

Provisions of VAWA have allowed for additional training for law enforcement officers dedicated to these issues. Additionally, VAWA authorized funding for an office within the Department of Justice, which is dedicated to ending violence against women. Notably this legislation created a national domestic violence hotline, which has provided information and help to millions of women in crisis.

VAWA has brought communities together in order to address domestic violence and rally support for survivors. It is important for Congress and all Americans to recognize the achievements of this legislation. Since VAWA's inception, this country's awareness of domestic violence has increased and resources to help victims have become more readily available and accessible.

Though we have made great progress, the instances of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence are still too high. Far too many women in our great nation are victims of violence. We must take further action to keep women safe and provide justice for those who have been victims. Too many communities remain underserved and lack the resources to provide services to victims of sexual violence. We need to continue to increase awareness about sexual violence, provide funding to programs that prevent and punish that violence and educate women about the help that is available to victims.

I am proud of the achievements made in the past fifteen years, and I look forward to supporting the renewal of the Violence Against Women Act in 2010. Again, I thank my friend from New York for introducing H. Res. 738 which commemorates this landmark legislation.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT CHILES

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the actions of Robert Chiles as well as honor all American citizens who embody the spirit of our early patriots.

Beginning on April 15, 2009, Mr. Chiles began circulating a Tea Party Declaration in Springfield, Illinois, requesting the end of "massive government driven bailouts," "so-called economic stimulus plans," "trillion dollar spending schemes," and "out of control government spending."

This petition is nearly 60 feet long and contains about 1,000 signatures. The organizer, Mr. Robert Chiles of Rochester, Illinois, says that the petition is signed by "electricians, plumbers, construction workers, doctors, lawyers, nurses, ministers, teachers, democrats, republicans, law enforcement officers, retired military, stay at home moms, small business owners, you name it."

The document begins, "When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for like-minded patriotic Americans to rally as one against the powers that threaten to alter, diminish and destroy this country we love. Proper respect for the opinions of our fellow citizens requires that we should clearly state the grievances that impel us to gather at this Springfield, Illinois, tea party to protest peacefully, but passionately in the tradition of our

forefathers whose Boston Tea Party resonated around the world."

I salute these modern day patriots and want to publicly thank them for this petition.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM HOWARD BRONSON, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM MOBILE'S PRESS-REGISTER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of William Howard Bronson, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement as president and publisher of Mobile's Press-Register.

A 17-year veteran of the Press-Register, Howard brought profound changes to the paper. Under his leadership, the paper received several prestigious awards and greatly increased its readership. In the days following his retirement, the paper published a tribute stating "Howard Bronson leaves an extensive legacy of accomplishments and contributions to the southwest Alabama community and, indeed, the entire state."

Howard and his wife, Dorsey, moved to Mobile from Shreveport, Louisiana, where he was president and publisher of The Times, owned by Gannett Company, Inc. He served as president and general manager of the Newspaper Production Co., while in Shreveport from 1977 to 1991. He was regional vice president responsible for the launch and first year of operation of three USA Today print and distribution sites in Dallas, New Orleans and Houston in 1983-84.

Howard also has held regional responsibility with Gannett for publications in Monroe, Louisiana; Gainesville, Georgia; Muskogee, Oklahoma; Springfield, Missouri; Jackson, Mississippi; Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and Jackson, Tennessee.

As president and publisher of the Press-Register, he was involved in a number of professional organizations, including the Alabama Press Association, the Newspaper Association of America and the American Newspaper Publisher's Association. Howard serves as a board member of several civic organizations, including the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council of Alabama, Spring Hill College and the United Way of Southeast Alabama, Inc. He is also a member of Forward Mobile and Mobile United.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated journalist, a respected executive and friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. I am certain that his family—his wife, Dorsey, and their four children—along with all those at the Press-Register and his many friends in Mobile join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his considerable service to the city of Mobile and all of southwest Alabama.

On behalf of a grateful community, allow me to wish Howard Bronson the very best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING GEAR UP DAY

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the ambitious and important work being performed every day by students, program staff, parents and teachers to ensure that college dreams become reality for students attending high poverty schools. In particular, I would like to join with GEAR UP programs across the country who celebrated GEAR UP Day on September 18, 2009.

In order to meet the challenge posed by President Obama that "by 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world," we will need to draw students from communities where high school graduation, let alone college attendance, is the exception rather than the rule. This ambitious goal, and the global competitiveness that comes with it, will require a dramatic increase in college attendance for students who are the first in their families to pursue higher education.

I want to thank the GEAR UP programs who organized these events and the elected officials who participated:

In Fairmont, West Virginia, they hosted a reception to thank the faculty and staff and to highlight the successes of GEAR UP while the Governor declared a West Virginia GEAR UP Day.

In Cleveland, the program received a proclamation from the Governor of Ohio.

In Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the Governor proclaimed September 18, 2009 as GEAR UP Day and the program celebrated with a community outreach event.

In Iowa City, a GEAR UP principal gave remarks and received proclamations from the Governor and Mayor.

In Wilburton and McAlester, Oklahoma, they received a proclamation from the Governor.

In Pago Pago, American Samoa, the program received a gubernatorial proclamation and Valasi Lam Yuen was recognized as their Teacher of the Year.

In Portland, Maine, the GEAR UP site also received a gubernatorial proclamation.

In La Grande, Oregon, the mayor officially proclaimed September 18, 2009 GEAR UP Day.

In Waco, Texas, parents, students, faculty and staff were on hand to receive a proclamation from the Mayor.

In New York City they held a National GEAR UP Day breakfast at the partner middle school for parents, students, teachers, and administrators. The middle school scholars sent an oversized thank you card to the Honorable Senator CHARLES SCHUMER. The Mayor of New York City, Michael R. Bloomberg has proclaimed September 18, 2009 as National GEAR UP Day.

In Tucson, the Mayor proclaimed GEAR UP Day and students are creating a GEAR UP Wall of Dreams.

In San Marcos, California, GEAR UP received a proclamation from the city.

In Kalamazoo, Michigan, they had an all-school assembly which included the Superintendent and Michigan State Representative Robert Jones.

In Cincinnati, students signed promise cards and invited the Mayor and grant partners to participate.

In Baltimore, students, staff and administrators celebrated GEAR UP Day on Friday and will continue their recognition on October 1, 2009.

In Bangor, Michigan, they had an all school assembly at Bangor High School which included a speaker on career opportunities after high school.

In Boone, North Carolina, GEAR UP leaders visited high schools to talk about GEAR UP and preparing for college.

In Brooklyn, students participated in the 9/11 Day of Service.

In Columbia, South Carolina, they recognized all the wonderful teachers, staff members, tutors, and volunteers who work with their GEAR UP students with an "Energy Breakfast" and by giving out thank you notes with Life Savers candy to let these people know they are GEAR UP's life savers.

In Columbus County, North Carolina, students and program staff will be celebrating GEAR UP Day this week and will be creating a GEAR UP Wall of Dreams.

In Edinburg, Texas, the GEAR UP site held a press conference to talk about the program, including a video message from Congressman HINOJOSA.

In El Paso, Texas, over 3200 GEAR UP students visited the UTEP Don Haskins Special Events Center for the GEAR UP Day Motivating Aspiring Scholars.

In Harrison County, West Virginia, they had daily announcements about GEAR UP and had every 10th and 11th grade student write their goals for the future on a strip of paper. The strips of paper have been linked together into a chain to display in the commons area.

In Jamaica, NY, the grantees hosted a round table discussion and invited Congresswoman MALONEY, Mayor Bloomberg and Councilman Peter Vallone.

In Lancaster, Pennsylvania, announcements were made every day last week with facts about college. To continue the celebration, I will be visiting this GEAR UP site next week.

In Lincoln City, Oregon, students participated in sessions on college preparation, overcoming obstacles to higher education, and college and career planning.

In Long Island, students participated in the 9/11 Day of Service.

In Lowell, Massachusetts, they received proclamations from Congresswoman NICOLA S. TSONGAS as well as Mayor Edward C. Caulfield in recognition of the National GEAR UP Day. The proclamations were read to students on Friday in an assembly. In addition, parents of GEAR UP students prepared and served breakfast to teachers and students to commemorate the 10th year anniversary of GEAR UP.

In Vista, California, the City issued a proclamation.

North Hollywood, CA hosted a bagels and college awareness meeting with teachers, parents and students at GEAR UP schools.

In Passaic, New Jersey student graduates presented to the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education.

In Philadelphia, they recognized and awarded certificates to the current 8th grade students in cohort schools. GEAR UP students received an award certificate, a GEAR UP Banner to display prominently in their schools, and a check in the amount of \$3000 to assist with offsetting costs for student support.

In Ponce, Puerto Rico, GEAR UP program staff displayed street banners on the university

campus and at participating schools. They also coordinated a television presentation with students to urge their classmates and students in general to stay in school and plan their postsecondary studies.

In Reno, current high school and college students (GEAR UP alumni) are being recognized today at a rally.

In Sacramento, they organized a presentation to the Superintendent, student presentations and campus tours.

In San Francisco, they celebrated with an address from principals, student workshops and an ice cream social.

In Santa Ana, California, GEAR UP conducted outreach and students pledged their commitment to college on cards.

In Syracuse, New York, students participated in the 9/11 Day of Service.

In Yakima, Washington they held an open house, college fair and reception.

In Yonkers, New York, administrators issued a "call to action" to the partner schools by requesting teachers and administrators engage students in developing a personal learning plan, help students locate various colleges on a map, teachers and administrators wear their college sweatshirts/t-shirts, talk about college, start a college dream journal with students, take pictures of all activities, and above all make it fun.

In Albany they hosted a GEAR UP Awareness Day in which the GEAR UP students shared their experiences with the program during the announcements. Program information and progress will be placed on tents and set on each table in the cafeteria. Stewarts Ice Cream was provided during lunch periods.

In Jefferson, New York, students and parents visited college campuses.

In Helena, Montana, they celebrated GEAR UP Day during their annual fall conference.

I am proud of all that GEAR UP has done, and will continue to do, to improve life for families and build a stronger, more competitive nation. I encourage my colleagues to join me in this celebration.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF TERRENCE BARNICH

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Terrence (Terry) Barnich and the sacrifice he made for his country. Terrence was serving as the Deputy Director of the Iraq Transition Office in Baghdad when his motorcade was attacked by an improvised explosive device on May 25, 2009. He had dedicated his life to his country, leaving a comfortable life in Chicago and signing on for multiple tours in Iraq where he worked for more than two years.

Terrence was an exemplary and valiant U.S. citizen. Volunteering to serve in Iraq in a time of war attests to his loyalty and dedication to our country. As the Deputy Director of the Iraq Transition Group, he lent his skills to rebuilding and improving Iraq's energy infrastructure in an effort to help build a better future for the people of Iraq. His leadership in Iraq's transition has benefited thousands and will continue to affect generations to come. This is a great

loss not only to the Illinois 5th District, but also to the United States and Iraq.

Terry will be remembered by the American people as a selfless public servant whose memory will live on through his great accomplishments both here and in Iraq. On behalf of my family and the people of the 5th Congressional District of Illinois, I extend my deep condolences to his family. I hope that time and memories will help lessen the burden of their grief.

CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the International Right of Way Association, which is celebrating its 75th Anniversary on Friday, October 16, 2009. IRWA is responsible for educating and cultivating top talent in the industry that has led us to many of today's modern conveniences and landmarks.

The United States is home to many accomplished and dedicated Right of Way professionals—the IRWA has been providing the path to success and adamant professionalism for members since its inception as a not-for-profit association in 1934. IRWA has united the efforts of its members toward professional development, improved service to employers and the public, and continues to make advancements within the Right of Way profession.

Right of Way professionals play a leading role in the development and advancement of our transportation, water, and energy projects, while advancing America for future generations. IRWA has nearly 10,000 professional members comprised of engineers, appraisers, property managers, acquisition agents, lawyers, surveyors, title experts, environmentalists, and relocation assistance agents.

Right of way professionals improve the lives of citizens across our nation through the building of infrastructure projects that transform our community. Infrastructures the country over have benefited from the hard work of IRWA professionals—the highways we drive on, utilities in our homes, and telephone towers that enable us to communicate—have all benefited because a Right of Way professional applied their unique expertise in creating the nation's infrastructure.

TRIBUTE REGARDING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS "WAYNE E. MEYER" (DDG 108)

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to celebrate and pay tribute to the commissioning of the USS *Wayne E. Meyer* (DDG 108).

On October 10, 2009, the United States Navy will commission this guided missile destroyer named in honor of a native Missourian,