

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY,
KANSAS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, for 12 years, I had the honor of serving as Johnson County District Attorney. I was proud of the accomplishments of our office during my tenure, including establishing the first Victim Assistance Unit, and beginning programs to protect the victims of family violence—spouse abuse and child abuse.

When I left office to enter private practice, one of my Assistant District Attorneys, Paul Morrison, was elected and was sworn in as Johnson County District Attorney in 1989. This year Paul is celebrating 25 years of working in the Johnson County District Attorney's office, the last 16 as District Attorney.

As my Assistant D.A., Paul headed up our county's narcotics prosecution efforts, and tried many homicide cases. As District Attorney, he and his office have been tough, but fair. His professionalism is unquestioned. Paul has continued the tradition of personally prosecuting many of Johnson County's most difficult and serious cases. During his 25 years as a prosecutor, Paul has tried over 100 jury trials, including many complex homicide cases. Among the accomplishments during his years as D.A., Paul has established a gang task force, successfully promoted "hard 40" legislation to increase sentences for murder, and helped establish D.A.R.E. programs in our county.

All of Paul's friends enjoyed this story: two years ago, on his 49th birthday, Paul was driving down a suburban street when he witnessed a burglary. Paul followed one of the suspects in his car, and ended up chasing him down on foot. Two youths were charged with burglary, theft and possession of alcohol.

Paul is a past president of the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association and of the Johnson County Bar Foundation. He is a past recipient of the Clarence M. Kelly Award for Excellent in Criminal Justice Administration in Kansas City, and was named 2001 Prosecutor of the Year by the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association.

Paul has actively supported community organizations, serving as board president of Sunflower House and Safehome, Inc., two organizations that began during my term as D.A. Paul has also been active in the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA), where he served on the board and chaired the Johnson County Advisory Council. He has also chaired the Johnson County United Way campaign.

Paul and his wife Joyce are the proud parents of three children, and are active in their church, Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Shawnee, Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 3rd, a reception in the Johnson County Courthouse will celebrate Paul Morrison's career in the District Attorney's office. Although I am unable to attend, I am proud of Paul and I want to recognize my friend for devoting his career to protecting our families and our community. The citizens of Johnson County hope his career continues for many more productive years.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILL" BROOKS

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize William "Bill" Brooks on his retirement as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). A native of Maryland, Mr. Brooks has served on the Board of Directors of NAFCU since 1996, and with 28 years of experience in the credit union industry I know that his presence will be sorely missed by NAFCU.

Mr. Brooks began his credit union career in 1976, working as an Examiner with the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). He later moved on to the Government Printing Office Federal Credit Union, where he served as the President/CEO. After a short period working as a CPA, Mr. Brooks took a position as President/CEO of Lafayette Federal Credit Union. Today, he serves as the President/CEO of First Combined Community Federal Credit Union, located in Kensington, Maryland.

Mr. Brooks is also heavily involved in the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Run, which benefits the Children's Miracle Network. Several years ago, after the race lost its sponsor and needed a new one, Mr. Brooks was the driving force behind getting credit union sponsorship of the race and establishing a partnership with the Children's Miracle Network. He is Chairman Emeritus of the Credit Union Miracle Day, Inc. Board of Directors. This year, the event raised \$400,000 in donations, and to date, the run has raised over \$1 million in donations for the Children's Miracle Network.

I congratulate Mr. Brooks on his longtime service to NAFCU, and to the entire credit union community. While this marks the end of his time at NAFCU, I am certain it also marks a beginning for some new activity to which he will no doubt tirelessly devote himself. Congratulations on your retirement from the NAFCU Board, Mr. Brooks.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANN R. MCNAIR IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S EXPLORATION OF SPACE

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the efforts of Ann R. McNair, who serves as the Director of the Mission Operations Laboratory in the Engineering Directorate, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama.

A native of Moundville, Alabama, Ms. McNair is a graduate of the University of Alabama where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics. Ms. McNair accepted an engineering position with the Army in 1958 and was transferred with the von Braun team to NASA in July 1960 when that group became the nucleus for the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Ms. McNair is responsible for the expert technical and programmatic direction of the operations ground support facilities, including operational control, engineering, and training for all programs supported at the Huntsville Operations Support Center. Her work encompasses the Payload Operations Integration Center (POIC) for International Space Systems, the U.S. Payload Control Center for International Space Systems, and the U.S. Operations for International Space Systems. Additionally, Ms. McNair has been involved in the development, implementation, and verification of Chandra Operations Control Center and deployment for a remote non-NASA location, the Smithsonian Astronomical Observatory at Cambridge, Massachusetts—a first for NASA.

Ms. McNair has authored several technical papers and has been recognized with numerous awards, including the NASA Exceptional Service Medal in 1973 and 1989 as well as the NASA Exceptional Achievement medal in 1998. She has also been selected as a member of the 1998 SES Center Development Program.

I join with Ms. McNair's family, friends, and the state of Alabama in honoring the public service of Ms. Ann R. McNair and congratulate her on an outstanding career.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 810—the Stem Cell Research and Enhancement Act.

I want to make it clear that the type of scientific research some in this chamber are trying to prevent will occur. It is occurring as we speak—all around the world.

However, we face a substantial threat that in this new field, with all of its promise and potential, America will be left behind. If our current political leadership continues to restrict research as other countries embrace it—we risk losing not only our research edge, but also our scientists. American scientists will pursue their research in places like Korea and Israel, and international scientists will no longer come to America as they have for generations . . . people like Einstein and Fermi, just to name two.

Make no mistake—as a result of the restrictive policies of this Congress and the current Administration, many companies may not invest in this research here in America. However, American companies will make sure that they have a piece of this business by investing in foreign countries where the basic research has been performed, scientists have perfected the techniques, and the government is welcoming to their industry, not hostile to it. Private industry will look for a place to make these investments because the chance that this research could produce cures for many devastating diseases seems very good not only to scientists, but also to business leaders.

It is simple: There is no question that this research will occur; there is no question that this research will result in scientific breakthroughs; there is no question that this science

will create jobs and wealth. The only question is, who will benefit. Will America lead the way as we have in all other scientific advancements? Will we be the pioneers and producers? Or, will we relegate ourselves to mere consumers who send our fortunes around the world?

The question is whether America will continue to lead the world in scientific breakthroughs or take a backseat to other countries.

We can already read articles in our daily newspapers that tell us of the commitments other countries have made to this research and the subsequent advancements they have made. Two years ago, China announced plans for the construction of a massive stem cell complex in Tianjin, which is scheduled for completion in 2010. One of their professors claimed, "We are not that far behind [the West] anymore." We have come a long way from the shocking news eight years ago that researchers in Scotland cloned Dolly the Sheep to the promising news just last week that researchers in South Korea produced 11 new embryonic stem cell lines that were genetic matches to patients with devastating diseases and ailments. Increasingly we are reading about advances that occur in other places around the world. Some of these advances raise ethical concerns, but because they do not occur on our shores, we do not have a say over the ethical standards and considerations that accompany the research.

I do not intend to imply that nothing is happening in America. To the contrary, many scientists, many of them in my own district, are working feverishly to find new cures for various diseases. I understand that some Americans object to embryonic stem cell research. However, many thoughtful, principled persons from all of our Nation's religious and ethical traditions support embryonic stem cell research. Self-anointed moralists should not jeopardize the health of our loved ones and the economic future of our country.

We will not know for another decade just how far we have fallen behind the rest of the world. I am including for the record just a small list of scientific breakthroughs using these procedures that have been made in other countries. We have waited long enough to expand our Nation's restrictive policy. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes for H.R. 810.

STEM CELLS—MAY 2005

1997

Scotland—An embryologist at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh created a lamb using DNA from adult sheep—known to the world as Dolly the Sheep

2002

Singapore—Researchers grow human embryonic stem cells without using animal cells to protect them.

2003

Japan and Scotland—Researchers identify a gene in embryonic stem cells that allows them to regenerate and develop into any kind of cell.

2004

Israel—Researchers develop human embryonic stem cells into beating heart cells.

Israel—Scientists coax embryonic stem cells to become nerve cells that when transplanted into rats with symptoms of Parkinson's alleviate some of the symptoms.

Israel and Chicago—Teams from Israel and Chicago develop disease-specific embryonic stem cell lines from embryos carrying genetic disorder.

South Korea—Researchers produce a human embryonic stem cell line through somatic cell nuclear transfer.

2005 (JUST LAST WEEK)

South Korea—Scientists create stem cell lines that are tailored to match the DNA of patients with medical conditions, creating 11 new lines from patients with spinal cord injuries and juvenile diabetes—putting the promise of effective treatments within reach.

RECOGNIZING ADRIAN ANTHONY REMPILLO EVANGELISTA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Midshipman Adrian Anthony Rempillo Evangelista on his graduation from the United States Naval Academy and his commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps on Friday, May 27, 2005. Adrian hails from our sister island to the north, Tinian. He is a young man of character and determination who, if his past success is any indication, has a promising future ahead.

Adrian has distinguished himself during his four years at the Naval Academy, where he will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. Most Marine Corps officers seek positions in the infantry, but for Adrian—who marches to a different beat—Navy familiarization training has convinced him that Marine Corps aviation provides the greatest challenge and fulfillment. Following completion of his training in Quantico, Virginia, Adrian plans on pursuing a career as a Marine pilot and will attend flight school in Pensacola, Florida.

Adrian was an outstanding athlete at the Naval Academy. As the 2005 Brigade Boxing Champion at the 139 pound weight class, Adrian went on to become the 2005 Midwest Regional Champion. He finished his collegiate boxing career by placing third at the National Collegiate Boxing Championship held in Colorado Springs, Colorado earlier this year, earning All-American Collegiate Boxing Team honors from the National Collegiate Boxing Association.

Midshipman Evangelista's parents are Antonio and Evelyn Evangelista and he is the oldest of four children. He is a graduate of Tinian High School. We all share in the pride that the people of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands have in Adrian Evangelista's accomplishments.

Semper Fidelis!

THE FASTER AND SMARTER FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that I will be voting for H.R. 1544, the Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responder Act with the expectation that this bill's

serious flaws will be fixed in conference negotiations with the Senate.

Our police, firefighter and other emergency service officers are routinely putting themselves at risk in order to ensure our safety. As a strong supporter of our nation's first responders, I believe it is imperative that the federal government provide these fine, brave public servants the resources they need to properly respond to threats of terrorism.

Unfortunately, the current system for distributing grants to first responders does not allocate funding in a timely fashion. According to the Department of Homeland Security, only about 48 percent of the funding obligated to the State of North Dakota between 2002 and 2004 has actually been spent to support first responders' efforts to prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks, leaving about \$20.6 million to still be spent. H.R. 1544 addresses this issue by streamlining the funding process for terrorism preparedness grants and moving the planning to the front end of the application process. By restructuring this process, it is predicted that the time it takes to get funds from the federal government to the local entity will be shortened by about 6 months.

However, I have deep concerns regarding the minimum funding levels provided in H.R. 1544. Every state and city needs to have some minimum infrastructure for emergency response. Unfortunately, the minimum funding levels provided in H.R. 1544 do not go far enough to ensure that a rural state such as North Dakota will be provided the resources needed to develop and maintain a safe, emergency response infrastructure. Seeing that we do not know where terrorists will strike next, it is important that all communities possess properly trained first responders who are equipped with the appropriate equipment and technology to prevent, prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism. Despite my objections to H.R. 1544's minimum funding levels, I am going to vote for this bill based on the expectation that the minimum guarantee will be increased during negotiations with the Senate.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ELEANOR FORD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eleanor Ford, Executive Director of the Hartsville-Trousdale County Chamber of Commerce and Roastee of the Trousdale Reading, Education, Arts, Drama and Science (READS) Benefit Roast, Thursday, May 26, 2005.

Eleanor has quite a large list of individual accomplishments, as well as numerous contributions to the Hartsville, Tennessee community. She was a florist for 32 years, an instructor at Volunteer State Community College in Hendersonville, Tennessee, Brownie Scout Troop Leader, President of the PTA, during which time she brought a music instructor into the school system, and the first woman to serve on a jury in Trousdale County. Eleanor was chosen as the first Ms. Senior Tennessee in 1991 and was in the Top Ten in Atlantic City. She later served as Board Chairman for Ms. Tennessee Senior.