

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF ROBERT COCHRAN

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2013

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Robert Cochran upon his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives. Bob has dedicated his life to public service. He came to the U.S. House of Representatives in October 1989. During his time Bob has reported the Joint Session speeches of Queen Elizabeth II, Boris Yeltsin, a State of the Union speech by President Bill Clinton, and the post-9/11 speech of President George W. Bush.

Bob was born into a family of court reporters. His grandfather founded and operated a court reporting school in St. Paul, Minnesota. He taught stenotype to Bob's father, Robert Cochran, who later became an Official Reporter with the House of Representatives from 1964 to 1984. Bob's father was the first machine stenographer to report on the House Floor.

Bob first began his work for the federal government as a GS-2 file clerk for the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. He began his court reporting career as a freelance reporter for Alderson Reporting in Washington, D.C., where he reported government agency hearings for the Federal Communications Commission, Federal Trade Commission, and National Institutes of Health. He also covered congressional hearings for Alderson.

In 1971, Bob moved to American Samoa to serve as court reporter for the High Court in Pago Pago. It was while he was in American Samoa that he met his wife, Mona.

Bob and Mona returned to the continental United States in 1975. Bob began working as a free-lance reporter then went on to serve as an Official Reporter with the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland, and later the Circuit Court for Wicomico County, Maryland, until he joined the U.S. House of Representatives. Bob earned a BS in Business Administration from Salisbury State University, Salisbury, Maryland, in 1983.

Bob is an avid photographer and runner, having completed several marathons and ultra-marathons (50-milers). He coached Little League and was a member of the Lions Club. He currently serves as an Official Reporter to House Committees, where he covers open and classified hearings and interviews, as well as Leadership press conferences.

Bob is the proud father of four children and has eight grandchildren.

Upon his retirement on June 2, 2014, Bob will leave behind a legacy that will permeate throughout the House for years to come. Through his dedication to this institution, Bob will always be a part of this nation's history. His talent and his wry humor will be missed.

SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY  
THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER  
SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to amend the Charter School Program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965:

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Chair, today, I rise to oppose H.R. 10 the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act, which reauthorizes the charter school program in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

While I recognize that there are public charter schools that are providing students quality public education, I reject the notion that we have to accept inequity between public charter schools and the rest of the public school system. While H.R. 10 does begin to address some of the inequities, it does not go far enough in leveling the playing field between public charter schools and the public non-charter schools—where the overwhelming majority of our children are educated.

Charter accountability, transparency and financial oversight are not sufficiently addressed in H.R. 10, yet they are the cornerstones of inequity between public charter and public non-charter schools. However, through the amendments process, I tried to strengthen the bill.

One of my amendments would have increased financial oversight by limiting the compensation of charter school administrators. Under this amendment, charter school administrators' could not be compensated at a rate higher than the highest paid education official in the state. For New York, that would mean that public charter school administrators could be paid no more than John King, the New York State Commissioner of Education, whose salary is \$212,500 per year. This amendment was inspired by a 2013 New York Daily News article which noted that many of the city's charter schools' administrators earned significantly more than the Chancellor of New York City schools. I believe that public charter school resources should be focused on classroom instruction, not exuberant salaries. Unfortunately, this amendment was rejected by the Republicans.

I also tried to increase charter accountability by submitting an amendment requiring charter schools to disclose their student retention rates. In Brooklyn, where families have many charter school choices, it can sometimes be difficult to differentiate between the schools. Parents who are trying to decide where their children should attend school need to have comprehensive information on the performance of public charter schools in their area. Knowing the student retention rate for public

charter schools would enable parents and government officials to reach informed decisions about the performance of public charter schools.

Ironically, even the fact that we are reauthorizing charter schools today is yet another example of the inequity between public charter and public non-charter schools. This bill will likely move forward in the Senate, whereas the Elementary and Secondary School Act, which reauthorizes public non-charter schools, languishes in the Senate.

Though my student retention rate amendment was incorporated into the bill, I remain in strong opposition to this bill because it does not go far enough in achieving parity between public charter schools and public non-charter schools.

There are over 49.5 million public school students in America. Public non-charter schools continue to educate the vast majority of students in America. Therefore, we must improve and strengthen public education, so that our children will be able to successfully compete and thrive in a 21st century global economy. To accomplish this both public non-charter and public charter schools must peacefully, co-exist on equitable grounds. No equity will exist until public charter and public non-charter schools have the same accountability, transparency and financial oversight requirements. Otherwise, our children and ultimately our society will continue to suffer the cost of doing nothing.

As the debate regarding the challenges between public charter and public non-charter schools rages on, I hope that policy makers will devote significant time, energy and resources to address issues of inequity.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE BRIAN  
MERRICK

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Brian Merrick of Orleans District Court upon his retirement.

Judge Merrick first took up his gavel over twenty-five years ago in Lynn, but transferred to Orleans in idyllic Cape Cod a little over a decade ago. By his own accord, he quickly became accustomed to life on the Cape. Known for his sharp legal mind, strong wit, and habit of wearing bow ties and boat shoes underneath his judicial robes, Judge Merrick has been admired by many throughout his career. He was appointed First Justice of Orleans District Court in 2013, an honor that aptly reflected his many years of service to the Commonwealth. His fellow judges, courthouse employees, and many others who have worked with him throughout the years agree that he will be sorely missed as he steps down from this position.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Judge Brian Merrick upon his retirement. I ask

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

that my colleagues join me in wishing him the very best in his future endeavors.

## HONORING ISRAEL'S 66TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the state of Israel and its people on the 66th anniversary of Israel's founding.

Israel is the only stable democracy in the Middle East and the United States' closest ally and friend. Our relationship, built on trust, shared values and a common experience, serves to advance the cause of democracy and freedom worldwide.

Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people. It has been the spiritual center for Jews for thousands of years. In recent years, Israel has become a hub of technology and innovation. In 66 short years, the Jewish people have built a thriving economy in the shadow of their ancient ruins.

Last month, I stood at the Babi Yar memorial in Ukraine. Alone at the site of a massacre with only a yahrtzeit candle flickering, where Einsatzgruppen killed tens of thousands of Jews, I reflected on my heritage. My four grandparents were from Ukraine, and I've often thought that if it weren't for their foresight in leaving Ukraine when they did, I would never have been born. I reflected on the thousands who have been killed because of their faith.

While Israel was not founded because of the Holocaust, the Holocaust is a powerful reminder of what the world could look like without a safe haven for the Jewish people. Israel is its own protector and the United States must stand with Israel as Israel seeks to defend itself against existential threats.

As we celebrate Israel's Independence Day, we also remember those who have fallen in service to their country. I am proud to stand here in celebration of the freedoms that Israel stands for.

## SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to amend the Charter School Program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965:

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chair, today I rise in support of the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act, H.R. 10. I believe it is imperative that America provide high-quality public education so that our students can succeed and compete in the global economy. I am a strong supporter of public education, from early education programs such as Head Start and Pre-K to higher edu-

cation and career and technical education. As we look to improve educational outcomes, we cannot overlook the promise of innovative teaching practices and charter schools.

This new authorization of the Charter School Program makes important improvements to the existing charter school framework. In particular, I support provisions to aid in the dissemination of best practices from charter schools to other public schools, and the updated language that helps extend the reach of charter schools into communities that are currently underserved, including minorities and those with special needs.

However, the underlying bill is not perfect. While one of the founding ideas behind charter schools is to reduce red tape and let educators take the reins, there have been worrying reports of gross mismanagement and embezzlement of public funds by some charter school staff, which requires some attention. I think the amendment offered by Representative CASTOR goes some way to addressing this issue, which would require the Department of Education to develop and publish regulations addressing conflicts of interest surrounding charter schools.

In addition, I support the amendments offered by Representative JACKSON LEE and Representative BONAMICI respectively, which would increase the information available to parents and the public related to attendance of charter schools, and the efforts in disseminating and implementing best practices across the public school spectrum.

There is more work to be done improving our education system, but we must be mindful not to create a two-tiered public school system. I hope H.R. 10 provides the intended improvements to charter schools, and the public education system as a whole.

## IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL AS- SOCIATION OF POLICE OFFICERS' 2014 TOP COPS WINNERS FROM MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2014*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the twenty-one law enforcement officers from Massachusetts honored by the National Association of Police Officers' 2014 Top Cops Award.

These brave officers have gone well beyond the call of duty in order to protect our citizens and keep us safe. I am proud to know that these officers are working to protect us and would like to express my gratitude for their service by presenting their names:

Boston Police Department: Police Officer Omar Borges, Detective Kenneth M. Conley, Police Officer Gregory R. Eunis, Police Officer Jarrod Gero, Police Officer Jean Gerard JeanLouis, Detective John B. Joyce, Police Officer Terence Long, Police Officer Gregory McCormick, Police Officer Richard G. Moriarty, Police Officer John Moynihan, Police Officer John M. Noberini, Police Officer Jason A. Nuñez, Police Officer Scott Pulchansingh, Detective Joseph G. Scaringello, Police Officer Dennis O. Simmonds, Police Officer Walter J. Suprey, and Sergeant Detective Kevin E. Waggett.

Massachusetts State Police: Trooper Christopher J. Dumont.

Watertown Police Department: Police Officer Miguel A. Colon, Jr.; Police Officer Michael W. Comick; Sergeant John C.P. MacLellan; Police Officer Timothy B. Menton; Sergeant Jeffrey J. Pugliese; Police Officer Joseph Reynolds, and Police Officer Jean S. Sarkissian.

Many of these officers were on duty during the Boston Marathon bombings last year, and the search for the perpetrators that followed the bombings. These courageous men embody the best ideals of our country, and have dedicated their lives to our security.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to recognize these officers and the incredible work they have done in the past year, and, indeed, every day. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing these officers and their role in protecting our citizens.

## STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2014*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would make a simple modification to the Civil Monetary Penalty Law. The modification will ensure that physicians and hospitals can align incentives, which is especially important since they are being called upon to do this more often in the pursuit of providing improved care at a lower cost. In the movement to replace fee for service medicine with a model that emphasizes quality, this legislation will facilitate relationships that will allow movement in this direction. The modification will ensure that the penalties for the Civil Monetary Penalty Law are fully retained; the modification makes no change to the penalties prescribed under the law. However, the modification will allow hospitals and physicians to enter into relationships designed to decrease the provision of medically unnecessary services. This legislation recognizes that in the new delivery system models, the emphasis should be on reducing the provision of medically unnecessary services for patients. After all, such services do not serve the patient—who may suffer from hospital acquired infections, if kept in the hospital longer than necessary, for example. Such services also are not in furtherance of the goal of operating a more efficient, higher quality health care system. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

## HONORING MAYOR PETER A. CANTU'S 40TH YEAR IN PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. RUSH HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2014*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and accomplishments of Mayor Peter A. Cantu, who has served with distinction as a member of the governing body of Plainsboro, New Jersey for the past 40 years and has been a leader in municipal governance for the entire state of New Jersey.

Peter Cantu was a teenager when his family relocated to Plainsboro over 50 years ago. At