

I know that I am not the only one who is heartbroken by her passing.

My thoughts and prayers are with her friends and family during this difficult time.

SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVES OF CHICAGO WILDERNESS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 860, a resolution supporting the Leave No Child Inside initiative and the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. For our children's physical, emotional and intellectual growth, it is important for them to spend time outdoors and in nature. Unstructured playtime nourishes childhood development by stimulating imagination and creativity and building healthy habits.

America's children are spending less time outside, and more time in front of the television or computer. This loss of exercise and exploration negatively affects their physical health, and it causes problems later in life. Nearly 119 million American adults are currently overweight or obese. Childhood obesity has doubled since 1980, costing Americans more than \$117 billion per year. We simply cannot afford to leave our children inside.

The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights is a call to fight obesity and to provide and promote quality outdoor activities for our children. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 860.

RECOGNIZING ALAN SPENCER OF MONETT, MISSOURI

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an educator and coach who has helped mold, inspire and motivate young men and women for almost four decades in Southwest Missouri. I am proud to recognize Monett High School coach and educator, Alan Spencer, upon his retirement at the end of the 2010 school year.

For 35 years, Alan has had a number of considerable coaching accomplishments. However, his higher calling is to teach and instill in young men and women the traits of a strong moral character. He has taught that success in any endeavor is marked by hard work, respect, and dedication in working as a team to accomplish a common goal.

In his retirement letter, Alan demonstrated his philosophy of success as a coach and respected mentor. He wrote, "Our coaches and student/athletes have gained more than just skills and knowledge of the activities they compete and coach in. They have learned about loyalty, accountability, responsibility and trust. They understand that a team cannot be successful without pride in your performance, effort to make yourself and the team better, determination to overcome all obstacles, enthusiasm for the game and respect of your opponents and teammates."

Alan has been head football coach, athletic director, women's track coach and teacher for the Monett Cubs sports program for nine years. During that period, the Cubs football teams have gone 58–36 and won or shared championships in the Big 8 Conference in 2004, 2007 and 2008. Under his nine years of leadership, the women's track team captured Big 8 Conference crowns five times.

Alan's career began as a coach at Neosho High School in 1975. His first head coaching job was at Nevada, Missouri in 1980. From there Alan coached at Springfield Parkview High School, Springfield Central High School and at Rogers, Arkansas before going to Monett in 2002.

Alan has been recognized many times for his hard work for students and teams. This year, he will be inducted into Missouri's Football Coaches Hall of Fame. He was named the 2008–2009 Missouri Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's Athletic Director of the Year for the Southwest District. In 2004 and 2008, Alan was named Big 8 Coach of the Year.

Alan plans to spend time in his retirement with his family and friends while enjoying fishing and hunting. I know Coach Spencer will continue to find ways to use his talents as a motivator to inspire other young people to the highest standards of service to their school, their community and their country.

ON INTRODUCING THE WILDLIFE AND ZOOLOGICAL VETERINARY MEDICINE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2010

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary Medicine Enhancement Act of 2010. This legislation will develop affordable opportunities for well qualified individuals who are seeking to become wildlife and zoological veterinarians, spur job growth and promote robust public health policy.

Wildlife and zoo veterinarians are the primary source of essential health care for and management of wild animals in their natural habitat and in captivity. Not only do they preserve natural resources and animal lives, but they help protect human health by preventing, detecting, and responding to exotic and dangerous diseases.

With the intensification of globalization and climate change, along with a growing interface between humans, livestock, and wildlife, the threat posed by emerging infectious diseases to humans and wildlife keeps increasing. Controlling pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of disease has become more problematic. However, the United States faces a shortage of positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians.

On average, veterinarian graduates owe \$130,000 in student loans. Upon graduation, professionals practicing wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine earn relatively low salaries, compared to companion animal medicine. Lower salaries, combined with high educational debt and the small number of positions available discourage students from becoming wildlife and zoo veterinarians. The

number of practical trainings and formal educational programs specializing in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine are also insufficient to allow graduates to make significant contributions.

My bill will directly address these issues which prevent and dissuade veterinarians from practicing wildlife and zoological medicine. It will participate in the national job creation effort by funding new positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians and will ensure that veterinary students find jobs upon graduation. The bill will also limit the amount of educational debt for students while providing incentives to study and practice wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine through the establishment of scholarships and loan repayment programs. Lastly, my legislation will advance education by helping schools develop pilot curricula specializing in wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine and by expanding the number of practical training programs available to students.

Madam Speaker, we have reached a point in our history when we cannot ignore the importance of protecting America's wildlife. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem. With an increasing number of endangered species, the introduction of invasive non-native species, and more infectious disease threats, wildlife and zoological veterinarians must be placed at the core of our efforts and be given the resources and recognition necessary to protect both animal and human lives.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterinarians by supporting this important piece of legislation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HIS EXCELLENCY ABDULAZIZ KAMILOV, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of my friend, His Excellency Abdulaziz Kamilov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United States.

With distinction, Ambassador Kamilov has represented Uzbekistan in the United States for the past seven years. Before he accepted his assignment to come to the United States in 2003, he was a State Advisor to the President of his home country.

Some three years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Mr. Kamilov became the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, the highest diplomatic position in the newly-formed Republic. He served in this prestigious post for nine years.

Mr. Kamilov holds a Ph.D. in the History of International Relations and Foreign Policy. He was President of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy for almost a decade.

Ambassador Kamilov spent much of his early career in rigorous study of the Middle East. He held numerous positions in the Middle East Department of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of the USSR. He is fluent in English and Arabic.

His Excellency Kamilov is an experienced diplomat who understands that the U.S. and Uzbekistan have mutual interests, and our relationship has been immeasurably enhanced by his professionalism, intelligence and friendship.

At times when relations between our country and Uzbekistan were uncertain, Ambassador Kamilov remained steadfast, becoming a key figure in strengthening and rebuilding our security and economic alliance.

Ambassador Kamilov is to be commended for his loyalty in discharging his duties to his President, His Excellency Islam Karimov, and the people of Uzbekistan.

As Ambassador Kamilov moves on to new responsibilities and assignments, I extend to him and President Karimov my highest regards and best wishes.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES FOR GOLDYE LEVI

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express condolences and honor the life of my dear friend, political activist, and Dallasite, Goldye Levi.

Mr. Levi, a life-long Democrat, gave so much of his time and energy supporting his party by serving in national and local leadership positions. He had a front-seat to one of the most intriguing points in American history as the Treasurer of the Democratic National Committee during the 1972 break-in of the Watergate building. He brought his expertise of the political process to Dallas County as a Democratic Precinct Chair, and through the years he encouraged countless Democrats to get out and vote. As a candidate for Dallas County Tax Assessor, he also sought to use his experience as a certified public accountant to serve his community. Mr. Levi demonstrated the ultimate in civic duty and Dallas has lost a great advocate.

Our government, "by the people," rests wholly on the willingness of citizens to actively participate in the political process—citizens like Mr. Levi. I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in expressing condolences and honoring the life of Mr. Goldye Levi.

HONORING SIDNEY SINGER

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the veterans community in Southwestern Pennsylvania lost a dear friend last Wednesday with the passing of Sidney Singer. While we often talk in Congress about the veterans who have fought for our country and freedom, Mr. Singer fought for veterans. A veteran himself, having served in the Army Air Forces from 1942 to 1945, Sidney dedicated his life to helping homeless veterans. Many of who suffered from drug and alcohol addictions.

Because of Mr. Singer's vision and tireless efforts Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard was built for Pittsburgh's veterans. First opened in 1992, it started as a transitional housing project. Due to enormous success was expanded in 2003. The units provide a home for veterans as they recover and transition back into society.

Sydney knew that Veterans Place had to be more than just a place to live, but also a place for veterans to get back on their feet. This is why Veterans Place has a Service Center to give veterans job training, life skills, and alcohol and drug counseling.

Even in his final moments, Sydney's thoughts were with his fellow veterans. On his deathbed, Sydney described his vision to expand Veterans Place right down to the details of the kitchens.

While Sydney is no longer with us, his legacy will live on in Pittsburgh. He will continue to be with every veteran granted a new lease on life at Veterans Place.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,327,380,804,696.82.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,688,955,058,403.02 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING SGT. KIMBERLY
MUNLEY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today we honor one of our nation's bravest women, Sgt. Kimberly Munley. Sgt. Munley responded within three minutes after gunfire was reported at Ft. Hood, Texas. If it was not for her quick and heroic response, many more could have been killed. Sgt. Munley was shot during the exchange, but continued shooting at the gunman even after being wounded herself. Her bravery serves as a stark contrast to the cowardly actions of the shooter. Sgt. Munley portrayed the real courage that all of our men and women in the Armed Forces embody that we are all grateful for.

HONORING SEVEN AMERICANS KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN ON DE- CEMBER 30, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1009, which honors the seven Americans who died in the bombing that took place in Khost, Afghanistan on December 30, 2009, and the families of those patriots for their service and their sacrifice to our country.

These men and women were on the front lines of the battle against terrorism and worked tirelessly on a daily basis for the safety of the American and Afghanistan people. Their absence will be greatly felt throughout the intelligence community.

In 2008, I had the opportunity to visit Khost with the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army along with a Texas Reserve Unit based in Pasadena, Texas in our district. There, I saw these men and women working under harsh conditions, away from their loved ones, and in the face of great risks. Our entire nation owes a great debt to all the men and women working to protect our country and stabilize Afghanistan.

Again, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those killed in the bombings and also offer my support and hope for a full recovery to the other six Americans who were wounded in this tragic bombing.