

Judicial Branch. This section amends section 994(w) of title 28, which governs the reporting requirements of the federal district courts to the U.S. Sentencing Commission. This amendment simply clarifies that the reporting required by this section is to be completed by the judicial branch and may not be delegated to the executive branch.

CONGRATULATING PAUL
PRIBBENOW

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations and warm wishes to Paul Pribbenow on his appointment as the 11th president of Augsburg College. Located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Augsburg College is a private liberal arts college associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Augsburg has a long and proud history of not only educating and preparing students, but also in engaging and strengthening communities in Minnesota, especially those that co-exist with and neighbor the Augsburg campus. Dr. Pribbenow, with expertise in issues related to philanthropy, non-profit management, and ethics, is uniquely prepared to continue to strengthen community ties. He holds a B.A. from Luther College in Iowa, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in social ethics from the University of Chicago. Before accepting the position at Augsburg, Dr. Pribbenow served as the President of Rockford College in Rockford, Illinois.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to join with the students, faculty and staff of Augsburg in welcoming Dr. Pribbenow to Minnesota and to Augsburg College. I look forward to continued work with Augsburg under the leadership of Dr. Pribbenow in ensuring a strong partnership between the federal government and our institutions of higher education in providing access to all those who wish to pursue a higher education, while strengthening the economic and social well-being of our communities.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my views on H.R. 6166, the Military Commissions Act. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, the Bush Administration established new procedures for war crime tribunals for terrorist suspects held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The United States Supreme Court ruled 5-3 on June 29, 2006, that President Bush's military order in the detention and treatment of the Guantanamo Bay detainees exceeded his authority. Though the court did not dispute the President's authority to hold the petitioner as an "enemy combatant for the duration of hostilities," it found that military tribunals convened to try detainees did not comply with the Uniform Code of Military Justice of the law of

war, as embodied by Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions.

Because of the unique nature of the War on Terror, no current system exists for bringing detainees to trial, many of whom are individuals believed to have committed a serious crime and who may seek to further their cause through the murder of innocent civilians. It is important that the United States establish a judicial process for dealing with illegal enemy combatants and allow for the continued interrogation of detainees while following basic international agreements on humane treatment. H.R. 6166 accomplishes this. This legislation provides a framework through which we can bring enemy combatants to justice through an open military commission system that affords substantial due process. It represents a comprehensive approach to try accused war criminals while recognizing the unique national security situation the United States faces in the War on Terror. The commission system created by H.R. 6166 takes into account the concerns of the Supreme Court, as well as the input of intelligence officers and military lawyers in all branches of the armed services.

Prior to casting my vote for H.R. 6166, I voted for the Motion to Recommit, offered by Representative IKE SKELTON of Missouri, which would provide expedited judicial review of the statute's constitutionality and require the reauthorization of the legislation in three years. Specifically, the provision would provide for expedited review of a civil action challenging the bill's legality. A three-judge panel in the D.C. District Court would hear the action and the Supreme Court would review a judgment or order of the panel. Additionally, by requiring a reauthorization in 3 years, we give Congress the ability to carefully review how this statute is working in the real world. Unfortunately, the Skelton Motion to Recommit failed by a vote of 195-228.

While H.R. 6166 is certainly not perfect, it is a step in the right direction. It is essential that our government has the necessary intelligence to prevent future terrorist attacks on our Nation and our allies. As this legislation is implemented, it is important that the Legislative and Judicial branches provide vigorous oversight to ensure that no international laws regarding the treatment of detainees are violated in the name of security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2006 I missed roll-call vote No. 431 on the Goodlatte Amendment to the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503). Had I been present I would have voted against this amendment because it is impractical to expect that all the horses that would otherwise be slaughtered would be able to go to rescue facilities. These horses could be humanely euthanized, adopted by other owners or kept longer by their current owners. If passed, this amendment would have severely compromised the underlying bill which I support.

NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA MONTH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month.

It is estimated that 3000 babies are born in the United States each year with a serious birth defect of the brain or spine called a neural tube defect. Spina bifida, the most common neural tube defect, is the leading cause of childhood paralysis. There are approximately 70,000 people in the United States currently living with this permanently disabling birth defect.

Spina Bifida can be accompanied by significant social, emotional and financial burdens. But with proper medical and family care, people affected by Spina Bifida can live productive lives with the help of braces and/or a wheelchair. The key to a better life for Americans who live with Spina Bifida is research and improved quality-of-life, and this goal must be a national priority.

Along with developing new methods for treatment and care, a critical effort must also be aimed at prevention. In response to research that showed the incidence of Spina Bifida could be reduced by up to 75% with the addition of folic acid in a woman's diet, the United States Public Health Service recommended that all women of childbearing years should take 400 micrograms of folic acid daily to prevent having a pregnancy affected by a neural tube defect.

Based on this recommendation, I introduced the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act, which was passed into law as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000. This Act authorized a program within CDC to provide professional and public education for folic acid awareness.

The good news is that progress has been made in educating women about the importance of consuming folic acid supplements and maintaining diets rich in folic acid. However, the majority of women in this country are still not aware of the benefits of folic acid, and only 40 percent of women ages 18 to 45 take a daily vitamin with the recommended level of folic acid.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, reports that the rate of Spina Bifida in the Hispanic population is almost seven in 10,000 births, nearly 40 percent higher than the non-Hispanic rate. And tragically, Hispanic women continue to have the lowest reported folic acid consumption of any racial or ethnic group.

To that end, I am happy to report that Gruma—one of the world's largest producers of corn flour and tortillas—has begun researching and conducting product testing with a year-end goal of enriching with folic acid its corn products sold in the United States. Imported corn flours—unlike most wheat flour and cereal products—are currently not enriched with folic acid. This important voluntary action by Gruma has significant implications for improving the health and well-being of the U.S. Hispanic/Latino population.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the role of the Spina Bifida Association. The Spina Bifida Association, SBA, is an

organization that has helped those affected by this debilitating disease for over 30 years and is the Nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. With almost 57 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBA brings families together to answer questions, voice concerns, and lend support to one another.

Together the SBA and various local SBA California chapters work tirelessly to help families living with Spina Bifida meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their children. I thank the local chapters of SBA, especially those in my State of California for all they have done and all that they will continue to do to advance the needs of the Spina Bifida community.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way in the prevention of new incidences of spina bifida, as well as in the treatment and care of those individuals impacted by this serious birth defect. But there is still much to do. During this month of National Spina Bifida Awareness, we must commit ourselves to the goals of increased prevention, expanded health education, more thorough research, and improved quality of life for all those living with Spina Bifida.

HONORING CREATIVE BEGINNINGS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Creative Beginnings, a South Florida organization dedicated to assisting women and children transition out of homelessness. Since its inception in 2000, Creative Beginnings has provided case management services on a one-to-one basis to provide homeless women with the support they need to foster growth, discipline, and self-commitment as they break the cycle of homelessness.

Every woman helped by Creative Beginnings undergoes an intensive personalized process aimed at helping them to assess, and care for, their own needs. The successful conclusion of this process entails reintegration into society. Counseling is offered throughout the process to develop and enhance independent basic life skills. These include work adjustment, job readiness training, and vocational rehabilitation to ensure that the transition out of homelessness is permanent. In addition to their own personal network, organizations such as the Salvation Army and local places of worship have offered their support in helping Creative Beginnings fulfill its goals. Through the tireless dedication of Creative Beginning's professional and caring staff, numerous homeless women and children have begun the path to happy, meaningful, and productive lifestyles.

My heart goes out to all the employees and volunteers at Creative Beginnings, but I would like to personally congratulate and thank Executive Director Teresita R. Terrón, Secretary Isabel Gonzalez-Jettinghoff, Treasurer Rose Marie Rojas Marty, and Rev. Fr. Jorge Bello for their supreme efforts at making Creative Beginnings what it is today.

The Village of Key Biscayne and the City of Coral Gables have already recognized Cre-

ative Beginnings for its commitment to homeless women and children. Creative Beginnings provides an integral service to our community, and plays an invaluable role in the lives of all who those who have been aided by their efforts.

The hard work and individual attention given to every woman is truly extraordinary and the entire South Florida community is truly grateful for their noble efforts. I congratulate Creative Beginnings for their work, and wish them continued success in helping individuals regain their rightful places in society.

HONORING CLINT BOLTE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clint Bolte of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, who has been named "2006 Citizen of the Year" by the Borough Council and the Waters Award Committee. This distinguished award is given annually, in memory of the late Donald "Mike" Waters, to the person who most exemplifies the efforts and achievements in community service once performed by Waters throughout his lifetime.

The "Citizen of the Year" award was presented to Clint, a local businessman and principal of C. Clint Bolte and Associates, by Mr. Waters' widow, Jenny, and son, Don. They remarked that Clint has "carried on Waters' tradition of community service," just as Clint and Mr. Waters did while co-chairing a community spring cleanup campaign together some years ago.

While accepting the honor on September 18, 2006, Clint said that the award was "very much a surprise," and that he was incredibly grateful for the recognition. Clint also remarked that the late "Mike" Waters was "very much an individual of extraordinary faith who loved his family and was passionate about his community."

Clint Bolte, himself, has contributed endlessly to the betterment of the Chambersburg community, and Franklin County as a whole. Clint has worked through organizations such as the Chambersburg Club, the Rotary Foundation, the United Way, and the YMCA. To cite each individual accomplishment and contribution that Clint has been a part of would be nearly impossible. His involvement in the community over the years has been immeasurable. Jenny Waters may have put it best, speaking about Clint Bolte, saying that he has selflessly dedicated himself to the Chambersburg community "just like 'Mike' did."

RECOGNIZING FRANCES WILLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the excellent efforts and achievement of two schools in the fourth district of Kansas.

Last Friday, I was notified that Frances Willard Elementary School in Ark City and Garfield Elementary School in Augusta have been named 2006 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools. Schools that receive this honor are academically superior or show dramatic gains in student achievement.

The students, teachers, and administrators at Frances Willard and Garfield Elementary Schools are to be commended. Their dedication and hard work is evident and I am proud of their accomplishment. These two schools are excellent examples of how all students can exceed and achieve higher standards.

This is an incredible honor and truly shows the commitment to education in the Augusta and Ark City communities. I would also like to recognize the parents for the support of their children. Parental involvement in a child's education is crucial to his or her success.

As we begin another school year, I encourage students, teachers, administrators and parents in Kansas and around the nation to continue their efforts to close the achievement gap so all children can learn and succeed. We, as a nation, have to do more now to prepare these young people for their futures. I am confident that we will continue to see improvements each year and I hope to be honoring more schools next year.

Congratulations to Frances Willard Elementary School in Ark City and to Garfield Elementary School in Augusta for their outstanding achievement in earning the 2006 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools.

THE PEOPLE OF NORTH KOREA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I stand up today on behalf of the people of North Korea.

A number of reports have detailed the horrific suffering of the people there—a suffering that makes China look like paradise. Those held in the prison camps in North Korea endure torture, forced abortions, and brutal deaths.

In early October, the Yoduk story musical will be performed in our area—this musical tells the story of the suffering in a North Korean prison camp, Director Jung, Sung-San is a North Korean defector himself, whose father died in one of the political prison camps.

Interestingly, the South Korean government did not want this musical produced in South Korea, but the director thought it was so important for the world to know the story of North Korea that he put up his own kidney as collateral for a \$20,000 loan to ensure the musical was produced.

Mr. Speaker, that a North Korean was willing to put up his own kidney to produce this story speaks to the gravity of the suffering in North Korea. The international community must get its head out of the sand and ACT to stop the terrible suffering of the North Korean people.