

SUPPORTING THE IDEALS OF
NATIONAL LAB DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1213, which recognizes the need to increase student participation in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). H. Res. 1213 also supports the ideals of National Lab Day, a national initiative designed to bring together educators, scientists and community members in the interest of providing students from kindergarten through 12th grade with hands-on scientific learning experiences. On National Lab Day, which is celebrated every year during the first week of May, scientists and other STEM professionals can give back to the community by volunteering their time to work with educators and students on lab projects.

Women and minorities have long been underrepresented in STEM careers. We need to reverse this trend so that STEM professionals better reflect the diverse character of our nation. Several initiatives in my district and the surrounding region have taken steps to make this happen. Great Minds in STEM is a nonprofit organization that operates an after-school program in the Compton Unified School District in Compton, California that educates students from underrepresented demographic groups in STEM subject areas. STEM UP is another initiative that is working to establish a STEM education program in Southern California that focuses on increasing diversity.

The skills taught through STEM education are essential to an increasing number of jobs in the United States. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that science and engineering occupations will grow by 21.4 percent from 2004 to 2014, while non-STEM occupations will only grow by 13 percent. Additionally, equipping more Americans with advanced skills in STEM is essential to ensuring America's competitiveness in the global marketplace. In 2006, only 4.5 percent of college graduates in the United States majored in a STEM field compared with 25.4 percent of graduates in South Korea, 33.3 percent of graduates in China, and 39.1 percent of graduates in Singapore. We must graduate more students with the technical knowledge needed to succeed in an increasingly globalized and hi-tech economy.

I consider increasing educational and employment opportunities in the STEM fields to be so important that I recently introduced the America RISING Act of 2010. This bill will pay the salaries for two years of recent college graduates who are hired by small businesses or larger companies with operations in areas of low employment. It also establishes a higher education opportunity program which will provide funding to recent college graduates to help them obtain two years of additional education and training in the STEM fields.

I salute the hard work and dedication of the volunteers, teachers, and students involved in National Lab Day and the organizations committed to increasing participation in STEM disciplines and careers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1213.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF NATIONAL
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I rise today to pay tribute to teachers across the country.

This year, National Teacher Appreciation Week has extra significance. With unemployment holding near double-digits, the economy in a prolonged recession, and education budgets slashed in many states, many teachers face the possibility of being laid-off. As Congress considers education reform legislation, we must keep in mind the needs of educators, who have the most important job of all—preparing our young people for the future.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have spent a great deal of time working on education issues, meeting with teachers, and trying to better understand the many issues confronting our nation's schools. While there are many pressing needs at hand, I will take every opportunity to recognize the commitment of our teachers, many of whom are underpaid and often underappreciated for their crucial work. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 1312, which recognizes the roles and contributions of America's teachers to building and enhancing our Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well-being.

Teachers play a critical role in shaping our future. They touch the lives of children every day. They inspire, encourage, motivate, and educate the next generation. I applaud their efforts and thank them for their dedication.

SUPPORTING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRICE, UT J.C. PENNY STORE

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, when James Cash Penny opened his first dry goods store in 1902 in Kemmerer, Wyoming he called it "The Golden Rule" because he believed that if he provided quality goods at a fair price and treated people the way he wanted to be treated his business would be successful.

In 1909 Mr. Penny opened the headquarters for J.C. Penny Company Inc. in Salt Lake City, Utah and a year later opened the Price, Utah J.C. Penny's store, located in the 2nd district of Utah which I represent. The Price J.C. Penny store is the oldest in Utah, and the second oldest in the national chain. And while the store window displays may have changed over the years the core values of Mr. Penny are steadfast. Evidence of Mr. Penny's beliefs and commitment to service went beyond retail sales. His compassion for people can often be found wherever his stores are located. From Les Eldridge who was the first Price store manager in 1910 to the present store manager Leslie Childs and her staff, the J.C. Penny team has made customer service and community a balanced priority.

Through more than 100 years of history, the Company has stayed true to its Golden Rule beginnings, with a continued commitment to care for the communities where it does business. This is reflected in the many decades of support this store and its Associates have given to a variety of charitable causes in the community, including strong support for quality afterschool programs. The Price store has partnered with groups such as Kiwanis, United Way, Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Business Alliance as well as The Family and Children's Support Center, Angel Tree, The Cancer Society and many others to ensure that those in need are cared for in South-eastern Utah.

In honor of the continued service and commitment to the foundation built by Mr. Penny with the opening of his first store, I want to offer congratulations to the Price, UT J.C. Penny on your 100th anniversary. Thank you for making a difference in the community.

HONORING THE 6TH ANNUAL
HEARTCARING MEETING OF THE
SPIRIT OF WOMEN HOSPITAL
NETWORK**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 6th annual HeartCaring Meeting of the Spirit of Women Hospital Network, advocating on behalf of early diagnosis and prevention of cardiovascular disease in women.

There are far too many misperceptions about cardiovascular disease in women. Cardiovascular disease is the single most common cause of death among American women. In fact, more women die of heart disease every year than every cancer combined. Nearly 37 percent of all female deaths, or roughly 400,000 deaths a year, are the result of cardiovascular disease, many of which can be prevented with early detection and preventative care.

Spirit of Women's dedication to having an impact on the lives of women by advocating for improved health and lifestyles of America's women is unmatched in the health community. Spirit of Women's HeartCaring program uses an innovative approach that engages hospitals, clinicians, and consumers in early diagnosis and prevention of cardiovascular disease. The HeartCare program not only lowers health care costs by focusing on preventative care, but their focus on providing healthy lifestyles to American women adds quality years to women's lives.

I wish to congratulate the Spirit of Women for their 6th Annual HeartCaring Meeting. Through their commitment to improving the health of American women, the Spirit of Women Hospital Network has proven that action is health.

HONORING BARBARA BIGELOW

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Barbara Bigelow upon being named as a 2010 Common Threads honoree. Mrs. Bigelow will be honored by California State University, Fresno at the 2010 Common Threads Award luncheon to be held on Friday, April 16, 2010.

Mrs. Barbara Bigelow was born and raised in southern California and attended the University of Southern California. She had little interest in agriculture until she met and married Frank, who is a life long resident of Madera County and part of a longtime agriculture family. Mrs. Bigelow assisted in the family business by helping raise, exhibit and sell champion Shorthorn Cattle for beef and breeding. Mr. and Mrs. Bigelow also raise and exhibit champion Columbia Sheep.

Off of the farm, Mrs. Bigelow is very active in the community. In 1985 she was elected to the then-Spring Valley School District Board of Trustees, and continues to serve on the now-Chawanakee Unified School District as a trustee. Her service on the board was instrumental in the building of Minarets High School in O'Neals. Mrs. Bigelow also served as the board President.

Outside of the school district, Mrs. Bigelow is active in the local 4-H program and numerous agriculture related groups. Mrs. Bigelow became involved with Spring Valley school while her children attended there. She was a member of the parent club, school site council and was involved with the community-centered centennial event. Mrs. Bigelow helped establish the Spring Valley Ag Boosters in 1994, after becoming involved with the Spring Valley 4-H club as a community leader and a sheep leader. Since 1994, Mrs. Bigelow and a committee of local supporters have sponsored a fundraiser at the "Silkwood-Mattes-Bigelow Big Blue Barn" to raise money for the Spring Valley Ag Boosters.

Mrs. Bigelow is also very active and supportive of the Sierra High School Future Farmers of America program. She has served on the Ag Advisory Committee and served as the Site Selection Committee Chair for Minarets High School. Between 1992 and 1994, Mrs. Bigelow was the director of the Madera County 4-H Summer Camp Program at Jack Ass Rock Campground. She is also a twenty year member, and past Chairwoman, of the Madera County Republican Central Committee.

Mrs. Bigelow is a supporter of Children's Hospital of Central California, California State University, Fresno's Red Wave, Cal Poly's Western Bonanza, the California State Fair, Sierra Winter Classic and California Junior Livestock Association. For her community involvement, Mrs. Bigelow was named the State of California "Woman of the Year" in 2005 by Assemblyman Dave Cogdill and received the "Golden Apple Award" for 1999-2000 by the Association of California School Administrators.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Barbara Bigelow upon her achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Bigelow many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE FOR NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Nurses Week, I would like to recognize the unsung heroes of our nation's healthcare system. The endless efforts of nurses can never be praised enough. This group of men and women work on the frontlines of healthcare. That is why I am proud to participate in National Nurses week and to lend my voice in recognizing these distinguished individuals for their true professionalism.

Anyone who has spent time in a hospital or doctor's office knows that nurses play an integral role in our healthcare team. They work tirelessly to ensure every patient receives the special love, care and attention they deserve.

A nurse's role goes far beyond the hospital; nurses reach into charity clinics, in-home care, churches, and school volunteer health programs. Nurses conduct research, publish, review and continue to educate their peers and the public about their ever-evolving role and positive impact on the healthcare community.

Nurses across this country deserve the same support and consideration as they have given to us. Let us stand together today to honor their tireless work and selfless acts. God bless them and God bless America. I salute you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 245 H. Res. 1132—Honoring the USS New Mexico as the sixth Virginia-class submarine commissioned by the U.S. Navy to protect and defend the United States, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was detained from voting on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. If present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 243, rollcall 244, and rollcall 245.

TEXAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2010

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas has a history of producing strong, pas-

sionate, and caring educators who motivate and engage our children to become life-long learners. As a parent and grandparent, I am grateful for the contributions of our teachers in the El Paso area, and, in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all the outstanding teachers in our community.

In particular, I would like to commend Mrs. Yushica Walker, a teacher at Morehead Middle School in the El Paso Independent School District, for being selected as the 2010 Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year. The Texas Teacher of the Year is the highest honor that the State of Texas can award to a teacher. Facilitated by the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Teacher of the Year Program annually recognizes and rewards teachers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and excellence in teaching. Mrs. Walker represents the best of the best in the teaching profession, and we salute her energy, efforts, and dedication.

Mrs. Walker is a proud Army spouse. She is the wife of Major Johnnie R. Walker of the TRAC WF (Training and Doctrine Command Analysis Center White Sands Missile Range Forward) office at Fort Bliss, Texas. He is currently stationed in Afghanistan.

Mrs. Walker has been teaching for more than 12 years. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with Reading Specialization from Prairie View A&M University, and a Master's degree from the University of Phoenix. She serves as a member of the Campus Improvement Team and as a Master Mentor for new teachers.

Her aunt, Willie Mae, who taught for 29 years for the Houston Independent School District, inspired her to become a teacher. Mrs. Walker attributes her teaching success, in part, to a positive attitude and "demonstrating that teaching is enjoyable."

Mrs. Walker is part of a larger history of educational excellence in El Paso. I am proud to note that El Paso area educators have been chosen as Texas Teachers of the Year 10 times, with four El Pasoans honored in the last five years. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

I am proud of the work of our teachers, and I am committed to ensuring that education remains a top priority for Congress.

SUPPORTING THE IDEALS OF NATIONAL LAB DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 1213, a resolution expressing support for National Lab Day and the need to improve science and math education.

National Lab Day, to be held on May 12th, will give middle and high school students access to hands-on, discovery-based laboratory opportunities. Additionally, National Lab Day will provide schools with an opportunity to assess and upgrade their current lab facilities. I am pleased that nearly 200 organizations representing science and math professionals and educators are supporting National Lab Day.