

and sacrifices of the colonists. Today there are less than half a dozen of these colonists still alive and most of them are now in their 90s. In honor of the 75th anniversary of the Executive Order, I once again recognize the accomplishments and sacrifices of the Hui Panala'au colonists and extend appreciation on behalf of Hawai'i and the people of the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of votes yesterday because of a family medical issue. If I had been here, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 381; "yea" on rollcall No. 382; "yea" on rollcall No. 383; "yea" on rollcall No. 384; "no" on rollcall No. 385; "yea" on rollcall No. 386; "yea" on rollcall No. 387; and "no" on rollcall No. 388.

RECOGNIZING THE POTENTIAL OF AMERICAN INNOVATION

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to a recent column published in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* describing the accomplishments of West Philadelphia High School's Hybrid X Team.

This team of students from an urban high school recently shared the winners' circle of the Green Grand Prix with the Chevy Volt. The Hybrid X Team's continued success provides a clear example of what's at stake in our current Appropriations considerations and the future of the economy. Simply put, when we invest in these innovative areas of our economy, the education and research that bring about new discoveries, technologies and processes, we are securing shared prosperity for ourselves and our posterity. If, instead, we shirk our responsibilities to young inventors and shortchange the early research that makes new inventions possible, we are conceding defeat in the global race to innovate.

I encourage my colleagues to review this article and to consider the importance—and the possibilities—of a robust, innovation-minded economic policy.

[From the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Jun. 1, 2011.]

DRIVER'S SEAT: LOCAL TEAM WINS HONORS FOR FUEL-EFFICIENT VEHICLE

(By Scott Sturgis)

Great moments in engineering don't always come from multinational corporations with multibillion-dollar budgets.

Sometimes the feats come from hard-working young people—and perhaps a mentor or four. That's just how one of the most fuel-efficient vehicles in the world was built right here, in West Philadelphia, and how the West Philly Hybrid X Team won not one but two national awards for two separate automotive projects this spring.

Simon Hauger, electrical engineer turned high school teacher turned consultant, is the

power behind the 15-student team from West Philadelphia High School. He formed the group 13 years ago and has led students through a variety of projects creating fuel-efficient automobiles, usually on a budget that automakers might put into a new hubcap.

Hauger had the chance to visit with the head of Ford's technology division a few years back and, while touring with the students, posed a question.

"I said, 'Why aren't you pursuing this?' type of extreme fuel efficiency?" Hauger said. "His answer: 'We're waiting to see where the market goes.'"

Fortunately, the country has leaders like the West Philly students and teachers—working with Hauger and the students are full-time volunteer Ann Cohen and West Philadelphia High shop teachers Ron Preiss and Jerry DiLossi. And giving them incentive are the Sports Car Club of America and the Conrad Foundation, organizers of competitions such as the Green Grand Prix and the Spirit of Innovation Competition, respectively.

Green Grand Prix: At the end of this competition, the team shared the winners' circle with the Chevrolet Volt at Watkins Glen International Speedway in New York as the most efficient vehicles in their classes. Now in its sixth year, the Green Grand Prix is billed as the only road rally for alternative-fuel vehicles in the United States.

The Factory Five GTM used in the competition had been part of the group's 2010 Automotive X Prize challenge, but didn't win. The team did some reworking of the vehicle, and it's now powered by a Volkswagen TDI engine running on biodiesel coupled with a hybrid system. It averaged more than 100 m.p.g., the highest mileage among non-electric vehicles in the 100-mile test. "That's real fuel economy from a real car from an inner-city high school with no budget," Hauger said. The group does have sponsorship, though not as much now as when it was competing for the X Prize. Now the main sponsors are International Battery in Allentown and Edison2, the company that won the X Prize. Funding also comes through Philadelphia Academies Inc., which as a nonprofit that works with Philadelphia schools can handle small donations and administer their funding.

Hauger said the team had a "moderate budget" for the X Prize competition. Now, he said, "we are back to no-budget, totally shoestring funding. In fact, we all have been blacklisted from the local blood banks." Although the car was up against vehicles with engines sporting three or fewer cylinders, the West Philly team had the advantage on the old-style NASCAR track—its members could fly through the hairpin turns and coast up a small hill. And the six-speed transmission allowed the car to stay barely above idle to run 45 to 50 m.p.h.

"The speed happened to be the absolute ideal speed for us," Hauger said. "The car was driving at its most optimal point."

The event drew 45 competitors—from the Chevy Volt and GM's fuel cell-powered SUV to homemade three-wheelers powered by industrial lawn-mower engines and everything in between. Four teams from the Automotive X Prize showed up, so they were competitors the West Philly teams had seen before.

"It was kind of like a grudge match," Hauger said.

Spirit of Innovation: This contest limited entry to five members of the team, who designed a business plan around the Electric Very Light car, which is still in the production stage.

More than 100 entrants from the United States and Britain entered the competition, and 35 teams were chosen as finalists. Twelve

to 15 teams competed in the Cyber technology energy-efficiency category against West Philly.

Led by new West Philadelphia science teacher Paul Holt as coach, the local team members went to California to give their presentation for 15 minutes and answer questions for another 15.

"It was kind of brutal," Hauger said.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE OF NEW VISA FEES

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention an unintended consequence brought on when we enacted last year's emergency supplemental appropriations bill to fund additional border resources—H.R. 6080, the Emergency Border Security Supplemental Appropriations Act.

This bill was fully paid for by imposing additional fees for new H-1B and L-1 visas on a select group of companies. Specifically, the companies impacted are those with more than 50 employees, and with a US workforce in which more than 50% are on a professional temporary visa—basically the H-1B and L-1 visas. While, I applaud the intent of this provision to incentivize job creation at home, I would like to express my concern about the implementation of the additional visa fees.

These fees were meant to be targeted at companies who utilize H-1B and L-1 visas at very high levels for the purpose of building their employees' proficiencies in IT, so that they can take this knowledge and the work back to their home countries. It turns out however, that some US companies are being impacted by these fee increases because many of their professionals are stuck in green card backlogs and in the meantime remain in temporary visa status.

In his remarks at the time of Senate passage of H.R. 6080, Senator CHARLES SCHUMER commented that, when the H-1B visa program is used as a stepping-stone for skilled immigrants to obtain permanent resident status, it is "a good program for everyone involved. It is good for the company. It is good for the worker. And it is good for the American people who benefit from the products and jobs created by the innovation of the H-1B visa holder."

I agree with Senator SCHUMER's remarks, and encourage my colleagues to work with me on a technical fix that would ensure that the implementation of this bill is consistent with these policy goals. The clearest way to achieve these goals would be to exempt from the so-called "50/50" calculation any H-1B or L-1 worker who has sought to acquire permanent residence by taking steps to file or is the beneficiary of a pending or approved application for alien employment certification with the Department of Labor, or a pending or approved immigrant petition with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Those H-1B and L-1 workers are best defined as 'intending immigrants,' as they relinquish their non-immigrant intent when their employers pursue a Green Card application on their behalf.

We should not punish companies that are doing the right thing by investing considerable

resources to sponsor professionals for permanent resident visas. They are building a highly skilled workforce in the US within technical specialties in which few American workers with applicable skills exist. This is something we need to do if we are going to grow out of our current economic difficulties.

I suggested to the Secretary of Homeland Security that she consider making the technical fix as part of regulatory guidance on this new fee. The Department later informed me that such a fix required congressional action.

I raise this issue Mr. Speaker, because it is my hope that we can work with our colleagues in the Senate to ensure that companies that are trying to do the right thing are not unintentionally hurt by this provision. Since this unintended consequence was caused by a provision in an appropriations bill, I hope that we can make the necessary technical fix on an appropriations bill at the appropriate time.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1077) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I rise to support the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan, which would strike language from this legislation that would restrict Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding to only 10 urban areas across the country.

Last year, as a result of Republican-led cuts, the number of urban areas eligible to receive funding in UASI to assist local law enforcement deal with the threat of terrorist attacks was dropped from 64 to 31. Last week those cuts hit home, when two cities in my district were unjustly removed from the list of areas that received federal funding as part of this grant program. While we in Western New York appreciate the many national security needs across the country, it made me question our security priorities when two cities in an international border were denied funding only to have funding allocated to smaller cities in our nation's interior. I think that if you ask law enforcement officials in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Albany, they'll tell you that denying this small amount of funding to Upstate does not mean we are less at risk. Rather we've shifted the financial burden of security on them. In turn we may all be less safe.

Should this amendment fail to pass, it will effectively prevent cities like Rochester and Buffalo from competing for UASI grants in the future thanks to the plans of the majority to reduce funding even more in future years. At a time when the threat of terrorist attacks is high, we cannot lay the entire financial burden of securing our cities on local authorities, first responders, law enforcement and agencies and expect to adequately protect our citizens and make our cities safe.

DENNIS RITTENMEYER
RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Dr. Dennis C. Rittenmeyer and to wish him well upon his upcoming retirement from his position as President of Calumet College of Saint Joseph in Whiting, Indiana. Dr. Rittenmeyer's many years of service in the field of education have had a positive impact on numerous students and educators within the community of Northwest Indiana and across the nation. In honor of Dennis, a retirement reception will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer's true passion for education is reflected in his impressive 40 year career in higher education. Dr. Rittenmeyer received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Michigan University. He went on to earn his doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. In 1987, Dr. Rittenmeyer became President of Calumet College of Saint Joseph. At the time, the institution was in serious financial crisis. Dennis successfully restored the college's financial stability, utilizing the leadership skills for which he is well-known. Throughout his tenure, his perseverance to see the right thing done sustained his efforts to overcome obstacles in order to establish Calumet College of Saint Joseph as the exceptional resource it is today. Under Dr. Rittenmeyer's direction, the enrollment at Calumet College of Saint Joseph increased from 870 in 1987 to nearly 1,300 in 2010; educational programs were expanded to include not only associate's degree programs but also bachelor's and master's degree programs. Additionally, an athletic program was introduced; currently, more than 270 participate in intercollegiate sports. The physical development of the campus included extensive renovations to the main building and a new Student Activity/Community Center was completed in 2009. My good friend also established an endowment fund for the continuously growing institution. For his truly impressive commitment to Calumet College of Saint Joseph, Dr. Rittenmeyer is to be commended.

Perhaps more remarkable is Dr. Rittenmeyer selflessly giving of his time, intellectual skills, and power of persuasion to move the community of Northwest Indiana ahead. In 2009, he was honored by Governor Mitch Daniels with the Distinguished Hoosier Award for his efforts on behalf of public transportation in Northwest Indiana. Much needs to be done before we have a true regional transit system in our region, but it will occur because of Dennis Rittenmeyer's lone sojourn in the wilderness preaching the human value of developing such a system long before it became a fashionable topic of debate. There would be no debate and no hope of much an improvement for future generations if Dennis had not stepped forth before all others.

Dr. Rittenmeyer's commitment to education and the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing

family. He and his wonderful wife Leslie have five beloved children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Dr. Dennis C. Rittenmeyer for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication. He has touched the lives of countless students and educators, as well as every one of us in Northwest Indiana. For his service and uncompromising dedication, Dr. Rittenmeyer is worthy of the highest praise, and I ask that you join me in wishing him well upon his retirement.

SIXTH DISTRICT CHEERS AMERICAN IDOL SCOTTY MCCREERY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, for years, the sounds and drama of American Idol have captivated the eyes and ears of Americans, gluing them to their TVs to find out who the next great singing star would be. Over the 11 seasons of American Idol mania, the state of North Carolina and the Sixth District have been well represented in the finals of this singing competition. This season's American Idol competition was no different, ending with 17-year-old Scotty McCreery, from Garner, North Carolina, crowned as the latest American Idol.

Scotty has strong connections to the Sixth District, as well. Several members of Scotty's family live in our area. His grandmother and grandfather, Paquita and Bill McCreery, reside in the Moore County town of Aberdeen, while his aunt and uncle, Tina and Billy Creech, live just down the road in Pinehurst.

The members of Scotty's family, however, are just some of a long line of connections to the Sixth District of North Carolina. We have been home to two previous finalists in the American Idol competition, Fantasia Barrino and Chris Daughtry. Fantasia, from High Point, won the American Idol competition during its third season. Daughtry, from McLeansville, though he did not win the competition, has gone on to become a successful recording artist, releasing several multi-platinum albums.

North Carolina is one of only two states that can boast more than three finalists over the competition's history; the other is Alabama. North Carolina has had a total of seven finalists over the years.

Joining Barrino, Daughtry and McCreery as American Idol finalists are four other proud North Carolinians. Clay Aiken of Raleigh, Bucky Covington of Rockingham, Kellie Pickler of Albermarle, and Anoop Desai of Cary, a UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus, all represented North Carolina in the finals of the competition, as well.

Even Scotty McCreery's grandmother, Paquita, got some face time on American Idol. Like any proud grandmother would do, she used her chance at the microphone to tell the world, "That's my Scotty."

On behalf of the residents of the Sixth District, we offer our congratulations to Scotty and his family who live in the Sixth District. And from the state of North Carolina, we say again, congratulations, "That's our Scotty."