

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today to salute an exceptional woman. Barbara Arvi has made the Southwest Museum a meaningful, lasting, and vital cultural center for Southern California and the Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE HAYS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEIR
LEADERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT CAMPAIGN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sheriff Don Montague and the Hays County Sheriff's Office for their leadership in the National Night Out campaign.

Currently celebrating its 22nd Anniversary, the National Night Out (NNO) is a unique crime and drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials from over 10,000 communities throughout the United States. In all, over 34 million people participated in 2004. This year's event will be held on August 2nd.

The key to combating crime is by getting neighbors to know their neighbors—this is one of the main reasons NNO has been so effective. NNO helps heighten awareness of the efforts in crime and drug prevention, while also increasing participation in local crime deterrence programs. NNO strengthens neighborhood spirit, and encourages law enforcement and community partnerships. Most importantly, NNO sends a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and ready to fighting back.

I am honored to recognize Sheriff Don Montague and the Hays County Sheriff's Office for their leadership roles in supporting the National Night Out. I encourage all Hays County residents to join forces with the thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative crime prevention; your support is vital in the fight against crime.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE OF ALLEN CLARK

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Allen Clark for his distinguished military, business and public service careers, and thank him for his outstanding contributions to his community and his country.

This September will mark the end of Mr. Clark's service at the Veterans Administration North Texas Health Care System, bringing a close to his long and distinguished career as a spokesperson and representative for veterans in our community. Always keeping his fellow veterans at the heart of each of his decisions, Allen Clark has been a strong and

vocal advocate for the VA and veterans issues.

A graduate of the United States Military at West Point and decorated combat veteran, Allen Clark bravely served his country in the ranks of the U.S. Army, volunteering for service in Vietnam. As a Military Intelligence Officer assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group in South Vietnam, Allen Clark was seriously wounded. His injury required the amputation of both his legs below the knee. This life-altering experience may have taken his legs, but it did not take his spirit. For his distinguished service Clark received the Purple Heart, the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Army Airborne Wings, and the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with two battle stars.

After returning from Vietnam, Allen Clark built a successful business career, earning a Masters of Business Administration degree and later working in finance, investments, oil and gas exploration, real estate, marketing, and mortgage lending in Texas. He was president of three oil companies in Midland, Texas, as well as a co-founder of a real estate investment company in Austin, Texas. His career as a public servant is equally impressive. Allen Clark served as Special Assistant for Administration to Texas Governor William Clements and Assistant Secretary for Veterans Liaison in the Administration of President George H.W. Bush. In 1991, he was confirmed as the Director of the National Cemetery System. In 2001, he was appointed Public Affairs Officer at the Veterans Administration North Texas Health Care System after serving there as Administrative Officer for Spinal Cord Injury Service and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service.

President Calvin Coolidge once said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." As a combat veteran and as a public servant, Allen Clark understands that better than most Americans. Throughout his life he has done his very best to ensure that our nation never forgets the sacrifices that our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen made to defend our freedom.

Allen Clark is a dedicated public servant, a hero, and a true patriot. But I am most proud to call him my friend. His peers, his fellow veterans, and those like me who have had the privilege to know and work with Allen Clark, will greatly miss him. As the U.S. Representative for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, today I would like to honor the service, sacrifice and bravery of Allen Clark, and thank him for the outstanding work he has done on behalf of our nation's veterans.

TEACHERS COLLEGE AT COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY: PUTTING THE
NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN FIRST

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention a crisis which is before many of our public schools today—the shortage of highly skilled teachers in our city's worst schools. This problem has not only affected schools in my state of New York, but is nationwide.

Excellence should be expected of every child. And the opportunity to excel must be guaranteed to every child. The right to a free, world-class public education has been the birthright of Americans for well over a century. It is a moral imperative that forms the foundation of democracy, the underpinning of the economy, and the cornerstone of America's greatness.

To provide every child the opportunity to excel, America must ensure that qualified, caring teachers educate and inspire their students in an environment that supports a love of learning. That means a vibrant classroom in a safe, modern school building equipped with the best learning technologies; supported by active, involved parents; and driven by a collective passion for educational excellence.

This opportunity must be guaranteed within the Nation's public schools and these sentiments are echoed by the outstanding staff and leadership at Teachers College at Columbia University. I commend them for not only seeing that the problem exists, but in advocating that something be done to address it.

I'd like to take this opportunity to submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, an article written by Arthur Levine, President of Teachers College at Columbia University and Darlyne Bailey, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College which speaks to this issue and what our priorities should be.

BRINGING GREAT TEACHERS TO STRUGGLING
SCHOOLS: THE MOMENT IS NOW

(BY ARTHUR LEVINE AND DARLYNE BAILEY)

We live in a time when people rightfully have become skeptical about the political process and the possibilities for moving beyond rhetoric to action. Yet every now and then, like the inverse of a perfect storm, forces align themselves in ways that permit substantive change.

In New York City, we have just such a moment before us right now—an opportunity to dramatically improve our public school system by addressing the issue that, more than any other, has limited the hopes and prospects of vast numbers of low-income and disadvantaged children.

That issue is the dearth of highly skilled, experienced teachers where they are needed most: in the city's worst schools. Some 60 percent of our city's low-performing students are concentrated in just one-third of our schools, nearly all of them in high-poverty areas such as Bedford Stuyvesant, Harlem, Washington Heights and the South Bronx. The prospect of failure in these schools is so overwhelming that teacher turnover is constant, with even the best and most dedicated decamping for districts where the pay is higher and working conditions allow them to be more effective.

Back in April, a special commission of the New York City Council outlined highly detailed recommendations for righting these wrongs. In addition to calling for system-wide caps and reductions in class sizes, the Commission recommended that all teachers to be awarded salary incentives of 3 percent (to be added to any negotiated increases) in order to align local salaries with the regional labor market. To increase the number of qualified teachers in low-performing, high need schools, teachers in the most challenging schools would receive as much as an additional 23 percent if they teach in target schools that adopt an extended-year (11-month) calendar. Teachers whose skills qualify them for a newly-instituted designation of "Master Teacher" would receive a further 10-percent increase, and Master Teachers who chose to work in targeted high-needs

schools would join the ranks of the most highly paid teachers in the state.

This is not a giveaway to teachers. To assure high quality, these changes would be directly tied to rigorous performance assessments. In fact, the entire structure of reform would be subject to ongoing review by an Independent Office for Research and Accountability that would identify target schools for augmented support and determine whether the Commission's intensified strategies are producing desired results.

What hope is there that these ideas will be acted upon? After all, similar proposals have been floated in the past.

The answer is that at this particular moment, we are blessed with a rare opportunity that combines a potential multi-billion dollar windfall for the city's school system with contract renewal negotiations between the United Federation of Teachers and the city and an upcoming Mayoral election.

Clearly the biggest barrier to school reform has been money. For decades, the city has been unable to offer the kind of teacher salaries found in the suburbs and upstate because it has not received a proportionate share of funding. More recently, under the provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, city schools have been asked to meet clear and specific targets for student achievement even as they have been denied the wherewithal to do so. Now the courts have recognized that this amounts to a violation of our children's Constitutional right to a sound, basic education. A panel of special judges has recommended that the state make amends by providing the city with an additional \$14 billion in operating and facilities funds over the next five years. That decision is being appealed, but many believe that within the next year, money will actually change hands.

That's a huge step, and certainly little else can happen without it. But it is only the beginning. Plaintiffs have won similar lawsuits in other states, gotten their money, and still were unable to enact meaningful reform. Usually this was because they failed to bring together all school stakeholders in a meaningful dialogue.

In New York City, the City Council commission began such a dialogue with the public hearings it held during this past year. But obstacles remain. One of the long-standing bones of contention has been the seniority system that allows the most experienced teachers to essentially choose their placements. Given the low pay and working conditions in struggling schools, most elect to work in higher-performing institutions where they can make a decent living and be effective. Not surprisingly, the union has fiercely defended this system.

The city government, for its part, has responded—with justification—that its hands are tied.

Lately, however, there have been encouraging signs. Both Randi Weingarten, the UFT president, and Joel Klein, the city schools chancellor, have said that in principle, they believe the key to turning around struggling schools is to populate them with excellent, experienced teachers. Mayor Bloomberg, who has made education reform the centerpiece of his first term, is running for a reelection. It is a moment, in short, when promises are being made; when compromise is in the air; and when unprecedented new financial resources seem likely to come our way.

That said, the beginning of the new school year is almost upon us. The teacher contract talks are at a critical point. So let's make the most of our opportunity. We have identified a clear priority—to put great teachers in the schools that need them most, as rapidly as possible. We have the political will to do

so, and soon we will have the money. If we fail to deliver, history—and our children—will judge us harshly indeed.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1965
VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on this 40th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965, we must pause to recognize the importance of this legislation. A century before its passing, the 15th Amendment guaranteed the right for Black men to vote. In 1920, women were also granted that right. Despite these laws, minority men and women were still prevented from voting through discriminatory means common to Jim Crow, antebellum South including poll taxes, literacy tests, gerrymandering and language discrimination. Through the Voting Rights Act, considered one of the foremost pieces of Civil Rights legislation, Congress saw the discrimination and realized the critical need to protect the minority. We must continue to do so.

The most basic and fundamental principles of any democracy are equal opportunity, equal protection under the law and guarantee of the right to participate, to have that right protected and to have that participation count.

Unfortunately in the last two Presidential elections and in an increasing number of elections across the country are being marred with allegations of manipulation, chicanery, trickery, intimidation and outright illegal acts of fraud, thievery, and violence. All of these acts and actions have served to undermine confidence in our electoral system, disrupt the process of normalcy, and are beginning to shake the very foundation of our democracy. We must not waver in our commitment to our citizens and continue to ensure that their vote matters.

The face of America is changing every day. Diversity of race, ethnicity, language and other aspects of the American citizen are evident in our society. The need to protect the rights of the electorate despite these differences is a constant struggle. This 40-year-old legislation stood the test of time. It is our duty to continue to protect the right to vote, one of the most basic rights, for all Americans.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6,
ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I cannot support this legislation.

There is nothing I would rather vote for than a balanced energy bill that sets us on a forward-looking course—one that acknowledges that this country is overly dependent on a single energy source—fossil fuels—to the detriment of our environment, our national security, and our economy.

But at a time of sky-rocketing oil prices, this report doesn't do what it needs to do—help us

balance our energy portfolio and increase the contributions of alternative energy sources to our energy mix.

The process of developing the conference report is much improved from last year's contentious debate. Senate and House conferees worked together cooperatively and were able to compromise on a number of provisions and bridge difficult differences of opinion. I believe Chairman BARTON and Ranking Member DINGELL and on the Senate side, Chairman DOMENICI and Ranking Member BINGAMAN, have done a good job in this respect.

The conference report itself is also an improvement over the bill passed by the House earlier this year.

It includes an extension of the Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit for another 2 years, which will take us through the end of 2007. This is very good news. The report also includes clean energy bonds provisions from the Senate bill which will enable electric cooperatives to invest in renewable generation.

It also removes the methyl bromide tertiary-butyl ether, MTBE, liability waiver that would have let industry off the hook. It's true that the conference report does provide a "backdoor immunity" that could derail many legal claims by denying communities and states the right to be heard in state forums. But I believe that the conferees took a big step forward by dropping the liability waiver.

On energy efficiency, the conference report goes beyond the House bill in establishing new energy efficiency standards for 15 products. It also includes numerous energy efficiency tax provisions for alternative fuel vehicles, energy efficient appliances and new and existing homes, among others, provisions contained in the Energy Efficiency Cornerstone Act that I introduced with my colleague Rep. ZACH WAMP and others.

Electricity provisions are strengthened—not only does the conference report include new standards for grid reliability, but it also includes consumer protections in electric markets, such as new merger review, a prohibition on market manipulation, improved market transparency, among others. These protections are especially important given that the bill repeals the Public Utility Holding Company Act, PUHCA, which restricts the ownership and operations of power companies and their ability to control energy prices.

Another way in which the conference report has improved on the House bill is its treatment of oil shale.

This is a subject of particular concern to Coloradans, because Colorado has the most significant amounts of oil shale—and also the most experience with oil shale fever. In Colorado, we have had several bouts of that syndrome. The last one started during the 1970s energy crisis and ended abruptly on "Black Sunday" in 1982. That was when Exxon announced it was pulling out of the Colony shale project, an event that left an impact crater from the Western Slope to downtown Denver. There followed an exodus of other companies that had been working on oil shale—which led to an echoing exodus of jobs and of Coloradans who had nowhere else to turn.

The House bill would have required the Interior Department to set up a new leasing program for commercial development of oil shale, with final regulations to be in place by the end of next year. In other words, it called for a crash program to meet a short, arbitrary deadline.