

NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS
DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1280, "Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day."

Let me begin by thanking my colleague Representative PAUL TONKO for introducing this piece of legislation into the House of Representatives as it is important that we diligently work towards the improvement of deteriorating public schools across the nation and also work towards the improvement of construction techniques in schools.

The issue of environmental hazards in schools has been a growing problem over the last several decades. It is unfortunate that in schools across the nation investigators can find unchecked renovations, pesticide misapplications, unsafe drinking water, and indoor air pollutants such as mold infestations.

It is unreasonable to think that our children can receive the best possible learning environment when they are expected to learn under these types of conditions.

There are also a wide range of problems stemming from poor air quality and ventilation problems in schools. It has consistently been shown that these types of air quality problems can lead to poor concentration, respiratory illnesses, learning difficulties, and even cancer in students.

Today there are approximately 55,000,000 children and 7,000,000 adults who spend their days in the Nation's more than 125,000 public and private schools. Students and teachers also spend an average of 30 to 50 hours per week in school.

These numbers equate to nearly 20 percent of our nation's population spending their days in schools across the country—many of which are currently facing deterioration in the quality of their buildings while in the face of massive budget cuts. Therefore it is critical that we work together to seek comprehensive solutions to the trend of deteriorating schools in our nation.

A recent study showed that approximately one-third of public school principals reported that some environmental factors in their schools have interfered with classroom instruction. This report highlights an increasingly troubling trend among schools of deteriorating environmental factors.

In fact school facilities with poor building quality can result in lower test scores, poor attendance, and health problems for students and staff. These problems are only worsened for the nearly 9 percent of American students who are known to have asthma. Asthma is also the leading cause of absence from school and is aggravated by poor air quality and ventilation problems in schools.

To meet these challenges, I believe that we should begin working with school districts across the nation towards the implementation of healthy and high performance schools.

These types of schools would be designed to improve indoor environments while reducing

energy and maintenance costs. They would also provide for an improvement in the quality of ambient light, would reduce exposures to toxic substances and would provide a healthier and safer learning environment for children.

Healthy and high performance schools are designed with specific environmental factors in mind, such as pollutant source controls, proper ventilation mechanisms, and moisture and mold controls. It is imperative that school districts in our nation recognize the importance of these new construction and maintenance techniques and work to ensure the improvement of student and teacher health across the board.

By officially designating April 26, 2010 as 'National Healthy Schools Day,' we in Congress will be sending a strong message to students and teachers across the nation that we intend to provide healthy and safe buildings for students to learn in. We will also be sending a message to school districts across the nation that it is vitally important to build new schools with renewable resource materials and energy efficient appliances.

We must always ensure that schools and children receive all the necessary tools for their continued growth. Furthermore it is vitally important that we continue to work with state and local agencies including independent school districts across the nation for the implementation of these measures in public schools.

I would like to again thank my colleague Representative PAUL TONKO for introducing H. Res. 1280. I ask my colleagues for their support of this legislation as well as their continued support for children, teachers and public schools across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 1280 and the rule.

HONORING SAUNDERS OMNI-
PRESENT NETWORK INSPIRING
AMERICA'S YOUTH, INC. FOR
THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK
IN THE COMMUNITY**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Saunders Omnipresent Network Inspiring America's Youth, Inc.

S.O.N.I.A.Y. has demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. S.O.N.I.A.Y.'s continuous acts of selfless efforts are admirable.

I am proud to honor Saunders Omnipresent Network Inspiring America's Youth, Inc. for their extraordinary work in the community.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH AD-
VISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF
SERVICE**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me

in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year, 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

Sergeant Archie Lee Dyer joined the Marine Corps on November 22, 1967. He was only 19 years old at the time, but he was courageous enough to begin his journey as a soldier in the Vietnam War. As a granddaughter of Archie Dyer, I have gotten to know his military career well. It's amazing to sit and listen to the stories of my sweet, humble' and brave Pawpaw's journey as a Marine. His life has been shaped greatly because of his time spent in the Vietnam War and I am very lucky to have a brave grandfather who was willing to potentially sacrifice his life far our nation. Although he has created a successful pool company and had many other great successes in life, the one that can be most appreciated is his success as a Marine. I have learned so much about my Pawpaw by doing this interview. I have realized how passionate he is about protecting our nation by the way he continually holds his head high while telling stories of the "good old days" when he was a Marine. Although his time in the Vietnam War was a very trying experience, my Pawpaw never regrets his time spent braving the war and protecting our great nation. I am so proud of my Pawpaw for all that he has done and I am grateful to have had this experience to learn more about this man that I love and respect so much.—Caitlyn Woolum.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JERALD
F. TERHORST

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Mr. Jerald F. terHorst, longtime reporter, columnist, and White House Press Secretary, who passed away on March 31, 2010 at his home in Asheville, North Carolina. He was surrounded and supported by his four children in his final hours.

Born in Grand Rapids in 1922, Mr. terHorst discovered his passion for journalism while at Michigan State University. While working at the State News, the MSU college newspaper, he met Louise, his companion, confidante and best friend through 64 years of marriage. Mr. terHorst was a proud veteran having served as a Marine in World War II. Following the war, Jerry jumped head-first into his passion, reporting, while working for the Grand Rapids Press. During his time there, he covered future-President Gerald Ford's early political career during his successful bid for Congress. A few years later, after a stint in the Marine Corps, Mr. terHorst took a job as a political writer for the Detroit News. He moved to their Washington bureau and shortly thereafter became bureau chief in 1961.

In 1974, when then-Vice President Ford inherited the presidency after Nixon's resignation, Mr. terHorst signed on as Press Secretary for the man he had been closely covering for close to 20 years. It was to be a short-lived tenure, however, lasting one month. His resignation of the prestigious role was due to his strong disagreement with President Nixon's pardoning. In his resignation letter and personal statements in the years following, terHorst stated that his decision was ultimately because he believed Ford had displayed a double standard of justice in choosing to pardon Nixon, yet refusing to pardon conscientious objectors to the Vietnam War. Jerry's resignation, risking his entire career, was a testament to his strong ethical values that had brought him so far in his career. Mr. terHorst received the first Conscience-in-Media Award for his decision. Following his tenure at the White House, Mr. terHorst reentered the profession he loved, signing on as a syndicated columnist for the Detroit News, finally retiring in 1981 after a long and distinguished career.

Mr. terHorst was a friend, strong advocate for truth and justice, and inspiration to those who knew him and read his work. He forever left a mark on reporting and the role of the White House Press Secretary. Jerry will be deeply missed but his legacy lives on, serving as an example for future generations of journalists to model themselves after.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
ELAINE MARIE FORTNEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Elaine Marie

Fortney, a woman who lived life with grace and a sense of service to community.

Ms. Fortney was a longtime leader in the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party and a staunch political activist, working on numerous local and national campaigns. Raised in East Cleveland, Ms. Fortney lived most of her life in Cleveland Heights, where she became president of the Cleveland Heights Democratic Club. Her energy spawned from a deep belief that the political process was a vehicle for change. She was regularly called upon by candidates seeking her expertise, including U.S. Senate candidate Mary Boyle, for whom she served as Ohio field director.

Although she lost her ability to walk in her early thirties, she never let a wheelchair slow her down. Ms. Fortney was a dedicated public servant, serving as executive assistant to former Cuyahoga County Commissioner Mary Boyle and as the district director for former United States Congressman Dennis Eckart. She led the Cuyahoga County Democrats as the Executive Director from 1982 to 1985. In 2009, Ms. Fortney retired from service after twelve years of managing worker's compensation claims for Cuyahoga County.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues please join me in honor and remembrance of Elaine Marie Fortney, whose great joy for life, energetic spirit and commitment to community inspired all of us who had the honor of knowing her. I offer my deep condolences to her sisters, Linda and Jane; to her brothers-in-law, Robert and Matthew; her nieces, Tricia and Elizabeth; her nephews, Shawn and Zachary; and her extended family members and many friends.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 4994 THE TAX-
PAYER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2010

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, across the United States, April 15th is Tax Day. As Americans file their taxes, H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010, improves taxpayer programs and protections. The "Tax Day" bill has a history of broad bipartisan support and continues to receive large support today.

Most importantly for the residents of the 7th District of Illinois and the Nation, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 includes programs that benefit low-income taxpayers. For example, H.R. 4994 increases funding for grants to provide low-income taxpayer clinics. Even in the absence of a specific appropriation, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will be available for use because the Secretary of Treasury could allocate up to \$20 million of grant funding annually for the program. As recommended by the National Taxpayer Advocate, the bill allows IRS employees to refer people to these tax clinics as well. The Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 also improves the IRS's ability to inform taxpayers about the availability of the Earned Income Tax Credit in prior years, a tax credit that we know helps low income households. In the 7th Congressional District alone, over 72,000 people participated in this program in 2007 with a savings of over \$172 million, with most of those taxpayers earning less than \$20,000 a year.

Further, the bill makes it easier for taxpayers to settle outstanding payments via the offers-in-compromise program. Importantly, H.R. 4994 contains provisions to assure the protection of taxpayers, such as requiring the IRS to notify taxpayers when it suspects that a taxpayer's identity, or a dependent's identity, has been stolen. Each of the bill's provisions provides timely assistance and improvements for taxpayers.

The Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 also adapts the tax system to technology in several ways. By allowing the removal of cell phones from listed property, the bill eliminates a strict, outdated rule. The current rule requires individuals to keep detailed records regarding cell phones and similar equipment used for business purposes, imposing unnecessary burdens on companies and taxpayers. The IRS also will be given the opportunity to utilize the internet and other forms of mass communication to notify taxpayers of "unclaimed" or "undeliverable" funds.

Overall H.R. 4994 the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 continues the tradition of the "Tax Day" bill by providing needed programs, protection to our taxpayers, and updates to outdated rules.

HONORING ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, our great ally and friend.

Over 60 years ago, Israel's pioneers began to revitalize an ancient land. Today, Israelis remain pioneers at heart—pioneers for prosperity, democracy and progress. They are once again facing challenges in their homeland with determination and a vision for a better future for their children and for their country.

But even as we celebrate the founding of the State of Israel, we know that while sovereign independence is necessary, it is not sufficient—security of the State's people is also of paramount importance. The Jewish homeland must be kept safe, surrounded by neighbors who respect its right to exist in peace. Through sacrifice, ingenuity and innovation, Israel has managed to thrive for 62 years in a dangerous and unstable region of the world. Let us hope that the conflicts that have marked the difficult decades since Israel's founding will subside in the years to come.

Indeed, Prime Minister Golda Meir believed that one day there would be peace in Israel, because there are mothers and grandmothers—and let me add fathers and grandfathers—in Egypt, in Jordan, in Syria and the Palestinian territories who also want their children and grandchildren to live in peace. Today is an opportunity to both acknowledge history and look to the future. I am hopeful that someday soon Israel and its neighbors will finally find the keys to a peaceful future side-by-side in mutual security, and the conflict in the Middle East becomes relegated to the history books.