

TRIBUTE TO TRACY PATTON, 2010
STATE WINNER OF LETTERS
ABOUT LITERATURE COMPETITION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tracy Patton and congratulate her as a state winner of the Library of Congress 2010 Letters About Literature competition.

Letters About Literature is a program developed by the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores and state Centers for the Book. It aims to promote reading and writing to young people in fourth through twelfth grades across the nation. Students are encouraged to read a book, then write a letter to the author, dead or alive, conveying their appreciation for the book and its impact on their lives. More than 70,000 students from across the nation that entered the contest, a 25% increase from last year's competition.

The Letters About Literature competition divided students into three divisions by age, and the top letter from each age level were chosen from the states. Level three included all high school students, in ninth through twelfth grades. Tracy was chosen as the Level 3 state winner for 2010 by West Virginia's panel of judges, comprised of authors, editors, publishers, librarians, and teachers. She addressed her letter to renowned playwright and poet William Shakespeare, about his tragedy *Romeo and Juliet*. Tracy is from Charleston, West Virginia and attends Capital High School. Tracy's teacher, Rosalie Blaul, submitted this winning letter.

It is an honor to pay tribute to Tracy Patton, a student that has committed herself to scholarship in reading and writing. Bright young minds such as hers are truly the future of the Mountain State, and I wish her congratulations.

PROTECTING GUN OWNERS IN
BANKRUPTCY ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5827, the Protecting Gun Owners in Bankruptcy Act of 2010. This legislation will ensure that individuals' Second Amendment rights are secure when they enter into bankruptcy.

In these challenging economic times, I have heard from families in Michigan's 15th Congressional District concerned they will lose their ability to protect themselves and their families should they enter into bankruptcy. As the Supreme Court recently ruled in *Heller* vs. the District of Columbia and confirmed in *McDonald* vs. Chicago, the Second Amendment affords individuals across the nation the right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of self defense. Hardworking Americans who have lost their jobs due to the economic downturn should not fear that they will be stripped of those rights because they are try-

ing to turn their lives around through bankruptcy proceedings.

Most States, including Michigan, do not protect gun owners in bankruptcy because firearms are not listed among the "household goods" exempt from the claims of creditors. In 2005, amendments to the bankruptcy code made it even more unlikely firearms would be considered a "household good." However, H.R. 5827 changes that. Specifically, it permits firearms—rifles, pistols and shotguns, up to an aggregate value of \$3,000—held primarily for the personal, family or household use of the debtor to be exempt from the claims of creditors under federal exemption law.

Enacting H.R. 5827 will allow the citizens of Michigan and across the United States the ease of knowing they can protect themselves and their families in good times and bad. This is an important bill and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for it.

HONORING THE AGENCIES INVOLVED IN CONTAINING THE RANGE 9 AND MERIDIAN BOUNDARY FOREST FIRES IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the men and women who showed bravery and perseverance in fighting the Meridian Boundary and Range 9 Fires in northern Michigan's Crawford County and surrounding areas in May of this year. Through their impressive efforts the fire's damage was contained with minimal loss of structures and no loss of life.

On May 18, two separate forest fires broke out only two counties apart—one in Crawford County and the other on land within Camp Grayling's Range No. 9 near the border of Crawford and Kalkaska Counties. Federal, State and local agencies worked together, managing the two fires as one single complex. In total, 16 local fire departments worked alongside members of the Michigan Army Reserve National Guard and State and federal forest management officials, to have the fire 95 percent contained within 8 days.

In all, nearly ten thousand acres were impacted by the fires, with 12 residences destroyed and 6 residences damaged. These firefighters and responders acted with expertise in the field and crews worked around the clock to fight and contain the blaze. Without their determined efforts and quick response the situation on the ground likely would have been far worse.

Agencies involved in containing the Meridian Boundary and Range 9 Fires were: South Branch Township Fire Department, Higgins Township Fire Department, Frederic Township Fire Department, Beaver Creek Township Fire Department, Grayling Fire Department, Lovells Township Fire Department, Luzerne-Big Creek Township Fire Department, Tri-Town Fire Department, Merritt Fire Rescue Department, Clam Union Fire Department, Lake Missaukee Area Fire Department, McBain Fire Department, Lake City Fire Department, Otsego County Fire Department, Otsego Lake Township Fire Department, Vanderbilt Corwith Fire

and Rescue, Michigan Army Reserve National Guard, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment Forest Management Division and USDA Forest Service, Mio Ranger District.

Madam Speaker, the men and women of these agencies did excellent work controlling and containing the Meridian Boundary and Range 9 forest fires and keeping people in the surrounding communities safe. Therefore, I ask that you, and all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, join me in recognizing their service, honoring their bravery, and thanking them for the heroic job they did in fighting these fires.

HONORING MR. IRVIN R. LAI

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mr. Irvin Lai, who passed away on July 16, 2010, at the age of 83. My heart goes out to his son, Laurence; his daughters Arlene Lowe, Corinne Gill, Irene Jong, Kathleen Lih and Pauline Yau; his brother Collin and sister Mildred Wong; his 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and the rest of his family and friends.

Irvin was an extraordinary citizen, a role model for community activism and a powerful advocate for the Chinese American community. His selfless and just nature was cultivated in childhood during the Great Depression by his mother, Effie Lai, an unpaid social worker who helped Chinese immigrant women navigate the U.S. social welfare system. It was his mother's work, and his education in a segregated "Oriental" school, that taught him the importance of joining together and helping his community.

Lai first served his country as a teenage volunteer in the U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marines during World War II, where he achieved rank of Chief Steward during his 2 years of service. In 1950 he was drafted into the Korean War, where he served for 2 years in the 4th Infantry Division, 42nd Field Artillery in Germany.

But it was upon his return from the war that Mr. Lai's civil rights activism really took off, when he joined the Los Angeles Lodge of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance in 1957. He worked his way up to national Grand President of the Alliance by 1985, and along the way he fought hard for equal political and economic rights for all Chinese Americans.

Irvin is probably best known for saving the Peking duck in America, when he led the charge to change a law that required Chinese restaurateurs to throw away large quantities of Chinese roast duck and dim sum, or receive costly citations. As a direct result of testimony from Mr. Lai before the State Legislature, a roast duck exemption was added to the health code.

Mr. Lai also stepped forward to help arrange the proper reinterment of Chinese remains unearthed during construction of the Gold Line Eastside Extension, and the preservation of artifacts found at the site.

I urge all my House colleagues to join me in honoring our community hero, Mr. Irvin for

his remarkable service and contributions to our country.

TRIBUTE TO MOLLY LOVERN, 2010
STATE WINNER OF LETTERS
ABOUT LITERATURE COMPETITION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Molly Lovern and congratulate her as a state winner of the Library of Congress 2010 Letters About Literature competition.

Letters About Literature is a program developed by the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores and state Centers for the Book. It aims to promote reading and writing to young people in fourth through twelfth grades across the nation. Students are encouraged to read a book, then write a letter to the author, dead or alive, conveying their appreciation for the book and its impact on their lives. More than 70,000 students from across the nation that entered the contest, a 25% increase from last year's competition.

The Letters About Literature competition divided students into three divisions by age, and the top letter from each age level were chosen from the states. Level two included all students in seventh and eighth grades. Molly was chosen as the Level 2 winner for 2010 by West Virginia's panel of judges, comprised of authors, editors, publishers, librarians, and teachers. She addressed her letter to Jean-Dominique Bouby, about his book, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*. Molly is from Fairmont, West Virginia and attends Bluefield Middle School. Molly's teacher, Mrs. Putorek, submitted the winning letter.

It is an honor to pay tribute to Molly Lovern, a student that has committed herself to scholarship in reading and writing. Bright young minds such as hers are truly the future of the Mountain State, and I wish her congratulations.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROISM OF
EVAN LANGSTON

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Evan Langston, for his act of heroism. His call to action in an emergency situation saved the lives of his fellow citizens in Franklin County, Arkansas.

Mr. Langston was the first to arrive at an accident on highway 309 in April and helped the passengers get out of the burning car. He successfully helped a mother and her children get out of dangers way. By doing so, he saved their lives and I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Langston with the honor he deserves.

By acting as a good samaritan, he prevented a great tragedy within his community, and for that I wish to honor him with my appreciation. Mr. Langston's selfless actions have not gone unnoticed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to be in Washington from July 12 through July 15 and missed roll-call votes 434 through 466 due to illness.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4899, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010.

This Supplemental Appropriations Act provides funds to meet the needs of our troops abroad and our families at home. It provides emergency flood relief for those recently washed out of their homes, improves Federal mine safety for those risking their lives to get energy from American soil, and supports disabled veterans who have given so much to our nation.

This funding will reduce injuries and increase recovery in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It will reduce injuries by replacing vulnerable military transports with mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, and provide ballistic protection for helicopters that are in the line of fire. Even with this additional protection, injury is inevitable, but this bill enhances the healing mission. It funds field medical equipment to help heal those who are injured in battle and it funds health care for soldiers when they come home. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange, and their survivors, will finally receive the disability payments they deserve. The promises kept in this bill fulfill our commitments to soldiers today and our veterans from past conflicts.

Unfortunately, this version of the bill leaves out necessary funding for priorities here at home. Our children need teachers. Our neighborhoods need first responders. I agree that ignoring the needs of our states and local communities is wrong. However, we cannot make that right by ignoring the needs of our troops, our citizens in the Gulf, and by leaving our citizens to face hurricane season with no possibility of help from FEMA. Without this funding, the President can still declare disaster areas. But those declarations need to be backed up with the people, the expertise, and the funds provided in this bill. The need to support our troops and keep them safe will not go away either.

The funding in this bill will assist America in our shared, but fragile recovery. Forest lands damaged by natural disaster can be restored. Coast Guard helicopters damaged in the line of duty can be replaced. Fisheries in the Gulf Coast can be helped towards recovery and restoration.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on this bill.

TRIBUTE TO CARA LASWELL, 2010
STATE WINNER OF LETTERS
ABOUT LITERATURE COMPETITION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cara Laswell and congratulate her as a state winner of the Library of Congress 2010 Letters About Literature competition.

Letters About Literature is a program developed by the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores and state Centers for the Book. It aims to promote reading and writing to young people in fourth through twelfth grades across the nation. Students are encouraged to read a book, and then write a letter conveying their appreciation for the book and its impact on their lives to the author, living or dead. Of the 70,000 students from across the nation that entered the contest, a 25% increase from last year's competition. Cara was chosen as the 2010 state winner by West Virginia's panel of judges, comprised of authors, editors, publishers, librarians, and teachers.

The contest divided students into three divisions by age, and the top letter from each age level were chosen from the states. The youngest division included students from fourth through sixth grades. Cara Laswell from Fairmont wrote the winning Level 1 letter from West Virginia. Her letter was addressed to Jerry Spinelli about his book *Stargirl*. Cara attends Fairmont Catholic Elementary School, and her letter was submitted by her teacher Cynthia Garcia.

It is an honor to pay tribute to Cara Laswell, a young student that has committed herself to scholarship in reading and writing. Bright young minds such as hers are truly the future of the Mountain State, and I wish her congratulations.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
CONVENIENT CARE CLINIC WEEK

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of National Convenient Care Week and in support of the 1,100 retail-based convenient care clinics in our nation.

Convenient care clinics, which are based in retail outlets with pharmacy services across the nation, provide an extension to our traditional health care system. Primarily staffed by nurse practitioners, these clinics provide preventative services like vaccinations, as well as acute illness diagnosis and treatment. Furthermore, they can also provide needed services to help manage chronic illnesses.

Convenient care clinics are an important component of our health care system. Not only are they a way to relieve the stress on busy emergency rooms and primary care offices, but they also provide care to working families who benefit from their extended hours and walk-in policies.

For all of these reasons, I encourage my colleagues to support National Convenient Care Week.