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I strongly encourage members to take advantage of these extraordinary programs and resources, and congratulate all our nation's libraries, librarians, and library-enthusiasts.

**HONORING MARY CANAVAN ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT
FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY**

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true public servant, Mary Canavan. Mary has been with the Federal Government since a week after graduating from college in 1970. After 40 years of dedicated work, Mary is retiring this spring.

Mary is one of two children of Irish immigrants—who like most immigrants to the United States—worked incredibly hard to provide for their children. The family was a close one, with Mary taking care of her parents as they got older. To this day, Mary is incredibly close to her brother, a priest, who comes over every Sunday for dinner with his sister. A few years back, Mary's brother was in a car accident and was hurt severely. Typical for Mary, she stepped up to ensure he got the best possible care.

As I mentioned, just a week after graduating from college, Mary joined the Federal Water Quality Administration in June of 1970. She joined the Environmental Protection Agency when it was established and the Federal Water Quality Administration was abolished. She began her career in public affairs and thoroughly enjoyed working with students on college campuses. Mary also worked in the water grants program and as a State coordinator, working with Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. In 1987, Mary became a congressional relations officer and has served in that capacity ever since.

Mary is very involved in her Church, Chicago's 135-year-old Holy Name Cathedral. She recently served as head of the parish council. And after a fire damaged the cathedral last year, Mary, yet again, stepped up to the plate, making sure that the church could continue to accept parishioners and guests during construction. She also helped to plan a fund-raiser to help with church renovations. Mary continues to plan events like the annual gala.

I have never heard a bad word about Mary Canavan. She is universally loved and respected. Mary is a Federal employee of the highest caliber. She has served EPA and the offices she deals with tremendously well. I know my office will miss her and based on my discussions with the rest of the Michigan delegation, we are not alone.

I wish Mary all the best in retirement, as she looks forward to travel and being able to devote more of her time to her Church and her beloved brother. I ask all my colleagues to rise

and pay tribute to Mary Canavan as she leaves Federal service.

**HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF
CINCINNATI BEARCATS FOOTBALL
TEAM**

HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Cincinnati Bearcats football team and congratulate them on their historic achievements in the 2009 season. In addition to winning a school-record 12 games, UC won its second straight Big East football title. The Bearcats finished the regular season fourth in the nation in both the USA Today and the Associated Press polls with an undefeated record. UC also played in the 2010 Sugar Bowl, its second consecutive Bowl Championship Series game. In addition, the football team and the university community "adopted" and embraced a 12-year-old cancer patient named Mitch Stone through Friends of Jaclyn, a foundation that links youngsters with brain tumors to college and high school sports teams. Today, Mitch is cancer-free.

I am proud to recognize Mitch Stone and the University of Cincinnati Bearcats football team, its coaches, and UC President Gregory H. Williams for their 2009 football season, and recognize the students, faculty, and leadership for their record-setting support for UC's most successful season in history.

Roster: 14 Chazz Anderson, 86 Blake Annen, 51 Alex Apyan, 43 Robby Armstrong, 85 Marcus Barnett, 9 Dominique Battle, 69 Frank Becker, 80 Armon Binns, 38 Brent Black, 48 Maalik Bomar, 76 Austen Bujnoch, 21 Camerron Cheatham, 57 Obadiah Cheatham, 70 C.J. Cobb, 12 Zach Collaros, 55 Austin Cook, 41 Michael Cooke, 79 Andre Cureton, 33 Chris Damiano, 42 Dorian Davis, 72 Evan Davis.

39 Alex Delisi, 96 Tom DeTemple, 10 Romel Dismuke, 65 T.J. Franklin, 26 Drew Frey, 99 Dan Giordano, 22 John Goebel, 66 Sam Griffin, 19 Ben Guidugli, 23 Reuben Haley, 59 Steve Hancock, 81 Tomaz Hilton, 92 Michael Hilty, 31 Quentin Hines, 59 Alex Hoffman, 77 Sean Hooley, 31 Bruce Homer, 6 Jamar Howard, 40 John Hughes, 5 Reuben Johnson.

46 Scott Johnson, 11 Brendon Kay, 60 Jason Kelce, 18 Travis Kelce, 64 Mitch Kessel, 13 Pat Lambert, 47 Colin Lozier, 53 Randy Martinez, 11 Collin McCafferty, 49 Sean McClellan, 46 Mitch Meador, 83 Danny Milligan, 58 Brandon Mills, 34 Patrick O'Donnell, 68 Craig Parmenter, 91 Ryan Paxson, 82 Lynell Payne, 23 Isaiah Pead, 67 Doug Pike, 36 Quincy Quetant.

41 Jared Rains, 24 Wesley Richardson, 22 Aaron Roberson, 88 Adrien Robinson, 97 Jake Rogers, 16 Will Saddler, 37 J.K. Schaffer, 61 Jonathan Simmons, 51 Brady Slusher, 63 Dan Sprague, 94 Jordan Stepp, 54 Walter Stewart, 52 Ricardo Thompson, 45 Rob Trigg, 14 Chris Williams, 2 Darrin Williams, 32 George Winn, 95 Derek Wolfe, 84 Orion Woodard, 3 D.J. Woods.

HONORING WILL RIDENOUR

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Steve Ridenour and his family are longtime friends of mine and my family.

I have always heard it said that the worst thing that can ever happen to you is to outlive one of your children.

Steve and his family suffered the terrible tragedy of losing their son Will in a car accident on June 11, 2007.

His other son, Tanner, who is 19, prepared the speech reprinted below to give to his senior class at Knoxville's West High School.

This speech expresses Tanner's love for Will and also shows how this special young man handled a horrible period for him and his family.

I would like to call these words by Tanner Ridenour to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

James Dean once said "Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today". Maybe you remember him smoking cigarettes on his motorcycle in the movies or maybe you remember James Dean's car accident in 1955 which took his life. My older brother Will passed away June 11, 2007 in a car accident. It was one of the most devastating things that ever happened to my family. But it didn't stop at my family it affected everyone around us. One month later my grandfather passed away from cancer, and the following December my grandmother passed away from cancer. 2007 was one of the darkest years of my life, and I hope no one ever has to go through what I went through. It made me a stronger person and taught me what really is important in life. Aldous Huxley said, "Experience is not what happens to you. It is what you DO with what happens to you." I tried my hardest not to cry and keep my family together because I know that is what Will would have wanted me to do. People come up to me all the time and say how proud they are of me. But I would have never been able to do it without my friends and the people around me. When bad things happen in life you can't just crawl in a hole and die, even when that sounds like the easiest thing to do. James Thurber once said, "Let us not look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around in awareness." I believe in this quote, and think that it has a lot to say about life and the values people should have. So remember class of 2010 that these experiences whether good or bad will last a lifetime, so don't look back in anger nor forward in fear.

**A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES L.
BLOCKSON**

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a true American treasure: Historian and collector Charles L. Blockson. Mr. Blockson is the founder and curator of the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection of rare texts, slave narratives, art and other historically significant artifacts located at Temple University in the First Congressional District. It is one of the largest African American collections of its kind at a major university.

Comprised of more than 40,000 items, the Blockson Collection continues to grow through the acquisition of both current and retrospective materials. An estimated 25,000 volumes fill the shelves of the collection and an additional 3,500 volumes are rare books. Another 15,000 items of rare Afro-Americana include pamphlets, slave narratives, antislavery broadsides, signed letters, posters, photographs, sheet music, original phonograph recordings and statues.

On March 10, 2010, in recognition of Women's History Month and on the 188th anniversary of the birth of the African American abolitionist Harriet Tubman, I was pleased to honor Mr. Blockson for his donation of his collection of Harriet Tubman artifacts to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). The donated artifacts included a shawl given to Harriet Tubman by England's Queen Victoria, historic photographs and a hymnal signed by Tubman.

By making this donation to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, Mr. Blockson has ensured that this unparalleled collection will be shared with millions of visitors to the museum. Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Blockson whose donation represents a continuum of a life dedicated to preserving African American history.

A DANGEROUS SILENCE—FORMER NEW YORK CITY MAYOR ED KOCH

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, no one is more dedicated to maintaining the strength of the American-Israeli relationship than former New York City Mayor Ed Koch. Mayor Koch is a true American patriot who knows that Israel is an indispensable partner in the war against Islamic terrorism. Israel, of course, shares America's belief in freedom and democracy. Like many of us, Mayor Koch is concerned that President Obama's policies have "damaged the relationship between the U.S. and Israel . . . to one in which there is an absence of trust on both sides." Mayor Koch has written a very thoughtful article in which he describes his opposition to the Obama policies—policies which have caused the Mayor to "weep." I commend this article to my colleagues.

A DANGEROUS SILENCE

I weep as I witness outrageous verbal attacks on Israel. What makes these verbal assaults and distortions all the more painful is that they are being orchestrated by President Obama.

For me, the situation today recalls what occurred in 70 AD when the Roman emperor Vespasian launched a military campaign against the Jewish nation and its ancient capital of Jerusalem. Ultimately, Masada, a rock plateau in the Judean desert became the last refuge of the Jewish people against the Roman onslaught. I have been to Jerusalem and Masada. From the top of Masada, you can still see the remains of the Roman fortifications and garrisons, and the stones and earth of the Roman siege ramp that was used to reach Masada. The Jews of Masada committed suicide rather than let themselves be taken captive by the Romans.

In Rome itself, I have seen the Arch of Titus with the sculpture showing enslaved Jews and the treasures of the Jewish Temple of Solomon with the Menorah, the symbol of the Jewish state, being carted away as booty during the sacking of Jerusalem.

Oh, you may say, that is a farfetched analogy. Please hear me out.

The most recent sacking of the old city of Jerusalem—its Jewish quarter—took place under the Jordanians in 1948 in the first war between the Jews and the Arabs, with at least five Muslim states—Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq—seeking to destroy the Jewish state. At that time, Jordan conquered East Jerusalem and the West Bank and expelled every Jew living in the Jewish quarter of the old city, destroying every building, including the synagogues in the old quarter and expelling from every part of Judea and Samaria every Jew living there so that for the first time in thousands of years, the old walled city of Jerusalem and the adjacent West Bank were "Judenrein"—a term used by the Nazis to indicate the forced removal or murder of all Jews.

Jews had lived for centuries in Hebron, the city where Abraham, the first Jew, pitched his tent and where he now lies buried, it is believed, in a tomb with his wife, Sarah, as well as other ancient Jewish patriarchs and matriarchs. I have visited that tomb and at the time asked an Israeli soldier guarding it—so that it was open to all pilgrims, Christians, Muslims and Jews—"where is the seventh step leading to the tomb of Abraham and Sarah," which was the furthest entry for Jews when the Muslims were the authority controlling the holy place? He replied, "When we retook and reunited the whole city of Jerusalem and conquered the West Bank in 1967, we removed the steps, so now everyone can enter," whereas when Muslims were in charge of the tomb, no Jew could enter it. And I did.

I am not a religious person. I am comfortable in a synagogue, but generally attend only twice a year, on the high holidays. When I entered the tomb of Abraham and Sarah, as I recall, I felt connected with my past and the traditions of my people. One is a Jew first by birth and then by religion. Those who leave their religion, remain Jews forever by virtue of their birth. If they don't think so, let them ask their neighbors, who will remind them. I recall the words of the columnist Robert Novak, who was for most of his life hostile to the Jewish state of Israel in an interview with a reporter stating that while he had converted to Catholicism, he was still a cultural Jew. I remain with pride a Jew both by religion and culture.

My support for the Jewish state has been long and steadfast. Never have I thought that I would leave the U.S. to go and live in Israel. My loyalty and love is first to the U.S. which has given me, the son of Polish Jewish immigrants, so much. But, I have also long been cognizant of the fact that every night when I went to sleep in peace and safety, there were Jewish communities around the world in danger. And there was one country, Israel, that would give them sanctuary and would send its soldiers to fight for them and deliver them from evil, as Israel did at Entebbe in 1976.

I weep today because my president, Barack Obama, in a few weeks has changed the relationship between the U.S. and Israel from that of closest of allies to one in which there is an absence of trust on both sides. The contrast between how the president and his administration deals with Israel and how it has decided to deal with the Karzai administration in Afghanistan is striking.

The Karzai administration, which operates a corrupt and opium-producing state, refuses to change its corrupt ways—the president's

own brother is believed by many to run the drug traffic taking place in Afghanistan—and shows the utmost contempt for the U.S. is being hailed by the Obama administration as an ally and publicly treated with dignity. Karzai recently even threatened to join the Taliban if we don't stop making demands on him. Nevertheless, Karzai is receiving a gracious thank-you letter from President Obama. The New York Times of April 10th reported, ". . . that Mr. Obama had sent Mr. Karzai a thank-you note expressing gratitude to the Afghan leader for dinner in Kabul. 'It was a respectful letter,' General Jones said."

On the other hand, our closest ally—the one with the special relationship with the U.S., has been demeaned and slandered, held responsible by the administration for our problems in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East. The plan I suspect is to so weaken the resolve of the Jewish state and its leaders that it will be much easier to impose on Israel an American plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, leaving Israel's needs for security and defensible borders in the lurch.

I believe President Obama's policy is to create a whole new relationship with the Arab states of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt, and Iraq as a counter to Iran—The Tyrannosaurus Rex of the Muslim world which we are now prepared to see in possession of a nuclear weapon. If throwing Israel under the bus is needed to accomplish this alliance, so be it.

I am shocked by the lack of outrage on the part of Israel's most ardent supporters. The members of AIPAC, the chief pro-Israel lobbying organization in Washington, gave Secretary of State Hillary Clinton a standing ovation after she had carried out the instructions of President Obama and, in a 43-minute telephone call, angrily hectoring Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Members of Congress in both the House and Senate have made pitifully weak statements against Obama's mistreatment of Israel, if they made any at all. The Democratic members, in particular, are weak. They are simply afraid to criticize President Obama.

What bothers me most of all is the shameful silence and lack of action by community leaders—Jew and Christian. Where are they? If this were a civil rights matter, the Jews would be in the mall in Washington protesting with and on behalf of our fellow American citizens. I asked one prominent Jewish leader why no one is preparing a march on Washington similar to the one in 1963 at which I was present and Martin Luther King's memorable speech was given? His reply was "Fifty people might come." Remember the 1930s? Few stood up. They were silent. Remember the most insightful statement of one of our greatest teachers, Rabbi Hillel: "If I am not for myself, who is for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

We have indeed stood up for everyone else. When will we stand up for our brothers and sisters living in the Jewish state of Israel?

If Obama is seeking to build a siege ramp around Israel, the Jews of modern Israel will not commit suicide. They are willing to negotiate a settlement with the Palestinians, but they will not allow themselves to be bullied into following self-destructive policies.

To those who call me an alarmist, I reply that I'll be happy to apologize if I am proven wrong. But those who stand silently by and watch the Obama administration abandon Israel, to whom will they apologize?