

HONORING JUSTIN BALFANY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a young Nebraskan who left this world too soon. Justin Balfany, 15 years old, will be laid to rest tomorrow afternoon. My heart goes out to his parents Greg and Susan, his sister Kaci and the rest of his family, and I pray they find comfort in the coming days.

Justin had a strong faith in God and in his fellow students. He has been described as a "tremendous young man" who competed in tennis, baseball, and basketball. He was active in his church and in other groups in his hometown of Kearney.

Last year, he was invited to attend President Barack Obama's nomination acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, where he served as a correspondent for his hometown newspaper, the Kearney Hub, as well as the Sidney Sun Telegraph.

I was fortunate to have met Justin last year. I was impressed with his intelligence, his spirit, and his dedication.

Justin's spirit and his enthusiasm with his church, his friends, and his community reminds us what it means to be a Nebraskan. He will be missed by many.

HONORING EMERGENCY RESPONSE MEMBERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims, Supervisor Judy Case, Julianne Tuggle, and Darren Rose for their heroic efforts in an emergency situation in Washington, D.C. on February 11, 2009. Sheriff Mims, Supervisor Case, Julianne Tuggle from Supervisor Susan Anderson's office, and Darren Rose from my district office deserve full recognition for their responsiveness and public service in the nation's capital, where they gave first aid to an individual who was in a state of cardiac arrest. The 21-year-old man was unresponsive and lying face down on the ground in a crowded Metro station near the Capitol building.

Julianne and Darren were the first upon the scene; Julianne initiated the emergency response among the eclectic mix of Fresno County Officials in the vicinity while Darren Rose called 911 and coordinated the response with DC fire and emergency medical services. Julianne was able to procure a pocket face mask. Supervisor Case affixed the mask and breathed for the patient. Sheriff Mims and Supervisor Case began skilled compression and breathing coordination efforts until the man, who originally had no pulse, was able to breathe on his own. Sheriff Mims has been trained in first aid, and Supervisor Case is a registered nurse who had just been recertified in CPR, and knew the most current standard medical procedure. Together, they performed

chest compressions and provided air for his lungs, which kept him stable and breathing until the Washington medics arrived 10 minutes later.

I had the honor to be able to meet with these local heroes when they were in Washington with the Council of County Governments (COG) as part of the "One Voice" delegation, which unites communities and regional interests in a voluntary and collaborative effort to promote and bring attention to the needs of the local community and regions.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and thank Sheriff Mims, Supervisor Case, Julianne Tuggle from Supervisor Anderson's office, and Darren Rose from my office for their service to the community and their heroism in providing emergency services to stabilize and preserve the life of this citizen in D.C. and in their everyday efforts on the job.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year.

CAL was established in 1959 in Washington, DC by a grant from the Ford Foundation. At the close of the 1950s, issues of U.S. language capacity, interest in U.S. and international language policy, and the emergence of English as a world language created a demand for expertise in linguistics and language training. CAL's primary function was to serve as a liaison between the academic world of linguistics and the language-related concerns of the practical world. CAL was the first organization to focus on the identification of qualified personnel for language-related professions, professional development for language teachers and development of linguistically sound materials for English as a second language as well as foreign language instruction.

CAL's original mandate was to improve the teaching of English around the world; encourage the teaching and learning of less commonly taught languages; contribute new knowledge to the field by conducting language research; and serve as a clearinghouse for information collection, analysis, and dissemination and as a coordinating agency to bring together scholars and practitioners involved in language-related issues. This was accomplished by convening meetings and issuing papers that addressed crucial language and education issues; consulting with ministries of education of countries that were newly independent, particularly in East Africa and the Middle East; working on English language learning among Native American populations; and developing materials in the less commonly taught languages.

During the Cold War, CAL enabled Eastern European scholars to disseminate their work in linguistics. During the height of the civil rights movement, CAL developed the Urban Language Program and invested resources in American dialect work, beginning with African American varieties and expanding to other

ethnic and regional dialects. When large numbers of refugees arrived from Southeast Asia, CAL responded with resources to support their orientation and resettlement. In the last several decades, attention to the education of child and adult immigrants has expanded significantly. Recently, the organization has addressed national security needs by expanding the availability of resources in critical languages, such as Arabic and Chinese.

From its inception, CAL has grown and evolved to meet the needs of a changing world by providing reliable and objective information and by making complex linguistic issues comprehensible to students, researchers, teachers, parents, policy makers, and the general public. Central to its work is its research and seminal publications that serve as the basis for assessment, language education, bilingual education, English as a foreign/second language, language policy, and second language acquisition. Details of CAL's current work can be found at its website www.cal.org.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on member requests, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 1105, the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Account: Economic Development Initiatives
Project Name: CEDARS Children's Crisis Center

Amount: \$142,500

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: CEDARS Youth Services, Inc., located at 620 North 48th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504.

Description: The funding will be used for construction of a new Children's Crisis Center for abused, homeless, and runaway youth in Southeast Nebraska. CEDARS Youth Services plans to build a children's crisis center to provide short-term emergency shelter, immediate professional assessment of each child's needs, intense family-centered therapeutic services, and an environment that inspires a rapid return to stable and enduring family living. The 18,000 square foot facility will not only provide immediate safety and protection for vulnerable children and youth across the Midwest, but also a comfortable family-friendly setting for them to begin reunification or to meet prospective foster parents in a safe, professional supervised setting. While primarily helping persons from the Midwest area, the Center has recently served youth from the states of Tennessee, Georgia, California, Michigan, Texas and others. CEDARS is the only emergency shelter provider for children and youth in Southeast Nebraska, and this children's crisis center will expand the current service capacity by as many as 12 children each day. This is a 50% increase.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 100 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 101 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall no. 102 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall no. 103 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall no. 104 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall no. 105 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall no. 106 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall no. 107 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall no. 108 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall no. 109 I was not recorded because I was absent so that I might testify at a public hearing before the Colorado Ethics Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING WOMEN OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Women's History Month by bringing my colleagues' attention to some of the remarkable women of the Eleventh Congressional District of the proud Commonwealth of Virginia. These women, like so many in our District and throughout this nation, worked tirelessly for their families and communities at great personal expense, and deserve recognition for their exceptional contributions to our region's more recent history.

One such example is that of Barbara Varon. A native of Germany, Varon immigrated to America as an adult and was devoted to her adopted land. As a world traveler who could speak several languages, she worked as a translator. Joining the Fairfax County General Registrar's Office, she was committed to a voter registration outreach program for high school students. Using her linguistic skills, she wrote brochures and designed pamphlets to inform the voting public. Her dedication led her to the position of chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board, a position in which she faithfully continued to serve her goal of seeing every citizen involved in the electoral process. Varon also donated her time to many volunteer organizations and frequently made generous anonymous donations to those in need. Varon fought valiantly for the rights and privileges of all residents to participate in the electoral process, and today, an award is granted annually in her name to a Fairfax County resident whose dedication to improving the community through volunteer service honors her memory.

Phyllis Campbell Newsome, another exemplary woman from Virginia's Eleventh District, devoted her life to bringing together nonprofit organizations in the Greater Washington area. As the Center for Nonprofit Advancement's Director of Advocacy and Community Relations, Newsome understood the power and strength of coalitions. It was frequently the power of her persuasion that brought together those with the strongest of convictions and convinced them to put aside differences, enabling a powerful nonprofit community bent on positive change. Additionally, she was a consistent and reliable source for the media and other community leaders who needed to know how the nonprofit community would be affected by anything from a hot button issue to a broad policy change. Often quoting Tip O'Neill's, "All politics are local," she felt she could be most effective helping those she especially cared about — the poor and underserved communities—by working with local elected officials rather than at the state or even federal levels. A true community advocate, Phyllis Newsome is also memorialized by an annual award that is granted to an outstanding group of public servants for their dedication to the region's nonprofit community.

While neither of these outstanding women are with us today, their legacy lives on through the recognition of the ongoing contributions of the noble men and women of our District that occur annually in their name. The arrival of Women's History Month serves to remind us that we are fortunate to have such a legacy of service in our rich historical tapestry. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the contributions of Barbara Varon, Phyllis Campbell Newsome, and the women of the Eleventh Congressional District of the Commonwealth of Virginia, past and present, in honor of Women's History Month.

INTRODUCING THE QUALITY HEALTH CARE COALITION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Quality Health Care Coalition Act

which takes a first step towards restoring a true free market in health care by restoring the rights of freedom of contract and association to health care professionals. For over a decade, we have had much debate in Congress about the difficulties medical professionals and patients are having with Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). HMOs are devices used by insurance industries to ration health care. While it is politically popular for members of Congress to bash the HMOs and the insurance industry, the growth of the HMOs are rooted in past government interventions in the health care market through the tax code, the Employment Retirement Security Act (ERSIA), and the federal anti-trust laws. These interventions took control of the health care dollar away from individual patients and providers, thus making it inevitable that something like the HMOs would emerge as a means to control costs.

Many of my well-meaning colleagues would deal with the problems created by the HMOs by expanding the federal government's control over the health care market. These interventions will inevitably drive up the cost of health care and further erode the ability of patents and providers to determine the best health treatments free of government and third-party interference. In contrast, the Quality Health Care Coalition Act addresses the problems associated with HMOs by restoring medical professionals' freedom to form voluntary organizations for the purpose of negotiating contracts with an HMO or an insurance company.

As an OB-GYN who spent over 30 years practicing medicine, I am well aware of how young physicians coming out of medical school feel compelled to sign contracts with HMOs that may contain clauses that compromise their professional integrity. For example, many physicians are contractually forbidden from discussing all available treatment options with their patients because the HMO gatekeeper has deemed certain treatment options too expensive. In my own practice, I tried hard not to sign contracts with any health insurance company that infringed on my ability to practice medicine in the best interests of my patients and I always counseled my professional colleagues to do the same. Unfortunately, because of the dominance of the HMO in today's health care market, many health care professionals cannot sustain a medical practice unless they agree to conform their practice to the dictates of some HMO.

One way health care professionals could counter the power of the HMOs would be to form a voluntary association for the purpose of negotiating with an HMO or an insurance company. However, health care professionals who attempt to form such a group run the risk of persecution under federal anti-trust laws. This not only reduces the ability of health care professionals to negotiate with HMOs on a level playing field, but also constitutes an unconstitutional violation of medical professionals' freedom of contract and association.

Under the United States Constitution, the federal government has no authority to interfere with the private contracts of American citizens. Furthermore, the prohibitions on contracting contained in the Sherman antitrust laws are based on a flawed economic theory which holds that federal regulators can improve upon market outcomes by restricting the rights of certain market participants deemed too powerful by the government. In fact, anti-