

"Guns have been a part of my life and my family's life since we have lived in the US. It has been a useful tool in feeding my family since we have been here. I am a soldier, hunter, brother, son and many other things and I refuse to let this right be taken from me when all that will happen is it will take firearms from people who use them as tools and a way of life and those who use them for bad will get them one way or another. If guns are outlawed only outlaws will have guns and we will have nothing to protect ourselves with. That's way I say this right is important to me. I am here to protect my family, friends, and the US from all enemies and I feel sorry for the poor sap that tries to take this right away from me."—Clint Dean

"As a U.S. Soldier and a Montanan guns have always been a part of my life. I will never give up the right to keep and bear arms. I say if anyone wants to take my guns. . . . You can try but you might want to wait till I'm reloading!!!!!"—Matt Calnan

"There are so many reasons to oppose gun control, it's hard to pick a favorite. I would say that the main reason is that it simply doesn't work. Look at places like Great Britain and Mexico—have they become violence-free Utopias, or do their defenseless citizens now suffer exploded rates of violent crimes committed with total impunity since having been disarmed? If civil disarmament worked well, then Great Britain wouldn't need 40 cameras on every street corner; and they wouldn't try to do it either for fear of armed revolt. What do our leaders hope to accomplish with gun control? Also, how many of them are willing to give up their own guns, or the guns of their bodyguards? Finally, if they take our weapons, will they legislate to overturn *Castle Rock v. Gonzales*? If not, then WHO will protect us?"—Jan Sean Montgomery

"Whether you are for or against gun control you can still recognize that H.R. 45 is simply unconstitutional!"—Joe Chollak

"A fear of weapons is a sign of retarded sexual and emotional maturity."—Sigmund Freud

"I live in Montana and I enjoy [spending] my time in the outdoors. I grew up learning the responsibilities of firearm ownership from my father and my grandfather. I use those same responsibilities in my everyday life. I spend my fall hunting and the meat that I harvest rarely remains in my freezer because I like to donate it to local charities like the rescue missions and the food banks in my hometown. If this regulation becomes readily available and can later be used as but step in the ladder to complete firearm [eradication]. If this bill is put into I know that many families who rely on groups like the food bank for meat will go without because this form of charity will become a distant memory."—Ryan Belke

"Once freedom is given up, or even compromised, it can never be taken back. Compromise, even in the deceitful form of regulations, is not an infringement on the ownership of guns, but an infringement on what it means to be an American and the rights granted, declared, and (supposedly) defended by the government whom the people support. These are our rights as Americans. Take them away, and you take America away. You take away life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness . . . because that is what Americans are promised. Take away the promise, and you leave us with nothing."—Justin Countryman

"If the right to bear arms is taken away, what will be next? One by one other freedom will be stripped away. The right to bear arms gives citizens the right and ability to defend themselves against criminals, and even if necessary our own government. In these uncertain times this is definitely a right we

don't want taken away. I've heard a quote and don't know the exact source that 'if guns are outlawed only outlaws will have guns.'"—Niki Griffis

"HR 45 makes the jobs of criminals easier and threatens the safety of all law abiding citizens, with it you can also say goodbye to your 2nd and 4th amendment rights! It also hurts a family tradition of target shooting and hunting that so many people share."—Brant Manley

"Honest citizens use the right to bear arms as a source of recreation through hunting, trap shooting, etc. as well as for an essential source of protection in dangerous situations. We follow the firearm regulations that are already in place. Criminals, however, do not. The only people who will be affected by further restrictions against our right to bear arms will be law-abiding citizens. HR 45 will have no effect on criminals. Instead, the only people left with firearms will be the ones who should not possess them in the first place."—Christine Hodges

"I have seen it argued that HR 45 is simply a bill proposing gun registration. That contention is absolutely false. HR 45 is nothing less than a backdoor attempt to circumvent the 2nd Amendment, by harassing law-abiding citizens into giving up their firearms. Criminals don't register guns anyway. It's quite obvious who this bill is directed toward . . . and it isn't criminals. HR 45 addresses only law-abiding citizens; yet, treats them no better than convicted sex offenders or other felons just because they own a firearm. When the government starts using heavy-handed tactics to suppress the freedoms of law-abiding citizens, then those citizens need to stand firm in defense of their rights, and preserve the integrity of the US Constitution."—Debra Sullivan

#### CHILD CARE FACILITIES FINANCING ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of legislation I am introducing in the House of Representatives today entitled, the "Child Care Facilities Financing Act of 2009." I would like to thank the organizations that make up the National Children's Facilities Network (NCFN), as well as several of the Network's staffers, including Caitlin Kovalkoski, from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and Corey Carlisle, from the Low Income Investment Fund, for all their guidance in revising this legislation that, if adopted, will meet the financial and technical needs of early care development.

Early care and education has a profound impact on the development of our nation's youth. To date, the federal government, in conjunction with state and local efforts, has invested billions of dollars through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and programs like Head Start and Early Head Start. While these efforts have done much to enhance early care in our nation, a lack of consistent funding and organized infrastructure has prevented the early childhood field from addressing its physical capital needs and creating the kind of environments that support quality programs.

President Obama has articulated on numerous occasions America's need to make headway in youth development programs. How-

ever, the supply of suitable spaces to house early childhood programs has not kept pace with the growth of the sector, and the shortage is especially severe in low-income communities—both urban and rural. Research conducted at a Connecticut preschool center documented how quality facilities result in more teacher-child interaction, more productive play with fewer conflicts among children, higher staff morale and lower staff turnover—all of which are established indicators of program quality. Yet it is rare to find high quality early learning centers designed to meet the unique needs of very young children, especially in low-income neighborhoods where programs typically occupy makeshift, surplus or donated space such as church basements or storefronts, and out of date school buildings designed for older children.

To address the shortfall in quality child care facilities, I am pleased to introduce the Child Care Facilities Financing Act of 2009, which will go a long way toward providing a dedicated source of capital for early care and education programs in our nation.

By allowing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to experienced non-profit community development organizations, my bill will help providers develop well-designed and appropriately-located facilities that will foster an environment of productive play and staff dedication. Non-profit facilities organizations can leverage a relatively small public investment with additional private capital, multiplying the total investment in child care facilities and serving even more children.

Over the past several years, two Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI's), the Leviticus Alternative Fund and the CDC of Long Island, have made nine loans to child care providers serving children from low-income families in my Congressional District. The Leviticus Fund lends to licensed child care centers and has made loans to Harbor Day Care, AMC Child Care Center, D&D Day Care, and Pat-Kam Early Childhood Center. The CDC of Long Island lends to Family Day Care providers and has lent to Susie's Day Care, Inc., Rosa's School House, Elena's Child Care, Barbara Grullon, and Carolyn Reid, all in the Fourth District. Passage of this legislation will further increase the support we can give to child care providers.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation for our nation's youth.

#### COMMENDING KIMBERLY NESBITT- GOOD OF UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month and to congratulate Kimberly Nesbitt-Good of Elizabeth, New Jersey who will be honored on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the 17th Annual Women of Excellence Dinner held in Union County, New Jersey.

This special annual event is hosted by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women in the Seventh Congressional District and highlights the amazing work of individuals

who are making our communities better places to live. The Commission on the Status of Women recognizes the contributions of women in the fields of education, health care, the arts, government, business, law, community service, technology, public service and women's advocacy and lifetime achievement.

This year's Business Award will be given to Kimberly Nesbitt-Good because of her business efforts in Union County. Kimberly is the proprietor of Nesbitt Funeral Home, along with her husband Ted, which was established in 1931 by her adoptive parents, Bravell and Carrie Allen Nesbitt.

Ms. Nesbitt-Good has received several awards and recognition for her work in the funeral profession. She is a member of the Garden State Funeral Directors Association, the New Jersey Funeral Directors Association, the National Funeral Directors Association, the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, and the Epsilon Nu Delta Fraternity.

Kimberly is the cofounder of "Friends," an organization of African American women that uplifts and supports women in African American communities. Listed in *Who's Who Among Americans* and *Who's Who Among African American Funeral Directors*, Kimberly has been recognized by many local, state and federal organizations for her varied and wide ranging work in the funeral profession.

Kimberly Nesbitt-Good of Elizabeth, New Jersey has made significant achievements in her business efforts. I am pleased to congratulate Kimberly Nesbitt-Good for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

#### RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of athletic trainers and all that they do to improve the health and quality of our lives.

As overweight and obesity rates soar, athletic trainers serve as an outstanding opponent to the frightening statistics. Their job widely varies, and they do far more than simply "work out" with others. Athletic trainers guide their clients with life-long fitness and exercise skills and push their clients to aerobic excellence. Many also provide nutritional guidance that helps those derailed from healthy eating habits develop better eating tendencies. In doing so, they often provide their clients with a greater sense of self worth.

Their impact on society is incredibly beneficial. Athletic trainers do much to help decrease the increasing population of the obese and overweight. For this, I thank those athletic trainers in the First District of Florida, as well as the rest of the Nation, who constantly make a difference. We are truly grateful.

#### HONORING GARY MORGAN

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Lewis Morgan of Sonoma County, California, who passed away January 16, 2009, at the age of 55. Gary was a loving father to his son James and a loving friend to Emmie Morgan, his ex-wife, James' mother, and a member of my staff.

Born in the San Fernando Valley in 1953, Gary grew up there and attended Monroe High School where he excelled as a gymnast and as a barbershop quartet singer, a passion he later introduced to James.

In 1975, Gary graduated from California State University, Northridge with a degree in graphic design and a job designing ads for the Yellow Pages. He met Emmie at the home of a mutual friend and immediately offered to read her palm. As Emmie says, this "involved some holding of the hand. After that, he was telling people about this wonderful woman he met named Emarah. That was our joke, and he still often called me that."

They married in 1983, and their son James was born in March, 1985. Emmie recalls how "the morning after he was born, Gar came to the hospital in striped suspenders and a button that said, 'Kids Are People, Too.' He loved being Jamie's Dad."

Looking for the best place to raise Jamie, they moved to Sonoma County in 1986. Gary became well known there as a singer, muralist, and multimedia artist whose work includes statues, flags, and stained glass panels. One of his statues was purchased by the Queen of England, and a flag he designed was flown at the Washington Monument for the 1976 Bicentennial.

Gary's murals appear in various sites around Sonoma County, including Harmony School, an elementary school in Occidental. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to see this mural with Gary and talk with him about the creation of it. He was selected through an interview process that included students, and he made sure to seek their input as he developed the design. Of course, he had to listen to the teachers, too, so when one of them said, "Hey, there has to be a book somewhere," he made sure he gave the dragon by the tree something to read.

Gary's musical abilities were evident in his beautiful voice, and he sang in three local choirs—the Occidental Community Choir, the Sufi Choir, and the Center for Spiritual Living's One Heart Choir.

His musical talents were clearly passed to Jarmie, but it was Gary's (and Emmie's) nurturing that also helped James grow into a fine young man. He is currently a student at Sacramento State University and will enter the Berklee College of Music in Boston in the fall, which would have made his father very proud.

One of Gary's other interests was metaphysics, the study of what lies beyond the physical world, and this interest was a comfort to him in his times of trouble.

In addition to Emmie and James, Gary is survived by his siblings Gale and Bryan, his mother Barbara, and his long-time friend, Zan Spencer.

Madam Speaker, Gary Morgan's life touched many people. As Emmie Morgan stat-

ed, "He was an amazingly kind, authentic, sincere, honest human being. Every person I've talked to tells me they were close to him, even people who met him only once." That is a testament to Gary Morgan's character that makes me proud to honor him today.

#### COMMENDING HEATHER SUAREZ OF UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month and to congratulate Heather Suarez of Springfield, New Jersey who will be honored on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the 17th Annual Women of Excellence Dinner held in Union County, New Jersey.

This special annual event is hosted by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women in the Seventh Congressional District and highlights the amazing work of individuals who are making our communities better places to live. The Commission on the Status of Women recognizes the contributions of women in the fields of education, health care, the arts, government, business, law, community service, technology, public service and women's advocacy and lifetime achievement.

This year's Law Award will be given to Heather Suarez who has been described as a pioneer in the legal industry. Heather was hired directly out of law school, by persuading the three male partners at her Newark law firm to hire her. She became the firm's first female attorney, staying with that firm ever since, now enjoying a tenure of 28 years.

After the firm relocated to Roseland, Ms. Suarez continued to be a leader in her field and at the firm. When she announced, in 1987, that she was pregnant, Heather was a change agent for the firm, resulting in its first maternity policy. Continuing to work at the firm while raising two young sons, Ms. Suarez not only became the first female partner, but also the first part time partner as the firm worked with her to accommodate and balance her busy home life with professional responsibilities.

Ms. Suarez has been recognized by many organizations in her field. Her commitment to women's advocacy is evident as she works tirelessly as a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Women in the Courts.

Heather Suarez of Springfield, New Jersey has made significant achievements in the legal field. I am pleased to congratulate Heather Suarez for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

#### TEXAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2009

#### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas has a history of producing strong, passionate, and caring educators who motivate