

Mr. Chairman, the story of Crestwood began in 1986, when the Illinois EPA was notified that the well water that was being used for public consumption was contaminated and was found to be unsuitable under federal EPA standards. Officials from the Village of Crestwood told State EPA authorities that the well would no longer be used for drinking purposes, but would remain open for emergency uses only, such as fighting fires.

Unbelievably, despite the warning from the IL EPA to the Crestwood officials about using the well for public consumption, for another 20 years, from 1986–2007, untreated well water was mixed with Lake Michigan water and was piped into the homes of village residents for drinking and other uses.

Mr. Chairman, for over 20 years, the citizens of Crestwood Village were consuming water, filled with contaminants, while the IL EPA never went back in to test the water quality or ensure that Crestwood officials had followed their edict to stop using the well for public consumption.

Then, in December 2007, acting on a tip from a private citizen, Tricia Krause, the IL EPA decided to test the well water for the first time since they were first alerted to the problem in 1986.

During these tests, the IL EPA found that the well water contained unacceptable levels of perchloroethylene (PCE), a chemical linked to liver damage and neurological problems, as well as other carcinogenic chemicals that were higher than federal standards permit.

Mr. Chairman, it took the brave and courageous act of an everyday, hardworking, private citizen, Ms. Tricia Krause, to finally pull the plug on the nefarious and despicable acts of Crestwood officials. For 20 years, these officials willfully and reprehensibly lied to State authorities and fed contaminated water to the very citizens they were sworn to protect.

After Ms. Krause blew the whistle on these despicable acts and the story became public, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice executed search warrants and found that Village officials had been falsifying records regarding the purchase and delivery of water to its citizens for over 20 years.

And while we must acknowledge and praise the work of courageous citizens like Ms. Krause for taking matters into her own hands to shed light and seek justice, we must also do everything in our power to make it more difficult for immoral and despicable public officials to dupe the public again and feed contaminated and poisonous water to our citizens.

Mr. Chairman, the steps that you have taken in this bill will go a long way toward restoring the public trust in the system by requiring our State agencies, which are in many cases the last line of defense in ensuring public safety, to go that extra step to protect the public.

This language would simply compel the EPA to set up requirements for notifying the public served by a water system when different types of violations occur. The EPA would be allowed to use the same categories of violations that have already been developed under subsection (c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Additionally, for each category of violation, the EPA will determine what types of follow-up inspections are needed, and how many inspections the State will need to carry out. This

gets right at the issue of the Illinois EPA not being required to go out and check whether the contaminated well was being used, without being overly burdensome if the violations are not related to public safety.

Mr. Chairman, as representatives of the people we serve, for most of us the actions taken by Village of Crestwood officials would be unconscionable. In all of my time as a public servant, I have rarely encountered public officials acting so egregiously against their own citizens or abusing their power in a way that puts the public safety at risk.

In March 2010, the IL Dept. of Public Health released a report that found cancer rates were “significantly elevated” in Crestwood residents, with higher-than-expected cases of kidney cancer in men, lung cancer in men and women, and gastrointestinal cancer in men.

While researchers could not make a definite link between the consumption of contaminated water for 20 years for the 11,000 residents of Crestwood and the elevated rates of cancer there, they determined it was possible that toxic chemicals in the drinking water caused the extra cancer cases.

Well, I’m not a researcher, but I can analyze commonsense, and for me, the coincidence between drinking cancer-causing contaminated water for 20 years and then having higher-than-normal rates of cancer appear in those same citizens shows that there must be some connection between the two.

With our actions here today and in moving this bill forward, it is my sincere hope that no other community in America will have to suffer from the reprehensible acts of a few despicable public servants who would seek to abuse the public trust.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, for allowing me to participate today.

CONGRATULATING ERMA JOHNSON HADLEY AND RECOGNIZING HER MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE AND HER COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate Erma Johnson Hadley, the newly appointed Chancellor of the Tarrant County College District, and to recognize her many accomplishments to TCC and her community. Hadley is not only the first female to be named Chancellor of TCC, but also the first African American.

Hadley has been with TCC, which includes five districts and has an enrollment of more than 45,000 students, for over 40 years. Prior to being named Chancellor, Hadley has served as both a faculty member and administrator, including Director of Personnel, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, and Vice Chancellor for Administration.

During her distinguished tenure at TCC, Hadley has been voted “Outstanding Teacher”, she established the District’s call center, and created the TCC Employee Scholarship Program, among other notable accomplishments. Hadley has also served as Equal Opportunity Officer and formerly oversaw the Ad-

missions, Records and Registration departments.

In addition to her service to TCC, Hadley has contributed significantly to the local community for more than 35 years. She has served as Chairman of the Tarrant County Hospital District Board of Managers, Chairman of the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Board, and Chairman of the North Texas Commission. Hadley was also selected by former Texas Governor Bill Clements for the Trinity River Authority of Texas and former Texas Governor George W. Bush for the Texas Governor’s Committee on Volunteerism.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate and recognize the accomplishments of Erma Johnson Hadley, Chancellor of the Tarrant County College District. It is a privilege to represent such a dedicated community member and public servant, and such a superb educational institution, in the United States House of Representatives.

2010 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ART COMPETITION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young woman from my Congressional District, Stephanie Taylor of South Allegheny High School. Ms. Taylor is the winner of the 2010 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania’s High School Art Competition, “An Artistic Discovery.” Ms. Taylor’s artwork, an acrylic painting entitled “Leaves,” was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year’s competition.

In fact, sixty works from twelve different schools in Pennsylvania’s 14th Congressional District were submitted to our panel of respected local artists. It’s a real tribute to her skill and vision that her work was chosen as the winner of this year’s competition. I am certain that Ms. Taylor’s family is proud of her artistic talents and this impressive accomplishment.

Ms. Taylor’s artwork will represent the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students’ artwork that will be displayed in the United States Capitol over the coming year. I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Ms. Taylor’s artwork, along with the winning entries from the high school art contests held in other Congressional Districts, which will be on display in the Capitol tunnel. It is amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

I would like to recognize all of the participants in this year’s 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, “An Artistic Discovery” from Brashear High School, Nour Qutyan; from the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, Zoe Capcara, Emily Daley, Kyle Gorcey, Amber Key, Noel Peterson, and Audrey Stygar; from East Allegheny High School, Cody Atkins, Nikki Croft, Chey A. Gojkovich, Randy Stegner, Jr., Brianna Stevens, and Jacob Williams; from Northgate High School, Carolyn Denes, Alison Gusew, Seth Huston, Collyn

Kunkel, and Savannah Paladin; from Penn Hills High School, Jessica Clair, Nicolette Deighan, Krysty Kunkel, Dana Lyons, Chloe Regan, and Chloe Weiss; from Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, Dani Hicks, Jordan Keitel, David Newbury, April Post, Tsu Hung Tien, and Yan Yang; from Schenley High School, Maurice Campbell, Briana Jackson, Stephen Karas, Fatima Kizilkaya, and Monique Pressley; from South Allegheny High School, Alexis Carr, Kristen Kudla, Megan Stevens, and Stephanie Taylor; from Sto-Rox High School, Adam Wayne Baker, Travis Crump, Allison Funwela, Natalie Gamble, Orlando Russell, and Elizabeth Thornton; from Trinity Christian School, Rebekah Garard; from West Mifflin High School, Tori Cooper, Victoria Donahoe, and Natalie Kerrigan; and from Woodland Hills High School, Heather Evans, Elijah Johnson, Josh Rydzak, Stephan Spence, and Hoong Tosangchai.

I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD OETMAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Donald Oetman as he retires as Director of UAW Region 1D. A celebration of Don's life and contributions to the UAW will be held on May 21st in Grand Rapids, MI.

Donald Oetman was part of the original group that organized Micromatic Textron in Holland, MI. In 1965 they formed Local 1502 when Don was only 20 years old. He served as Vice-President of the Local and two years later became its President. During this time he held the position of steward and ex-officio member of all standing committees at Local 1502 and served as vice-chairperson of the Allegan-Ottawa CAP Council for 12 years. Don remained the Local's President and its bargaining chairperson until he was appointed to the International Union staff by then UAW President Owen Bieber and Director Robert Fliearman in 1984. In June 1995 he was appointed Assistant Director of Region 1-D and elected Director at the 33rd Constitutional Convention in 2002. He was re-elected in 2006.

Committed to community involvement, Don serves on the Board of Directors and the Labor Participation Committee of Greater Kalamazoo United Way and the Holland United Way. He is co-chair of the Muskegon Area Labor/Management Joint Committee, he is on the Board of Directors of Blue Care Network, sits on the Blue Care Network Audit Committee, serves on the Economic Alliance of Michigan Board of Directors and the Board for the Alliance of Health, the Kalamazoo Area Labor/Management Committee, the Red Cross Board, sits on the Board of the Michigan State University Labor Studies Program, the Holland United Labor Building Corporation, the Michi-

gan Association of United Ways, and the Private Industry Council of Allegan and Ottawa Counties. He is a lifelong member of the Coalition for Labor Union Women.

Don is a member of the Allegan County Democratic Party and the Michigan State Democratic Party. He was a delegate to the 2000 Democratic National Convention and was an Al Gore Elector for the State of Michigan in the Electoral College. Don and his wife Corlyn have two daughters, one son and six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the work of Donald Oetman. From the age of 18 he has acted to improve the lives and working conditions in our factories and offices and many people have benefitted from his commitment to the ideals of labor. I will miss his counsel and camaraderie and I wish him the best in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOSEPH PETERS, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS REGION 1

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a lifelong champion of the American labor movement, Mr. Joseph Peters, Director of the United Auto Workers Region 1, on the occasion of his retirement from the UAW. As a Member of Congress, it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Mr. Peters for his many years of service and his contributions which have enriched and strengthened our community.

Joe Peters has been a tireless advocate for his UAW brothers and sisters. Joe started his career as a member of Local 400, while working at the Ford Paint Plant in Mount Clemens. Joe became active in the UAW in the late 1960s when he moved to work at the Ford Utica Trim plant. While at Utica Trim, Joe was elected as the Midnight Committeeman, member of the Plant Bargaining Committee, Plant Chairman, Vice President of Local 400, and President of Local 400.

In 1988, Joe was appointed to the UAW International staff by President Owen Bieber and assigned to the National Ford Department. In 1999, Joe was appointed assistant director of Region 1 under Director Kenneth Terry. Joe served as assistant Director of Region 1 until 2005, when he was elected Director in a special election.

Joe has spent his career in support of civil rights and his community. Joe is a lifelong member of the NAACP, a member of the Troy Elks club, and a strong grassroots political leader. Joe has won numerous awards for his community activism including: Civil Rights Lifetime Achievement, ARC Detroit Legacy Award, Veterans Michigan Stand Down, and the UAW Region 1 Women's Council Circle of Excellence award. Moved by the increasingly difficult economic times facing Michigan families, Joe started the "No Child Without Christmas" foundation in 2004. His foundation brings together a broad spectrum of community leaders to provide clothing, food, and gifts for thou-

sands of homeless and abused children during the holiday season each year. Joe's commitment to his community has been his personal as well as his professional legacy.

Joe has spent his career in service of others, his UAW brothers and sisters, his community, and most importantly, his large and growing family. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Mr. Joe Peters for his many contributions to our community and his leadership at the United Auto Workers Union. I wish him many more years of health, happiness, and productive service.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRVIEW SOUTH SCHOOL PENNIES FOR PEACE PROGRAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize an extraordinary group of students in Skokie, Illinois.

I would like to recognize 6th grade students Lucas Brace, Alexander Brown, Soretti Donka, Lily Griffin, J.D. Kim, Rachel Sison, Kevin Thurman, Patricia Valdepenas, and Tessa Waters, as well as their SPINOUT reading teacher, Ms. Yolanda Toni. These sixth grade students were inspired, after reading Greg Mortensen's book *Three Cups of Tea*, to collect pennies from their classmates at Fairview South School for the charity Pennies for Peace.

Ms. Toni's nine students worked with the school's Student Council and teacher sponsors Ms. Katherine MacLennan and Ms. Christina Sylvester. They made presentations to each grade level about the program and encouraged other students at the school to participate. Over two months, the students raised an impressive \$1,524.26 for Pennies for Peace. They wrote letters to me and other elected officials explaining their program and urging us to also work to promote education for all children throughout the world.

Pennies for Peace is a fantastic charity, founded by Mortensen, that encourages students to collect their pennies, and, one cent at a time, to support education around the world. A penny might not seem like much money, but the students at Fairview South School demonstrated how quickly they can add up. This money will go to change the lives of students in Pakistan and Afghanistan and bring access to education and opportunity to girls and boys across the world.

The Fairview South students recognize that children in many places around the world do not have the same opportunities to attend school and gain an education as do kids in Skokie. Two students in the class wrote to me, and they eloquently argued that education is one of the most powerful tools we have to combat poverty, hopelessness, and violence.

One student wrote, "I know how it feels to want a good education that can get me further in life." Another said, "Can you imagine what it would be like if your children were unable to be educated? The luxury of elementary schools can indeed be taken for granted." These students know that helping girls and boys throughout the world, particularly in war-torn or impoverished countries, is one of the investments we can make.