

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ACADEMIC COMPETITION RESOLUTION OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, as an original co-sponsor of the Academic Competition Resolution (H. Res 77), I rise to express my strong support for the Congressional Academic Competition for STEM Education. I believe this new and innovative program promotes entrepreneurship while engaging students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

With the increasing demand for students to focus on STEM fields, it is important for students to get involved, compete, and further their scientific knowledge. This Congressional competition will prepare future generations to better understand the world and technological progress. Since technology evolves rapidly, this competition reflects the fast pace of developments in these cutting edge fields.

The Congressional Academic Competition for STEM will first focus on developing mobile applications for phones, tablets and other computer devices. As time progresses, it has been constructed to evolve to meet future STEM needs whether it be technological applications or future inventions.

I am excited to see what students across America will invent and I look forward to the creative breakthroughs and scientific advancements this competition will fuel. I encourage my colleagues to support this initiative, which seeks to inspire our future generations to lead through innovation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BURBANK COORDINATING COUNCIL'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Burbank Coordinating Council as it celebrates its eightieth anniversary.

Since 1933, the Burbank Coordinating Council—comprised of volunteers from city departments, businesses, PTAs, service organizations, and schools—has been dedicated to serving the needs of Burbank by creating numerous programs to benefit the community.

The Burbank Coordinating Council founded many programs to serve the community, including the school crossing guards program called "Safety Sallies," community forums to allow the residents' voices to be heard regarding public issues, Senior and Youth boards to better understand the needs of seniors and youth, Foster Home Studies, and Books for Korea.

In 1936, the Burbank Coordinating Council began a program to provide scholarships to needy children from low-income families to attend a week of resident or day camp during summer. This camp experience gives children an opportunity to make new friends, build self-confidence, relax and, of course, "just be kids." Today, the Burbank Coordinating Council sends anywhere from 50 to 200 children to camp each year.

Since 1946, the Burbank Coordinating Council has prepared and delivered hundreds of Christmas baskets to families in need throughout the City of Burbank. These baskets, filled with food and gifts, are assembled with love and with the goal of making a positive difference in peoples' lives. This effort has grown tremendously over time, from serving a few families when it first began to now serving over 550 families annually, in what is now called "Holiday Baskets".

This remarkable organization always lends a helping hand to those in need of food, shelter, counseling, or other assistance. The time, energy and resources that the volunteers of the Burbank Coordinating Council provide to the City of Burbank is extraordinary, and so many needy residents have benefited greatly from the generosity of the Burbank Coordinating Council. I ask all Members to join with me in commending the Burbank Coordinating Council for eighty years of dedicated service to the City of Burbank.

HONORING THE LIFE OF E. WILLIAM MILLER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Mr. E. William Miller, who passed away last Friday, February 22nd, 2013 at the age of 86. A family man and veteran who served many years as the chairman of the Town of Tonawanda's Youth, Parks and Recreation Department, Bill dedicated his career to bringing quality public facilities and activities to the people of Tonawanda.

Bill was born in Buffalo, New York, on May 4th, 1926, and lived most of his childhood in Kenmore. Upon graduating in 1944 from the newly built Kenmore High School, he was drafted to serve our country in World War II.

While in the Army, Bill fought in Belgium, France, and Germany, rising to the rank of staff sergeant before his discharge in 1946. During his first summer home from battle, he met his future wife, Barbara Frost, at Crystal Beach, a popular summer retreat for Western New Yorkers in Ontario, Canada. Bill and Barbara married in 1950.

After graduating from Hobart College in 1951, Bill accepted a job installing telephone poles for the New York Telephone Company, and the couple moved to Dunkirk. Five years later, they returned to the Buffalo area, and

built their first and only home in 1958. There, on Abbington Avenue in the Town of Tonawanda, they raised three children, and lived together until Barbara passed away in 2006.

In 1973, Bill began his tenure on the Tonawanda Town Board, serving as chairman of the Youth, Parks, and Recreation Department. As a councilman, he was innovative both in vision and method, working tirelessly to bring progressive, utilitarian recreational facilities and programs to Tonawanda. Inspired by his family summers at Crystal Beach, Bill believed that all people, not just country-club members, should have access to high-quality recreational facilities. He understood that spaces for public recreation form the fabric of close-knit communities by giving neighbors opportunities to come together.

Bill was instrumental in countless projects, including adding roofs to the Lincoln and Brighton ice arenas, replacing a deteriorating pool with the new Aquatic and Fitness Center, the Senior Citizens Center on Ensminger Road, the construction of a boat launch and docks on the Niagara River, the Paddock Golf Dome, a driving range, and lighted baseball fields. Over his years of service, he earned the nickname "Mr. Recreation" from his colleagues for his inimitable work. By the time he retired in 2002, Bill was deputy town supervisor.

In addition to his time on the town board, Bill worked in the credit department at National Gypsum and as an administrator at many area hospitals. His devotion to good works extended to his personal life. He was a founding member and strong supporter of the Ken-Ton YMCA, and a lifelong member of the Deerhurst Presbyterian Church. Politically, he was a long-time member of the Ken-Ton Republican Party.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in expressing our deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Mr. Bill Miller, especially his daughter, Lynda Vandermeer, and son, Gary. Like so many of his neighbors and friends, I am grateful for his many years of service to the Town of Tonawanda and Western New York.

SHELBY V. HOLDER AND THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, today the Supreme Court heard arguments in Shelby County, Alabama vs. Holder. This case presents a direct threat to Section Five of the Voting Rights Acts of 1965—the most effective civil rights legislation ever enacted by Congress.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed just one year after I graduated high school.

I was born and raised in El Paso, Texas, and I vividly remember the days of Jim Crow, segregation, and the poll tax.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Even now, in 2012, discrimination is still haunting us.

It's not in the form of a poll tax, but it's in the cost of waiting in line for 7, 8, 9 hours just to vote.

We should be making it easier for everyone to participate in the democratic process, not harder.

We still need the Voting Rights Act.

We still need to be vigilant about protecting our full democratic right to vote.

That right is the heart and soul of our democracy, and we must defend it.

We will not go back.

Should the Supreme Court rule against the Justice Department and overturn this important legislation, minority communities will lose these vital voting protections.

Today, I attended a rally with my colleagues in the Congressional Black, Hispanic, and Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucuses outside the Supreme Court as oral arguments are delivered.

Many of us were part of the 390–33 majority—along with 98 Senators—who voted to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act in 2006.

After an exhaustive review that lasted almost a year, including 21 hearings, testimony from over 90 witnesses, and over 15,000 pages of evidence, Congress came to a nearly unanimous decision that protections are still needed to preserve the voting rights of ALL Americans.

After all, it is this right that lies at the very heart of our democracy.

The Voting Rights Act is routinely used to protect voters against efforts to dilute or suppress their vote. Section five is a critical tool to protect Americans whose voting rights continue to be threatened to this day. I am certain that the Supreme Court will uphold the will of Congress, and respect the overwhelming evidence and comprehensive review that led to President George W. Bush reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act in 2006.

Voting is at the heart of our democracy and we must constantly fight to protect it when it is threatened.

We have come a long way because of the work and sacrifice of millions who came before.

We encourage and support democratic movements around the world, yet here in our country these rights are being eroded each and every day.

Far too many have shed their blood and shed their tears.

So we must protect the most valuable right, the most central right, the right that makes America the nation that it is: the right to vote.

I call on every American to stand up and join us in the call to protect the right of every American to cast their vote.

As our great Drum Major for Justice, Dr. King once said: "Voting is the foundation stone for political action." Truly, our votes are the bedrock of democracy. We will not bow to voter suppression. These are our rights. We will not budge.

As we pursue the Founding Father's vision of a more perfect union, I am proud to stand with my Congressional Black Caucus colleagues in defense of this critical tool for our democratic republic.

HONORING KARI GRACE MORK

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor a mother and her child.

A member of my staff recently gave birth to her daughter, who had a fatal birth defect and could not survive outside of the womb.

This absolutely devastating condition unfortunately happens to many children each year. We rarely hear of these cases, though, because such pregnancies are often terminated.

But there are also many mothers who choose to carry their sons and daughters to term—providing nourishment and the most loving home possible here on earth.

This child had a name—Kari Grace. And she had a mom, Kirsten, and dad, David.

That is why I am sharing this story today—so that other women might hear it, and might feel that they are not alone, and know that caring for their child is an act of pure, unselfish love worthy of recognition.

Most of us will never meet these children. But they exist, and we will forever be touched by the grace of knowing that a life was created and a mother was made.

Thank you, Kirsten, for displaying such strength and love to a world that doesn't always recognize it. And to Kari Grace—please know you created a great mom, and that you will always be loved and remembered.

REMEMBERING THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the 21st Anniversary of the Khojaly Tragedy, which occurred in this small town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan on February 25–26, 1992. In the early 1990s, Azerbaijan was involved in a brutal conflict with its neighbor to the West, Armenia, and the repercussions from atrocities committed during that time still impact diplomatic and economic relations today. The Khojaly Tragedy is perhaps the worst single incident that occurred during this time, resulting in hundreds of lives lost, families devastated, and the town destroyed.

Since a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, these two nations have been locked in a dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, located within Azerbaijan but occupied by Armenian forces. The Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which the United States is a co-chair, was created to encourage a peaceful, negotiated resolution to this conflict, yet work remains in reaching this goal.

In December 2012, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Mammadyarov addressed this situation as follows: "As a result, our relations with Armenia are practically nonexistent. There is also a distinct lack of economic cooperation and trade between our two countries. Azerbaijan wants peace so that we can continue to

grow our economy, develop our energy resources and advance our relations with Europe and our neighbors. But Armenia also has a stake in peace with Azerbaijan. The country is isolated in the region largely because of this conflict. It is excluded from all regional infrastructure and energy projects, such as the oil and gas pipelines passing from the Caspian Sea to Turkey and Europe via Georgia, as well as a new railroad line between Azerbaijan and Turkey through Georgia, to be inaugurated this year. When we can agree on lasting peace, Armenia could become a stakeholder in these regional projects."

A peaceful resolution of this conflict would benefit not only Azerbaijan and Armenia, but would ensure security and economic growth for the South Caucasus region.

RECOGNIZING HEATHER ERICKSON AS THE 2013 OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Heather Erickson as the 2013 Okaloosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year. For eight years, Ms. Erickson has been an inspiration to her students, her colleagues, and her community, and I am honored to recognize her success and myriad of achievements.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in Education from William Smith College in 2005, Ms. Erickson moved to Northwest Florida to begin her teaching career. After teaching kindergarten and second grade at Holley-Navarre Primary School for six years, Ms. Erickson joined Elliot Point Elementary School, where she currently serves as a kindergarten teacher.

Northwest Florida has been blessed with an abundance of exemplary educators who teach students of all ages. As a kindergarten teacher, Ms. Erickson understands and values the critical role she plays in the journey and development of her young students. Throughout her teaching career, Ms. Erickson has shown an unwavering commitment to inspiring her students and pushing them to their highest potential. Most recently, she has demonstrated her leadership as Data Team leader, and she has made a tremendous impact on Elliot Point Elementary.

Outside of her classroom, Ms. Erickson dedicates her time and teaching experience to mentor other teachers and support school activities. In addition to her involvement at Elliot Point Elementary, Ms. Erickson is a member of the Okaloosa County Educators Association, as well as, the National Educators Association.

Ms. Erickson has been widely recognized and honored for her years of exemplary work, dedication, and inspiration as an educator. She was awarded both the Holley-Navarre Primary School Teacher of the Year, as well as, the Elliot Point Teacher of the Year. In both 2007 and 2009, Ms. Erickson was a recipient of the Santa Rosa Education Foundation Grant, which she utilized to improve the reading and math curricula in the community.