

hosted a gang awareness seminar with Pennsylvania Senator John Yudichak. We were privileged to welcome D. Darell Dones, supervisory special agent of the Behavioral Science Unit of the FBI, to the area. Agent Dones presented startling information about gangs and led a panel of experts who provided a frank assessment of local gang problems and potential gang solutions. Agent Dones noted that this cooperative effort—co-hosted by a Democratic state senator and a Republican congressman—was unlike any he'd seen in the country.

But the most special moment for me was when I helped present a veteran with medals he earned more than 65 years ago. Hazleton resident George Puhak helped liberate the Philippines during World War II, but for some reason, this Army veteran never received all of the medals he was entitled to. Representatives from the Embassy of the Philippines made the trip from Washington to Hazleton to present Mr. Puhak with the medals he earned all those decades ago. It was an honor for me to participate in the presentation, which took place in front of some of Mr. Puhak's children and grandchildren. Mr. Puhak's courage—and the commitment and dedication shown by his fellow members of The Greatest Generation—should stand as a shining example for today's youth, for whom we are working so hard here in Washington.

NAAMA SHAFIR: RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION LIVES ON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during World War II, Jews were forced to wear the yellow star of David as a symbol of hatred and scorn.

The Jewish people experienced hatred in many forms during the Holocaust, most notably the murder of 4.9 to 6.0 million citizens.

Have we moved past this backward way of thinking? No!

Twenty-one-year-old Naama Shafir is a junior guard for the woman's basketball team at the University of Toledo. This April, she led her team to victory in the Women's National Invitation Tournament championship with a career-high 40 points and was named tournament MVP.

She continues to excel, and has qualified to compete in the European championship as part of the Israeli women's national basketball team.

However, because Naama wears a t-shirt under her jersey in order to comply with the modesty standards expected of Orthodox Jews, she will not be allowed to compete in the European championship.

Tens of thousands of soldiers died during World War II trying to overcome this terrible prejudice, yet Naama still endures that same prejudice that her ancestors were faced with during the war.

And that's just the way it is.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENTS—RYAN MARTINEZ

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Ryan Martinez, a United States Naval Academy Appointee. Ryan is a graduate of Cistercian Preparatory School where he played football as a wide receiver and a free safety, ran cross country, participated in track, and played soccer earning a total of nine letters during his high school career. Ryan was actively involved in Student Council as the vice president, a member of the Third District Congressional Youth Advisory Council, earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and worked as a sports writer for his school's newspaper. He was selected to attend the U.S. Naval Academy Summer Leadership Seminar. Ryan realized there was no other university he would rather attend, and by attending a service academy he would not only be pushing his talents to their fullest potential, but he would also be using them for his ultimate goal of servicing others, and especially his remarkable country.

STATEMENT RECOGNIZING NA- TIONAL SUMMER LEARNING DAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June 21 as National Summer Learning Day and draw attention to the importance of high-quality summer learning opportunities in the lives of young people. This day is an opportunity for schools, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, resident camps, sports clubs, businesses, museums and libraries to showcase the contributions they make to the lives of young people during the summer.

The effort to keep kids learning during summer is based on research that shows that without effective summer learning opportunities: most students fall more than two months behind in math over the summer; low-income children fall behind two to three months in reading each summer, while their middle and upper-income peers make slight gains; and by the end of fifth grade, lower-income children can be nearly three years behind their higher-income peers in reading.

Last year, nearly 500 events were held nationwide that highlighted how summer learning programs advance academic growth, support working families, keep children safe and send students back to school ready to learn.

I am proud to recognize National Summer Learning Day and encourage communities across the country to celebrate and acknowledge the importance of providing all young people with high-quality learning opportunities during the summer months.

REMEMBERING REVEREND L.E. LAWSON AND MONSIGNOR CHARLES KING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of two of Denton County's most esteemed spiritual leaders, Reverend L.E. Lawson and Monsignor Charles King. Both Reverend Lawson and Monsignor King devoted their lives to serving their respective congregations and compassionately working to improve the lives of the less fortunate in the Denton community.

Reverend Lawson, who passed away May 22nd, spent the last 26 of his 52 years in the ministry as pastor of Denton's Mount Cavalry Baptist Church, during which time he baptized, married, and performed the burials of generations of church members. Reverend Lawson loyally tended to the spiritual needs of the community in which he immersed himself.

Monsignor King, who passed away June 1st and just a week after the Reverend Lawson, served 10 of his 54 ministry years at Denton's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, but left an equally lasting mark of leadership and compassion on his congregation and his community.

The two men's spiritual work represented different branches of Christianity. Monsignor King's Catholic Church is a centuries-old world religion of grandeur while Reverend Lawson hailed from the much humbler African-American Baptist church. In the end, however, their paths ultimately led to interchangeable legacies that reflect both men's never-ceasing dedication to the Christian faith and the Denton community. Comments from members of both congregations in Reverend Lawson's and Monsignor King's obituaries could be applied to either man.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the exemplary lives of Reverend L.E. Lawson and Monsignor Charles King. With the passing of these men, Denton has lost more than a century of spiritual direction and service. Their passion and enthusiasm for their faith and their fellow man, however, will always be remembered.

HONORING GRADUATES OF RUT- GERS LAW SCHOOL CLASS OF 2011 AND PROFESSOR JOHN BECKERMAN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today offering my sincere congratulations to the Rutgers Law School Class of 2011. I additionally would like to recognize Rutgers-Camden Professor John Beckerman. Professor Beckerman

possesses a keen legal mind and a passion for teaching. He has taught many classes ranging from Medieval European History to Duty and Fairness in Corporate Law at many esteemed schools, including Yale University, the University of Michigan, and Rutgers-Camden Law. This spring, he was selected by this year's Rutgers-Camden graduating class as the 2011 "Professor of the Year." As part of this honor, Professor Beckerman delivered the Class Day Speech to the Rutgers School of Law-Camden class of 2011 on May 18, 2011. It is my privilege to read his remarks into the RECORD:

Honored Guests, Dear Friends, There are a lot of lawyers in our country—something approaching one million two hundred thousand—and despite all who leave the profession every year, loud voices constantly tell us that there are too many lawyers, too much law, too much regulation; that we need fewer lawyers, less law, and especially less regulation.

Not everyone in the audience will agree with me, and that's fine, but I have a different message for you. Quite apart from the ongoing debate about the proper size and scope of government, never have we needed capable and courageous lawyers more than we need you now. Never has our society needed your knowledge; your skills; your policy expertise; your problem solving ability; your good judgment; your sensitivity to the plight of ordinary people, to say nothing of the poor, disadvantaged and oppressed, more than we need it today.

History shows that lawyers and legal doctrine always have served those of wealth and privilege. It is no coincidence that property law in Anglo-American jurisprudence largely developed in its main outlines before the laws of crime, torts, and contract. Because wealthy and powerful persons and entities can better afford lawyers than can the rest of us, they not only hire lawyers more easily, but also elect legislators, influence who become judges, and exert disproportionate influence on both the law enacted by legislatures and doctrine declared by courts.

What difference does this make today? The past thirty years have seen the greatest concentration of wealth upwards ever in the history of our republic. The effects of these economic changes on the law and politics are not surprising, but are cause for enormous concern. As Jay Feinman has demonstrated (*UN-MAKING LAW: THE CONSERVATIVE CAMPAIGN TO ROLL BACK THE COMMON LAW*, Boston, 2004), there has been a movement in legislatures and courts to reduce the legal protections available to ordinary people and to increase the legal benefits our government gives to corporations and individuals of wealth and power.

It's no secret that the General Electric Company paid no federal income taxes in 2010 despite making more than \$5 billion in profits, that the government gives \$4 billion of tax subsidies every year to the oil industry despite the huge profits they are making as gas prices top \$4 per gallon, and that billionaires who have died since the beginning of 2010 paid no federal estate taxes. You don't need me to tell you what's wrong with this picture. We need lawyers and legislators with vision and courage to correct these distributional inequities currently enshrined in law.

Consistent with the trend of reducing protections for ordinary people, in the past month and a half, the conservative majority on the Supreme Court issued two decisions that I find very disturbing. In one (*AT&T Mobility, LLC v. Concepcion*, No. 09-903, April 27, 2011), they held that the Federal Arbitration Act preempts efforts of state

courts to limit contractual arbitration clauses that they deem unfair to consumers. As soon as corporations insert into every contract an arbitration clause limiting your right to sue and waiving your right to represent others, this decision will effectively end all consumer and employment class action lawsuits throughout the United States, as well as their disciplining effects on corporate behavior.

In another case (*Connick v. Thompson*, No. 09-571, March 29, 2011), the majority expanded the doctrine of municipal immunity to overturn a damage award won by a man who served eighteen years on death row in Louisiana for crimes he did not commit as a result of the district attorney's deliberately withholding from the defense the exculpatory evidence that eventually exonerated him, in flagrant violation of well-settled constitutional law. And a year ago, in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 50 (2010), the same majority held that corporations have the same First Amendment rights as people, thus effectively eviscerating most legislative efforts to limit the corrosive effects of money on politics. Do we need educated, proficient and courageous lawyers to restore balance to the law in these areas? Of course we do.

But those aren't the only reasons we need you so badly. The same interests that tell us there are too many lawyers continue to try to cripple protection of the environment from greenhouse gases, to limit protection of the oceans from oil well blowouts such as BP's Deepwater Horizon catastrophe, to hinder protection of the drinking water supply in Pennsylvania and New York from the carcinogenic effects of hydraulic fracking chemicals used to extract natural gas, to reduce protection of the nation's food supply and pharmaceuticals, to obstruct protection of the capital markets and investors from the same excesses of Wall Street and the banking industry that melted down our financial system in 2008 and gave us the Great Recession; to end protection of severely injured victims of medical negligence and abuse by physicians and hospitals in the guise of tort reform, and to vilify public employees including policemen, firemen and teachers and abolish their collective bargaining rights.

We know from sad experience that free markets don't regulate themselves, that the environment and the public health don't protect themselves, that trickle-down economics doesn't work, and that tax cuts don't pay for themselves. But we need lawyers to translate that experience into law if the public is to be protected from the worst excesses of free market capitalism and corporate greed.

We need you for other compelling reasons also. In 2009, over 6,600 hate crimes were reported in the United States, almost half against victims targeted because of their race, the rest against victims targeted because of their religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin or disability. We need lawyers not only to prosecute the perpetrators, but also to dispel the dual curses of ignorance and intolerance that cause these crimes and to protect the civil rights of the persons who are their targets.

And throughout the world, peoples emerging from the yokes of tyrannical and dictatorial regimes need the assistance of lawyers to establish laws that will afford them the blessings of fair and peaceful democratic government.

My new lawyer colleagues, the challenges that await you are serious and daunting. Both American society and the world need you desperately. The faculty and staff of the law school and all who have supported you during your time here have the highest

hopes for each and every one of you. We offer you only one challenge as you graduate from Rutgers Law School. Make us all proud of you!

Thank you very much.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall votes numbered 417 and 418 on Tuesday, June 14, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both rollcalls.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the gentleman's amendment to this legislation.

First, I want to be clear that I do believe that discrimination against many black farmers occurred. In 1997 a group of black farmers who had been discriminated against filed a case against USDA. By 1999 the courts agreed and approved a settlement for the farmers who had been discriminated against and provided a framework and time frames to settle the claims. Included in this settlement, the court provided a time frame for new claimants to have their cases heard. Anyone who had a claim was given the opportunity to come forward during this court approved window.

Despite this framework, we are still allowing additional payments to others, who had an earlier opportunity to file claims but did not. What is most disturbing is that approximately 94,000 total claims have been filed, yet census data shows that there were only 33,000 black farmers in the U.S. during the relevant time period. Furthermore, whistleblowers have come forward, including a black farmer, alleging widespread fraud in this process. These serious allegations of fraud should be investigated before we spend potentially \$1.2 billion on these claims, especially when the standard of proof for these claims is reduced under this settlement compared to what it would have been in a court.

I believe that we must investigate any allegations of fraud that are occurring before this Congress allows any more funds to be used for the settlement. Just as it would be an injustice to not grant relief to black farmers who had been discriminated against, it would also