

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, a proud heritage reflecting four decades of leadership, service, unity, academic achievement and pride.

In March of 1968, the first young men were initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at Kent State University. On April 1, 1969, the Psi Gamma Chapter was chartered at Kent State University. The '68 founding line, the Devine 9, built a foundation of brotherhood and social action, taking up the torch that their brothers carried before them. In 1969, the Defiant 9 were the first bloodline to form at Psi Gamma Chapter at Kent State University, living up to their name as leaders in defiance of social injustice, ignorance and racism, and champions of the Four Cardinal Principles: Manhood, Scholarship, Uplift and Perseverance.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity of Kent State University collectively stands on the courageous shoulders of the young men of Howard University in Washington, DC, where the first young black men united in brotherhood and in their universal goal of advancement, civil rights and opportunity for all.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every member and leader of the Psi Gamma Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at Kent State University, as we join them in celebrating forty years of young black men in brotherhood, service to others and action for the cause of civil rights. The young black men of Psi Gamma Chapter, and the young black men of black fraternities across the country, were a critical influence in the changing course of race in America—and continue to serve as a force of advancement, hope and change—one young man, one chapter at a time. This brotherhood, fortified with an education and unified agenda proudly raised the torch of freedom and the hope for justice and liberty for all, paving the way for civil and human rights and changing the social landscape of our nation forever—from the Psi Gamma Chapter House of Kent State University, to the White House of Washington, DC.

HONORING MARY BARCIKOWSKI

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mrs. Mary Barcikowski, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council. Mary has been selected to receive this award because of her volunteer service at the VA, based on her outstanding dedication to serving the needs of veterans within her community.

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have dedicated themselves to protecting the lives of every American. Their service to our Nation deserves the highest level of gratitude. It is of the utmost importance that we take the time to recognize the individuals who give of their time and talents to support veterans and ensure their comfort, care, and well-being.

Mrs. Barcikowski is the Business Manager of Public and Community Relations at the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation and Extended Care

Center (BRECC). Throughout her years of service as an employee of the VA, she has served as the Coordinator of Voluntary Services at the BRECC, and has been employed at Perry Point VA Medical Center. Despite obligations to her family and her ailing father, Mary has given time and money to support veterans on several occasions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Mary Barcikowski. Her compassion and dedication to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces has become an inspiration to us all, and is deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mary on her exemplary service as an advocate and a volunteer.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 85) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 and 2011 through 2014:

Mr. KIND. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 85, the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2010.

Budgets are all about priorities. This budget makes it clear that the priorities of this Congress are the priorities of the American people. During the greatest economic crisis our country has seen in a generation, the budget before us starts us on a pathway to recovery.

The resolution makes critical investments in education, health care reform, and energy independence that are necessary to restore our economy and put the country in a position to remain globally competitive. Additionally, the budget begins the tough work of returning to responsible fiscal policies.

This budget builds off of the strong commitment Congress made earlier this year in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which provided approximately \$53 billion for the Department of Education, with further support for early childhood education, the tools to achieve high standards for elementary and secondary school students, and efforts to help more Americans obtain a college degree. By investing in our children, we are investing in our future and the prosperity of our country.

I remain convinced that in order to turn our country's economy around, we must transform our outdated, inefficient, and costly health care system. This budget commits to doing so. Not only does the budget resolution make critical investments in medical research and innovation, it also provides a framework for comprehensive health reform. I look forward to working with the Speaker to achieve this critical goal.

It is clear that if our country wants to remain competitive, modernizing our health care system is not our only challenge. We also must reduce our dependence on foreign oil. This addiction does not just undermine our national

security, but it threatens our environment. The energy challenges our country faces are severe and have gone unaddressed for far too long. Although there were significant investments and tax incentives made in ARRA, this budget goes further by supporting more renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. Finally, the budget includes instructions on legislation that will promote energy independence over the long run.

Finally, and most importantly, this budget cuts the deficit in half in just over four years. In 2001, the previous Administration inherited record budget surpluses—\$5.6 trillion projected over ten years—but squandered it all and more, leaving a record deficit of over \$1 trillion for 2009 alone. The President did a very tough and honorable thing this year when he presented his budget to Congress with an honest assessment of our financial situation, marking a return to budgeting and fiscal responsibility principles that will help get our fiscal house back in order.

Serious and swift government action was absolutely needed at the beginning of the year to help put our economy on the road to recovery, but now that ARRA has passed it is equally as important to start addressing unfunded obligations we will have down the road. I have long been a proponent of a fiscal commission to examine our long term fiscal obligations and make legislative recommendations to Congress. I fully supported the bipartisan budget summit earlier this year and was happy to participate in the meetings. I know the President is as committed to this issue as I am and I look forward to working with him further on solving our long term fiscal challenges. This budget is a good step in the right direction.

The Budget Resolution before us today makes the tough decisions to get our economy and country back on track. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this common sense responsible Budget Resolution.

EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE
AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, Americans have a long history of volunteerism to better their communities and help their fellow citizens. Benjamin Franklin created one of the first volunteer fire departments in Philadelphia in 1736. In 1881, Clara Barton created the American Red Cross to provide assistance in response to disasters. Six years later, the first United Way was created in Denver to help plan and coordinate local charitable services. In each case, people sacrificed their time and money for a cause in which they believed. This model has not only served our nation well for over 250 years, but has also taught generations of Americans the value of sacrificial actions. The vast majority of charitable programs still operate with great success using unpaid volunteers.

After centuries, some now believe that government should take over this practice and pay people to "volunteer." In 1993, AmeriCorps was created, implementing this

backwards notion. Today's bill, H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act, continues this failed policy of "paid volunteerism."

I oppose H.R. 1388. When the government pays "volunteers" and determines which programs will benefit, this sends the wrong message. "Paid volunteerism" cheapens the honest efforts of millions of people who volunteer at their local church, food bank, or after-school program. It teaches future generations that volunteerism should result in material reward. The basic principles of volunteerism are lost.

"Paid volunteerism" also picks winners and losers among charities—allowing the government, instead of the American people, to determine which charities hold value in our society. H.R. 1388 allows politically motivated liberal organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, Legal Services Association, and ACORN, to receive "paid volunteers" to advance their radical agenda.

Not only does H.R. 1388 distort the value of volunteerism, but it proposes spending \$6 billion over five years to expand and authorize programs that have been audited and considered ineffective by the Office of Management and Budget. In a time of spiraling deficits, I believe we must look for ways to cut the deficit—not increase it with wasteful programs.

I am proud that America is the most compassionate and generous nation in the world. Our shared value of giving back to our communities has made this nation great. Encouraging volunteerism is a wonderful thing for our people and society. H.R. 1388, unfortunately, does the opposite. Therefore, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in opposing this legislation and upholding the principles of charity.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support of H.R. 1256, the "Family Smoking Prevention And Tobacco Control Act."

I feel strongly about the dangers of cigarettes and the need for regulation by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The dangers of smoking are well known—about one in five deaths in the United States can be attributed to tobacco products, which adds up to 440,000 Americans killed every year. Another 50,000 people die every year from second-hand smoke. Many of these deaths are linked to the thousands of harmful chemical compounds in every cigarette, including benzene, arsenic, formaldehyde, and ammonia.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the H.R. 1256. This legislation would require the regulation of tobacco products by the FDA. This legislation would also require cigarette manufacturers to print warning labels with text warnings detailing the smoking related diseases such as lung, heart, or mouth cancer. The warning labels are required to occupy 30 percent of the front and rear panels of a cigarette package, carton, or advertisement.

Unfortunately, the lack of sufficient regulatory authority means that while the FDA works to keep harmful chemicals out of every-

day food products, they have no ability to do the same with cigarettes. This bill, which enjoys the support of almost 700 public health groups, faith associations, and other organizations from around the country, would ensure that consumers are adequately informed about the real risks of tobacco use and protected from misleading advertising.

I have long supported giving the FDA clear authority to regulate cigarettes and other tobacco products and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation granting them such authority.

CONGRATULATING BOONE COUNTY ON THE OPENING OF A NEW JAIL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITY

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the citizens of Boone County, Arkansas on the opening of a new Jail and Law Enforcement Facility.

As Boone County has grown over the decades, the need for a modern jail and law enforcement facility became apparent. Ground was broken for this 27,000 square-foot building in August 2007, and less than 2 years later we have an excellent facility that will help us in the fight to keep the county safe. The people of Boone County should be proud of their new facility.

Thanks is due to my friends Sheriff Danny Hickman and Judge Mike Moore for their leadership, and to the Quorum Court and other elected officials for their hard work. Also, a local ¼ cent sales tax increase was passed to fund construction of this facility, so it is proper to acknowledge that the taxpayers are truly the ones who have enabled the construction of this facility.

We all know and understand that law enforcement is vital to keeping our homes secure, our streets safe, and communities prosperous. This new facility would not have been built without the efforts of everyone working together, and they have my congratulations.

HONORING SUSAN KERN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mrs. Susan Kern, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council. Susan has been selected to receive this award because of her volunteer service at the VA, based on her outstanding dedication to serving the needs of veterans within her community.

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have dedicated themselves to protecting the lives of every American. Their service to our Nation deserves the highest level of gratitude. It is of the utmost importance that we take the time to recognize the individuals who give of

their time and talents to support veterans and ensure their comfort, care, and well-being.

Mrs. Kern is the Program Manager for Voluntary Services at the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation and Extended Care Center. Throughout her years of service as an employee of the VA, she has consistently gone out of her way to become an advocate for veterans. She has traveled to various events to speak on behalf of veterans, and has arranged extra times for volunteers to get identification badges. Volunteers must go through a certification process including an exam in order to give of their time. Susan has gone out of her way to make sure every volunteer has the opportunity to take the exam at a convenient time. Because of her commitment, more people are able to become volunteers at the VA.

Despite having a family and many personal obligations, Mrs. Kern does most of these activities outside of work, on her own time.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Susan Kern. Her compassion and dedication to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces has become an inspiration to us all, and is deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mrs. Kern on her exemplary service as an advocate and a volunteer.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF VIJAYA EMANI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Vijaya Emani, a profoundly respected and well known leader throughout Northeast Ohio for her work promoting peace, her work with Cleveland's Asian-Indian American community and for working to bring Cleveland's many international communities together.

Vijaya was killed in a tragic accident on the Ohio Turnpike on January 15, 2009, at the age of 51. On that morning Vijaya was on her way to work at Kent State University when she stopped to help crash victims along an icy stretch of the turnpike. She is being honored by the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation on April 14 at its Annual Spring Dinner at Karlin Hall in Cleveland's Slavic Village.

Vijaya was an active member of the Asian-Indian community of Greater Cleveland and served at the President of the Federation of Indian Community Associations in Cleveland. Due to her leadership, India is now among the many international countries represented in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens in Rockefeller Park. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens is an internationally known site which serves to represent the numerous diverse ethnic groups which continue to make Cleveland and the United States into the diverse, egalitarian, and pluralistic society we enjoy. Prior to Vijaya's involvement, representation at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens was mainly European; however, following the dedication of the India Cultural Garden, we celebrated the opening of the African-American and Azerbaijani gardens and plans are now underway for Native American, Hispanic, Syrian, Philippine, and Vietnamese gardens.

The India Cultural Garden is also significant for the giant statue of Mohandas K. Gandhi for