

Perry Parks later worked for the Federal Postal Service, from 1936 to 1971. He was a founding member of the United Public Workers CIO, as well as an organizer of the National Alliance of Postal Workers. He was in the forefront of the struggle to implement a merit system in employee evaluations and promotions. He was also a champion of equal opportunity for women.

He filed the first successful anti-discrimination claim against the Los Angeles Post Master for failure to promote him to Supervisor. His discrimination claim paved the way for equal employment opportunities for people of color, leading to the appointment of the first African-American Post Master in Los Angeles.

Perry was an ardent warrior in the pursuit of fairness, inclusion, and representation in the civic process. He stood on the front line of the civil rights movement in the 1960s as an early organizer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Southern California. Mr. Parks served as Vice President of the Barrio Defense Committee, President of the South Central Welfare Planning Council, and a board member of the Los Angeles Urban League and United Civil Rights Committee. He was a founding member of the Brotherhood Crusade.

After his retirement, Perry Parks continued to serve his community as Field Representative for Congresswoman Yvonne B. Burke and Assemblywoman Teresa Hughes.

Perry Parks was a proud army veteran of World War II and a devoted member of Holman United Methodist Church. He is survived by his two sons, Perry C. Parks III and Henry Stilwell Parks; his two sisters, Lucy Hamilton and Carrie Jones, all of Los Angeles; his grandsons, Perry C. Parks IV of Atlanta, Georgia, and Oren Callan Jeffries of Los Angeles; nieces Patricia Parks White, Frances Jones Taylor, Muriel Jones Parker of Los Angeles and a host of other devoted relatives and friends.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Child Custody Protection Act. The text of the bill that we are considering is quite similar to the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, which the House considered in April of last year and I opposed. It is yet again another attempt by Congress to try to interfere in the personal health decisions of young women.

The question of whether or not to have an abortion is one of the most difficult decisions any woman can face. Some issues cannot be legislated and I believe that this is one of them. Reproductive health care is a personal matter that should be left to individuals, their doctors, and their families without interference from the government.

This bill will force mature young adults who have sought help from individuals other than their parents—including grandparents, aunts, uncles, older siblings and clergy members—to act alone in a time when loving support is needed. I believe that adolescents should be

encouraged to seek their parents' advice and counsel when facing a difficult decision. However, the government cannot mandate healthy family communication where it does not already exist. We need to encourage our youth to seek the counsel of individuals that they do trust and that will advocate for their best interests and not encourage them to go through this difficult process and draining procedure alone.

Not only does this bill discourage our youth from seeking adult counsel, this bill will also put the health of young women in jeopardy. A provision of this bill seeks to delay the abortion process by demanding that doctors go through a detailed and complex scheme to notify a parent. Doctors who do not comply and conduct an abortion before this notification will face fines and federal criminal penalties.

I would guess that my colleagues on both sides of this issue agree that having an abortion should be the last option for an adolescent. But it is a reality that young women are going to continue to have to make life-altering decisions regarding their bodies regardless of restrictions the federal government places on them. Taking away the support of responsible adults in whom teens trust is not the way to stop abortions.

I have consistently opposed legislation of this type because I want to make sure that we protect young women who are facing unintended pregnancies by providing them with assistance from adults they trust. I certainly prefer an open dialogue between parents and teens, so that a hushed, last-minute decision is not necessary. Unfortunately, parental consent is not always a viable option and teens will still make decisions that are difficult for any woman regardless of age. By passing this legislation, we will force trusted adults to turn their backs on their nieces, sisters and granddaughters and we will also be turning our back to the young women of this Nation.

Instead of debating a measure that will impose federal punishments on family members and doctors who assist young women who are making difficult choices and considering another measure that attempts to fix a symptom, we should be having a constructive dialogue that gets at the root of this issue.

This bill is an injustice to young women across this Nation who need all the support that they can get. I urge my colleagues to vote against this legislation because it will severely harm young women at one of the most important times in their lives.

HONORING MR. GERALD (JERRY) BELANGER

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an educator in my district who has done laudable work to ignite a new sense of patriotism among his students.

Mr. Gerald (Jerry) Belanger serves as the principal of Gaylord Middle School. He has led a distinguished career in education. Mr. Belanger's first job in the field was as a school teacher in a preschool classroom. While his stint as a preschool teacher was short lived—lasting only 3 weeks—he was at least admired by his students for his guitar-playing ability.

Mr. Belanger then moved into a direction better suited to his abilities. He taught 6th grade for 5 years at Pearson Elementary School in inner city Flint before becoming the assistant principal and ultimately the principal of Gaylord Middle School.

It was at Gaylord Middle School that he began the current middle school Veteran's Day program. For the past 10 years, on every Veteran's Day, the Gaylord Middle School and its student council have organized a tribute to America's veterans. The day begins with a morning reception in the school cafeteria, followed by a program in the school gymnasium where students and faculty honor the sacrifices of America's veterans. Mr. Belanger has worked hard to ensure that veterans in the community attend the event so that his students have an in person opportunity to demonstrate their appreciation for veterans' sacrifice. When the tribute began 10 years ago, 20 veterans participated. Today, as many as 200 veterans attend the Veteran's Day event. By encouraging his students to host this tribute, Mr. Belanger has helped draw the Gaylord community together, while also helping to inspire patriotism in each class of students that passes through Gaylord Middle School.

Mr. Belanger also makes patriotism a daily priority at Gaylord Middle School. Through the daily Pledge of Allegiance, playing of the national anthem and events throughout the year, Mr. Belanger has worked to instill respect, love and loyalty to our country among the young people attending his school.

Mr. Belanger is a fine example of how ordinary citizens can demonstrate exceptional patriotism in their community. Although Jerry never served in the armed forces, his father, Frank, served in the National Guard during the Cuban Missile Crisis and two of his uncles were in the Army Reserve during that difficult part of our Nation's history. Another of Mr. Belanger's uncles served with U.S. Marine Corps for 4 years. These family members instilled in him a deep love of history and government and a profound sense of pride and respect for all of our nation's military men and women.

Now that he is married with a 3-year-old son, you will often see Jerry with his son Patrick at local Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations, seeking to pass on to his own son the same pride and deep respect for the armed forces and the same love of country.

Mr. Speaker, as our brave men and women serve abroad in today's conflicts, all of us are reminded of the importance of recognizing, honoring and remembering the sacrifices of the heroes of the past. Mr. Jerry Belanger has found a way to ensure that in his corner of the world, young people are introduced to these important values early on. For that, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting him.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF "LIGHTS ON AFTER- SCHOOL!"

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 478, supporting the goals