

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

—
SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5 The Student Success Act. I rise in opposition to this bill because education is a civil right. The Elementary and Secondary Schools Act, also known as ESEA, was initially passed in 1965 as part of President Johnson's "War on Poverty." President Johnson understood that without a good education, economic stability was impossible and poverty inevitable.

The goal of the original ESEA was to provide a fair and equitable education to every child in America. Unfortunately, H.R. 5 is neither fair nor equitable. This bill creates the warped concept of Title I Portability, which would shift resources from poor school districts such as the ones in my district of Brooklyn, New York to wealthier communities. Children in poor districts stand to lose upward of \$85 per student, while children in wealthier communities would gain an average of \$290 dollars per student.

It ends the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program, among 70 other programs also slated for elimination. You would think that with the rise in school shootings and rampant school violence, that if we ever needed a Safe and Drug Free School Program it would be now.

It also eliminates Title III, which helped to ensure that English Language Learners attain English proficiency. H.R. 5 not only figuratively, but also literally, silences the voices of our Hispanic students and in doing so relegates them to a life of inequity and poverty.

Under H.R. 5, New York State is projected to receive \$1.52 billion in 2016 and \$6.943 billion over the 2016–2021 period. This is \$46 million less in 2016 and \$606 million less over the 2016–2021 period than under the President Obama's budget. In fact, my district of Brooklyn, New York is in Kings County. Kings County, with a poverty rate of 33.3 percent, will see a \$39.9 million cut in Title I funding under this bill.

Today, we Democrats are shining a light on H.R. 5 so that America can see how ugly, dangerous and divisive this bill really is. And just like during the civil rights movement, we won't back down! We won't give up! We will fight until every child in America—Black, Brown, Asian or White—has a fair, equitable, and quality public school education—because Education is a Civil Right.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF JOE VIOLENTE TO OUR GREAT NATION AND HER WARRIOR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on July 31, our Nation's veterans will lose one of their strongest advocates when Joe Violante retires as the National Legislative Director for the Disabled American Veterans at DAV's National Service and Legislative Headquarters here in Washington, DC.

A New Jersey native, Mr. Violante joined the Marine Corps in 1969. He served with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines and Battalion Landing Team 2/4 in Southeast Asia where he was injured. After being discharged in 1972 with the rank of sergeant, Mr. Violante received a bachelor's degree in history and political science from the University of New Mexico, and eventually earned his law degree from San Fernando Valley College of Law, in California. Following private practice in California, Mr. Violante began working as a VA Staff Attorney at the Board of Veterans' Appeals in 1985. But Joe felt he could better-serve veterans by working for an organization that advocates for veterans.

Leaving the VA, Mr. Violante joined DAV's professional staff as Staff Counsel/Judicial Appeals Representative at the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in 1990. Following his time at the Board, Mr. Violante was appointed Legislative Counsel for DAV in 1992 and was later promoted to Deputy National Legislative Director in 1996 and Legislative Director in 1997. In addition to his work at DAV, Mr. Violante has served on numerous boards and committees.

Mr. Violante served as a member of the Board of the National Foundation for Women Legislators from 2001 to 2009 and a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Circuit Bar Association from 2001 to 2004. Additionally, Mr. Violante co-hosted "Veterans' Forum," a local cable television program dedicated to veterans' issues from 1991 to 1994; chaired the Veterans Appeals' Committee and Legislative Committee of the Federal Circuit Bar Association from 1992 to 1996 and 1997 to 2001, respectively; was vice-chair of the American Bar Association Coordinating Committee on Veterans Benefits and Services from 1991 to 1994; and at-large member of the Board of Governors of the Veterans' Law Committee of the Federal Bar Association from 1992 to 1993.

Mr. Speaker, it would be a challenge to find someone who has done more as an advocate for veterans than Mr. Joe Violante. So, in the long-standing tradition of the Navy and Marine Corps, I wish Joe and his family fair winds and following seas. Bravo Zulu Marine.

IN HONOR OF MIKE ROOS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished public service career of our friend, Mr. Mike Roos. I had the great honor of working with Mike as colleagues in the California State Assembly along with several other current and former members of this House. I count myself fortunate to call him a good friend. After many years of public service, Mike is retiring from Mike Roos and Company, the public affairs firm that he founded in 1999, and turning to the next chapter of his life.

The firm that Mike shaped specializes in government relations, corporate issues management, media relations, and ballot measure campaigns. Prior to establishing Mike Roos and Company, Mike served as President and CEO of the Los Angeles Alliance for Restructuring Now, a coalition of business and civic leaders from the Los Angeles Area dedicated to implementing systemic reform and restructuring within the Los Angeles Unified School District. His significant efforts in this capacity have undoubtedly changed countless lives of children in the Los Angeles area for the better.

Mike's distinguished Assembly career began in 1977. He earned the love and respect of both his Democratic and Republican colleagues. His own caucus chose him Majority Floor Leader in his second term, a position he held until his 1987 election as Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore. He had the reputation as a genuine legislator—someone who used the power of lawmaking to make the lives of the People of California better. Perhaps his most well known achievement is the Mello Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 and the Roberti-Roos Weapons Control Act of 1989. Mike authored the finest and strictest laws to date protecting the confidentiality of HIV patients, as well as the law creating the Alternative Test Sites Program, which established centers where individuals could receive free, anonymous testing for the AIDS antibody. He consistently fought for a better education for all, authoring legislation prohibiting sex discrimination in California's educational institutions.

Prior to his election to the State Assembly, Mike served as the Executive Director of the Coro Foundation, a leadership training program for future leaders in public service. Thanks to his substantial experience and insight, he continues to be a valuable consultant to civic and educational organizations, speaking on topics ranging from education reform to the legislative process in California politics.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in thanking Mike for his years of service on behalf of the people of California. I know he looks forward to spending more time with his family in this next chapter of his life, including his four daughters Shelby, Melissa,

● 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.

Catherine, and Caroline. I wish him nothing but success and happiness.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN NEWBY ON HIS PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian C. Newby on his promotion to the rank of Major General, United States Air Force.

I have known Major General Newby for many years and have the honor of calling him my friend. He is a man of integrity and kindness. He is the epitome of what a General should be.

Major General Newby was born in Dayton, Ohio, but attended Western Hills High School in Fort Worth. He was commissioned in 1983 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force ROTC program at Texas Tech University and earned a law degree from the University of Texas Law School in 1986.

For more than 25 years he has been a true National Guardsman, serving his country while also working at senior positions in government and at a top legal firm.

He served as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of the Texas Air National Guard before being promoted to Brigadier General.

Major General Newby also served as Chief of Staff to former Texas Governor Rick Perry and in that capacity co-chaired the State of Texas' recovery efforts following Hurricane Ike. He also served as the Governor's General Counsel before being appointed to serve as Chief of Staff.

He currently holds an Of Counsel position at Canley Hanger, LLP of Fort Worth while also maintaining his own legal practice.

Major General Newby has been and continues to be an incredible public servant.

RECOGNIZING PAUL GROMOSIAK FOR HIS SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO THE NIAGARA FALLS COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor Mr. Paul Gromosiak for his passionate support of and commitment to the City of Niagara Falls and Niagara Falls State Park. As a tribute to his hard work and dedication, a monument will be placed at Heritage Park commemorating his impact on the community.

As a committed life-long Western New Yorker, Mr. Gromosiak has inspired countless individuals who have come to visit the Niagara Falls State Park. He graduated from Niagara University with a B.S. in Chemistry and went on to receive a permanent certification in mathematics as well as in chemistry and general science from the State University of New York.

Mr. Gromosiak has spent countless hours walking the park and helping visitors learn

more about the nation's oldest park. Moreover, he has authored numerous books about the place that means so much to him. In addition to being a well-respected historian, he is also an engaging teacher and a dedicated leader in the community. He worked as a chemistry teacher in the Niagara Falls School District as well as a chemist for both the Eastman Kodak Company and the Hooker Chemical Company.

Mr. Gromosiak is frequently interviewed by national and local media for his insight on the history and continued progress of Niagara Falls. In 1989, Mr. Gromosiak appeared on the CBS program "America Tonight" for a special segment on the environment surrounding Niagara Falls. He served as a guest columnist for The Buffalo News and The Niagara Gazette. Furthermore, he was consulted in 1993 by Canada's weekly news magazine MacLean's for information on the storied custom of honeymooning in the Falls. In 1997, he was featured in the PBS documentary "Fading in the Mist," speaking about efforts to maintain the natural environment of Niagara Falls. Mr. Gromosiak also contributed to a web page on the history of Niagara Falls.

Mr. Gromosiak has been an avid fighter for the City of Niagara Falls and has championed projects such as the Niagara Experience Center as well as the relocation of the Stone Chimney. His ideas have sparked interest in and made the region's history more accessible to the public, as exemplified by his emphasis on history as an experience.

Family and friends of Mr. Gromosiak can attend the event to unveil the monument in his honor. It takes place on Friday, July 10th at 11pm at Heritage Park on Main and Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize Mr. Paul Gromosiak. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Gromosiak for his vital influence on the City of Niagara Falls, the State Park, and the community. His outstanding impact is derived from a deep understanding of the region's rich history, an innovative vision for its future, and a passion for its success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPE, ISLANDS AND SOUTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Cape, Islands and Southeast Massachusetts Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Established in 1915, this Chapter of the American Red Cross of Massachusetts has served as a lifeline within our community—responding to the needs of residents and visitors alike by providing food, shelter and other disaster assistance in emergencies, teaching life-saving skills, and organizing blood drives. The Cape, Islands, and Southeast Chapter reaches a population of more than 1.2 million people across Barnstable, Bristol, Plymouth, Nantucket and Dukes counties and saves millions more from suffering the harm or loss of a loved one.

The American Red Cross of Massachusetts has served as a pillar for our community

through the world's most trying times and through local and regional challenges. During the First World War, the Red Cross notably sent nurses to treat recovering soldiers and undertook initiatives such as knitting over 90,000 pairs of socks and treating the sick infected with influenza during the height of the epidemic. In 1955 when Hurricanes Edna, Carol and Hazel hit Massachusetts the Chapter provided shelter and food services to over 200 people across Cape Cod. By 1991, the number of people it was able to provide shelter to had increased to 17,000. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks the Chapter's blood drives was inundated with willing volunteers that individuals were asked to return at a later date. Chapter volunteers responded once again when Hurricane Katrina struck the shores of the southern United States by sending volunteers down to the areas hardest hit. And, most recently, when tragedy struck closer to home at the Boston Marathon in 2013, Chapter volunteers were quick to become involved in relief efforts.

Furthermore, this Chapter has a global reach. Volunteers have gone on to serve in the International Red Cross across the globe, from war-torn Afghanistan to impoverished African nations. Chapter volunteers exemplify the Red Cross' mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. I am proud of the work they have done in Southeast Massachusetts and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Cape, Islands and Southeast Massachusetts Chapter of the American Red Cross. I take comfort knowing that this Chapter will remain a vital humanitarian organization in not only the Commonwealth, but across the nation and the world, for generations to come.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, this amendment is critically important. The designation of the Northern Long Eared Bat as threatened has had a significant impact on the Ninth District of Georgia, despite the fact that the only evidence it is there is a geo-tagged dot on a map.

These bats are listed as threatened because White Nose Syndrome has led to a drastic decline in their population. Humans don't cause White Nose Syndrome but they are being penalized for it. There are some counties in my district where the bat has never been seen, but because they're in the bat's "range" they are subject to burdensome restrictions.