmful Stupak/Pitts language is signed into law, we will revert back to those dark times.

Until now, for over 30 years we lived in this House in peaceful coexistence, the pros and the cons getting together on the fact that the Hyde amendment said no federal money can be spent. We on our side simply had the law.

Critical to this debate is to break down the facts. The opposition claims that the Stupak/Pitts Amendment codifies current law. This is grossly incorrect.

Stupak-Pitts goes far beyond current law by placing unprecedented restrictions on individuals' use of their own private dollars. The Hyde Amendment does not apply to private funding nor does it apply to administrative costs. It has only placed limits on direct federal appropriations being used to fund abortion benefits. The Stupak Amendment expands the Hyde prohibitions on the use of Federal funds for an abortion benefit to include "any part of the costs of any health plan that includes coverage of abortion."

The Hyde Amendment does not include similar, far-reaching language. Seventeen States currently provide abortion coverage in Medicaid with separate State funding.

The opposition claims that this amendment will not change current insurance plans for women. This is blatantly wrong.

A report by health policy experts at the George Washington University School of Public Health concludes that the Stupak Amendment "will have an industry-wide effect, eliminating coverage of medically indicated abortions over time for all women, not only those whose coverage is derived through a health insurance exchange."

The opposition claims that the segregation of funding under the House bill is an accounting sham. This is blatantly false.

In the Capps Amendment, the segregation of funding piece is based on the current model the Federal Government uses to pay for abor-

tions currently permitted in Medicaid. States are permitted to use their own funding to provide additional abortion coverage under Medicaid.

For me, and for many of my colleagues, it means 30 or 40 years of our life is being cancelled out with this amendment.

I am afraid that we are driving young women, poor women, all women of child-bearing age back to the back alley, and I dread to see that day.

COMMENDING RAPIDES PARISH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, GARY JONES

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with pride to commend Rapides Parish School District Superintendent, Gary Jones, for his contributions to local education, specifically his plans to launch Aiken cyberacademy this spring, which will revolutionize learning options available to our students.

This virtual academy is modeled similarly to an online charter school in that it will be interactive and self-paced. Since students will be registered in the district system, Aiken will differ from online charter schools since students will be able to take other courses, as well as join extracurricular activities by attending a regular school.

As our nation's educators continue to look for ways to improve and strengthen education in our country, I believe this is an innovative alternative for students who have not thrived in the traditional classroom. In addition, this plan will provide more choices for home-schooled children.

To keep our communities on the cutting edge of educational advancements, I am proud of Gary Jones for ensuring such a creative option is available to help prepare our students. Please join me in honoring him for his work on behalf of our young students.

PROTECT REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, we came to work this year to deliver affordable, high-quality health care to all Americans. Instead of offering the possibility of health care to all Americans, some want to deny essential health care—reproductive health care—to women.

For politicians to intrude on a woman or couple's most personal and painful decisions is cynical and wrong. Nobody in America has the right to use government to impose their religious beliefs on someone else. Yet the Stupak-Pitts amendment would do just that.

The Stupak-Pitts amendment adopted by this House does not—does not—preserve the status quo on abortion. The Stupak-Pitts amendment tells millions of middle-class

Americans that they cannot use their own money to purchase private health insurance to cover legal medical procedures. This is an unprecedented and dramatic departure from current law.

Not long ago, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg observed that reproductive rights “center on a woman’s autonomy to determine her life’s course.” Trading away those rights for limited access to health care is a devil’s bargain that we will not make.

I urge my colleagues to act—to support women’s access to a full range of reproductive health services, and to bring health care to all Americans.

HONORING JOSEPH TORCHIA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Torchia, 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 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph 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 Joseph Torchia for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT
AND MRS. GORDON MOULTON ON
THE OCCASION OF THE NAMING
OF THE USA BELL TOWER IN
THEIR HONOR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to offer congratulations to University of South Alabama President Gordon Moulton and his wife, Geri, whose efforts in support of the University are being permanently heralded by the naming of the new campus bell tower in their honor.

On September 18, 2009, the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees officially announced that the school’s new bell tower will be dedicated “in honor of ‘the exceptional service’ of President Gordon Moulton and his wife, Geri.”

When the 135-foot structure is completed in December, it will be the “premier landmark and the enduring symbol of spirit of the University of South Alabama,” the board said. The impressive tower with four large bronze bells will also serve as a monument honoring alumni who are providing support for the project.

Madam Speaker, Gordon and Geri are deserving of such a lasting recognition. President Moulton has not only been the helmsman of the University since 1998—overseeing milestones in student enrollment and graduation, enhancement of campus life, and greater involvement of faculty and students in the community—he has also had a direct role in the establishment of the Mitchell Cancer Institute.

The University of South Alabama has also seen the benefit of his support of the University’s Technology and Research Park and the Children’s and Women’s Hospital, to name a few.

President and Mrs. Moulton are well known for their advocacy of local causes important to the community. Geri was also honored in 2009 with the dedication of the Geri Moulton Children’s Park.

I wish to extend my congratulations and appreciation to both President and Mrs. Moulton and look forward to their continued beneficial leadership of the University of South Alabama.

MAKE NO COMMITMENTS AT
COPENHAGEN

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in response to President Obama’s expected commitment to the world at the Copenhagen climate change discussion for the United States to reduce carbon emissions by 17 percent by 2020.

It is simply ludicrous to think that we can reduce carbon emissions by 17 percent by 2020 without wrecking our economy. I am also concerned about the Administration’s so-called endangerment finding to regulate carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act. This is a disastrous move forward to regulate carbon under a law that was clearly not intended to regulate carbon emissions. In many cases, it is not required under this law to take into consideration the impact on the economy, which poses enormous problems. Going further on the science of climate change, in light of the emails that show that scientists have been suppressing information about the scientific proof of climate change, I believe that it is even more important that we take a step back and ensure that we understand the impact of carbon emissions.

The trick that scientists have been using to make the data work has been reported as being called, “trick and hide.” It seems, Madam Speaker, that not only are the scientists “tricking and hiding” the American people on the science of climate changes, but the Democratic Majority is “tricking and hiding” the truth about the cap and trade bill. The truth about the cap and trade bill is that this bill will increase electricity rates in some states, like Kentucky, as much as 40 percent. Additionally, the cap and trade bill is nothing more than a hidden tax on the American people. I might add that I am not against reducing carbon emissions as I have cosponsored and helped move the Carbon Capture and Sequestration legislation that was sponsored by Congressman BOUCHER and others.

It is important that we develop this technology before enacting any regulatory regime to dramatically reduce carbon emissions. These efforts are essential in keeping electricity rates low. However, I am against the President making a commitment that we cannot meet and that China and India will not match. I am also against the Administration’s movement to regulate carbon through the Clean Air Act.

We must take a step back and study the science on this issue to make certain we get this right and I call on the Administration to do just that. I call on my colleagues to speak up about negative impacts of the “trick and hide” bill and urge the Administration not to make any commitments at Copenhagen.

HONORING VFW POST 8946 IN
WOODCLIFF LAKE, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the work of VFW Post 8946 in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey for their selfless and inspiring deeds towards their fellow citizens. For the past few years this group of extraordinary individuals has been traveling to the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington DC as well as the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. During their trips the members of the Post have spent time with wounded veterans and their families. They have brought items such as clothing, CD players, electric shavers and even a large TV for the Recreation Room.

After one of their more recent visits to Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, William Huston, a member of the Post, told a local reporter that, “these young men have a remarkable attitude, we cannot properly express the admiration we have for them.” It is this sense of genuine commitment towards helping those who have given so much to our nation that makes this Post unique in many ways.

As I reflect on the deeds they have done I cannot help but be reminded of the enduring words from President Abraham Lincoln’s second inaugural address. Lincoln challenged his fellow Americans to “care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.” The men of this Post are a living testament to these words.

I want to once again thank this group of exceptional men for their service towards their fellow citizens. I am proud to represent such a fine group of people in the United States House of Representatives and I would like to recognize individually: William Huston, Gerard DeCicco, Joseph M. Poggi, Faust Faustini, Ray Johns, Peter Mauro, James Horris, Edward Powers, Sergei Leoniuk, Edward Halvey, George Kritzer, Fredrick Singer, and Robery Schmitt.