

MICAH SPRINGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Micah Springer for her outstanding service to our community.

For Micah, Yoga is the means to express passion, joy, sorrow and all aspects of vitality. Her studio began in 1999 in the basement of her home and has grown to a three facility business.

In her Golden studio, Micah is collaborating with the Colorado School of Mines. She learned of the high suicide rate among college students, and saw an opportunity to provide a meditative, non-competitive activity. She has created a Yoga program that counts for school credit and introduces young people to the benefits of Yoga.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Micah Springer for being honored by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITewater FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE NCAA DIVISION III NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater football team for completing an undefeated season and winning the NCAA Division III National Championship. The victory marks the Warhawks' third national title in the last four years.

UW-Whitewater has achieved tremendous success on the football field—winning six straight Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) championships and earning six consecutive NCAA Division III playoff berths. During a remarkable run under Coach Lance Leipold, the team has amassed a record of 57 and 3 and won 30 consecutive games. On December 18, 2010, the Warhawks defeated the University of Mount Union Purple Raiders in the 2010 Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl to win their second consecutive national title.

UW-Whitewater Chancellor Richard Telfer and Athletic Director Paul Plinske have fostered a culture of excellence that extends into the classroom. Over the years, 80 Warhawk student-athletes have been named WIAC Scholar Athlete of the Year for their sport. In addition, UW-Whitewater student-athletes have achieved a higher grade point average than the student body at large.

The Warhawks could not have reached the zenith of Division III college football without a steadfast fan base. Students, alumni, faculty, staff, and local supporters flood Perkins Stadium wearing the purple and white to cheer on their team. Many loyal fans even traveled to Salem, Virginia to watch the Warhawks win the 2010 Stagg Bowl.

I join others in south central Wisconsin in recognizing the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were vital in helping the UW-Whitewater Warhawks win another national football championship.

H.R. 5281, DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF, AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the DREAM Act.

This is common sense, bipartisan legislation that is a win for our economy.

First, in this economy, we need the best, the brightest, the most capable and the most qualified to be a part of the American workforce.

This legislation will allow a limited group of very capable, high achieving young people to help contribute to the economic well-being of this country.

These are young people who didn't come to this country through their own free choice.

But, they are young people who have worked hard to graduate high school or obtain a GED.

These are young people who have contributed to their communities and to this country.

If we turn our backs on these students, then we're turning our backs on a qualified and competitive workforce.

Second, Madam Speaker, simply put, this legislation is the right thing to do.

Critics who argue that the DREAM Act would diminish opportunities for students in this country with full citizenship must not know anything about our colleges and universities.

Our Nation's higher education institutions have the capacity to welcome these students, as many already do, without closing the door for other students.

This Congress has passed historic legislation to increase college access and opportunity for all students.

The bill before us today continues to provide that access to a higher education not only by providing these students a path to citizenship, but allowing them access to critical student aid through loans and work-study.

The financial cost of a higher education is too often a barrier to attending higher education.

It is critical that this bill ensures access to student aid, and gives students a chance at affording a higher education.

It is important to note that this bill allows students to enter into a conditional non-immigrant status for an initial period of 5 years, which shall be extended for an additional five years as long as they have fulfilled all requirements for extension.

After 10 years in this conditional status, eligible students may apply for lawful permanent residence. Once applicants receive conditional non-immigrant status, DREAM Act participants, like lawful permanent residents and unlike many nonimmigrants, are considered to be residing in the United States lawfully without being required to maintain a residence outside the U.S. or have an intent to leave the

U.S. As such, conditional nonimmigrants under the DREAM Act should be considered as residents of the states that they reside in when considering tuition rates at public institutions of higher education, as long as they meet all other residency requirements for in-state tuition.

By passing this legislation, we can reward smart, civic-minded, goal-oriented students and provide access to the American dream.

Let's not punish students and the future of this country.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING STEPHAN PASSALACQUA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize and honor Sonoma County District Attorney Stephan Passalacqua, who is retiring after a 22-year career as a County Prosecutor. For the past eight years, Mr. Passalacqua served as Sonoma County's elected District Attorney.

As District Attorney, Mr. Passalacqua was instrumental in obtaining \$1.4 million in grant funding and private donations to create the Family Justice Center of Sonoma County, which will be a lasting testament to his service to his community.

He also hosted the first statewide Gang Summit and launched an educational gang prevention program in partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs. This was the first program in the nation to be taught by prosecutors.

His other innovations included co-hosting a Sonoma County Environmental Awareness Forum, hosting multiple Elder Protection Summits, and partnering with community groups to host forums on Internet Safety, Identity Theft and Mortgage Fraud.

He also initiated the first organized activities acknowledging National Crime Victims Rights Week in Sonoma County, which has now become an annual event. The hallmark of his tenure as District Attorney has been his insistence that victims are treated with respect and dignity. He continually worked to raise awareness of victims' rights, to help victims become survivors and to reduce and prevent victimization at the onset.

He has served on several professional boards, including the Institute for the Advancement of Criminal Justice, the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Bar Association, the Santa Rosa Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force, and as a Professor of Elder Protection Law at Empire College School of Law.

Mr. Passalacqua was born and raised in Sonoma County and he is firmly rooted in his community. In addition to his professional duties, Mr. Passalacqua has served on the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation, the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa, the Advisory Board of Kidstreet Learning Center, the Board of Directors of the Community Support Network of Santa Rosa and as a mentor with Social Advocates for Youth.

Madam Speaker, after 22 years of public service to the people of Sonoma County,

Stephan Passalacqua deserves to enjoy the riches of this new phase of his life as a water and transportation consultant. We wish him well.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "OIL SPILL VICTIMS REDRESS ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, the Oil Spill Victims Redress Act that I am introducing today with the gentlewoman from Florida, Ms. CASTOR, would help protect those Gulf Coast residents who have seen their livelihoods destroyed by the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

This legislation would clarify that people who have suffered economic harm as a result of the BP spill can seek to pursue claims from all of the companies involved in the disaster in state court. The companies involved in the spill, including Halliburton and Cameron, have argued that the Oil Pollution Act preempts state law and, as a result, that all state law claims brought by the victims of the spill should be dismissed or removed to federal court. Some of these companies, such as Halliburton and Cameron, have even argued that they should be exempt from all suits because they are not responsible parties as defined under the OPA.

To be clear, the underlying statute, the Oil Pollution Act, already clearly provides for claims brought in state court and was not intended to preempt state law. The Act clearly states that "nothing in this Act . . . shall affect, or be construed or interpreted to affect or modify in any way the obligations or liabilities of any person under . . . State law, including common law."

However, in light of the legal arguments proffered by the companies involved in this disaster, the legislation that we are introducing today would further clarify the ability of people to seek compensation in state court. We must ensure that we do not forget about the people of the Gulf who have had their lives destroyed by this disaster. We must ensure that all of the companies responsible for the worst oil spill in our nation's history are held accountable. And we must ensure that everyone who has suffered economic damages as a result of the BP oil spill is made whole.

HAZEL HARTBARGAR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Hazel Hartbargar for her outstanding service to our community.

As the Director of the Arvada Economic Development Association, Hazel Hartbargar is an advocate for all business in the community and has been recognized regionally and nationally for her work. She has been called the "heart and soul" of ADEA. Her ability to help people work together and the compassion she shows is exceptional.

Hazel has been instrumental in implementing many community programs including PropertyLink which is a website local commercial business can use to search for land, as well as retail and industrial space within the city. She also helped to implement JobLink which enables businesses within the city to post open positions.

When Hazel received the Pioneer Award, she was described as a true modern day pioneer; a visionary who ventures into the unknown, creating new opportunities for herself and others and encouraging others to explore new areas of thought.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Hazel Hartbargar for her well deserved recognition by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING PAUL ZALESKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a tribute to Mr. Paul Zaleski who passed from this life on November 24 at the age of 95. This tribute was written by noted author and historian, Allen Paul, whose books include "Katyn: Stalin's Massacre and the Triumph of Truth." As Mr. Paul points out, Mr. Zaleski epitomized the courage of his generation of extraordinary Poles who came to the U.S. after the terror and broken dreams unleashed by World War II. I, too, had the privilege of meeting him on May 5 of this year at a 70th anniversary observance of the Katyn Forest Massacre, at the Library of Congress. Paul Zaleski may well have been the last link here in the U.S. to the Polish Government in Exile. May his family and friends be comforted in the knowledge he lived to see the fall of the Berlin Wall, Solidarity whose 30th anniversary we commemorate this year, and Poland admitted to NATO.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL ZALESKI

Paul Zaleski led the most interesting life of anyone I have ever known. Such a quiet unassuming man, imbued with old world grace and dignity, never bitter despite the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune—who could have guessed his escape in a hail of bullets, how he and others returned that fire by pinging the American conscience, how we eventually came to see that Poland, the land he loved and lost, must be reborn independent and free. He laid no claim to great deeds, but the memorable title of Dean Acheson's autobiography—"Present at the Creation"—almost perfectly fits his life.

Paul and I were close friends for twenty years. His death on November 24 leaves a notable void: a direct link is lost—perhaps the last—to the Poles' ill-fated Government in Exile and to the heroic gamble after the end of the war to save Poland from Stalin. Paul was longtime secretary to Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, prime minister of the Government in Exile in London. In 1945 Mikolajczyk decided to go back to Poland to join a communist-controlled coalition government and Paul went with him. Both men were gambling with their lives but took the chance to achieve two main objectives: first, to keep the communists from stealing the "free and unfettered" elections promised at Yalta; and

second, to prevent Stalin from liquidating and/or deporting nearly 400,000 partisans who were still in the forests of Poland waiting to fight. The elections were stolen through blatant fraud; but aim two was achieved: Mikolajczyk "bought" safe passage for the partisans and averted a bloodbath.

Along the way thugs from the infamous UB (security service) made two attempts on Paul's life; and soon it became clear that Mikolajczyk, himself, would be tried as a traitor or liquidated. Both men escaped in 1947 and returned to the west where they launched a high-profile campaign to warn the west about the fate of Poland. Archbishop Francis Spellman arranged for rooms at the Waldorf Astoria where Mikolajczyk wrote his bestseller—"The Rape of Poland." The famous sports writer, Bob Considine, helped as did Paul. The book and the heavy speaking schedule Mikolajczyk kept up were influential in getting Congress to investigate the Katyn Forest Massacre in 1951-52. That probe established a record and body of evidence that stands even today. It concluded that the Russians had brutally murdered thousands of Polish officers in the spring of 1940.

Paul's symbiotic relationship with Mikolajczyk heavily influenced his life. Not long before the war Paul earned a law degree from Jan Kazimierz University in Lwow and became an organizer with the Peasant Party (Stronnictwo Ludowe) then headed by Mikolajczyk. After his escape from Poland, Paul went to France where Mikolajczyk was serving in the leadership of the Government in Exile. He sent Paul as an emissary to Bucharest and later to Istanbul. When the Germans invaded Russia in 1941, the Poles and Russians reestablished diplomatic relations; and Paul was sent to help open the new embassy in Kuybyshev. Two years later the relationship fell apart over the Katyn crisis and Paul helped get the embassy staff out of the U.S.S.R. They took the southern route which meant the convoy had to cross "The Roof of the World"—the Pamir Mountains—to get to Persia. Paul then crossed the Middle East and rejoined Mikolajczyk where the Government in Exile moved after Dunkirk. He was at Mikolajczyk's side—often when he met Churchill and other world leaders—and remained there until Mikolajczyk died in 1966.

His exploits notwithstanding, Paul still had to earn a living after immigrating to the United States. His Polish law degree gave him no standing here, so he went to law school for the second time at George Washington University and later became an attorney with the U.S. Maritime Commission. After he retired he practiced law on his own specializing in estate work. He was executor for many members of the expatriate community and seldom if ever charged for his services.

I saw in Paul many qualities that epitomized the Poles who got stranded in the west when Stalin swallowed their country whole. They found the courage to rebuild shattered lives, became intensely proud and loyal Americans and remained unwavering in their commitment to Polish freedom and independence. I talked to Paul often and we spoke only a few days before he died. I know it gave him great satisfaction—much comfort in fact—that the torch was passed, that the ideals of his generation survived the long dark years of communism, that they are strongly embraced today by a new generation of leaders who have guided Poland to a remarkable position in which it has one of the strongest economies and most stable democracies in all of Europe.

From their near-miraculous escape in 1947 to their messianic campaign to win the minds and hearts of Americans, Paul and his