

RECOGNIZING THE CITIZEN'S  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to commend the Citizen's Commission on Human Rights on the opening of their new National Public Affairs Office here in Washington, DC.

I want to thank my friend Sam Brunelli, the President and CEO of Team Builders International, for the role he played in bringing the good work of the Citizen's Commission on Human Rights to my attention. Since 1969, the Citizen's Commission on Human Rights has tirelessly worked to educate the public about the dangers of some drugs. As part of this effort, CCHR has been at the forefront of the debate over whether parents' have a fundamental right to raise their children as they see fit; and that includes making decisions about evaluation and treatment of mental health conditions.

As some of my colleagues may recall, back in 2003 a Presidential Commission recommended that the government implement mental health screening in public school. The Commission contended that early detection, assessment, and links with treatment and support programs would help prevent mental health problems from worsening. However, neither the Commission's report nor any related mental health screening proposal under discussion at the time required active parental consent before a child was subjected to mental health screening.

I appreciate the value of having mental health problems diagnosed and treated early, but cutting the parents out of the process was deeply troubling to me. More often than not, the typical course of action when a child is diagnosed with a mental health condition—typically Attention Deficit Disorder, ADD, or Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, ADHD, is to prescribe a powerful psychotropic drug, such as Ritalin. But these drugs have some serious side effects which include mania, violence and dependence. In fact, these drugs are so potentially dangerous that in 2007, under pressure from members of Congress and groups like CCHR, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, FDA, was finally compelled to require that the makers of all antidepressant medications update their black box warning on their products' labeling to include warnings about increased risks of suicidal thinking and behavior, known as suicidality.

Yet, inexplicably, not only were parents being cut out of the loop with regard to these drugs, parents who were informed, and who wanted to say no, were actually being threatened by school districts with child abuse charges for not drugging their children.

As a Christian, parent and grandparent, I have throughout my Congressional career staunchly defended the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children as they see fit. I believe this right is embedded in the U.S. Constitution, affirmed by Supreme Court case precedent, and exemplary of the inalienable rights and freedoms this country was founded on. To deny parents the right to know about the potential dangers of these drugs and the right to say "no, this is not the right

treatment for my child," is simply mindboggling. This is the same flawed mentality that condones putting toxic substances like mercury in medical products like vaccines and dental fillings and then not telling people the mercury is in there. Mercury is the most toxic substances on earth after radioactive materials. It has no place in any medication for children or adults; and I'm proud of the work I've done in Congress to get mercury removed from medicine. I'm also proud to have worked with CCHR and other like-minded groups to raise awareness of the potential dangers of psychotropic drugs, and to fight to put parents back in charge of their children's health care decisions instead of government bureaucrats.

Unfortunately, the price of defending our freedoms from the intrusion of big government is to be eternally vigilant. The economic and political life of America has changed profoundly over the last four years, and once again, the government is trying to intrude upon the relationship of parent to child.

In the past, parents were threatened by government officials with child abuse charges if they resisted efforts to drug their children with ADHD medications. Today, parents are penalized by government for sending their children to school with a brownbag lunch that does not meet some arbitrary government nutritional guidelines. These may seem like widely separate things but they are at the most basic level the same; an usurpation by the government of the right of parents to make decisions for their children.

Under the rubric of "Children's Rights," advocate of big government are pushing the argument that children should have, and the state should recognize, greater autonomy for children from their parents in deciding how to live, or that government agencies must have the power to step in to protect children from "bad parents."

I believe this concept of "Children's Rights" is flawed for two reasons. First, parents possess the maturity, experience, and capacity for judgment required for making life's difficult decisions that children lack. Second, as the Supreme Court said in the case of *Parham v. J.R.* 19 simply "because the decision of a parent is not agreeable to a child or because it involves risks, does not automatically transfer the power to make that decision"—nor in my opinion should it—"from the parents to some agency or officer of the state."

In his Oval Office farewell address, President Ronald Reagan said two things that are particularly relevant to our discussion tonight; he said: "As government expands, liberty contracts;" and that "All great change in America begins at the dinner table."

President Reagan understood that family is the foundation of our society; and that parents do have a profound impact on their children. If we are to recapture a common denominator of right and wrong in America, we must begin in the homes of America with conversations at the dinner table between moms and dads and growing children.

By respecting and defending a parents' fundamental right to teach their children that there is acceptable behavior and unacceptable behavior, appropriate speech and inappropriate speech we can re-instill in our children a moral character of trust, honesty, respect and tolerance, qualities that are so necessary to having safe and prosperous communities—

and which are at the core of CCHR's own philosophy.

Make no mistake, though, stopping the further spread of government power in the area of the family and ensuring that parental rights are protected with the strength and certainty they deserve will not be a quick and easy victory. That is why organizations like CCHR are so important. If good people like the men and women who work for CCHR refuse to give up the fight, victory is inevitable.

Again, I want to commend CCHR on the opening of their beautiful new facility here in Washington, DC and wish them good fortune in their future endeavors.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT ACT

**HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on July 19, 2012, I introduced the Reauthorization of the National Women's Rights History Project Act. This legislation was intended to be introduced with Mr. RICHARD HANNA (NY-24) as an original cosponsor.

TRIBUTE TO DEWAYNE BUNCH

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dewayne Bunch, a brave member of the Kentucky National Guard, a leader in the State legislature, and a dedicated teacher at Whitley County High School: His passing is a great loss and he will be deeply missed by Whitley and Laurel County and across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Dewayne's life encompassed the true meaning of a public servant. Described as "a mighty man of valor," Dewayne helped lead our Commonwealth with an extraordinary level of dedication and excellence. While serving in the Kentucky National Guard, Dewayne proudly fought for our country in Iraq as a first sergeant and received multiple honors, including the Bronze Star. Dewayne was also a veteran of the United States Army and after 24 years of service to the Kentucky National Guard, Dewayne was elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in the fall of 2010 and thoughtfully represented Whitley and Laurel Counties. In his brief legislative career in Frankfort, Dewayne showed tremendous potential as a legislator.

In April of 2011, Dewayne was severely injured while trying to break up a fight between two students at Whitley County High School where he taught math and science for 17 years. Dewayne was highly regarded by his students and faculty, and shared a vision with lawmakers for a better Kentucky, especially in the field of education. After his injury, Dewayne resigned from the Kentucky legislature, and the position was filled by his dutiful wife, Regina Bunch.

On July 11th, 2012, Dewayne passed away at the age of 50. Over 450 people attended his funeral, including State legislators, fellow educators, members of the Patriot Guard Riders, and friends from all walks of life. During the funeral service, it was announced that the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal had been posthumously awarded to Dewayne, for his exceptionally admirable and meritorious conduct.

Dewayne was a quality man, dedicated to his State, his church, and most importantly, his family. On behalf of my wife Cynthia and myself, I want to extend our deepest heartfelt sympathies to Regina, the Bunch family, and those who had the privilege of knowing Dewayne.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the late Dewayne Bunch for dedicating a lifetime of service to the families of southeastern Kentucky, our Commonwealth, and our great Nation.

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HONORING SHAWANDA ALLEN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Shawanda LaShell Allen. Shawanda LaShell Allen was born in Hazlehurst, Mississippi to the proud parents of Glenda Johnson and Anthony Allen.

Throughout her years in school, Shawanda remained dedicated to her academics and extracurricular activities. She received the highest academic average of her class for the 2011–2012 school year in advanced placement English Literature and Composition, Calculus, United States Government, and Accounting. In addition to this, Shawanda was inducted into the Crystal Springs High School Hall of Fame; received the Student Council Leadership Award; and the U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award. Ms. Allen was also awarded the following scholarships—Boardwalk Pipeline Partners, LP, the United States Achievement Academy, Workforce Investment Area Transition, and University of Southern Mississippi Leadership Scholarships.

Shawanda also participated in the Student Council, Beta Club, SADD Club, Mu Alpha Theta Club, Theater Club-Tigers Actin' Up, and played on the soccer, softball, and track/field teams. She is a faithful member of Clear Creek Missionary Baptist Church where she is a part of the Feeding Ministry and Nursing Home Ministry.

In 2012, Shawanda graduated from Crystal Springs High School with honors. In the fall, she plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and pursue a degree in Accounting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Shawanda LaShell Allen for her hard work, dedication and a strong desire to achieve.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Historic Pilgrim Baptist Church of Saint Paul, and its 150 years of rich history and dedicated service to our community.

Pilgrim Baptist Church is the oldest African-American church in Minnesota, with a history deeply rooted in America's struggle for racial equality and social justice. More than 150 years ago, a group of slaves escaped and embarked upon a turbulent and courageous journey to the North during the Civil War. With the help of Union Forces and the Underground Railroad, this group of black men, women and children departed from Boone County, Missouri. Calling themselves "pilgrims", because they did not know their final destination, they began their long trek through the Midwest, eventually finding refuge in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

The group found a leader in fellow escaped slave Robert Thomas Hickman, who had previously learned how to read under the direction of his master, and also received permission to preach to his peers. Reverend Hickman continued this practice upon arriving to Minnesota, gaining many followers who desired a welcoming place to worship. The congregation worshipped in several Saint Paul homes until they were able to rent a room in a local concert hall. Reverend Hickman received his mission status from the First Baptist Church of Saint Paul, and the congregation continued to worship under Hickman's direction, officially becoming the Pilgrim Baptist Church on November 15, 1866.

The courage and dedication of Reverend Hickman and the founders of Pilgrim Baptist Church are woven into church history. Throughout the years, the congregation has not only been a spiritual home for countless families and individuals, but also a center for community action, serving as the birthplace of the Saint Paul Chapters of the NAACP and Urban League as well as schools and organized labor movements. This legacy of community activism continues today through the congregation and Reverend Charles Gill, Jr., who has served as the Senior Pastor since 2004. Reverend Gill remains steadfast in the church mission, delivering a message of love and acceptance to the congregation and the congregation continues to serve the community in many ways.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Pilgrim Baptist Church of Saint Paul, Minnesota, I am pleased to submit this statement.

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RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
MILITARY SERVICE OF COLONEL  
JOE N. WILBURN ON THE OCCA-  
SION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. AUSTIN SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the

United States Air Force, I rise to recognize Colonel Joe N. Wilburn for his twenty-six years of commissioned service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he was the Commander, Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service, Robins AFB, Georgia. In this role, he served as advisor to the Air Force Reserve Command Commander, Vice Commander, senior staff and field numbered Air Force and wing commanders on all matters relating to recruiting for the Air Force Reserve. He commanded and exercised oversight for more than 450 military and civilian personnel worldwide at forty-five main operating locations and numerous satellite offices.

Colonel Wilburn joined the Air Force on June 27, 1982 when he reported in as a cadet at the Air Force Academy. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on May 28, 1986, with an undergraduate degree in International Affairs. While stationed at MacDill AFB, he deployed to the Middle East in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon returning from deployment, he was selected to be the Chief of Operations at the 369th Recruiting Squadron in Los Angeles, California. Colonel Wilburn later joined the Air National Guard where he performed duties with the 148th Combat Communications Squadron in Ontario, California. In April 2000, he was asked to lead a Recruiting Flight at March Air Reserve Base, California. Because of his success at March Air Reserve Base, Colonel Wilburn was chosen to be a Program Manager on the Island of Oahu in Hawaii.

Due to his achievements and unwavering dedication to his country, it was no surprise he was chosen to be the Commander of Air Force Reserve Recruiting. During his almost four years as Commander, Colonel Wilburn was responsible for accessing 39,268 new citizen airmen. His innovative ideas and exemplary leadership skills allowed his team of recruiters to focus their accession practices on targeting prior service candidates, which saved the Air Force Reserve Command over \$600 million dollars in training costs.

Colonel Wilburn could not have been such a tremendous leader without the support of his wife of thirteen years, Monica, his daughter Maya, and his son Jason. Colonel Wilburn also owes much of his success to his parents Joe Wilburn, Senior, and his mother Merrie as well as his in-laws, Dudley and JoAnne Latham. We thank them for helping to develop and mold such an outstanding leader for our military.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to Colonel Joe N. Wilburn for his outstanding service to both the United States Air Force and our great nation. We wish him and his family the best of luck as he transitions into retirement. Colonel Wilburn is a true professional and a credit to himself, his family, and the United States Air Force.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the House chamber on Thursday, July 19 to vote on rollcalls 487