

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of the Maine Department of the American Legion Auxiliary, in honor of their tremendous work on behalf of the "Operation: Military Kids" program.

Our men and women in uniform put themselves at risk every day to defend our freedom and security. It is our duty as citizens to honor their sacrifices and the sacrifices made by their families. In this spirit, Operation: Military Kids was established to support children and youth who have family members deployed around the world. 945 community members representing over 43 national, state, and local organizations came together in 2011 to remind our military children that they are not alone.

I am pleased to congratulate the members of the Maine Auxiliary, and the rest of the Maine American Legion family, on securing 24 kayaks and supporting equipment for the Operation: Military Kids program. This was a remarkable effort by the community. The kayaks, valued at over \$24,000 all together, will be put to use in Maine's western mountains at the Maine Army National Guard Youth Camp in Bog Brook, ME.

Today, we celebrate the tremendous success of the American Legion's fundraising efforts and the inculcable joy those kayaks will bring to Maine's military families.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the members of the American Legion Department of Maine Auxiliary for their dedication to our military families.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1842, THE
DREAM ACT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1842, The DREAM Act. I call up the House Republican leadership to bring this important legislation, which reflects fundamental American values of opportunity, responsibility, and community to the floor. The DREAM Act provides an opportunity for certain young men and women who demonstrate the responsible behavior necessary to earn the chance to become a naturalized citizen.

The DREAM Act recognizes that there are a limited number of young people who, through no fault of their own, have been living in the United States illegally since childhood. For the vast majority of these young men and women, the United States is the only country they have ever known and is the one to which they have always pledged allegiance.

By providing those who have demonstrated good moral character the ability to integrate fully into American society through military service or a college education, The DREAM Act rewards responsible and productive behavior while at the same time invests in the future prosperity of our great Nation.

Passing The DREAM Act makes our country stronger, fairer, more just. And it will also make our Nation more prosperous in the long term by providing incentives and opportunities for higher education for thousands of students who each year are unable to attend college because of their immigration status.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that The DREAM Act will reduce the deficit by \$1.4 billion over the next 10 years through increased tax revenue. Similarly, a study conducted by UCLA also estimates that DREAM Act beneficiaries have the potential to generate from \$1.4 trillion to \$3.6 trillion in income throughout their working lives.

Each year, approximately 65,000 students graduate high school without the possibility of continuing their education due to their immigration status and less than 10 percent of these students will go on to pursue college. Not only do these talented, law-abiding young individuals lose out on their extraordinary potential, but as a Nation we also run the risk of losing out on a tremendous amount of economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, The DREAM Act gives these students the opportunity to continue their academic pursuits, be officially recognized by the country in which they have spent most of their lives, and realize everything the American Dream has to offer. Young, undocumented immigrants who have just graduated from high school deserve the opportunity to follow their dreams and should not have a ceiling placed on their future because of decisions made by others and circumstances entirely beyond their control.

During my visits to schools in my district, one of the most ethnically diverse in the Nation, I have had the opportunity to meet many students who will benefit greatly from the passage of this legislation. These students have grown up attending schools in the United States and are intimately woven into our Nation's fabric. It is time that we recognize these students' achievements and allow them to step out of the shadow that prevents them from pursuing their dreams.

The Washington Post recently published an article on a young woman named Heydi Mejia, whose story exemplifies the type of situation we can hope to avoid by passing The DREAM Act. Young Heydi has lived in America from the age of 4, graduated in the top 10 percent of her class and had plans to attend college to become a nurse and return to serve her community. Her life was turned upside down when nine immigration officials showed up at her house this past December ordering her back to Guatemala, a country she barely knows, and to which she never pledged allegiance.

I was delighted to hear yesterday that Heydi and her mother have been granted a 1-year reprieve from deportation by the DHS, but this situation should not have arisen in the first place. It should not take a front page article in The Washington Post to keep a hardworking and successful young woman from being deported.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support The DREAM Act. We are a nation of immigrants, built on the backs of those who risked everything for the dream of a country that accepts all those who are willing to work hard and make something of themselves. I believe America is still that country, and it is our fundamental duty to provide a better life to those willing to work for it.

CELEBRATING 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF C.H. "BUDDY" AND JEANETTE BELLAMY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize a significant milestone in the lives of two of my constituents. On June 24th, C.H. "Buddy" and Jeanette Bellamy, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Buddy and Jeanette were both born in rural South Carolina; Buddy just outside of Loris and Jeanette in Dillon. He was the only son and she the youngest daughter of families who were familiar with hardship and difficult circumstances. In fact, it was one of those difficult circumstances that brought their lives together. Buddy was hospitalized after suffering a severe injury in his work as an auto mechanic. In the hospital, he was treated carefully and brought back to health by a young nurse named Jeanette. During the time that she cared for him, a friendship began that would soon lead to love.

Soon after, Buddy began working for Trailways as a driver, and was able to see every one of these great United States in the process. Jeanette continued nursing and has continued to focus her life on the caretaking of those in need.

Buddy and Jeanette were married in Dillon, South Carolina in 1961. They started a family with the birth of daughter Sharon and then sons, Scott and Dean, soon after. Eventually the Bellamy family settled in Clemmons, North Carolina in the Fifth Congressional District, where they still reside today. They are proud grandparents and have been blessed with eight wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Buddy and Jeanette Bellamy are proud Americans who are role models for us all. They enjoy the simple things in life that living in a country like ours offers them, including shagging to Carolina beach music. They love their family and, most importantly, they love each other. It is my distinct pleasure to represent them in Congress and to recognize them today for this wonderful milestone in their lives.

EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT—ASAP REGIONAL
AWARD

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) on receiving a regional award for combating obesity and promoting healthier habits among its students.

Physical activity is an essential component of a healthy lifestyle. In combination with healthy eating, it can help prevent a range of chronic diseases, including heart disease, cancer, and stroke, which are the three leading causes of death. Physical activity helps control weight, builds lean muscle, reduces fat, promotes strong bone, muscle and joint development, and decreases the risk of obesity.

The Active Schools Acceleration Project (ASAP) was launched by First Lady Michelle Obama and ChildObesity 180 and identify and reward the most creative, impactful, and scalable school-based programs and technological innovations that promote physical activity for children. ASAP initiated a competition this year for schools nationwide to create a school-based physical activity program in order to inspire youth to be more physically active. ASAP honored school districts with the most innovative ideas.

EPISD and the other regional winners will receive a grant of \$25,000 to support physical activity programming. Regional winners are now eligible to become national winners with the opportunity to receive a \$100,000 grant, and participate in a developmental pilot aimed at expanding its program's to reach even more students and schools within the region and nationally, so I wish EPISD the best of luck! This award displays the courage and activism of a community that prioritizes children's health.

None of this could have been possible without the passionate staff, the leadership of Superintendent Terri Jordan, and, of course, the energetic students of EPISD. I am pleased that EPISD has made great strides in the area of health and wellness, and the award both gives their program validation and allows them to do more for our students in these areas. It is important that future generations have a well-rounded education that includes physical wellness. The award is not only an indication of the district's success, but is also a great example for youth to follow.

COMMEMORATING "JUNETEENTH"

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the occasion of "Juneteenth," the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19 as the African American Emancipation Day has spread from coast to coast in the United States and beyond.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African-American freedom. This special day emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas, a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings.

Juneteenth is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 50's and 60's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebrations. While it pulled many of the African American youth away and into the struggle for racial equality, many linked these struggles to the historical strug-

gles of their ancestors. This was evidenced by student demonstrators involved in the Atlanta civil rights campaign in the early 1960's, whom wore Juneteenth freedom buttons.

Again in 1968, Juneteenth received another strong resurgence through Poor Peoples March to Washington D.C. Rev. Ralph Abernathy's call for people all races, creeds, economic levels and professions to come to Washington to show support for the poor. Many of these attendees returned home and initiated Juneteenth celebrations in areas previously absent of such activity.

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American state legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition. Representative Edwards has ever since actively sought to spread the observance of Juneteenth all across America.

Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures. As I look proudly upon the 37th District of California—one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse districts in the nation—the future of Juneteenth looks bright.

Throughout the year, but especially during this celebration, the communities of Southern California have come together to recognize one another's heritages and histories. From commemorating Black History Month in February to celebrating the Cambodian New Year this April, we are seizing every opportunity to educate ourselves about the experiences of others in true Juneteenth spirit.

And yet, we remain mindful that the struggle continues.

Unfortunately, laws aimed at voter suppression have been recently introduced in several states across the country and disproportionately reduce the turnout of minority voters. Some laws require specific forms of government-issued photo identification that as many as one in ten voters do not have. Nine states have introduced bills to reduce early voting periods, a system that is most utilized by minorities and seniors.

Given the lack of evidence of current voter fraud, I fear that these bills instead stem from a political agenda to dampen voter turnout. These unnecessary and discriminatory regulations are a dangerous step backward in time. We should be promoting civic participation, not limiting it and disenfranchising millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, freedom is not to be taken for granted. It is promised to every citizen, but that promise is only upheld by constant vigilance and hard work. To mark Juneteenth this year, I ask my colleagues to join me in ensuring that the freedom secured through emancipation is a reality for all citizens almost 150 years later.

HONORING MAYOR ROB LEDERER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and thank Mayor Rob

Lederer of the City of Fairfax, Virginia, for his years of service to our community. On June 30th, Mayor Lederer will complete his 5th term as mayor and he will retire from elected office. First elected to the City Council in 1982, Mayor Lederer served three two-year terms and later returned to the Council to serve two more terms starting in 1998. In 2002, he was elected Mayor.

During his decades of service to the City, Mayor Lederer has had many notable accomplishments. Forbes Magazine ranked the City of Fairfax as the third best place to live in the U.S. The city achieved a AAA bond rating from the credit rating agencies in recognition of its sound fiscal management, saving taxpayers millions of dollars in financing costs for needed infrastructure improvements. The city received a Gold Medal from the National Recreation and Parks Association, only the fourth time a Virginia locality has won this award since 1965.

As a former Member of the Fairfax County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors and as the current Representative for the 11th District of Virginia, which includes the City of Fairfax, I have been pleased to partner with Mayor Lederer in regional matters affecting our shared constituents. Mayor Lederer led the effort to redevelop and renew historic Old Town Fairfax, including the planning, development, construction and opening of the City of Fairfax Regional Library in partnership with Fairfax County.

In addition, Mayor Lederer played a lead role in protecting surrounding businesses and homeowners affected by leaks from the gas and oil tank farm at Pickett Road. The tank farm affected residents of both Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax, and the Mayor collaborated with me and other regional leaders to improve safety and accountability. Thanks to those efforts, last year the Commonwealth of Virginia enacted a law to require modern storage and safety procedures at the tank farm. This is a tremendous example of how local leaders like Mayor Lederer are able to work with neighboring jurisdictions and with various levels of government to protect the interests and the safety of their communities.

Mayor Lederer is a lifelong resident of the city. In addition to serving the entire city, he found time to serve his neighbors as a board member on the Cobbledale Civic Association. Thanks to his tireless efforts over the years, Mayor Lederer has made a tremendous contribution to the lives of residents of the City of Fairfax now and for future generations. I have no doubt that despite his retirement from elected office he will continue to serve the community for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mayor Rob Lederer for his service to the residents of the City of Fairfax, thanking him for all that he has done to improve our community, and wishing him and his family well in his retirement from public life.

HONORING THE PRINCETON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL "TIGERS" BASEBALL TEAM WEST VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Princeton Tigers, the 2012 Class