

COMMEMORATING THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOPKINS SCHOOL IN NEW HAVEN

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Hopkins School, a co-educational preparatory day school in my hometown of New Haven, Connecticut and the third oldest independent school in the United States.

The rich history of Hopkins dates to well before the dawn of our American republic, when Governor Edward Hopkins of the young Colony of Connecticut established America's first charitable trust in 1650. In that trust, he set aside some of his estate for "the breeding up of hopeful youths for the public service of the country in future times." And so a one-room schoolhouse was built on New Haven Green bearing Hopkins' name. From that seed, a fine educational institution has flourished.

In the centuries since, Hopkins has molded many Connecticut youths into fine public servants. Among the school's esteemed alumni are a signer of the United States Constitution, several noted engineers and prize-winning physicists, diplomats and industrialists, governors, Senators, and more than a few presidents of Yale University.

To this day, from its home since 1926 on a hill overlooking New Haven, Hopkins still continues to mold our State's bright young minds into leaders and innovators. With an average class size of fourteen, an educational philosophy that prizes extracurricular activities, public service, and engaged citizenship in addition to the usual academic subjects, and an inclusive community that welcomes young men and women of all races, classes, ethnicities, and creeds, it is little wonder that Hopkins continually produces students that place among the top of the Nation in standardized testing.

I congratulate Hopkins and its current Head, Barbara Riley, on three and a half centuries of academic achievement. And I salute the school's continuing service to the colony, State, and young people of Connecticut. Here is to the first 350, and here's to many more.

HONORING CENTRAL FLORIDA'S VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor central Florida's "Veteran of the Month", a local man known for his exceptional accomplishments and volunteer efforts.

Former Marine Staff Sgt. Michael Sprouse is paralyzed. Despite his disability, Mike has persevered to become a world-class hand cyclist. He holds five marathon course records, and is the world record holder for speed on a downhill course. Mike also organizes and runs sporting clinics for individuals with disabilities all over central Florida and south Florida.

Military service is a family tradition for Mike. His grandfather and father served in the

United States Marine Corps. His father made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam in 1966. Mike entered the Marine Corps the day after he graduated from high school. He went on to serve 6 years as a Drill Instructor at Parris Island, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, Mike Sprouse is an inspiration. Every day, he leads by example. Mike encourages others to overcome their disabilities. He is not just an exemplary veteran, he is a phenomenal person. I am proud to recognize him as Florida's 8th District Veteran of the Month.

USS POSCO INDUSTRIES CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of USS POSCO Industries of Pittsburg, California.

In 1910, Columbia Steel Company was established at the current site of the plant in Pittsburg—a single open hearth furnace making steel castings for dredging, lumber and shipping industries with 60 employees. In the 1920s, the plant expanded to include the West's first nail mill, and later, the first hot dip tin mill west of the Mississippi to serve the food processing industry.

In the 1930s, United States Steel purchased Columbia and expanded the facilities to serve big public works projects like construction of the San Francisco Bay Bridge, which consumed 200,000 tons of steel. Post World War II expansion included modern continuous sheet and tin mills, the West's first continuous rod mill, cold rolling mills, electrolytic tinning, cleaning, continuous coating and annealing lines.

United States Steel became the first manufacturer in the West of galvanized sheet and thin-gauge tinplate in the 1950s, when plant employment peaked at about 5,200 men and women.

In the 1960s and 1970s, competing materials such as aluminum and plastics, as well as the advent of mini-mills and foreign imports, led the company to focus on its most efficient and competitive product lines. When a pipe mill was added, the Pittsburg facility gained the distinction of having the most diverse product line of any steel plant in the United States.

In 1986, USS POSCO Industries was formed as a 50/50 joint venture between United States Steel and POSCO of the Republic of Korea and the new company invested \$450 million in modernizing facilities. Shortly afterwards, the company opened a Learning Center to promote continuing education. This Center continues to this day and now offers over 90 courses to employees and members of the community. Meanwhile, a new era of world-class operations began with a consistent supply of continuously cast, high-quality hot bands arriving by ship and rail from the joint venture partners.

USS POSCO was recognized in 1994 for outstanding corporate environmental achievement by the National Environmental Develop-

ment Association. In 1996, the facility attained ISO 9002 certification, acknowledging compliance with the highest international standards for quality and manufacturing processes.

In 2002, a \$115 million project to rebuild the Pickle Line Tandem Cold Mill was completed after a May 2001 fire destroyed the mill.

In 2005, USS POSCO was awarded the coveted ISO 14001:2004 certification, the premier international standard for environmental excellence. Certification recognizes the company's strict environmental standards for documenting, training, auditing, and managing all aspects of the manufacturing process. The newly-merged company's 20th anniversary was celebrated in 2006 with sales exceeding \$1 billion and 2009 saw its best safety year ever.

Currently, USS POSCO employees about 750 workers and its annual production is over one million tons. The steel the company produces is used to manufacture sanitary food cans, a variety of construction products including culverts, studs, roofing, and HVAC applications, electrical conduit, ornamental tubing, filters, computer cabinets and office furniture. USS POSCO is the largest employer in the City of Pittsburg and annually contributes about \$400 million to the local economy.

The company is the largest corporate fundraiser in the East Bay for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), to which it has contributed for fifteen years, and in 2008 the company raised \$173,000. The company's employees participate in a variety of local civic activities including Junior Achievement and the Los Medanos Community College Foundation, while the company worked with the college to establish a new apprenticeship program for vocational training.

I know I speak for all Members of Congress when I congratulate USS POSCO on its 100th anniversary of continuous steel making in Pittsburg, California, and wish them continued success.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER McLAIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher McLain. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 394, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christopher has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher McLain for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCING THE FOSTER
CHILDREN SELF SUPPORT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Foster Children Self Support Act." This bill will correct a long-standing injustice that has deprived thousands of foster youth of Social Security benefits and will provide some of our most vulnerable children with a chance to succeed. I am proud to introduce this bill in partnership with Congressman LANGEVIN, who is a tireless advocate for children and individuals with disabilities.

In nearly every state in the country, foster children eligible for Social Security benefits because of a disability or the loss of a parent are having those benefits taken by the very state agencies charged with their care. The "Foster Children Self Support Act" would end that practice. Instead, it would require states to use a child's Social Security benefits to meet the immediate needs of that child or set aside those benefits to assist the child with transitioning to adulthood when that child emancipates from care.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) estimates that approximately 30,000 foster children (out of 500,000 nationwide) receive either Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or OASDI (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) benefits each month. Unfortunately, hardly any of these children will benefit from these funds. Nor will the children have the option to conserve the funds to use when they leave care. This is because state child welfare agencies routinely make themselves the representative payee so that they have control over the child's benefits. Often, neither the child nor the child's advocate knows that Social Security benefits are being sent to the agency. Once the welfare agency controls the benefits there are few limits on what they can do with the funds.

State welfare agencies take an estimated \$156 million per year from foster children, according to a CRS analysis. The practice has devastating consequences for youth who age out of the system without supports. Former foster children face tremendous challenges. Foster children often enter care having suffered from serious emotional, mental, and/or physical abuse. For example, they suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) at a rate twice as high as Iraq War veterans. When youth emancipate from care, 37 percent experience at least one episode of homelessness and 16 percent of men are incarcerated by the age of 24. Only 48 percent of former foster youth are employed at age 24 and only 6 percent had a college degree. The "Foster Children Self Support Act" is especially important since it is safe to assume that those foster youth who have lost their parents or are eligible for SSI due to severe mental or physical disabilities are among the most vulnerable.

The "Foster Children Self Support Act" provides a way to help these young people. It does so by mandating that states develop a plan for foster children who receive Social Security benefits. The plan would describe how to use a child's Social Security benefits as a

resource to best meet the current and future needs of that child. The plan must be specific to each child receiving Social Security benefits and made in partnership with the child and the child's advocate. If this bill were law, states would no longer be allowed to simply use children's Social Security money as they see fit. Instead, this money would have to be used as any parent would use it: to provide for the child's particular needs and help plan for the child's future.

The bill will:

Require that states screen all foster children for Social Security eligibility and assist them in application;

Require states to identify other appropriate representative payees for eligible children, such as family members, before becoming the payee themselves;

Require states to develop a plan, with a child and that child's advocate(s), on how to best use the Social Security benefits to provide for the current and future needs of the child;

Provide for the conservation of Social Security funds in dedicated accounts that a child can access when they leave care to pay for things like housing, education, transportation, and other life expenses;

Exclude the conserved funds from the \$2,000 SSI resource limit to ensure that youth can accumulate a substantial amount of assets without losing their eligibility for future benefits;

Ensure that youth are provided assistance to maintain eligibility for benefits after they transition out of care;

Require the GAO to report back to Congress on states' progress in screening all foster children for Social Security eligibility.

As Members of Congress, we are the grandparents and guardians of all foster youth. We have a moral obligation to provide foster children with the resources they need to become independent adults, just as we would our own children. The "Foster Children Self Support Act" is a small part of fulfilling this obligation and a large step toward helping one of the most vulnerable groups of foster children.

I urge my colleagues to join Congressman LANGEVIN and me in support of this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES AT
THE LOSS OF LIFE OF 72 PEOPLE
EXECUTED IN TAMAULIPAS,
MEXICO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to express our condolences at the loss of life of the 72 people who were executed in Tamaulipas, Mexico by a drug syndicate on August 25, 2010.

The United States and Mexico have a unique relationship that is vitally important to both countries and to the world.

The loss of life and the utter callousness of this act need to be on the forefront of public consciousness.

The proliferation of criminal gangs like the one responsible for this atrocious crime highlights the extreme insecurity faced by migrants.

This act only reiterates the importance of comprehensive immigration legislation on both sides of the border to place safety above all other concerns.

I ask for my colleagues' support of this resolution which calls on the governments of the United States, Mexico, and nations throughout Latin America to commit to greater collaboration on the management and reform of migration policies within and between countries, to reduce the loss of life and establish safe, legal, and orderly migration that respects and protects human rights; and work together to address the factors driving high rates of irregular migration that increasingly exposes migrants to exploitive and life-threatening conditions.

HONORING WARREN EDWARD
DIFFENDALL

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American. Warren Edward Diffendall of Deep River, Connecticut passed away earlier this year and will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery this week. As a soldier and active citizen, Warren gave much of his life to our great nation.

Warren was a veteran of World War II—a Tech Sergeant in the Eighth Air Force, 489th Bomber Group, in England. He was a waist gunner on a B-24 Liberator that flew 2 historic missions on D-day. With such an honorable record in the armed services under his belt, Warren went on to serve his country for a long time after the war.

He spent many years doing good work to protect the environment and its inhabitants as a special agent for the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and for the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service. Having worked extensively with these organizations in Connecticut, I can tell you from firsthand experience how crucial people like Warren are to protecting the livelihoods of Connecticut's fisherman and the safety of our land and waterways. In addition, he became a passionate grower of fruits, vegetables, and flowers after settling in Deep River.

When we honor men and women like Warren Diffendall who served their nation during wartime and peacetime, we are reminded of why these individuals are referred to as our "greatest generation." I stand here today to honor the memory of Warren Diffendall for his service and sacrifice. Anyone who devoted their life to protecting our nation and ensuring its prosperity for future generations, in the manner that Warren did, is worthy of our eternal gratitude. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss and honoring the life of Warren Diffendall.