

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.

National Lab Day is a terrific initiative that comes at a time when we need an "all-hands-on-deck" mentality to provide our children with a first-rate math and science education. We still don't know how to cure cancer or AIDS, or completely ease the suffering of those with mental illnesses. We still have tremendous challenges regarding energy consumption. And we still don't know all we should about our planet and the people who live on it. The answers to these important questions are beginning to be formed in our classrooms with young students who one day may go on to investigate these issues and make advances that will benefit all of us.

Scientists and teachers long have been concerned about the quality of science and math education. Yet, scientists and educators should not be the only ones troubled by our students' mediocre performance in these subjects. Every citizen concerned about the long-term health of our Nation's economy should be worried by our current educational performance. Parents who want their children to succeed in a new global economy should be interested. Patients in need of new medical advances and citizens who want to see technological progress should care about our Nation's performance in this area.

It is clear that our Nation must improve mathematics and science education in our elementary and secondary schools. American students do not perform as satisfactorily in these subjects as compared with their peers in other nations, which threatens the long-term health of our Nation's economy and our competitiveness. China, India, and Germany, to name three, are putting more emphasis on science and math education. These nations recognize that the jobs of the future will require a basic understanding of these subjects. In fact, the Department of Labor recently found that three-quarters of the 20 fastest-growing future occupations will need workers with significant mathematics or science preparation.

A decade ago, I had the honor to serve on the National Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching for the 21st Century, which became known as the John Glenn Commission. In a report entitled "Before It's Too Late", we made clear that our Nation must increase the number of teachers in those fields significantly and provide more opportunities for teachers to enhance their math and science teaching skills. Ten years later, I still believe policymakers must do more to support the teachers that play a critical role in science and math education. The Commission recommended that teachers receive the greatest attention, even ahead of curriculum or other areas.

As a member of the House Committee on Education and Labor, I have been focused on ways to do just that. I have worked to boost resources for the underfunded Mathematics and Science Partnerships, which provides professional development opportunities to a wide range of teachers and helps them continue improving their skills. I have worked on a bipartisan basis with my colleague Rep. VERN EHLERS to ensure that reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act places the same importance on science as it does for other subjects, such as English.

In today's tight budget environment, I applaud the Obama Administration for proposing historic increases in the federal government's

commitment to science education in their Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. I was pleased to see \$300 million in the Department of Education budget for improving teaching and learning in science and math. When considering any replacement to the Mathematics and Science Partnerships program, we must recognize that great teachers are made, not born. I feel strongly that any new program must continue to support professional development activities for science and math teachers as they seek to improve their craft. In addition, any new program must ensure that professional development programs are widely available across the country, not just to a few schools that compete successfully because they are already top notch.

Improving our children's abilities in science and math is critical for our economy, our national security, and our democracy. Everyone, from scientist to teacher to parent to businessperson, should be concerned with how well we educate our children in this area. I look forward to working with my colleagues to fulfill the goals of the Glenn Commission and regain our Nation's leadership in science and math education.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution that recognizes the importance of science and math education and highlights the good work done at National Lab Day.

2010 ST. CLOUD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD WINNERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce Small Business Person of the Year, and the Mark of Excellence and Entrepreneurial Success Award Recipients. These people and businesses have stood out to the Chamber as "those who have the courage to aspire to a higher level."

As the Small Business Person of the Year, Kip Cameron, President and CEO of Granite-Tops, LLC has shown dedication and innovation in his industry. Cameron is one of the founders of the Midwest Stone Fabricators Association and when the economy changed last year, he found ways to expand his market, despite consolidating his operations.

The Mark of Excellence Award, which honors a family owned business, is given to Dick Bitzan, owner of D.J. Bitzan Jewelers. In 1966, Dick's father's "mission was to provide his customers with beautiful diamonds and unparalleled customer service." In a new location, with a new generation behind the counter, Bitzan's Jewelers is fulfilling its mission every day.

Paul M. Heath, M.D., and James M. Smith, M.D., of Midsota Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons are the recipients of the Entrepreneurial Success Award. Midsota was founded when the doctors saw a need to "deliver high quality surgical and aesthetics services in a private, intimate setting in Central Minnesota." Dr. Heath and Dr. Smith share a passion for service and results and continue to shape their industry in Central Minnesota.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate these businesses and citizens. I ask this

body to join me in recognizing Kip Cameron, D.J. Bitzan Jewelers and Midsota Plastic Surgeons for their contributions to Central Minnesota.

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE IN DEALING WITH SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, "If President Obama is ever going to find his voice on Sudan, it had better be soon." These were the closing words two weeks ago of columnist Nicholas Kristof.

Having first travelled to Sudan in 1989, my interest in this country has spanned the better part of 20 years. I've been most recently in July 2004 when Senator SAM BROWNBACK and I were the first congressional delegation to go to Darfur.

We saw the same scorched earth tactics from Khartoum in the brutal 20-year civil war with the South where 2.1 million perished.

I remain grateful for President Bush's leadership in bringing about an end to the bloodshed with the historic signing of the CPA. But that peace is now in jeopardy.

Fast forward to 2009. I was part of a bipartisan group in Congress who called for the appointment of a special envoy shortly after President Obama was elected. What was once a successful model for Sudan policy is not having the desired effect today. I am not alone in this belief.

Last week, six respected NGOs ran ads in the Washington Post calling for Secretary Clinton and Ambassador Rice to exercise "personal and sustained leadership on Sudan" in the face of a "stalemated policy."

Today I join the chorus of voices in calling on the President to empower Secretary Clinton and Ambassador Rice to take control of the languishing Sudan policy.

They should oversee quarterly deputies' meetings to ensure options for consequences are on the table. In fact, I call on the President himself to exercise leadership in this regard, consistent with the explicit campaign promises he made about Sudan, promises which to date ring hollow.

There is a pressing need for renewed, principled leadership at the highest levels—leadership which is clear-eyed about the history and the record of the internationally indicted war criminal at the helm in Khartoum.

In addition to the massive human rights abuses perpetrated by the country's leader, Bashir, Sudan remains on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism. The same people currently in control in Khartoum gave safe haven to bin Laden in the early 1990's.

I believe that this administration's engagement with Sudan, under the leadership of General Gratton, and with the apparent blessing of the President, has failed to recognize the true nature of Bashir and the NCP.

While the hour is late, the administration can still chart a new course.

Today, I sent a letter to the President which I submit for the record, outlining seven policy recommendations and calling for urgent action on behalf of the marginalized people of Sudan.