

RECOGNIZING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY BEING NAMED ONE OF THE NATION'S "100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE"

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 21, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Prince William County, Virginia on being named one of the nation's "100 Best Communities for Young People" by America's Promise Alliance and ING.

The annual "100 Best Communities for Young People" competition began in 2005 and was established to honor communities that work to improve young people's chances of earning a high school diploma, finding employment in a competitive 21st century workforce, and contributing to a robust American economy. America's Promise Alliance advocates for providing youth with the resources they require to graduate from high school prepared for college, work and life. The global financial institution, ING, sponsors the awards.

This is the first year the "100 Best" list includes Prince William County. The county received the distinction for its efforts to offer students leadership opportunities and reach out to at-risk youth. Students in Prince William County who participate in the student committee, Learning Essential Assets of Development (LEAD), organize service projects to gain experience in practical planning, communication and decision-making. The county also partnered with private businesses to fund the construction and staffing of a community center and daycare facility in an at-risk neighborhood. Prince William County boasts an on time graduation rate of 88 percent, almost 20 percent higher than the national average.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Prince William County on being recognized as one of the nation's "100 Best Communities for Young People." This is a well-deserved recognition for a county dedicated to providing a high quality of life for its residents and a world class education for its children.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HARRIET JAN HILLMAN

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 21, 2010*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Harriet Jan Hillman. After 23 years, Jan, as she is known by friends and coworkers, is retiring from her post as Executive Director of Planning and Assessment for Student Affairs at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

In addition to her current position, since beginning her career at UNT in 1987 Ms. Hillman has served the Denton campus as Panhellenic Advisor, Director of Student Activities and Assistant Dean of Students. She has been an advocate for the Greek system and has continued to serve this student population over the last ten years even when outside of her assigned job responsibilities.

Ms. Hillman received her B.A. in Pre-Social Work at what was then known as Northeast Louisiana University. She then continued her education by earning both her M.Ed. and Ed.D. from the University of North Texas.

Ms. Hillman's devotion to the profession of student affairs has been evident through her membership in the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators (TACUSPA), an organization she served as President from 1997–1998.

Additionally, Ms. Hillman has been active within the community through her active membership in Kiwanis, the Denton Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Denton. And, in 2006 she was selected as a member of the 2006 class of Leadership Texas.

It is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Jan Hillman for her years of dedication and service to the University of North Texas. I am proud to represent her and UNT in the United States Congress.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 3082, MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 21, 2010*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, the Continuing Resolution that passed in the House of Representatives today will keep the government funded at the current level through March, 2011, allowing operations to continue for programs that would otherwise have expired. Nationwide, we are continuing to recover from difficult economic times. It is more important than ever that the federal agencies and the programs they administer, which so many states and individuals depend on, receive the federal funding they need to operate without interruption.

During House floor consideration and passage of this legislation, I was unavoidably absent from Washington due to a family health emergency. However, I am pleased that my colleagues passed, this important legislation, which I strongly support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 21, 2010*

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 654, on motion to suspend the Rules and concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2142, GPRA Modernization Act of 2010; had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING COACH GENE STALLINGS FOR SELECTION TO COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 21, 2010*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to rise today in honor of a

friend and celebrated native of Paris, Texas—legendary coach Gene "Bebes" Stallings who recently was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Coach Stallings embodies the best qualities of a coach, teaching his players not only how to play the game but always to give their best, win or lose. His journey began as a stand-out player at Paris High School and continued at Texas A&M University as a member of Paul "Bear" Bryant's famous Junction Boys. During his career at A&M, Gene was part of the team that finished 9–0–1, winning a Southwest Conference Championship in 1956. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science in 1957 and later earned an honorary degree from Harding University. After his playing days, Gene arrived at Alabama to be an assistant coach under Head Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. He returned to Texas A&M University as head coach in 1965, coaching there until 1971. One of the most thrilling moments of his tenure as head coach at A&M was leading his alma mater to victory against his former coach at the 1968 Cotton Bowl.

For the next 18 years, Gene was a successful coach in the National Football League. For 14 years he served as an assistant coach for the Dallas Cowboys. He was a part of Tom Landry's very successful staff which led the Cowboys to victory in Super Bowl XII. Gene then became the head coach of the St. Louis Cardinals for two years, followed by two more years as head coach for the Phoenix Cardinals.

After a very successful tenure as a coach in the National Football League, Gene returned to college football and Alabama in 1990. His first year at Alabama started with a 0–3 record; however, because of his great leadership, his team improved, finishing the season with a 7–5 record. In 1992, Alabama's dominance began as they finished the season with a 13–0 record, becoming Southeastern Conference champions and winning the national championship against Miami. In 1993, the Crimson Tide won their second straight Southeastern Conference western division title and finished with a record of 9–3–1. In 1994, his team had an 11–0 regular season record. The Crimson Tide lost in the Southeastern Conference title game but defeated Ohio State in the Citrus Bowl. Gene's last year at Alabama was 1996, and his team won 10 games and earned a berth in the Southeastern Conference championship game against Florida. In 1996, Gene announced his retirement from football and completed his career at Alabama with a 70–16–1 record.

This astonishing record of achievement led to numerous awards and recognitions. Gene is a member of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, the Texas A&M University Hall of Fame, the Gator Bowl Hall of Fame, and the Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame. He was named National Coach of the Year, American Football Coaches' Coach of the Year, Walter Camp Coach of the Year and received the Paul "Bear" Bryant Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, he won the Southeastern Conference Coach of the year twice.

Gene not only deserves to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame but to be in another Hall of Fame—one that honors great fathers. His son, John Mark, was born with Down syndrome and a severe heart defect and lived to an age, 46, that many doctors felt

was impossible. Gene and Ruth Ann, his wife, provided their child with the most love, care and attention ever given to a child. John Mark was born during an era where a child with such a disability was often institutionalized. The Stallings included John Mark in every decision—family-wise or career-wise, and John Mark was a fixture at every game and practice of all his father's teams. One of Gene's greatest legacies will be the contributions that he and his family made to families with special needs' children.

In recognition of his humanitarian efforts, Gene received the Dallas Father of the Year Award, the National Boys Club Alumni of the Year Award, Arthritis Humanitarian Award of Alabama, Humanitarian Award of the Lion's Club of Alabama, and the Paris Boys Club Wall of Honor. The Stallings family was honored by the Tuscaloosa Association of Retarded Citizens as the Family of the Year. Their efforts and generosity toward the Rise program, a program which aids developmentally disabled toddlers for entry into public school and interaction with non-disabled students, were again acknowledged with the naming of the Stallings Building on the Alabama campus. In addition, Gene wrote a book about his son, John Mark.

Gene has also served as a valued and esteemed member of President George W. Bush's Commission on Intellectual Disability, the Board of Abilene Christian University, the Tandy Brand Corporation, People's National Bank of Paris, Paris Regional Medical Center, Disability Resources, the Texas Rangers Law Enforcement Association, the Great Southern Wood Corporation, and the Boys and Girls Club of Paris, Texas. In 2005, Governor Rick Perry appointed him to the Texas A&M Board of Regents, where he served as a member of the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Buildings and Physical Plant, and the Committee on Campus Art and Aesthetic. An additional responsibility as a member of the Board of Regents is his place as the special athletic liaison to the A&M Systems Members.

As the 111th Congress adjourns this week, I am honored to recognize the contributions of this great football coach and great American—Gene Stallings.

#### REPRESENTATIVE IKE SKELTON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 17, 2010*

RIGID AEROSHELL VARIABLE BUOYANCY AIR VEHICLE—ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATOR

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the Force Transformation Directorate, within the Director, Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E) Office, is developing an advanced, variable buoyancy, rigid-structure air vehicle with vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) capability and the ability to hover, all while operating at maximum weight. Known as the Pelican project, this effort has the potential to provide for airship technology capable of moving large payloads and brigade-sized units to a point of need.

Pelican could assist in establishing a new inter/intra-theater capability that could greatly increase heavy cargo lift capability and effectiveness, reduce the logistics footprint in theater, provide low cost and "green" cargo carriage, and could establish a new disaster relief capability.

The recent Haiti relief operation demonstrates the importance of this capability. Aircraft dependent on runways were initially turned away because there was insufficient ramp space. A VTOL heavy lift transport, requiring little support infrastructure, would have been immune to this problem. The new VTOL air-lift capability can reduce our dependence on foreign airbases and ports, as well as the effectiveness of anti-access strategies employed by our adversaries.

I encourage the Department to maintain development activities and to initiate plans for a capable 60 ton payload vehicle, ensuring close coordination and cooperation with the Air Force, Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command. I further recommend that this effort be made a program of record beginning in Fiscal Year 2013.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES MELTON STEELE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 21, 2010*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of James Melton Steele. Mr. Steele, known affectionately as "Jim" to his friends, family and members of the North Texas community was passionate for the Northwest Independent School District and its students. His memory and commitment to NWISD are appropriately commemorated with the Dedication of the James M. Steele Accelerated High School, the only school of its type in Texas, designed to provide students an alternative venue to complete high school at an accelerated pace.

Mr. Steele's early life allowed him to know both north Texas and west Texas as home. His family followed his father's railroad employment with positions in both the Fort Worth area and Baird, Texas where he attended school until 8th grade. His family returned to north Texas where he attended the Birdville School District and met Johnnie, who was the love of his life and eventually became his wife and mother to their two sons, Bruce and Brian.

James attended Arlington State College where he majored in business administration and developed a desire through his early work experiences to own his own business. He built and operated a concrete plant in Haltom City and later bought a small country store in Roanoke which eventually became Steele's Affiliated Country Market.

The Steele's raised their family in Roanoke and were active community members as he helped with sports activities and Johnnie volunteered to help the teachers at Roanoke Elementary. Mrs. Steele eventually made a career of education in NWISD and taught for 24 years before retiring from Gene Pike Middle School. As members of Roanoke Church of Christ, Byron Nelson encouraged Mr. Steele to become an Elder.

Mr. Steele's leadership and commitment led to encouragement from parents within the Northwest ISD to run for the school board. He became a member of the NWISD Board in 1975, serving as a Trustee for nine years, including his term as board president.

The Steeles' commitment to NWISD is a family legacy as both of their sons and their grandchildren, Chris and Tara, graduated from Northwest High School. Bryson James Steele, one of three great-grandchildren, currently attends Kay Granger Elementary. The Steeles' other two great-grandchildren, Caroline Doshier and Brayden Steele, will eventually attend school at NWISD.

It is with great honor that I rise today to recognize James M. Steele and his commitment to Northwest Independent School District. I am honored to represent Northwest ISD, the town of Roanoke and the Steele family in the United States Congress.

#### HONORING ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMBASSADOR RICHARD HOLBROOKE

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN-**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 17, 2010*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, this week, the world lost a legendary diplomatic figure and master peace negotiator. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke may no longer be with us, but his presence is timeless, as he leaves behind the invaluable lessons of his life's work.

Among his many accomplishments as statesman and steadfast advocate for greater stability throughout the world, Ambassador Holbrooke's most famous contribution to the mission of global peace was his role as chief architect of the Dayton Peace Accords, ending more than three years of bloody war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Up against deep-seated multi ethnic and religious divisions, a war-torn economy, and lacking government infrastructure, his unwavering commitment to establishing a peace worthy of America's name was fundamental to leading the accords to successful resolution.

As the United States considers a new way forward to reinvigorate Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, Ambassador Holbrooke's memory serves as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved with persistent engagement, pragmatic diplomacy, and impassioned belief—not only in the necessity for resolution, but also in the ability for differing peoples to come together in the name of a common humanity.

The United States remains unwaveringly committed to ensuring Israeli security and its future as a Jewish democratic state, both as a moral imperative and as a crucial strategic relationship. While we have worked to maximize Israel's security, through military partnership and sanctions aimed to prevent Iranian nuclear capabilities, the fact remains, however, that Arab-Israeli tensions pose very real threats to Israeli and regional stability. Now is the time to ever more fervently pursue resolution to the issues that stand in the way of peace: borders, security, settlements, refugees, and Jerusalem.

As Founder and Co-Chair of the American Engagement Caucus, I firmly believe that U.S. leadership is paramount to the success of peace negotiations, and we must make a