

did not cosponsor the bill, I ask for your support in this Congress.

This bill is endorsed by the Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the Heart Rhythm Society, the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association, the International Association of Firefighters, the American College of Cardiology, the National Education Association, Parent Heart Watch, American Federation of Teachers and the National Safety Council. I thank these organizations for their support on this issue, and I look forward to working with them on AED awareness.

Losing a young life like Josh's can bring about a sense of helplessness. But today we have an opportunity to act. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort to bring AEDs into every single school across this country because AEDs in schools will save lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING CHARLES R. "DICK" WEBB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon in recognition of a respected business leader in the State of Kansas who died earlier this week. Charles R. "Dick" Webb of Pittsburg, Kansas, and founder of Watco Companies passed away on Monday, March 23, at the young age of 70. He was a great Kansan and an exemplary American who will be greatly missed.

Dick Webb made his mark on the Kansas business community through Watco, a company he founded in 1983 along with his wife, Kaye Lynne. Watco was started literally at the kitchen table. A rail service provider, the Webbs' startup would evolve into a titan of Midwestern business. Watco Companies now supports 2,000 employees in over 26 States.

This expansive network of Watco employees and products has benefited millions of Americans through efficient commodity shipping and gainful employment. Watco railroad tracks continue to move the products that move America. Food and fuel find their way across our Nation's heartland thanks to the foresight of Dick Webb. His endurance in times of uncertainty in his industry allowed Watco to emerge as a leader in rail service and technology. Entrepreneurship is highly valued in our society, and Dick epitomized that quality.

With the success Watco experienced, it would have been easy to relocate the company's headquarters to a more

densely populated area. But being a loyal Kansan, Dick remained in Pittsburg to grow his business and his community. Whether it was his support for his alma mater, Pittsburg State University, or his support for other local startup businesses, Dick added to the overall quality of life for every Pittsburg resident.

Dick is survived by his wife, his two children, Susan Lundy and Rick Webb, as well as six grandchildren who all were raised to remain in Pittsburg. But knowing of Dick's devotion to his employees, it may well be said that he is survived by his Watco family as well. The employees and their families that aided the building of Watco continue to benefit from Dick's work and leadership.

The legacy he left on our State and this Nation will continue to benefit us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring Dick Webb and the lasting legacy he achieved with his life.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. CHRISTINE SARBANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that we in the Maryland delegation join our colleagues in paying tribute to the late Mrs. Christine Sarbanes who passed away this week. She was indeed a ray of sunshine in the lives of many. She is already dearly missed. JOHN, her son, our colleague, said to me just a few days ago that he did not realize that he could miss someone so much in such a short period of time.

If there was only one word that could be used to describe Christine Sarbanes, it would be "enthusiastic." But there are so many other words, "kind," "gentle," and "concerned." For over 20 years, she was an outstanding educator and showed a genuine interest in her students. She encouraged them to set positive goals for themselves and encouraged and challenged them to do their best.

In fact, she was instrumental in helping students develop an appreciation for Latin, which had proved quite useful for those seeking admission to college. With her dedication to teaching also came a love of community involvement with books. Mrs. Sarbanes often talked about her love of the Enoch Pratt Free Library and of libraries in general. She would often say that the library was her place to escape when she was a child to be able to basically move all around the world by sitting in one room.

Christine Sarbanes was able to combine both passions as a board member of the Enoch Pratt Free Library which is located in Baltimore, in my home city, and her dedication to the libraries

in the community recently led to the opening of the first two libraries in Baltimore in over 30 years.

Mrs. Sarbanes served at one point as the vice chairman of our board of the independent library. But the thing that she prized the most was being the head of the community outreach committee of Enoch Pratt. She was one who consistently said that the library was the great equalizer. As a matter of fact, I think she met her husband in a library.

Over and over again, she did everything she could to make sure that there was outreach into the community. She also would say that the libraries in the various communities were the neighborhood community centers. And she really meant that.

The other thing she consistently did was reach out to those who were coming here from foreign countries and coming in as immigrants. She would constantly get the library to take the materials and put them in various languages so that when people came here, they could take full advantage of the services and those resources that the library had.

Despite these successes, nothing could match the devotion that Christine Sarbanes had for her family as a wife, mother and grandmother. She was active in the campaigns of her husband, former Senator Paul Sarbanes, and she proudly watched her son and our colleague, JOHN, become a Member of the United States House of Representatives.

It is through her family that the legacy of this kind, intelligent and dignified woman will continue. To everyone in the Sarbanes family, Michael, JOHN and Janet and all of the grandchildren, please know that our prayers are with you. This world is a better place due to the contributions of Christine Sarbanes.

TESTIMONY OF LARRY GETTS, EMPLOYEE OF DANA CORPORATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, there was testimony before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions just recently by a fellow named Larry Getts who is an employee of the Dana Corporation in Indiana. He was very concerned that the secret ballot on whether or not they were going to join a union was not being given to them. And I would like to read part of his testimony.

He said, "Before I begin, I'd like to say that, as many workers have learned firsthand, I believe Card Check organizing drives put the interests of the union officials ahead of those of the workers.

"While the bill has been officially named the Employee Free Choice Act by its proponents in organized labor and their allies in Congress, my own

personal experience shows a more appropriate name would be the Worker Coercion Act.”

He talks about the union officials and how they came to the company to try to get them to join the union through what they call Card Check without a secret ballot.

He said, “After this first attempt to organize our shop failed, the UAW changed tactics and sent in a whole new crew. At that point, it became clear to all of us that the UAW was going to do whatever was necessary to get the required number of signatures.

“The entire time they were constantly badgering us to sign the cards. I refused to sign the card every time they asked, and I know that many of my colleagues shared my sentiment. But none of that mattered to the UAW, because the pressure did not let up.

“In fact, one day, an official approached me again claiming 50 percent of the plant had signed, so now I was going to have to sign the card to ‘get my information in the system.’ I signed the card because I thought I had to.”

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I didn’t learn until later that even then, I should not have been forced to sign the card.

In the end, the UAW did succeed in organizing our plant, but I thought they succeeded only because of their confrontational tactics and not because the majority of our workers wanted UAW representation.

So immediately, after the union came in, I began a decertification effort. The only reason I was able to fight back was because other Dana Corporation employees in Ohio appealed to the National Labor Relations Board after facing aggression from the UAW, and the NLRB decided that workers should be allowed to seek decertification.

Of course, the UAW responded to my effort by increasing the pressure, and even started visiting me at my home, and my coworkers. Despite their intimidation, my coworkers and I voted to decertify the UAW 45 days after the Card Check drive in a secret ballot. I believe the results of the secret ballot election showed the true free choice of my coworkers regarding UAW representation. We didn’t want the UAW representation that was foisted on us through Card Check.

At the end of the day, the voice of the worker needs to be considered. Union officials say they speak for the workers, and they say passage of the Card Check bill is needed to give workers a free choice. But the only way to give workers a free choice is the way we vote in this country, and that’s to give them a secret ballot. If they want to join the union, they should be able to join the union through a secret ballot. But if they don’t want to join the union, they should not be coerced into joining the union by signing a card. They should have the right, as every

American citizen does, to a secret vote on whether or not they want to be employed in a union shop. Now, if they don’t want to do that, they shouldn’t have to vote for it.

And that’s exactly what the gentleman went through and all of his coworkers. And after they went through it and were forced to join the union, they found out they could have a secret ballot, they did a secret ballot, and they threw the union out.

I’m not an anti-union person, but there ought to be a free choice for people to join the union or not to join it, and they should not be coerced by Card Check.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE SARBANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Christine Sarbanes and offer my heartfelt condolences to former Senator Sarbanes and our colleague, JOHN SARBANES, and the entire Sarbanes family. They have lost a cherished loved one, and our State of Maryland has lost a good, kind and gracious friend.

Christine Sarbanes was a dedicated wife and loving mother who worked tirelessly with her husband to serve their beloved State of Maryland. She was an educator, improving the lives of her students with her incredible enthusiasm and her intellect, which she brought to the classroom every single day. Christine Sarbanes believed with every fiber of her body and her being that we all have the potential to be great, and she channeled her passion into a career in education which touched the lives of thousands of Marylanders.

I will always remember Christine Sarbanes as a pillar of strength and the embodiment of grace. She accompanied her husband and family on countless Labor Day, Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades that she faithfully participated in as the spouse of a Member of Congress. Charming her way through the crowd, stopping to share her special concern with young people in our great State, she had a special eye for young people, and young people came to her and understood that this was a special person who cared about them. Whether it was in Baltimore at a bull roast or a crab feast in Crisfield or a folk festival in Takoma Park, Christine Sarbanes felt at home, and she made all the people she touched feel special. Her loss is felt not only by her family and friends, but by the thousands of lives in Maryland and around the country that she touched and the countless others she inspired.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Christine Sarbanes. Her kindness and legacy of public service serves as an example to all of us, and she will be deeply missed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

VETERANS’ HEALTHCARE FACILITIES/COMMEMORATING EARTH HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today deeply concerned about yesterday’s reports regarding nearly 10,000 of our Nation’s veterans who may have been exposed to HIV and other communicable diseases at Veteran’s Administration hospitals. Like those veterans and their families, I’m shocked and appalled that this could have happened. Our veterans deserve better.

A couple of weeks ago I had the privilege of meeting with the new VA Secretary, Eric Shinseki, at the North Chicago VA Hospital to discuss improving care for our veterans. We’ve heard a lot about change in the past several months. Well, we have the duty to change our VA health system so reports of occurrences like we heard earlier this week never happen again. This means taking a serious look at every option to improve our veterans’ care.

One option is right in my backyard. It is actually in my good friend from Illinois, Mrs. HALVORSON’s district. There’s a hospital named Silver Cross that will be moving to a new location in 2012. The facility that they are leaving has an emergency room that was built in 2006 and a specialty care wing that is less than 7 years old.

Instead of being opportunistic and selling the facility to the highest bidder, the hospital formed a Healthy Community Commission, whose focus is to give back to the Will County community. Our veterans are at the top of their list, and I commend them for that.

I look forward to working with Secretary Shinseki, Congresswoman HALVORSON and Members of both sides of the aisle to explore this and other options to make sure that our veterans never again have to put up with inadequate care.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, March 28, 2009, at 8:30 p.m. millions of people around the world will join together to turn off their lights for 1 hour, Earth Hour, to raise awareness about climate change. Communities, individuals, businesses and organizations will turn off non-essential lighting and cast a virtual vote for global education, awareness and action on this important issue.

Earth Hour began in 2007 in Sydney, Australia where more than 2.2 million people turned off their lights. Last year, World Wildlife Fund took Earth Hour global and more than 50 million