

countless soldiers and Marines. Here at home, he served just as valiantly in his capacity as the director of the trauma department at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Throughout his life, Major Pryor demonstrated an uncommon commitment to our community and our country. On 9/11, he hitched a ride to New York City in an ambulance so that he could lend a hand in one of our greatest hours of need. Shortly thereafter, when America went to war, he volunteered for military service because he felt a patriotic duty to heal wounded soldiers. Time and again, Major Pryor was there when we needed him most.

Major Pryor's absence has been deeply felt by his family, his fellow soldiers, the HUP community, and by all those whose lives he touched. Across our country, we share their grief.

Soldiers like Major Pryor remind us that the price of war cannot be measured just in dollars, or in territory, or even in the number of our patriots who never return home. It must also be measured with the valor, the potential, and the devotion of those we have lost. Within our military are heroism and courage beyond measure, and while the presence of these heroes makes our Nation stronger, the loss of any servicemember is all the more painful, for when they give their lives, the promise of their lives is lost as well.

We give thanks for the life of John Pryor. We mourn his loss. We offer our prayers to his family.

CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, it was my honor today to be recognized by Global Action for Children with the Champion for Children Award. Launched in 2003, the Global Action for Children is a nonpartisan, results-oriented coalition dedicated to advocating for orphans and highly vulnerable children in the developing world. I intended to give the following remarks, but was unable to do so due to Congressional business. I would like to enter my remarks for this event into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

COMMENTS ON THE CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD

Good afternoon.

It is an honor to receive this award from Global Action for Children. Long after I am gone from Washington, if there is one thing people say about me, I hope it is "she was a champion for children."

I would like to thank Jennifer Delaney for all of her work and for the hard work of her staff. I first worked with Jennifer in 2003 on the original PEPFAR bill to secure funding for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children. Jennifer's dedication and commitment to fight for children around the world—and to build the partnerships necessary to be successful—is an inspiration. She is a tremendous resource for Members' offices and I am very proud to be here with her today.

I would also like to congratulate my colleagues from the Senate—Senators Lugar and Dodd—on their awards today. Their commitment to children is well known and I look forward to working with them in the 111th Congress to make the needs of our

planet's next generation a priority domestic and foreign policy issue.

I came to Congress eight years ago. During my time as in the U.S. House there have 80 million newborns and young children around the world have died from mostly preventable or easily treatable diseases—80 million children.

Four million mothers have died from pregnancy related causes, most of which could have been averted with access to basic healthcare.

Nearly 10 million more children will needlessly die across this planet from malnutrition, dirty water, treatable infections, and global apathy. This is a tragedy of enormous proportions that we can help to stop—we MUST help to stop.

For all the mothers and fathers in the room today, do you think a mother or father in Bangladesh, Zambia or Guatemala loves their newborn or toddler less than we love our children?

Every parent loves their children and wants them not only to survive but thrive and succeed.

In the 111th Congress, let us work together—policy makers, global health advocates and citizens—to make the policy improvements and funding investments to save the lives of millions more newborns, children and mothers.

Let us work to make child survival and maternal health the global health priority of this Congress.

As President-elect Obama looks at the foreign policy landscape there needs to be some major reforms in the manner in which development assistance is delivered.

We need a new comprehensive strategy and the tools to execute that strategy. We need to invest the hard earned tax dollars of our citizens in building a better world—a safer world—a more peaceful world. And, we need to see outcomes for our investments that can be demonstrated.

Here is an investment idea and an outcome I'd like to see this Congress act upon: How about investing a billion dollars to save the lives of a million newborns and children? Do you think the American people would support a billion dollar investment that saved a million young lives?

I think they would.

Congress, working hand-in-hand with the Obama Administration, needs to refocus our strategy for development assistance to focus on the basics. In addition to focusing on child survival and maternal health, we need to increase investment in agriculture development to reduce malnutrition, increase family incomes and reduce the demand for emergency food aid.

Let us help to expand access to clean water, preventing water born illnesses.

We must maintain our commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS while not backing away from the need to assist orphans and vulnerable children grow up healthy, productive and safe in their communities.

Finally, we need a foreign policy that recognizes that hundreds of millions of children around the world are confronting violence, absolute poverty, hunger and lives of misery on a daily basis.

Think of the children in Gaza, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Zimbabwe and how they are suffering. Their lives will forever be shaped by violence. We need to work to make the world safe for children and that means aggressive, smart diplomacy that works to prevent political crisis and conflicts. If we are truly a superpower we need not simply stand by and watch the escalation of violence and suffering, we must work to prevent it.

Let start making the world safer for children by advancing a child-based development

agenda—such as the emergency presidential initiative for the world's children being proposed by Global Action for Children here today. This is exactly the type of bold commitment the United States should and can make to the world's children.

Let me conclude by speaking about commitment. Every parent knows that bringing a child into this world means a commitment until that child becomes an adult. It means meeting the child's physical needs, creating a safe environment, sharing love and protecting your child from harm. This is universal across all cultures.

A similar type of commitment on the part of states to children is embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Yet, the United States, along with Somalia, are the only two nations on the face of the Earth which have not ratified this treaty, not formalized our commitment to our own children and the world's children. This is an embarrassment that I hope is addressed by the U.S. Senate this Congress.

Every child—where ever he or she is born—is a child of God and a blessing.

Therefore, every child should be recognized as possessing the human dignity and basic human rights we all share and we all expect for our own children. If this is in fact true and you believe it, and I know you do—then we've got lots of work to do.

Thank you all for making the world's children a priority and for recognizing that their rights and their well-being are as important as our own children's.

GET AMERICA MOVING AGAIN

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, today I am privileged to be joined by my good friend and co-chair of the Congressional Automotive Caucus, Representative FRED UPTON, in introducing the Get America Moving Again Act of 2009.

This bill is simple. It provides a tax credit of \$5,000 for any new vehicle purchased from January 1, 2009, until December 31, 2009. In order to prevent a large drop off in new car sales next year, the tax credit would be cut in half to \$2,500 starting on January 1, 2010. The tax incentive would then expire on December 31, 2010. In addition, the bill provides a tax credit of \$2,000 for any late model used vehicle purchase, as defined as 3 years old or less, from January 1, 2009, until December 31, 2009 so that automobile dealers are not saddled with unsellable used cars. This tax credit would also be cut in half to \$1,000 starting on January 1, 2010 and would also end on December 31, 2010. The tax credit would be limited for vehicles that cost under \$50,000 and would only be allowed for households with an adjusted gross income of \$250,000 or less. I am also working on a second alternative bill that will move this tax credit concept to a voucher system so that consumers can see the immediate benefit of this incentive at the point of sale of a vehicle.

Madam Speaker, I am introducing this bill today because we need to get people thinking now about ways to re-ignite consumer demand for vehicles. Our economy is in crisis today because of insufficient consumer demand for goods and services due to the fear in this country of making a significant purchase. All the economic stimulus plans that

are being discussed deal with bailing out people's mistakes or using taxpayers' dollars for public works projects and more government programs. Some also talk about the government creating "new jobs" but they don't understand that there are still jobs in existence and all they lack is orders from consumers.

We need something easy to understand that is considerably less expensive for the taxpayer than current proposals. We need a proposal that will begin to restore our economy immediately by providing a significant incentive to purchase the second largest purchase a typical consumer will make in their lifetime (after housing) in order to help jump-start the economy.

First, in 2007, about 17 million new vehicles were sold in America. A year later, only 10 million cars were sold. This represents a net loss of 7 million cars. At an average price of \$25,000, this loss of new car sales translated into \$175 billion that was directly removed from the economy in 2008. If we can get back to selling 15 million cars, that would add about \$125 billion directly into the economy. Multiplier effects of between 3 to 7 percent could increase the U.S. economic benefit of selling 5 million more cars up to \$900 billion.

Second, when cars and trucks start selling, it moves inventory from factory lots and dealers showrooms. It pays salaries of all the vehicle assembly workers, dealers, and employees. It replenishes local and state sales tax receipts. It restarts manufacturing and supply chains and the economy begins to boom again because vehicles are the second biggest consumer item (after housing).

Third, by offering a tax credit of \$5,000 for the purchase of a new car or truck, an individual could buy, for example, a new Chrysler Jeep Patriot (assembled in Belvidere, Illinois, which I am proud to represent) for less than \$15,000 or around \$200 a month for 5 years. This incentive is large enough to encourage consumers on the fence to make the decision this year to buy a car.

Fourth, we need to implement this tax incentive immediately while people who still have jobs are able to buy a new car.

We will continue to lose jobs until items are again purchased. Common sense and sound economics have given way to "I want my fair share of the stimulus" mentality. No one is thinking about the massive inflation and the higher taxes that will eventually be necessary to pay for the current stimulus and bailout proposals. Many are unfortunately focused on the pre-eminence of "the government is the only answer" doctrine. There is little regard for restarting our economy from the bottom up.

While government cannot be the answer, it can be part of the solution. We can do things now that will drastically alter the negative course we are on. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join Rep. UPTON and me in co-sponsoring the Get America Moving Again Act of 2009.

IN HONOR OF THE 2008 LAWRENCE
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL MARCH-
ING BAND

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Lawrence Central

High School Marching Band, whose 2008 success catapulted them forward as one of our nation's top high school marching bands.

With hours of dedicated practice, the band developed a musical expertise and performance ability that led them to their first Indiana State Championship since 2000. Following this victory, they were invited to participate in the Bands of America Grand Nationals where they placed third.

Lawrence Central's amazing season culminated with an invitation to the prestigious Annual Fiesta Bowl and Blue Cross/Blue Shield National Band Competition. Competing against the nation's best bands, Lawrence Central was crowned Grand Master Champion, the highest award available.

The band's achievements would not have been possible without the highest quality band staff. Directors of Bands Randy Greenwell and Matthew James and their staff all served as excellent teachers and mentors to their band members. Additionally, all the Lawrence Central fans, and in particular the spirited student body, should be recognized for their enthusiastic support.

I offer my sincere congratulations to the Lawrence Central Marching Band, their band staff, classmates and parents on their incredible success in 2008.

A TRIBUTE TO GWEN REGALIA,
MAYOR OF WALNUT CREEK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honoring Gwen Regalia for her many accomplishments and contributions to the city of Walnut Creek.

Gwen Regalia has provided remarkable leadership as a member of the Walnut Creek City Council since 1987. As Mayor of Walnut Creek, Gwen served for an unprecedented five terms and my congressional district has been greatly enhanced by over two decades of her service. Now, as Gwen retires from public office it is my great privilege to pay tribute to her work in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Gwen's career began upon her graduation from the University of California at Berkeley. She began teaching elementary school when she moved to Walnut Creek in 1958 and now holds a Life Credential in Elementary Education. Gwen's political career began in 1978 when she ran for the Walnut Creek School District board and served for almost ten years; she also served as president for two of those years.

In 1987 Gwen was elected to the City Council, but her duties did not stop at the Walnut Creek boarder. While in office she also served as President of the Kennedy-King Memorial College Scholarship Fund, she was president and former director of the Diablo Valley Foundation for the environment, she is a forty-year member of the American Association of University Women, member of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, Diablo Regional Arts Association member, as well as other local cultural organizations.

Under Gwen's leadership in the City Council several capital projects were completed, in-

cluding the Leshner Center for the Arts, the Shadelands Art Center, the Iron Horse Trail Bridge, two gyms, five parks and seven ball fields, as well as the acquisition of 305 acres of open space.

Gwen Regalia's twenty-one years of public service is an example to us all, and we are lucky to have her vision and her commitment to the citizens of Walnut Creek. It is my honor to recognize Gwen Regalia as she retires from public service and I wish her success and happiness in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF SECRETARY
VALERIE A. WOODRUFF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Valerie Woodruff, Delaware's Secretary of Education. Val will retire this year after a 44 year career in public education and serving the state of Delaware for over 30 years.

During her term as Secretary, Val led the implementation of Delaware's accountability system and worked with Congress and the U.S. Department of Education to implement the federal No Child Left Behind Act in Delaware.

Although Val's work in public education began long before her service in Delaware, Val has had a huge positive impact on Delaware's education system. Val led the development of the first school-based Wellness Center in Delaware that has served as a model for additional Delaware schools. Val served as a Thomson Fellow for the Coalition of Essential States, where she participated in, and conducted workshops in her capacity and was selected as Delaware's Principal of the Year in 1990. Val also serves as a member of several boards including the Delaware Workforce Investment Board and its Youth Council and the State Chamber of Commerce Partnership.

Additionally, Val represents Delaware on the Southern Regional Education Board, serves on the Executive Committee of the Southern Regional Education Board, and is the first K-12 educator to serve as Vice Chair. She also served as President of the Council of Chief State School Officers from November 2005 to November 2006.

Val was born in Steubenville, Ohio and grew up in West Virginia. She attended Alderson Broaddus College in Philippi, West Virginia and graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education in English and Social Studies. In 1971, Val began her work in Delaware and received her Master of Education degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware.

I would like to thank Val for her many years of service and her focus on developing quality teachers and school leaders, as well as the importance of providing an excellent educational experience to all children in Delaware. Val's work has resulted in improved student achievement and positive recognition of Delaware public education.