

Project Backpack was begun by Jacqueline, Melissa, and Jenna Kantor, three young sisters from Bethesda, Maryland. These sisters came up with an idea to collect donations of backpacks, toys and school supplies to be sent out to the thousands of children who were left homeless in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Inspired by the concept of "kids helping kids," Project Backpack has been tremendously successful.

Joined by Sodexo USA and other charitable organizations, Project Backpack has set a local goal of 10,000 backpacks and a national goal of 100,000. I encourage people throughout the United States to participate in this worthy project.

I applaud Jacqueline, Melissa, and Jenna in their continued efforts to help the children affected by Hurricane Katrina.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on September 27, 2005. Had I been able to, I would have voted "yea" on H.J. Res. 66 (Rollcall vote 494); "yea" on H.R. 438 (Rollcall vote 495) and "yea" on H. Con. Res. 209 (Rollcall vote 496).

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAKE HIGHLANDS REPUBLICAN WOMEN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Lake Highlands Republican Women. In December of 1980, the Lake Highlands Republican Women were formed, based on the guiding principle of the National Federation of Republican Women, "to foster and encourage loyalty to the Republican Party and the ideals for which it stands."

For the past 30 years, the Lake Highlands Republican Women have worked hard to promote the principles of the Grand Old Party and to elect Republican leaders from the Courthouse to the White House.

The Lake Highlands Republican Women are truly helping make our community and our country a better place to live. The Lake Highlands Republican Women continue to strengthen the Republican Party through candidate recruitment, training and election activities as well as advocating the GOP common sense conservative philosophy of faith, family, free enterprise, and freedom.

Today, I would like to honor the Lake Highlands Republican Women and their leaders, including: Patti Clapp (1981–1982), Jan Patterson (1983–1984, 1993), Lee Dewbre (1985–1986), Fredda Horton (1987–1988), Libby Swaim (1989–1990), Linda Russell (1991–1992), Annabelle Ward (1994–1995), Jill Mellinger (1996–2001), Suzy Pollok (1997), Deborah Brown (1998–1999), Kathi Drew (2000), Elaine Travis, (2002), Glee Huebner

(2003–2004), and Gloria Gibeau (2005). These strong Republican women embody the energy, vision and values of our party.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOOD STOVE REPLACEMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Wood Stove Replacement Act of 2005. I am joined in the introduction by Representative MELISSA HART.

Quite simply, our bill would provide a tax credit of \$500 for individuals and families who replace their old, dirty, uncertified wood stoves with new, EPA-compliant, clean-burning wood stoves or fireplace inserts.

As America's cities and counties struggle to come into compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, smaller and more diverse sources of pollution are regulated. The primary air pollution problem in many areas of the country, including Pittsburgh, is particulate matter. Particulate matter, or soot, is caused by burning fuels such as coal, as well as wood.

On December 17, 2004, the EPA designated nearly two hundred and fifty counties in the U.S. as out of compliance with federal air quality standards for "fine particulates" (particles under 2.5 microns in diameter). EPA has concluded that wood smoke from residential wood combustion appliances, fireplaces and wood stoves, is a significant contributor to fine particulate pollution in many of the designated counties.

In 1986, EPA established a New Source Performance Standard, or NSPS, that imposed strict limits on the wood smoke that can be emitted from wood burning stoves, and it implemented a program for certifying the performance of wood stoves that comply with the standard. EPA-certified wood stoves reduce wood smoke emissions by as much as 90 percent. According to the EPA, "certified wood stoves burn more cleanly and efficiently, save [. . .] money, reduce the risk of fire, and improve air quality inside and outside [the] home."

It is estimated that there are as many as 10 million old, uncertified, pre-NSPS wood stoves still in use in American homes. Fourteen thousand of them are in my area in Pittsburgh. Many of the uncertified wood stoves still in use today were purchased at the height of the fossil-fuel crisis in the 1970s. Many were installed in lower income, rural residences with ample access to free or low-cost wood fuel. The installed cost of new, certified stoves can be as high as \$2,000 to \$3,000, which is out of reach for many users of the old, uncertified units. To encourage users of old, dirty-burning units to trade up to new certified stoves, strong incentives must be provided. Local regulations prohibiting the use of uncertified woodstoves are politically unpalatable unless financial assistance is provided to enable homeowners to abide by such prohibitions and keep their families warm in the winter with low-cost, renewable wood fuel.

According to the EPA, "Helping areas of the country reduce pollution and meet national air

quality standards for fine particles is our top priority . . . By combining local programs like clean wood stove installation with tough new federal regulations on power plants, cars, trucks and diesel equipment, we can dramatically reduce fine particle pollution and improve public health across the country."

Our legislation to provide a federal tax credit for the replacement of uncertified wood stoves is an important way to reach consumers who otherwise may never replace their old stoves. This credit would only be available to consumers who live in areas designated as out of compliance with the fine particle and total particulate standards. A \$500 tax credit would give consumers living in poor air quality areas an immediate incentive and necessary financial assistance to remove their old stove now. By using the cleaner stoves, consumers will save on fuel costs by burning one-third less wood and reduce fine particle pollution in their area thereby improving their health and the health of their families and neighbors.

The need to encourage consumers to burn cleaner, more efficient woodstoves is an urgent matter. The record-high costs predicted for home heating this winter will likely push many consumers to choose more affordable wood heating. With nearly 10 million old, conventional, dirty wood stoves still in use today, it is imperative that consumers have an incentive to change out their old appliances for clean, more efficient, and EPA-certified wood stoves.

Representative HART and I are introducing this bill to coincide with an EPA event in Pittsburgh on September 29. That will be National Wood Stove Change-Out Day, where EPA encourages owners of old stoves to trade them in for new, certified units. The incentives in this bill should help accomplish this goal.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution to recognize the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This week we will also be considering legislation that will reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. It is my hope that we will strengthen and improve measures to ensure safe homes and communities for children and families.

Congress must continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and the devastating effects violence has on too many of our American families. We must also ensure that the organizations working to end domestic violence in our communities have the resources they need to provide services to the survivors of family violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These families and organizations deserve our commitment.

In my own State of Minnesota, VAWA funding went to programs and services for battered women and their children. Some of those projects in my own District include:

The St. Paul based Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, which provides legal

advocacy services to young Native American women in collaboration with the Ain Dah Yung Center.

Breaking Free in St. Paul: A transitional housing program for women of color escaping prostitution.

St. Paul-based Minnesota Coalition of Battered Women, which links battered women's programs across the state to help fulfill the goals of VAWA, including legal assistance; training for police, prosecutors, and court officers; and protection for battered women and their children.

Other projects in Minnesota include:

The Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth—a comprehensive review of the criminal justice and civil court response to battered women.

The Women's Rural Advocacy Program in Southwest Minnesota, which purchases and implementation of digital cameras and printers for improved prosecution of domestic violence cases.

Migrant Health Services in Crookston, which provides domestic violence and sexual assault services to Hispanic migrant farm workers in the Red River Valley.

In addition to the lives saved by improved responses to violence against women, VAWA has saved our country nearly \$15 billion in social costs, such as savings in the judicial and health care systems.

The month of October also marks the anniversary of a great loss to the domestic violence community—the untimely deaths of Paul and Sheila Wellstone. Not only were Paul and Sheila tireless advocates for abused women and children, they were also instrumental framers of VAWA. The Wellstones are greatly missed by Minnesotans and people throughout our Nation.

It is in recognition of those who continue the legacy of a commitment to ending domestic violence in homes and communities across our Nation, and in honor of survivors of domestic violence, that I stand today in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2123, SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to oppose the Boustany amendment and all the explicit discrimination it represents.

Mr. BOUSTANY's proposal fundamentally changes Head Start hiring and firing protections provided for Head Start teachers and staff by Federal Equal Employment Opportunity laws. If this amendment passes, this would be the first time Congress has acted on the House Floor to specifically repeal civil rights protections established to combat discrimination.

The amendment is a blatant attack on civil rights. And, it is offensive to Americans who value equal rights and justice, and to the many of us who are strong people of faith.

This amendment would allow faith-based organizations that receive Federal Head Start

dollars to discriminate in the hiring and firing of Head Start employees simply based on religion. These changes could also affect Head Start parents who might serve as volunteers or advisory board members for their children's Head Start program.

And these acts of discrimination would be paid for with U.S. taxpayer dollars!

In addition, this amendment changes Federal Equal Employment Opportunity laws in the Head Start Act. The effects of these changes on the rights of women and people with disabilities are unclear. Certainly the questions surrounding this possible reduction in rights should be answered before we undo hard-fought civil rights protections.

Let us be clear. Faith-based organizations currently are providing Head Start services. I support faith-based organizations. Their missions and their work are valued by all of us. This amendment provides no additional opportunities to faith-based Head Start providers. It simply provides them the explicit right to discriminate based on religion using taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, Head Start is a program intended to reduce barriers and to provide increased opportunities and equality for low-income children and their families. It is shameful that some of my colleagues are acting today to reduce opportunities and increase barriers for Head Start families.

I urge my colleagues—don't give discrimination a Head Start. Oppose this dangerous amendment.

MAUDELL SHIREK POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that on September 27, 2005, I voted "yea" on H.R. 438 (rollcall No. 495), which designates the United States Postal Service facility located at 2000 Allston Way in Berkeley, California, as the "Maudelle Shirek Post Office Building."

Ms. Maudelle Shirek was the former vice-mayor of the City of Berkeley and Member of Berkeley City Council from 1984 to 2004, between the ages of 73 and 93. She was one of California's longest serving elected officials.

For 60 years, Ms. Shirek has been campaigning for fair housing and civil rights for all Americans, especially the poor. Ms. Shirek helped found two Berkeley seniors centers. Until her health started slowing her down, Ms. Shirek helped deliver meals to shut-in seniors and did all the grocery shopping for lunches at the New Light Senior Center. In addition, Ms. Shirek received a Special Recognition Award in 1997 from the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union for 55 years of tireless work in the credit union movement.

Before voting on H.R. 438, I was fully aware of the aforementioned efforts and achievements during Ms. Shirek's life. I found them reason to name a Post Office after her.

However, after I voted "yea" on H.R. 438, I was informed of Ms. Shirek's active support for the release of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a man convicted of killing a Philadelphia police offi-

cer. Upon learning this, I could not, in good faith, support H.R. 438. Had I known this prior to voting on H.R. 438, I would have voted "nay."

CINDY SHEEHAN: PEACE MOM AND
PATRIOT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cindy Sheehan the "Peace Mom" from Vacaville, California, whose 24 year-old son Casey was killed in Sadr City, Iraq on April 4, 2004. Referred to by some as, the "Rosa Parks" of the peace and justice movement, she was arrested today in front of the White House while calling on President Bush to end the War in Iraq.

Cindy had traveled to Washington from Crawford, Texas where, intent on a face-to-face meeting with President Bush, she gained national attention by camping outside the Texas White House during the President's summer vacation. The site was called Camp Casey in honor of her son.

Cindy Sheehan wanted to ask President Bush: What is the "noble cause" that my son Casey died for?

Like millions of people in this country, Cindy Sheehan knew there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the citizens in the United States had never been in "imminent danger" from Saddam Hussein and Iraq had no connection to 9/11 as the President had claimed. As a mother she felt she had the right to ask the President to meet with her to explain why her son had been sent on a fraudulent mission. After all, he had the time for a bicycle ride with Lance Armstrong. She felt he should make the time to meet with her.

The President refused to meet with Cindy, but sent two high level White House officials in his place. Explaining this substitution, President Bush stated that he had to go on with his "normal life" and that the American people wanted him to do that. Cindy announced she would not leave Crawford until Mr. Bush met with her or left for Washington DC.

As Cindy Sheehan waited in the broiling Texas sun, people began to come to Crawford to be with her. They wanted to support her and to send a message to the President that they, too, wanted an explanation for the war. Thousands came from across the country; some stayed a few hours, others, a few days.

When authorities ordered her to move Camp Casey, a local landowner gave her space on his ranch for an even larger encampment. White crosses with the names of the soldiers killed were planted in the ground. The boots Casey was wearing when he died were placed with his cross as were the boots of other soldiers whose crosses were at Camp Casey.

After President Bush finally left his ranch a few days short of his planned five week vacation, four groups of Cindy's supporters—Gold Star Families for Peace, Military Families Speak Out, Iraq Vets Against the War and Veterans for Peace—left Camp Casey on a "Bring Them Home Tour" from Crawford, TX to Washington, DC.

The Veterans for Peace sent a bus to Covington, KY, to deliver supplies to victims of