

credible scientific findings and as evidenced by the extreme weather events of recent years.

Many faith traditions proclaim our moral obligation to be good stewards of the Earth and the imperative to act upon the climate crisis. It is a call to our shared existence and our interdependence upon God's creation that transcends political considerations. By failing to act on climate change, we unjustifiably cause human suffering and death, which many vulnerable peoples are experiencing now, and which may visit our children and future generations.

It is a call to honor our moral obligation for equity and justice, which can be addressed by shifting to a sustainable, energy efficient and renewable energy economy that will create millions of good jobs and support healthy families and communities. Lastly, it is a call to protect the Earth, which is the source of all life. For, to disrupt the climate that is the cornerstone of all life and to squander the extraordinary abundance of life, diversity, and beauty of the planet is a moral failure of the first order.

I applaud these organizations and communities of faiths who have joined together to advance this critically important issue. I also applaud their commitment to be true to their faith by recognizing that we have a moral obligation to be good stewards of the earth and all of its creatures and processes.

I encourage my colleagues, to safeguard the welfare of the people of the United States by enacting policies that—

reduce energy consumption and increase energy efficiency;

shift the power supply strategy away from oil, coal, and natural gas to wind, solar, geothermal, and other renewable energy sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels;

capture and store carbon by planting and greening urban landscapes and improving land and forest management practices;

help people of the United States and abroad prepare for and withstand the significant impacts of climate change that are already occurring and that are likely to accelerate in years ahead; and

support the prompt introduction and passage of legislation to achieve these goals.

Again, I encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll-call No. 229, I voted incorrectly. I am recorded as a "no." My intent and purpose was to vote "aye," but I voted mistakenly.

HONORING EDDIE "THE POLKA KING" BLAZONCZYK, SR.

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., who

passed away on May 21, 2012 at the age of 70. Mr. Blazonczyk was a Polish-American icon who spread the beauty and joy of polka music around the world.

Mr. Blazonczyk was born the son of Polish immigrants in Chicago on July 12, 1941. His parents owned Polish music clubs in the city, influencing their son to play the accordion, drums, guitar, and bass guitar, and to sing in classic Polka tradition.

Eddie was so versatile and talented that he was signed to play pop music by Mercury Records, even making an appearance on American Bandstand. However, Eddie returned to his polka roots and founded The Versatones, one of the most popular polka bands in the world. Eddie and his band spread his unique Chicago Style polka around the world, introducing the fun music to people of all backgrounds. Eddie would become known as the "Polka King" as he opened one of the most prestigious polka music recording studios in America, Bel-Aire Recordings, in 1963. He then founded the International Polka Association in 1968 to promote the genre of music throughout the world, and is now enshrined in the Association's Hall of Fame.

Eddie played the music he loved with The Versatones until 2001. During his tenure with The Versatones, the band gained many honors including a Grammy Award for Best Polka Album in 1987 with their hit record, Another Polka Celebration. Mr. Blazonczyk was also awarded a National Heritage Fellowship in 1998 for his work in celebrating the art of polka music.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering condolences to Mr. Blazonczyk's family, and to thank Eddie Blazonczyk for spreading his art, his joy, and his passion to generations of polka fans.

TO APPLAUD THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM RECIPIENTS TO THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and to thank them for their contributions to the struggle for civil rights. The Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian honor in the United States, and its very name serves as an important reminder that we owe our freedom to the hard work and sacrifice of these American heroes. Each recipient is a shining example of quiet courage and unwavering dedication to equality. They have used their own personal talents to advance the rights of the disenfranchised, and for that, our nation stands stronger today.

Delores Huerta has spent her entire career in the fight for farm workers' rights and has fiercely defended marginalized populations. From promoting Spanish-language ballots for voters to securing drinking water free from pesticides, Ms. Huerta has demonstrated the incredible power of community organizing and is a leader in a class of her own. Ms. Huerta has made such a tremendous impact on the state of California and across the nation that I have dedicated a separate statement to her.

John Doar served as Assistant Attorney General during the most pivotal years of the Civil Rights Movement. He used his position to bridge the local struggles he witnessed in the south with the national efforts of the federal government. Mr. Doar is remembered for escorting the first African-American student at the University of Mississippi to classes as well as for diffusing an angry mob following the assassination of Medgar Evers. He also helped draft the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He again and again put himself in the line of fire, armed only with a call for nonviolence and justice.

Bob Dylan was the poet laureate of the sixties generation, and his lyrics will forever be ingrained in American history. Through groundbreaking songs like "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Times They Are A-Changing," Mr. Dylan coupled his talents as a songwriter with his visions as an activist. He never caved to outside voices or criticisms, instead remaining steadfast in his quest for truth and justice.

Gordon Hirabayashi was honored posthumously for his actions on behalf of Japanese-Americans during World War II. Mr. Hirabayashi was one of three Americans to defy internment, calling it racial discrimination. He took his case all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled against him. Mr. Hirabayashi waited over forty years for the court to overturn that conviction, but he was not embittered by his struggle. Rather, he saw it as part of a greater mission to uphold the integrity of the U.S. Constitution and ensure that its protections are extended to every American.

Mr. Speaker, this year's award recipients are a personal inspiration to me as well as to millions of other Americans. They have all persevered against fierce opposition, not for their own personal gain but in defense of the core values on which this nation was founded. I would like to personally thank them and am pleased to see them honored with great distinction.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE LOUIS AND BEATRICE LAUFER CENTER

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Doctors Henry and Marsha Laufer and their family for the many outstanding contributions to scientific research and learning on the occasion of the opening of the new Louis and Beatrice Laufer Center for Physical and Quantitative Biology at Stony Brook University in my district.

For more than forty years, the Laufer family has demonstrated an unyielding commitment and tremendous generosity with their time, talents and resources in supporting Stony Brook University. Their influence and many contributions have made an indelible impact on the campus and surrounding community.

Dr. Henry Laufer is a former member of Stony Brook's faculty who won the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship and helped distinguish the Mathematics Department through his breakthrough work on complex variables and algebraic topology. Dr. Marsha Laufer is a

former speech pathologist and research associate professor in the School of Allied Health Professions who directed graduate student research, taught courses in research design and communications disorders, and is a founding member of the Friends of Staller Center Advisory Council.

The culmination of these ongoing efforts is the May 7, 2012 opening of the newly remodeled building to house the Laufer Center on Stony Brook's campus. The Center was established in 2008 in loving memory of Louis and Beatrice Laufer by their children Helen Laufer Kaplan and Howard Kaplan, Jeffrey and Barbara Laufer, and Henry and Marsha Laufer. At that time, Stony Brook University President Shirley Kenny praised the Laufers as "people of remarkable vision and generosity" and recognized the Center's potential to "explore new frontiers in research and education . . . have a profound impact on the future of biomedical research and health care for generations to come."

The Center brings together academic experts and students in math, physics, genetics, biochemistry, engineering, and computer sciences to advance research and innovation that will lead to groundbreaking discoveries in biology and medicine. The Center uses an interdisciplinary approach and involves collaborations among scientists at Stony Brook University, Brookhaven National Laboratory and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory to provide an important interface between the physical and life sciences.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have known the Laufer family for many years and am very proud to call them close friends of mine. They are a great source of inspiration, enthusiasm, and dedication to major advances in research, learning, and a better way of life. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I congratulate the Laufer family for its generosity and outstanding contributions to Stony Brook University and to our community on this occasion marking the opening of the Louis and Beatrice Laufer Center for Physical and Quantitative Biology.

HONORING ODYSSEY OF THE MIND OF CARROLL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Odyssey of the Mind teams of Carroll Senior High School for their winning the state championship in two categories this year.

Odyssey of the Mind is a widespread program for students that develops team problem-solving and creative thinking. Grouped into teams, students spend many weeks working on solutions to long-term problems which they then present at competitions along with a short-term problem and solution that they are given at the competitions. Odyssey fosters creativity by allowing students to choose from problems that each have multiple possible solutions.

There were 115 teams participating in the Texas state competition this year and Carroll Senior High produced two teams that won

state titles. Ann Dahl, Allison Newman, Braden Anderson, Christie Ballew, Spencer Lankford, Mackenzie Murphy and Jack Veenker earned the state title for Vehicular Problem-Solving and also the award for Most Creative team. The team was led by coaches Megan Anderson, Carl Anderson, and Shauna Newman. A second team, comprised of Jenna Buckley, Nico Scalzo, Emilie Featherston, Nathalie Scherer, Annie Newman, and Lindsey Weiss, won the state title for Technical Problem-Solving. Their coaches were Cindy Featherston and Micki Scalzo. In the course of their accomplishments, these students developed and demonstrated skills in creativity, dialogue, and teamwork.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Carroll Senior High School Odyssey of the Mind Teams for their respective titles at the Texas state competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 30, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on vote No. 294 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5651, as amended); "yes" on vote No. 295 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4201); and "yes" on vote No. 296 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 915, as amended).

RECOGNIZING THE KEEP PRINCE WILLIAM BEAUTIFUL VOLUNTEERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteers of Keep Prince William Beautiful.

Keep Prince William's objective is to protect the environment. Through the implementation of six programs, the overall focus is on three areas of environmental stewardship: litter removal, recycling education, and water quality initiatives. The six programs include:

Volunteer Storm Drain Initiative, Adopt-A-Spot Program, Volunteer Speakers Bureau, Fall and Spring Cleanup, Litter Survey, Community Cleanup.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of volunteers for Keep Prince William Beautiful:

Barbara Bell, Starbucks-Hoadly Road, Tawnia Jeffery, JoAnn Sherrill, Ron Haynes, Meagan Andrews, Vic Doppee, Delores Gee, Tina McCoy, American Red Cross Youth Task Force, Robert Duecaster, Antoinette Chaisson, Stanley Mahdi, Leigh-Anne Vaughn, Thomas Davis, Sam Shankar, Mary Johnson, Frank Simms, Ed Howell, Allyson Avery, David Mercer, Barbara Conrad, Eric VanNortwick, Minister Spann, Connie Moser, Richard Grant,

Linda Gosnell, James Faison, Gwen Bourke, Joel Contrucci, Randy Baum, Joyce Jolly, Ruth Baxter, Heather Abney, Mark Clark, Jim Hollis, Sunset Lions Club, Abdul Hayee, Jay Leach, Robert Mancini, Pete Mason, Sonia Wood, Gar-Field HS Ecology Club, Marie Vayer, Zoe Vitter, Linda Seemen, Marie Alarcon, Andrew Chung, Diane Puckett, New Life Anointed Ministries International, Brenda Jenkins, LaToya Boyd, Joy Weaver, Misty Hayes-Lee, Nicole Brown, Jacqueline Freeman, Kim Silver, LaLinda McMillon Street, Kelly Easterly, Board President, Delain Moyers, Vice President Connie Moser, Kim Sawicki, William Smith, David Brown, Susan Johnson, Anthony King, Donny Gray, Josh Clark, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Peter Lineberry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the volunteers of Keep Prince William Beautiful and in thanking them for their dedication.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, there are few things that anger me more than when Members of this body claim that a piece of legislation will accomplish something that it simply will not accomplish. That is certainly the case with H.R. 3541—a bill that my friends on the other side of the aisle claim will prevent sex-selection abortions and will ensure that the United States does not become a supposed "safe-haven" for women seeking an abortion based on the sex of the pregnancy.

The issue of sex-selection is a very real issue in different nations around the globe. However, even leading international health experts in this field agree that the solution does not lie in criminalizing the practice, which would only keep it behind closed doors. The solution lies in addressing the social, economic, political and cultural factors that create, sustain and exacerbate sex inequality in the first place; the very inequalities that lead to sex-selection in the first place.

Unfortunately, this bill will not achieve any of the claims from my friends on the other side of the aisle and this will certainly will nothing to reduce sex discrimination and gender inequality.

What this bill will do, however, is to exacerbate the unfortunate impacts of sex discrimination and gender inequality by leading to greater stigmatization of women and especially Asian-American women who exercise their choice and control over their reproductive lives. And, there is nothing about that suggests or reflects any intention or hope of fighting back against gender discrimination. What this bill also will do is to restrict access to legal and safe abortion services, violate the very-important doctor-patient relationship and needlessly threaten healthcare providers with civil and criminal liability unless they report any suspicions they have about a woman's reason for exercising her right as a human being to control her body.

It is evident that this legislation has nothing to do with empowering women here or around