

COMMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT IN COLLEGE POINT, NEW YORK, OF THE FIRST KINDERGARTEN IN THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 47, commending the establishment of the first kindergarten in the United States, in College Point, N.Y.

This legislation praises Conrad Poppenhusen, the Poppenhusen Institute, and the citizens of College Point, New York, for establishing the first early childhood education institution open to the public, in 1854.

This resolution rightly expresses the sense of Congress that the government should recognize the importance of childhood education, and the social and academic enrichment provided to students through free and public kindergartens throughout the Nation.

Studies commissioned by the Department of Education consistently demonstrate that children who attend kindergarten exhibit higher levels of mathematics and reading skills than those who do not.

Children enrolled in kindergarten have consistently and more rapidly acquired skills necessary for success in an academic environment. Additionally, students enrolled in early childhood education are exposed at an early age to students of different racial, cultural, economic, and religious backgrounds, providing valuable learning experiences and aiding in the social development of our Nation's youth.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude by again expressing my support for this legislation and encouraging my colleagues to support it. The time has come for our government to recognize and honor the establishment of our Nation's kindergartens, the very institutions that equip our children with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in school and life while also providing a diverse environment in which to learn and grow.

CONGRATULATING CITY OF  
COCONUT CREEK

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 17, 2005*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Coconut Creek for its designation as a "community wildlife habitat" by the National Wildlife Federation. Coconut Creek becomes the first city in Florida and the eleventh city in the Nation to receive this environmental recognition.

In order to receive such a designation, criteria set by the National Wildlife Federation mandates that applicants must have a number of homes declared as back yard wildlife habitats while establishing habitats at schools and residential complexes. In addition, applicants must also create educational programs about various wildlife within the city.

Facing these various guidelines, residents of Coconut Creek met the challenge by planting

trees and various gardens around the city. City Manager John Kelly stated, "They tackled the project and took it as their own. And it's been a wonderful instrument for getting the word out about the environment in our schools."

Mr. Speaker, Coconut Creek, located in Broward County, was incorporated in 1967. Today, with a population of 48,000, the city takes great pride in promoting itself as an environmentally friendly community. In fact, Coconut Creek is considered the Butterfly Capital of the World.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent the city of Coconut Creek and its residents in the House of Representatives. I congratulate Mayor Gerber, the City Commission and the residents of Coconut Creek on being designated a "community wildlife habitat."

IN HONOR OF REESE EDWARD  
PHILLIPS

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 17, 2005*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Reese Edward Phillips of Milford, Delaware. Known to his family and friends as "Pappy," Mr. Phillips was born in Zion Grove, Pennsylvania on May 5th, 1916.

Mr. Phillips was a deeply patriotic man who went to great lengths to defend our freedom. A proud veteran of the United States Air Force, his 32-year career in the military spanned both World War II and the Korean War. Although he retired from the service in 1972, Mr. Phillips would continue his unwavering devotion to our Nation's veterans for the rest of his life.

Mr. Phillips was instrumental in the planning and development of countless projects for Delaware's veterans, including the Delaware Veterans Cemeteries located in Bear and Millsboro, the state's first veterans home, and the establishment of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council, known today as the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Phillips would serve with distinction on the Commission from its creation until his recent passing, a period that included tenure as Chairman from 1991-1992.

In addition to these projects, Mr. Phillips was actively involved in other community organizations, including membership in the Walter L. Fox Post #2 in Dover, the Disabled American Veterans Department of Delaware, and the Calvary United Methodist Church in Milford.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, Reese Edward Phillips was a persistent man whose community involvement greatly benefited the entire state of Delaware. Those of us with the good fortune to know Mr. Phillips were touched by his kindness and caring. While he is greatly missed by his family and friends, "Pappy" will always be remembered for the work he has done on behalf of the veterans of our great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 17, 2005*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I underwent corrective hernia surgery on June 13, and I was unable to record my vote during the consideration of legislation earlier this week, including the fiscal year 2006 appropriations bill for Science, State, Commerce and Justice.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes Nos. 241, 242, 244, 246, 248, 252, 254, 255, 256, 258, 261, 264, 268, 270, 271, and 272.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 243, 245, 247, 249, 250, 251, 253, 257, 259, 260, 262, 263, 265, 266, 267, 269, and 273.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in reluctant support of this bill.

It needs to be passed, and I will vote for it, but in my opinion it falls short of what is needed to adequately fund a number of important purposes.

As Ranking Member of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, I am pleased that the bill includes \$16.5 billion for NASA funding. NASA's working in human space exploration, space and earth science, and aeronautics plays an important role in advancing our knowledge, expanding our economy and inspiring Americans both young and old. I believe NASA performs important research which allows us to better understand our climate, the creation of our planet and the universe beyond.

I am encouraged that the Committee did not cut NASA's aeronautics budget by \$54 million as the President had requested. Progress in aeronautics is crucial to the health of the Nation's air transportation industry, which in turn is crucial both to the continued strength of our domestic economy and to our international competitiveness. Aeronautics research and development can enable advances in the capability of our Nation's air transportation system to handle the enormous increases in air travel projected over the next 20 years. Aeronautics R&D can enable more environmentally compatible commercial aircraft, with significantly lower noise, emissions, and energy consumption compared to aircraft in commercial service today.

I am also pleased that the Committee includes \$40 million more than the President's